



Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society Newsletter December 2023

TALK and DEMO 29th September 2023

Peter White by Pam Cawley

In a warm and engaging way, Peter talked to us about his life journey, describing himself as a passionate engineer, teacher, designer. He emotionally described his lifelong attachment with clay, which he now uses to create sculptural, functional vessels and tableware using hand-building and throwing techniques in his studio based at his home in Buckinghamshire. He completed his talk by showing us his wheel throwing skills.

Peter recalled stories of when the family moved to Adelaide, Australia, exploring junk yards, finding a mortar bomb and taking it home - an adventure with a school mate, without parental knowledge! The family returned to the UK.

Peter was keen to have a creative career and despite having a sponsorship to attend Art College, parental pressure meant he followed in his father's footsteps as an engineer. After completing his apprenticeship, he worked in the iconic Hoover Building at Perivale. He talked briefly of the wonderful building, showing interior photos, stimulating Peter's creativity in Art-Deco culture. Art Deco was to have a lifelong influence on his work. He continues to draw on his engineering knowledge to create, develop and build his designs today.

When he trained as an Art teacher, Peter started his own pottery studio developing wheel-thrown and hand-built sculptural pieces. Using St. Thomas Clay he explored by adding surface decoration, hand-built elements, using texture, distortion, traditional firing techniques and alternative firing methods to create unique works. Peter worked with his wife Gill, also a trained Art and Design teacher, who secretly entered him in 'The Great Pottery Throw Down 2021', where he became a successful finalist.

At the close of his talk, it was clear that Peter is passionate to impart his knowledge, to inspire the young and to continue to study and develop his own unique skills and knowledge.



Peter White vessels/forms and demonstrating throwing skills.



TALK and DEMO 27th October 2023

Ursula Waechter Tin-glazed Earthenware by Jane Ostler

Originally from Germany, Ursula moved to UK to study Ceramics at Bath Academy of Art in 1979 and stayed there for 5 years. Ursula then moved to The Aldermaston Pottery in 1986 to learn about calligraphic brush painting and now works from her own workshop on the Kingsclere Estate near Basingstoke.

Her work is mainly wheel thrown earthenware using a mix of 50% Valentines red clay and 50% buff clay from Deruta in Italy, which gives a soft colour. The pieces are bisque fired as normal and then covered with a white tin glaze before they are decorated with a combination of oxides (iron, copper, cobalt), her ruby red colour can be made mixing cobalt oxide and red stain. She usually makes a paper impression of the pattern to ensure it will work on a particular piece. The oxides are mixed on white tiles so she can get the right consistency and depth of colour.

Ursula brought along one of her beautiful bowls to demonstrate her freehand painting which she had prepared with a coloured wax resist to enable precise painting. When complete the pieces are fired for a second time in an electric kiln to between 1060-1080 Celsius. The results are colourful, beautiful pieces which can be found at shows and exhibitions across the country. Ursula also undertakes a lot of commissions. www.ursulawaechter.com



Ursula demonstrating her brush technique and mixing colours on tiles
Her banding wheel has been marked at regular intervals to help with spacing



Examples of patterns brushed onto paper & some
Books used for research, ideas and brushes

Coiling Workshop 24th November 2023

Holly Inglis
by Jane Ostler



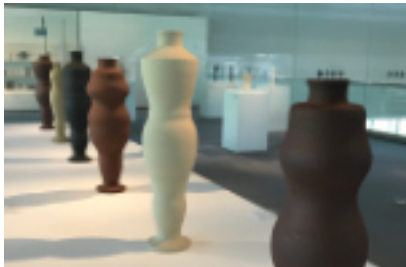
Lots of fun and variety at the November meeting, where Holly showed us how to make funky coiled bowls, helped along with mulled wine and mince pies!



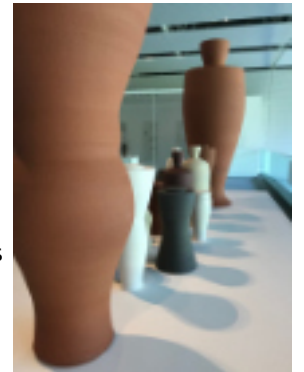
Julian Stair Exhibition: Art, Death & the Afterlife by Caroline Newland-Smith

At the end of September I went to the last day of Julian Stair's exhibition of awesome monumental pots at the Sainsbury Centre.

This collection of work is a contemplation on modern society's relationship to death and ritual. Inspiration is taken from archaic pots and grave goods. The often huge vessels are hand thrown in naturally occurring clays and fired in industrial kilns. They are unglazed. Some are memorials to particular individuals with cremated ash incorporated into the clay.



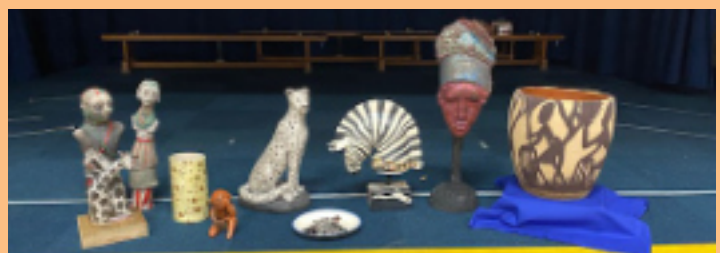
Stair writes that "vessels are traditionally described in anatomical: lip, neck, shoulder, belly, foot". The proportions and ratios of these elements are important to Stair. However, referencing fragmentary anthropological works this series suggests that a work does not have to be complete to be resolved. Torso, thigh, or upper body take on an abstracted quality, leaving the viewer to imagine what the totality of the piece might have been. www.julianstair.com.



