



Bucks Pottery and Sculpture Society Newsletter March 2024

TALK and DEMO
26th January 2024

Alison Pink: Ceramic Creatures
By Trish Hall



If it walks, swims or flies, Alison is passionate about immortalising it in clay. Her studio is at her home where she also runs workshops teaching this technique. She also tutors residential short courses at West Dean College in Sussex.

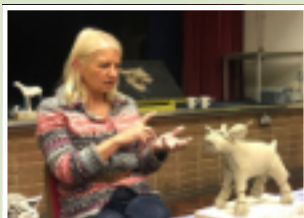
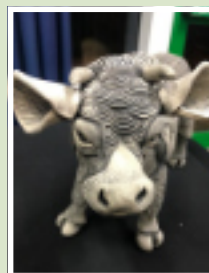
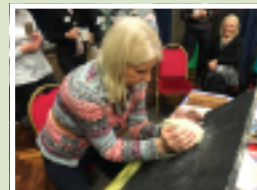
Alison was a wonderful demonstrator, very funny, very skilled and she kept her audience enthralled with her chat and her methods. She told us when at 2 and half years old she jumped out of a window thinking she could fly like Superman - her injuries were such her parents had to keep her close and keep her adventurous spirit contained! Her dad was a creator and her mum an artist so there was plenty to keep her amused.

Alison knew from a young age that animals were her 'thing' and all her professional life has been animal based; from Veterinary Practice to lecturing in anatomy and physiology at Agricultural College. This work left her with a sound knowledge of animal structure and movement. Handling and training a HUGE variety of creatures led her to work in the film and TV industry during the long teaching vacations.

After guidance from the wonderfully inspirational James Ort at his Phoenix Studio, Alison found the perfect environment to work in.

Alison built a goat and a sheep's head as part of her demonstration - she uses an armature for the base of the animals and builds around it, with textured clay cut to a shape and form that fits the animal structure. The armature is made from papier maché and straws which are left in the model to burn off in the kiln. Alison adds detail by imprinting texture using random items - lace, shells, braid, rubber stamping, to just odd bits she finds and keeps until they are useful. Her process is quick and very exact and she is extremely skilled in getting the right piece for the right area. A great pleasure to watch.

www.alisonpink.co.uk



DEMO & WORKSHOP
10th January 2024

Isobel Cherry: Chesham Leys Care Home

At the end of last year a request came in via our website for someone to give a pottery demo at a local care home. BPSS member Isobel Cherry kindly took up this challenge.

The pottery demonstration and workshop at Chesham Leys Care Home went very well. Fleur, the Activities Co-ordinator, was very welcoming and had set up a light, attractive area for us to work. There were 5 residents who took part and another who couldn't take part but came to watch and was very interested. The residents all enjoyed being in the group activity. They particularly enjoyed looking at my glaze chart and choosing the two glazes for the inside and outside of their pot.

I demonstrated how to make a thumb pot and then helped them to make their own. They found the small ball of clay quite heavy and some of them said the clay was cold. They all needed a lot of help except one lady called Jackie who really managed quite well and thoroughly enjoyed it.

They are looking forward to seeing them and keeping them when they are glazed.



TALK and DEMO

23rd February 2024

Rosie Davies: Needle Felted Sculpture

By Yvonne Cornes



Rosie gave us an enthusiastic introduction to her work, followed by a demonstration and a hands-on session for us to have a go.

Rosie first started making 3D objects by making papier mâché items at GCSE level. When she first saw felted animals she was inspired and bought a kit. This was during lockdown in November 2020, so she learnt on a Zoom session.

Rosie quickly became obsessed. She loved the creative possibilities and started making presents for her friends. She finds felt making very therapeutic and great for stress relief. She now also sells in stalls.

Felt making requires a special felting needle which has barbed notches. A fast 'stabbing' action is required to turn the wool into felt. It takes a lot of patience and skill to turn it into the desired shapes. Various natural wools can be used – synthetics are not as nice. Treated felting wool can be ordered online.

Rosie's work is inspired by nature and life, often including a socially conscious narrative. She also likes putting humour into her work. She prefers making people but finds they don't sell as well as animals.

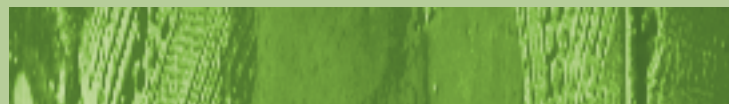
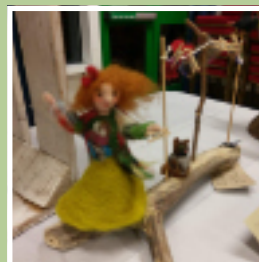


For Rosie the beauty of felt making is that it can be easily combined with other materials e.g. air drying clay. She loves experimenting. For the solid features, she waxes the wool which makes it more rigid. She is a hoarder and loves finding bits for her work in charity shops.

