

Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild Newsletter 10

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CALENDAR

- 15-17 October Weekend Potters Forum at Pendley Manor, Tring, Herts.
This will be the biggest event that the Guild has ever organised and has involved committee members in considerable work. We are depending on non-residents coming to the conference to prevent the Guild from making a financial loss. The weekend will certainly be interesting whatever your interest in potting. The conference will surely be a real display of strength, a chance to show potters everywhere that we are 'no flash in the pan' but an established body.
- 27 October Annual General Meeting and Celebrity Lecture to be held at Potten End. Meeting starts at 7.30 p.m. See page 4.
- November Report and lecture on the Guild Saltglaze project which was held at Bedmond. How was it done? What were the results? Was it worthwhile? Hopefully all these questions will be answered.
- December Grand Christmas Party. A jolly occasion for all. To be held at Berkhamsted Hockey Club. Self-catering, as in previous years.
- January Guest speaker to talk and demonstrate aspects of decoration.
- February Pottery Quiztime. Your quiz chairman, Stan Romer.
- March Slab pottery. Another aspect of slab pottery. (Not a repeat of the Pendley talk)
- April At home. This will be another of the Guild's meetings held at a member's home or studio and will probably deal with one particular aspect of pottery. The meeting could take the form of a discussion or demonstration.

Annual Residential Weekend Potters Forum at Pendley Manor

Friday evening 15th October to Sunday afternoon 17th October

A stimulus for Potter, Amateur and Teacher

Full details were included in Newsletter No. 9.

Open to non-members.

Skeleton Programme. Full programme in Newsletter No. 9.

Friday 15th October

- 8.00 p.m. Introductions (Library)
8.15 p.m. Celebrity Lecture 'Sueki' the stoneware of the
early historic Japan with digressions Japanese.
Brian Hichman.
9.30 p.m. Bar open. Informal demonstrations begin.

Saturday 16th October

- 9.30 a.m. General making demonstration. Mike Dodd. (Lecture Room)
11.30 a.m. Decorating demonstration. Geoffrey Eastop. " "
4.30 p.m. Decorating demonstration 2.
5.45 p.m. Demonstration discussion. Off-the-cuff subjects.
Murray Fieldhouse and Danny Killick. (Lecture Room)
8.00 p.m. Self-help. Making use of local raw materials,
building equipment, etc.

Sunday 17th October

- 9.30 a.m. Continuation of the general making demonstration,
finishing off work made on Saturday morning, spouts,
handles, turning, lids, etc. (Lecture Room) Mike Dodd.
11.30 a.m. Handbuilding with Style (Lecture Room) Sebastian Blackie.
2.30 p.m. English Country Pottery. Films, exhibition and lecture.
Henry Hammond.

Form for non-residents, wishing to attend sessions. The costs are as follows:

Friday or individual session	85p
All day Saturday (including coffee, tea)	£4.20
All day Sunday (including coffee, tea)	£3.55
Weekend total (for all sessions)	£8.60

Please supply me with tickets for the undermarked sessions. I enclose crossed cheque/postal order made payable to the Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild.

Insert number of
tickets required.

Friday Evening Celebrity Lecture	
Saturday General Demonstration	
Saturday Decorating Demonstration	
Saturday Demonstration Discussion.....	
Saturday Self-help Symposia	
Sunday General Demonstration 2	
Sunday Handbuilding	
Sunday English Country Pottery	

To: The Secretary, Dacorum & Chiltern Potters Guild, Northfields Stud.

"PRACTICAL POTTERY AND CERAMICS" by Kenneth Clark, Studio Vista, 80pp.
Paperback 7" x 10½". £1.25

This book was first published in 1964 as a hardbound edition and was reprinted on several occasions. By altering the binding, the cost has been reduced at a time when nearly all other book prices are soaring.

The information in this edition remains the same and sets out clearly the main basic modern techniques of the potter. Kenneth Clark has been teaching for many years and working in his own studio, both of which facts are illustrated by the clarity of explanation.

Whilst I would not recommend a would-be pottery enthusiast to learn his craft only from books, if it should become impossible to join a class, then I would suggest that this book is probably the next best thing to an immediate instructor. The student is introduced regularly to each method, idea or technique with unmistakable simplicity.

Starting with clays and their preparation, we are shown several exercises leading to making different forms and how to decorate them. The problem of decoration (and it can be a problem with many students) is explained by showing how to enrich the ceramic form. There are many examples of pottery from earliest times which show how the designs were dependent upon the shape of the pot. The reader, too, can make various designs from many objects around him and can adapt these to fit the form about to be decorated. Hence, the next chapter follows with descriptions of the many forms which can be made. This leads on to a basic description on colouring and the several methods used to apply the colours.

Finally, on decoration, we read about glazing and glaze materials, and how to make our own glazes and test them.

A short chapter on kilns and firing compares the advantages and disadvantages of various fuels used to heat the different kilns, and the manner of firings of earthenware and stoneware.

Lastly, a few pages are devoted to the setting up and managing of a small pottery, including expenses and costing and how to deal expediently with clients. A short glossary and an index help the reader to find the correct place in the book.

The illustrations and photographs, all in black and white are very good, but I found that the omission of certain page numbers, where the illustration was large, was irritating. But this is a good first book for all those students of pottery, doing 'O' levels or recreational activities or who wish to start up their own pottery studio. The publishers have sensibly kept down the price by not using colour and issuing this in paperback edition. It should be on the College or school library shelves and in the potter's home.

S. R. Romer

Also at the Conference at Pendley ----- on Saturday night commencing at 10 p.m. ----- THE VILLAGE COMPANY will perform a light entertainment. THE VILLAIN AND THE GASLIGHT COMPANY will be interspersed with olde songs to sing along with.

