



Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society

Newsletter, June 2023

Hi members.

This is a very full newsletter so thank you to everyone who has contributed. We have five new members over the last quarter, see inside. Great news that Bucks Potters now have a **10% discount code** which can be added at check-out when buying on-line from PotteryCrafts. See more details on the back page.

There's an amazing exhibition on at the Discover Bucks Museum in Aylesbury at the moment – 'Open Art Exhibition' until 8 July. It's by professional and amateur artists from Buckinghamshire. See back page. They're also having a 'Mechanics Alive!' exhibition from 22 July – 2 Sept.

You will most likely have heard that I'm stepping down as Editor/Designer

after 12 years in the role. Since the paper version of this newsletter was printed, we have had the wonderful news that our long-standing member – Shivashitie Poonwassie will be taking on the role of Newsletter Editor/Designer. The committee have given her an enthusiastic welcome and I'm sure she'll do an excellent job.

I've really enjoyed the role and also loved helping to run the Lockdown challenges. Thank you to everyone who contributed information, creations and images, or even by just reading the newsletter or voting in the challenges. I look forward to seeing you at the ongoing events.

All the best and happy reading. Signing off, Yvonne x

28 April
DEMO

Freya Morris

Yvonne Cornes

Freya gave us a fascinating demo. It was interesting to see how different stone carving is from working with clay. Freya gave us a talk tracing her development, beginning with her early Art History studies at Warwick University, which took her to Venice to study Architecture and Sculpture and also observing work at the Guggenheim Museum.

She gained a Masters in Historic Building Conservation in 1990. She also gained an Ethnos scholarship and spent time in Colorado on a Navajo reservation for four months.

Freya's first job was as Historic Buildings Officer, working in Henley and Aylesbury. She spent a lot of time in the restoration of historic paving work.

She moved across to stone masonry, training at a two year Northampton course and had extra training from stone carving expert – Alex Wenham. He exhibits at 'On the Form', an annual exhibition at Asthall Manor in Burford, Oxfordshire. Freya has continued to work with Alex for five years. She currently works as assistant surveyor at Magdalen College, Oxford and also carves in her shed.

Freya took part in a stone carving competition which was inspired by Grinling Gibbons, 300 years after he lived.

Freya brought a collection of tools: chisels, claw tools with a serrated edge, gouges, punch tools, fishtail tools and scalpels. Many of those present had a go at carving from the stone she had brought in. Texture is important with carving, to create interest on the surface.

Freya works mainly with limestone which is often used in restoration work. It is soft but not harmful to the sculpture,



Freya demonstrates using a chisel for Holly to have a go as Debs looks on.



Freya's competition entry.

Many of the audience experimented with chiseling, including Steve Cherry and new member Varvara White

unlike cement which has often been used in the past and damages the stone. There are many limestone quarries around the UK.

Freya takes part in several Open Studio events and other local exhibitions.

YouTube site suggestions from Paula Sutton

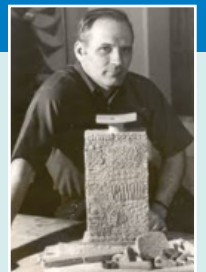
Andy Ward's Ancient Pottery

Andy Ward's videos show how to hand-build, decorate and fire primitive South Western style pottery using clay and minerals that he sources in his local area in Arizona.



Richard Peeler Pottery

Richard Peeler and his wife Marj were American potters and artists who made several pottery 'how to' films in the late 1960's, so these are an interesting (and sometimes inspiring!) look at how pottery was made 50+ years ago.



28 April WORKSHOP

Fatbelly Figures and Pots by Katherine Kingdon *Trish Hall*

Katherine has been potting for many years and has a ceramics degree from Leicester Polytechnic, an MA (Applied Art and Visual Culture) from London Guildhall University and a PGCE from Westminster College, Oxford.

Her work is hand built and she likes to leave the rough edges allowing a looseness of style, celebrating the nature of the material and exposing something of the techniques used. Her pots are full of life and laughter – with little messages hidden on them and, invariably, a hidden something behind the characters' backs – on the back of the pot. They are full of fun and seem to be caught mid-action in playful ambiguity. The more you look at them the more you see!

Her work has been influenced from many directions – she has worked in glass in Amsterdam; she worked in a company called 'Scrap' making things from throw-aways, nowadays we call it up-cycling, she picked up pieces of furniture at auctions and re-cycled them and made clothes from scrap material. After this, she got her teaching degree and taught art at Henley College.

All of Katherine's ideas are in her sketchbooks – giving her inspiration on what to do next. Her sketchbooks are a work of art in themselves. She jots down her ideas and her children's' drawings are incorporated wherever possible.

She worked with Ursula Waechter and started to throw pots but because she has arthritis, she prefers to stick to hand-building. Katherine's work is varied and exciting. She says: 'I enjoy the 'in the moment' creative decisions that have to be made when working like this. It's what makes each piece unique. I also like to leave an element of ambiguity in the imagery, suggesting a narrative, but allowing the viewer enough space to question, interpret and begin to create their own story.' As part of her demonstration, Katherine had all the audience participate.



She handed out pre-prepared painted cards to each of us. She'd masked off some areas with sticky paper, creating simple white block shapes on a landscape background. She asked us to draw two figures onto the white shapes – it was fun and entertaining and the results are shown on the far left.