2023 POTTERY AND SCULPTURE COMPETITION

Susan Horler is this year's 'Peter Stocker Ceramic Award' winner!

AFRICA



Some great entries for the award this year. The winner voted by the members was **Susan Horler** and her Zebra head. **Congratulations Susan!** We look forward to your choice for next year's theme!

Jeremy White

Richard Ballantyne & Carol Read



It is with great sadness that we remember Jeremy White who recently passed away. Jeremy arrived one night at Bucks Potters - tall, debonair and suave - an extrovert - it took no time at all for him to be coerced on to the committee. He remained until illness made him resign, not only from the committee, but also from pottery. Jeremy was a talented potter and raconteur, generous and warm to friends and budding potters, and had a wicked sense of humour. Richard, Jeremy and Peter (Stocker) were so inclined to create mischief from the back of the hall that the put upon Chair (Chris Inder) was known to separate them!

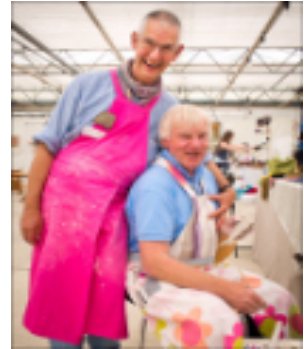


Art in Clay - Summer 2015, Jeremy White teaches throwing

Prior to his life in Bucks, Jeremy had been a model, a drama teacher at a girl's school, and a theatrical agent amongst other things. A group of us exhibited in St. Ives every year from 2009-2019 and we had amazing fun. Richard says that when trying to put a team together for our adventure to St. Ives, Jeremy was a must! His wicked sense of humour and generosity made him essential. "At times all I remember is crying with laughter as he regaled us with stories."



We celebrated his 70th birthday in St. Ives - all dressed in pink and purple. When Carol pitched up wearing a new pink potters apron (Laura Wright design) Jeremy was struck with severe apron envy and had to have one made for himself! He exhibited in local galleries, Bucks Art Weeks (committee member), Bucks Craft Guild (founder member), Sally Evans events, and Art in Clay at Hatfield.

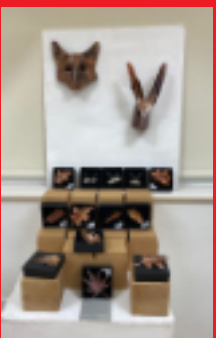


Jeremy had been ill for some time and leaves a huge hole in the lives of his friends. Our thoughts are with Godfrey and his family.

My memories of him are as someone with a wicked sense of humour, and a person who gave a lot of support and time to the Society over a long period. As well as being a long time member of the committee, he also used to host the monthly meetings, putting the demonstrator at their ease and making sure all the notifications were read out. (Dorothea Reid)

2nd/3rd December 2023

BPSS Xmas Exhibition by Jane Ostler



Above top left: Isobel Cherry making 'Green Man' masks on Saturday.
 Above: Richard & Carol making penguins, chickens & bears on Sunday
 Right: exhibition pieces and visitors

CTM Potters Supplies 5% Members Discount

We have agreed a **5% discount** for all BPSS members with **CTM Potters Supplies**.

When ordering you will need to phone and say you are a member of BPSS and give your name.

They will then check against the list of names (no contact details) that we have sent.

CTM Potters Supplies - if you use clay you need CTM

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Quotes relevant to art..

"I know of no substitute whatever for the force and beauty of an artistic process." Henry James

"If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be." Maya Angelou

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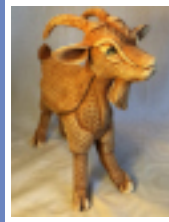
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BPSS January Meeting



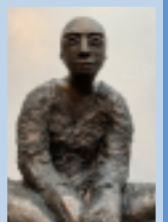
Alison Pink - 8pm 26th January 2024

Alison's professional life has been animal based; from Veterinary Practice to lecturing in anatomy and physiology at an Agricultural College, giving her a sound knowledge of animal structure and movement. She is passionate about immortalising animals clay using texture created through imprinting.

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members **Rhodri Meredith and Wendy Edmundson**

Wendy Edmundson Previously I attended Phoenix Studio acquiring an insight into clay. During the pandemic I revisited clay and as a nurse it gave me much needed respite. I returned to Phoenix Studio and joined Bicester Sculpture Group, I became a tutor at Basingstoke School and in 2021 joined Queens Park Art Centre. I love ceramics and want other people to love it too!



BPSS website Members' Gallery

Are you aware that we have a Members' Gallery on the BPSS Website?

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

If you would like to be represented, please email Adam Hoyle: adam@adamhoyle.co.uk

About the Society The Society was formed in 1963 and welcomes all artists working in 3D. Individual membership costs £25, family membership is £35 and full-time student membership is £10. Membership provides access to monthly demonstrations, several hands-on workshops and a quarterly newsletter. Members can add their profile and a few images of their work to the Members' Gallery on our website www.buckspotters.com. Our Facebook page is 'Bucks pottery and sculpture society' and we are on Instagram as 'buckspotters'.

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 do tell us. Also, if you have ideas you would like to raise with us, please do so at the monthly meeting or email hlinglis@gmail.com.

GDPR information The information provided 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.