Once, when preparing for an imminent show she came across a disastrous problem, one that is dreaded by all felt makers – a maggot emerged from the head of one of her pieces! Moths love the lanolin in wool. Rosie panicked and quickly became very meticulous with keeping her work and materials moth free. She now keeps them in tightly closed containers and keeps a beady eye open for moths!

Rosie's work is fascinating and she manages to do some very intricate 'drawing' with coloured wools.

Rosie will be taking part in Bucks Art Weeks this year.



"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced." Vincent Van Gogh

Visit

23rd February 2024

On the evening of Friday 23rd February on a 'date night' with my wife, our after-dinner entertainment was seeing the first show in the 2024 tour by Keith Brymer Jones with his wife, actress Marj Hogarth at the Waterside Theatre Aylesbury. Keith's early life in Finchley was spent with mum, dad and a psychotic older sister. As a child Keith found some clay in a stream and made small pots, as you do. With encouragement from dad, they fired them on the bonfire, Keith was amazed at the remarkable metamorphosis from soft clay to hard bowl.



At secondary school the art teacher introduced Keith to the wonders of clay and from that moment he knew that clay was going to be part of his life. A school museum trip where he saw an inspiring film of Isaac Button working at

Soil Hill Pottery helped to reinforce becoming a potter as a career option. As an older teenager Keith was a front man vocalist for a band. After leaving school Keith got his first pottery job as an apprentice, at his interview, he found himself talking to a pair of shoes sticking out from underneath a car that was being fixed. So he didn't get to see his bosses until his first Monday morning on the job! This job meant commuting from Finchley to Harefield three hours each way until he learnt to drive and then his bosses gave him his first car. Keith spent a number of years there learning the trade of a production thrower.

Keith Brymer Jones

By Robert Tasker



Keith's bosses knew a number of dodgy, nefarious characters who would visit the pottery from time to time and scare the 'bejesus' out of him with their antics.

Some years after the company moved to Scotland with the encouragement of a grant. They subsequently became The Tain Pottery, north of Inverness. At this time Keith set up his own studio in London. He received an occasional delivery of clay from his old bosses in Scotland, sent down on a fish lorry offloading salmon to Billingsgate. Keith's business venture grew, selling to Jasper Conran, Habitat and others with orders constantly increasing. Keith also began to teach in his studio, employ others and as the business grew, started using a pottery in China to make his designs.



Jumping ahead to Throwdown, which we've all probably watched and enjoyed over the last few years, brings Keith's journey up to date. So what's next after this second tour of the UK? More Throwdown that's for sure, as well as forthcoming, soon to be filmed C4 series entitled 'Welcome To My Grand Welsh Château' or similar. This will feature Keith and Marj renovating their home, Chapel Salem in Pwllheli, Wales, which will include a new, large pottery studio. After this a new apprenticeship scheme for those with talent that need a hand up the ladder of opportunity, a rebirth of the British Craft industry in the making, showing Keith's passion for the art and craft of clay.

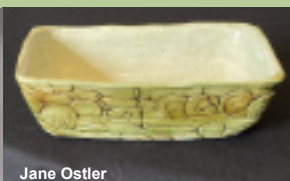
Update: Coiling Workshop last November

Remember this from the December newsletter?

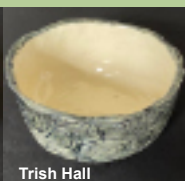
Here are some of the coil pots which have now been fired! If **you** have any pieces you've started at one of our workshops why not send us an image of the finished piece and let us know which workshop it is from. We would love to see them!



Paula Sutton

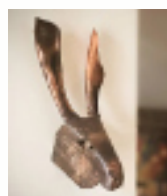


Jane Ostler



Trish Hall

Up & coming Meetings



Varvara White- 8pm 26th April 2024

Varvara uses traditional forming methods to create her metal sculptures. Exploring and experimenting with different ways of using this versatile material and its wonderful qualities to transform it into original pieces of art.



Michele Greene - 8pm 31st May 2024

Michele uses a wide range of materials, incorporating found and recycled objects into her work. In her figurative pieces, her interest lies in capturing the life and emotions of her subject using narrative and storytelling to provide a snapshot of a situation. Her love for wildlife aims to capture a moment in time of the animal.

From New Zealand! Canterbury Pottery Society November 2023 Exhibition By Yvonne Cornes

I was in New Zealand on the weekend of our BPSS Annual Exhibition last November.