This is how she works with her pots – she uses the clay like the sticky paper and draws her figures on. Afterwards, she uses brush on glazes to illustrate them.

26 May WORKSHOP

Handles and Knobs – Elaine Wells' Demo *Jane Ostler*

Another great 'hands on' session for Bucks Potters. Elaine as always came prepared with clay, and tools, and showed us different types of handles and ways of adding handles. The pulling method where the 'stump' is added to the vessel and then the handle pulled from there, rolling a handle and making it look like bamboo, rolling out a flat handle, extruding using a handle making tool which gives a rounded edge, and then many different ways of making knobs and decorative attachments that can look like a handle on a pot. She will often make several knobs and keep them in a damp box until she has the right vessel for it.

She also showed us some homemade stamps (old buttons glued onto a piece of dowel) to add decoration/texture to either handles or any part of a piece you are making. (I have added a photo, as an example but these are not hers, see below, as I forgot to take a photo of them).



Following her demonstration, everyone then had a chance to make a selection of handles or knobs with her advice and guidance. She showed some examples of her own work, where a simple handle or embellishment can make all the difference to an otherwise ordinary bowl or lidded pot.

I'm off to try and practice what she has shown us.



NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to our new members: **Helen Neighbour, Varvara White, Claire Powell, Pauline Upstone** and **Edie Robinson**. We hope you will all enjoy being involved in the society. Helen, Varvara and Pauline have written a few words about themselves.

Helen Neighbour

I've been interested in art since I was young, joining a pottery group back in 2007. I've been playing with clay ever since and am now one of the pottery tutors at Queens Park Art Centre, which is great fun. I like to believe I can hand build pretty much anything, and enjoy figuring out how to build and create a piece. I have a real passion for working with Raku and experimenting with colour.



Varvara White

I use metals, mainly copper to make semi abstract wall sculptures. I also make silver jewellery. Currently, I am part of the Bucks Arts Week in Chesham at the Drawing room. I went to Wimbledon School of Art in the 1990s and studied sculpture, specialising in steel construction. I then went onto become an art teacher and have now reconnected to sculpture by learning how to make silver jewellery. So since stopping I have been doing sculpture again for about 15 years. I use copper sheet. I cut out the shapes I have drawn, then use heat to soften and form the copper. I also braze and colour the metal using a flame. I love this process, it has drama, it's physical and it's strong.



Pauline Upstone

I started taking pottery classes during the pandemic. Living on my own and working from home, getting out once a week to the classes was lovely when not much else was going on socially. The venue is also in a beautiful location in Oxfordshire where I live. A few months ago my elderly mum had a heart attack, and now I am going to stay at her home in Hazlemere every weekend to help look after her. So I was delighted to find the Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society meets so near her. My progress as a potter has been a little slow but I am getting there and love seeing what everyone else is doing.



UP AND COMING BUCKS POTTERS EVENTS at Little Kingshill Village Hall, HP16 0DZ



Thursday 27th July 2-4pm – Smoke Firing Day with Paula Sutton

For our first trial of daytime meetings, long time member Paula will be running a making session. Assuming the weather is good, the session will start with a short outside demonstration of smoke firing in a roasting tin. Then, indoors we will have a guided making session of simple closed forms from a single pinch pot – e.g. pebble animals, eggs, paperweights, spheres, tiny birds etc. The only limitation on size is how big (or small) a pinch pot you can make. All you need to bring are your favourite modelling tools, a wooden spatula/spoon and a box to take your creations home in.



29th September 2023 Meeting. Guest Speaker: Peter White

Peter White has been inspired by the creative industries for most of his adult life. He has worked as an engineer, teacher and designer, but now uses clay to create unique sculptural forms, inspiring vessels and tableware. He enjoys experimenting with glaze combinations. www.woburnsandsclay.com

Mould Making Day

Saturday 19th August

Venue still to be confirmed

We're delighted to be having a Mould Making Day this year, run and hosted by Sophie Smith.



The cost is £30.

Once you've signed up we'll get in touch to take payment and give you the details of the venue – as usual it's first come, first served.

<https://buckspotters.com/2023/05/21/mould-making-day-2023-saturday-19th-august/>

IT WORKS FOR ME!

(This is a new feature which members can contribute to)

When I make tiles, I dry them on a cake cooling rack. To allow the air to circulate all round, I perch this on some tins from the store cupboard, one (same size) at each corner. It works for me!

If I have a pot that dries with a wobbly bottom. I splash a little water onto a wooden table, grasp the dry pot firmly, putting both hands round the pot, and rub the bottom on the wet table for a few seconds with a circular motion. I leave it upside down to dry. It works for me!

Bronwen Corrall



BPSS Spring Exhibition





2023 POTTERY AND SCULPTURE COMPETITION

The theme for this year's 'Peter Stocker Ceramic Award' is:

AFRICA

The members' vote and prize giving will take place at the last meeting of the year. The competition is open to all artists, not just members and must contain a ceramic element.

£75 PRIZE!




Discover Bucks Museum

Discover our **Open Art Exhibition**
29 April – 8 July 2023

discoverbucksmuseum.org

POTTERYCRAFTS

10% Discount for BPSS members

As a BPSS member you can now use this code: **BUCKS23** at the online checkout to get your 10% discount!



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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.

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. 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'. It would be great to have a few more followers.  

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.