



Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

Newsletter, December 2021

Hi members.

Great that we now have actual demos at Little Kingshill village hall to report on. They've been lively affairs with everyone catching up in person after so long apart. The November meeting was particularly sociable with the mulled wine and mince pies being enjoyed!

So great to have had our annual exhibition again. November has proven to be a good time of year, with sales being impressive overall in the lead up to Christmas.

In fact the committee members have agreed to plan a pre-easter, spring exhibition at the same venue for 2022. This has been booked for 8-10th April so it's something to start planning for.

With our Web gallery up and running please see the back page for details about contacting Adam to set up your own log-in.

Happy reading and have a lovely festive season. Yvonne

24 September
LIVE DEMO

Laura Murphy

Yvonne Cornes

Laura took us through her development with a slide show and then a demo on her slip trailing method. In her University education, she started off in Business Studies, then changed direction, achieving a Masters Degree in Ceramics at Wolverhampton University. She particularly likes the work of Sasha Wardell and also Margaret O'Rourke for her thrown and altered pieces. In her own work Laura explores themes of strength and fragility.

Laura works with Parian slip which she finds gives her the best transparency, even when used with transparent glazes. She trails coloured slip into moulds which are made from thrown shapes. For her moulds she uses 2 parts water to 3 parts plaster and uses a timer when mixing for six to eight minutes. She uses lino for her support walls.

She also works with sugar paper for a doily type stencil. She gets these mass produced as they burn out in the kiln. She painstakingly very slowly brushes 50 layers of slip for this process. She doesn't glaze these pieces as she finds that Parian has a slight self glazing quality. When she adds Amaco stains they also result in a slight sheen. When preparing her slips she just uses a standard kitchen sieve to remove lumps. She uses 240 sandpaper on bisque fired pieces and a diamond pad for finessing. Laura fires Parian to between 1220°C - 1240°C for the final firing.

She took on an ambitious project in France in a very high end collaboration with a French gold sculptor which was called 'La Maison d'Armateur' - Pleasure Dome (bottom left). It was an enormous challenge to achieve the correct sized fired forms to fit the gold fittings. She has suggested that in any future collaboration the gold forms should be made to fit the fired pieces rather than vice versa!

In her Hydrangea series (bottom right) she uses paper cups as a resist. Laura is currently working on skeletal pieces (bottom centre).

lauramurphyceramics.com



29 October
LIVE DEMO

Paul Wheeler

Patricia Hall



Before officially entering the world of ceramics by studying at Clay College in Middleport, Paul struggled to find a career that could keep him interested. During this time he attended a pottery co-operative in the evenings, which was set up in a disused biscuit factory in Bermondsey.

Since graduating Paul has been working with TV and film companies, both as a consultant and a maker, as well as exhibiting at several shows. He has produced work for Game of Thrones and Cats, the movie. This was interesting as he had to produce three times life-size jugs so that the human 'cats' looked cat-size beside the pottery.

While studying in Japan, Paul learnt to value handmade ceramics, and came away with a whole range of traditional Japanese making and glazing techniques that he still uses in his practice today.

Paul's demonstration of handle 'pulling' was very interesting and comprehensive – he showed us three methods he uses, all of which were very clear and simple to follow to get a good result. His tip: always use your best clay for handles!

Another handy tip for glazing is his three-second rule. He pours glaze into a cup for three seconds, swirls and pours out; and then he dips for three seconds, holding the area where the runs would form on the cup. Sounds difficult but when he showed us how, it looked very simple and effective.

Paul is interested in the history of ceramics and is learning about local clay sources and the pots which were produced from it. He has attracted the attention of local historians who share his interest. Two of these historians have funded the purchase of a 3D clay printer for his studio so he can recreate exact pots from 3D 'patterns' which have been created from the original pots. He reproduces these pots in clay, which is a very slow process, and then fires them. These reproductions are exact replicas apart from the lines left on the pots from the 3D printing process and the variations in glazing. He leaves these lines intact as he is not trying to produce forgeries, just a historic reference.

It was a very interesting presentation and demonstration was very much enjoyed by all the attendees.

www.paulwheelerpottery.co.uk



BUCKS POTTERS 2021 ANNUAL EXHIBITION Jane Ostler



The committee and other members worked hard to make this exhibition the success that it was. It was great to see the huge variety of work exhibited and members who were stewarding working well together and getting to know each other. A lovely weekend enjoyed by the many visitors who attended.