By an amazing coincidence there was the local 'Canterbury Pottery Society' exhibition in Christchurch on the same weekend! It was on just for the Saturday.

It differed from the BPSS exhibition in that it was summertime there and for this reason it is always an outdoor event! There is no pre-booking for the potters as they just turn up, bringing their own tables to set up on the morning of the event. The garden outside the society's premises is big enough to cater for whoever turns up. There is just one fee and all the proceeds go to the potters.

It was a beautiful day, very pleasant under the trees away from the sun. The standard of work was pretty good but, I don't think it was quite as good as Bucks Potters! I came away with a cute little pot.

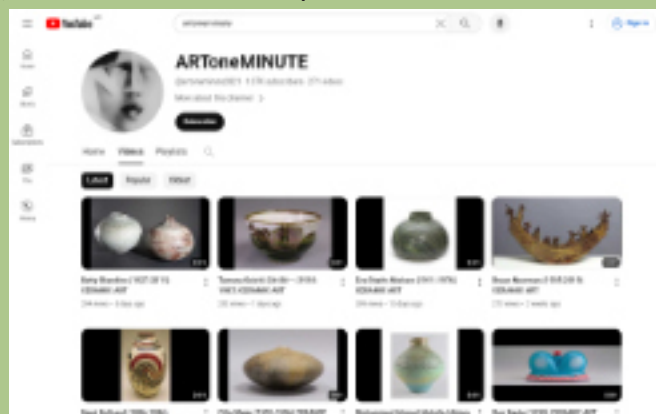
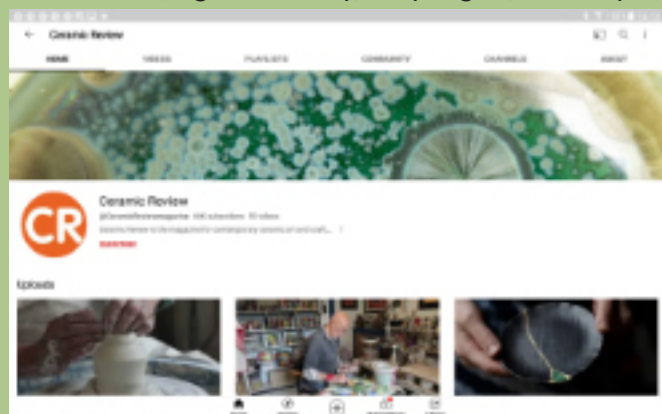


You Tube Recommendations From Paula Sutton

Paula has kindly recommended two different YouTube channels for you to check out. A great way to find new artists and be inspired.

The first is **Ceramic Review Masterclass**, which is a channel showing a series of short 6–10 minute videos of mostly UK based potters explaining their working process.

The second is **ARToneMINUTE**, which is a series of 2 minute long slideshows, each concentrating on the work of a famous ceramic artist, e.g. John Maltby, Mary Rogers, Hans Coper, Ladi Kwali, Michael Cardew and many others from around the world.



What's On at Bucks Museum

Two exhibitions at Discover Bucks Museum that may be of interest to BPSS members are:

This Fractured Land

30th March – 7th July 2–24

A fascinating exhibition where five contemporary visual artists explore the changing landscape of England from different perspectives.



Cara Gordon

Exhibition opens 25th May 2024

Muir Trust Artist-in-Residence from 8th April – 10th May.
Cara Gordon is a Belfast based portrait artist who creates unique portraits using collage and charcoal.

Check it out: discoverbucksmuseum.org



Discover Bucks Museum
Chesham Street
Aylesbury HP20 2QP
discoverbucksmuseum.org
01295 231441

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members Robert King and Madalyn Baskerville

Madalyn Baskerville I started ceramics evening classes when my children were a bit older, I've now been attending for over 6 years. I haven't found my 'thing' yet - I enjoy it all! Lately I've been experimenting with encaustic tiles, similar to those made locally in the Chilterns in the C14th. I'm also currently working on a sculpture of my pet miniature Schnauzer!



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

Danesham Tel: 01793 770601

Order line: 01295 233077

Your BPSS

Website We have a **Members Gallery** on the BPSS Website for members who wish to upload their work.

To set up your own page contact our webmaster **Adam Hoyle** on: adam@adamhoyle.co.uk and he will get you started. Once you have your gallery set up, you can add photos to the gallery directly or from Instagram by tagging the images #bpss. The website checks twice daily for new Instagram images and shows the 3 most recent ones.

About the Society The Society was formed in 1963 and welcomes all artists working in 3D. Individual membership costs £25 per year, 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.

"When you slow down enough to sculpt, you discover all kinds of things you never noticed before." Karen Jobe

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