Ray Phipps arrived home from holiday in Wales to find that his builders had cleared an area of his garden in preparation for laying a new patio. Unfortunately, they also uprooted many of the mature shrubs and bushes which he had carefully nurtured. The moral?

WOLFSCASTLE POTTERY

The Pottery, Wolfscastle is set in a tiny hamlet in the centre of Pembrokeshire. I visited it on holiday and was most impressed. It is in most attractive and unspoilt country and the residential courses organised there by Madelaine and Philip Cunningham are intended for both beginners and experienced amateurs. Course time is devoted to teaching, demonstration and practice in the hope that the correct balance is made between all three. The courses run from Monday to Friday (arrive Sunday evening, depart Saturday morning) and cost £48. Accommodation which is first class is in a self-contained cottage adjoining the house and pottery. For further details, write to Wolfscastle Pottery, Wolfscastle, Pembrokeshire direct or see me for copies of the brochure which will be available at Pendley and the AGM.

Ray Phipps

Subscriptions are due at the Annual General Meeting!

Only paid up members of the Guild will be permitted to vote.

Please enrol me as a member of the Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild for the 1976/7 season. I enclose a cheque/postal order in the sum of

Name

Address

Phone No. Profession

The rates for membership are as follows: Student £1.00 (Full-time)
Single £2.00
Family £3.00

Detach this form and send with your remittance to:

The Treasurer, Dacorum & Chiltern Potters Guild, Little Winch, Chipperfield, Kings Langley, Herts.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We are going to follow the precedent set last year. A first class lecture preceded by the essential business of the Guild which will be despatched in a short, crisp session leaving the major part of the evening to our guest.

First the election of Office holders and Committee:

Chairman	Ray Phipps
Secretary	Murray Fieldhouse
Treasurer	Tony Plessner

Committee members, vacancies: 3

Pauline Ashley
Mary Beerbohm
Philip Leaper

There being no other nominations, these good folk stand elected.

The Committee for 1976/7 therefore stands as follows:

The above named, plus:

Mary Ann Spilman
Ed Broadbridge
Jane Woodhams
Stan Romer
Jennifer Bourne
Derek Tattersall

June Waite has retired from the Committee after some sterling work and we thank her for the arrangements for so many past meetings.

Personal details of the new committee members are:

Pauline Ashley qualified as a Primary School Teacher in 1959 at Brighton Training College where she specialised in pottery as her main subject. After three years teaching, discipline not being her strongest subject, she decided it would be easier to rear her own than other people's children and so retired to the domestic scene. During this time she continued her pottery activities at evening classes, attended a Teachers' Short Course at Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute and was subsequently offered a part-time pottery post with the London Borough of Barnet Adult Education Department for whom she has worked for eight years.

She is also beginning to establish a small studio at home and is teaching part-time in a primary school. Her interest in the Guild is wholehearted and enthusiastic.

Philip Leaper is Head of Creative Arts Faculty at Francis Combe School. He is an examiner of the C.S.E. Art and Craft. He is also assistant examiner for 'O' and 'A' level pottery for A.E.B. His main interest is practical pottery techniques in Education.

Mary Beerbohm studied painting and textile design at art school a long time ago, and more recently took up teaching art and craft in three St. Albans primary schools. In one was a kiln which no one used so Mary went to the Teachers' Art Centre at St. Albans School of Art and learned to use it - one step ahead of the children. Four years later, she went to Newland Park College of Education to become qualified. Since then, she has taught in primary schools and art with a little pottery in secondary schools. She still attends the Teachers' Art Centre where she enjoys making large, coiled pots but dislikes throwing. She has enjoyed the varied programme of the Guild.

Celebrity Lecture

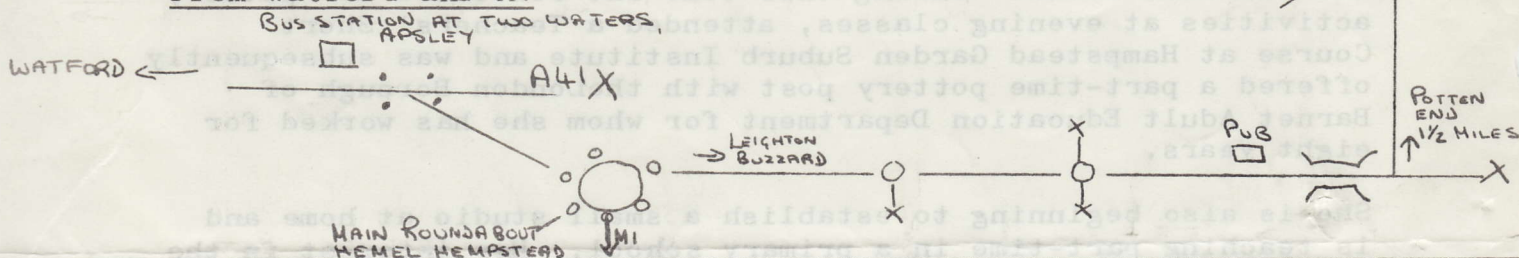
We have been successful in obtaining a mould maker to talk to us and give us a demonstration. He is a mould maker in the old tradition and this is an aspect of pottery which we have never explored inside the Guild before. He is a demonstrator at Gladstone Pottery and will be able to answer all sorts of technical questions. This is a first class catch so we want to make the most of the opportunity.

Please make the AGM a great success; bring friends, neighbours, pupils, fellow students - anyone who might be interested - member or not. The lecture will be good in its own right. It gives the year's activity the right start and we have some chance of getting the membership subscription renewed by a good proportion of existing members as well as recruiting a few new ones.

Please put up the poster advertising the event. Use libraries, spare walls, college and school notice boards - anywhere for publicity.

The Route to Potten End

From Watford and M1



From Aylesbury, Chesham