SOCIETY NEWS

New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members: **Helen Ellis-Caird** and **Isabel Colomar**.

It's great that you've joined and we hope you will enjoy being involved in the society.

Helen's written a few words about herself:



Helen Ellis-Caird

Hi there, I'm Helen, a psychologist, Mum and now an aspiring potter. I've been making things from clay for about three years. Moving from making hand-built vases and ornaments from home, to wheel thrown bowls and mugs with some help from Caroline from 'Where Inspiration Blooms' in Chartridge, I now attend classes with Wendy Johnson.

I look forward to meeting you all!

I am on Instagram as @riverclay_studio



UP AND COMING BUCKS POTTERS MEETINGS

at Little Kingshill Village Hall, HP16 0DZ



Jon Williams – 8pm, 28th January 2022

Jon considers his practice as a means of storytelling, drawing from the relationship he views between commonplace drama, ritual and folklore. He is interested in the characters and scenarios which enrich a community that he depicts and celebrates through his work.



Jane White – 8pm, 25th February 2022

Jane is constantly striving to create forms that mirror the simplicity and balance of the natural world, so that surface and form become seamlessly unified. She fires with organic material in a large open pit and each piece that emerges from the ashes is totally unique. We feel that this talk will be a good precursor to our pit firing event planned for spring.

26 November WORKSHOP, ANNUAL COMPETITION VOTE AND PRIZE GIVING

The November meeting was a combined Christmas themed workshop, Vote and Prize Giving for the Annual Peter Stocker Ceramic Award. The theme this year was Nursery Rhymes and we had a varied and creative response from the entrants as always.

The stand out winner was Richard Ballantyne with his brilliant 'The Cow Jumped Over the Moon' creation. Richard will be choosing the theme for next year's competition from the remaining list of themes which were supplied by the members in the challenges.

The events of the evening were a great way to end the year. There was a real buzz and we had a great turnout on the bitterly cold evening.

Holly's wonderful workshop produced a hugely diverse range of angelic personages and creatures!! What an imaginative lot you are!

Thanks Holly for coming up with this idea after the unfortunate cancellation of the planned speaker due to Covid. The mulled wine and mince pies helped fuel our imagination!

Right: Irenke observes Trish and Jane's angels; Christina, Claire, Sandie and Susan with their creations.
Below: The full range of our efforts!



Above: our chair - Holly, presents Richard with the trophy. He is receiving the £75 prize by BACS this year, not the traditional cheque, as we've caught up with the times with the help of our new treasurer Bronwen!



Right: Richard's winning 'The Cow Jumped Over the Moon' sculpture.



POTTERYCRAFTS

10% Discount for members

For those of you wishing to take advantage of the BPSS members' 10% discount with PotteryCrafts, you can call them on: **01782 745000**.

A list of members (names only) has been sent to them, to make verification easier for them. You will need to set up a PotteryCrafts account to enable them to set up the discount for you.

POTTERY TECHNICIAN ROLE

There is an advert on the Farnhams Facebook page for a pottery technician at the Evreham Centre, Iver S10 0HS (5 hours per week Mons and Weds).

Jobs include:

Loading/unloading electric kilns; Glaze prep; Clay reclaim (minimal); COSHH; Ordering materials; Management of the pottery studio.

It doesn't mention rate of pay, just "good hourly rate".

Contact Amanda Finnegan, Regional Co-ordinator LPD, South Bucks, Bucks Adult Learning.

BPSS website

MEMBERS GALLERY

Are you aware that we now have a Members Gallery on the new BPSS website?

You can add a short profile with a few images of your work in the gallery. It would be fantastic if we could have more of the membership represented there.

So, if you would like to join up, please email.

About the society


The Society was formed in 1963 and welcomes all artists working in 3D. Individual membership costs £25; £35 for a family and £10 for full-time students.

Membership provides access to monthly demonstrations, several hands-on workshops, and a quarterly newsletter.

We are on Facebook and members can put an image and contact details on the Society's web page

www.buckspotters.com

The Committee

The Committee meets regularly to develop the programme, organise the Annual Exhibition and review costs. If you find a good speaker who could demonstrate to the Society, please tell us. Also, if you have ideas you would like to raise with us, please do so at the monthly meeting. 

GDPR information

The information which you provide to us on your membership form will be used solely for the purpose of processing your membership and dealing with you as a member of BPSS. The data will not be shared with any third party for marketing or commercial purposes without obtaining your explicit consent. Our GDPR policy is available to read on the BPSS website.

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