

DACORUM AND CHILTERN POTTERS GUILD

February, March 1985

PETER PHILLIPS

Hand building

Friday, 22nd February, 1985 at 8pm. Manor House Sports and Social Centre, Abbots Langley.

Peter Phillips handbuilds boxes of various sizes in the form of boats and his wife Julie makes decorative boxes. These are reduced porcelain and stoneware with various slip glazes. Peter and Julie also have a studio in the Dordogne with an oil fired kiln and they work there for several weeks each year using local materials. Peter is in charge of the Pottery course at Medway College of Design.

Open House

Saturday 16th March, 1985 from 2 - 6pm. Digby and Dorothy Stott, Broomfields, 36 Box Lane, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. (Hemel Hempstead 50540)

Guild Exhibition at the Cow Byre

29th June to 13th July, 1985

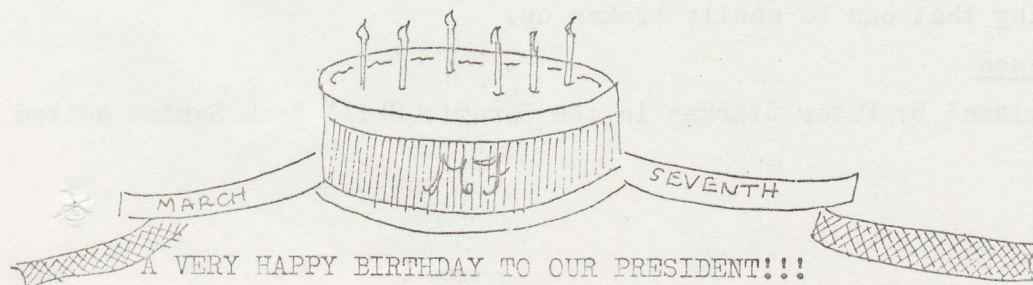
Now is the time to start making things for next July - you only have 5 months, so get going!

This time we are suggesting a theme - "The Sea and The Seaside" It can apply either to the decoration on the pot or to the form of an object in clay.

For instance pots decorated with waves, fish, sea weed, shells seagulls, or any other marine ideas that come to mind or modelled or coiled shapes of ships, oil rigs, bathing huts, deckchairs, buckets, spades, mermaids, whales let your imagination take off and see what happens.

If you are unable or unwilling to go along with the theme, just send in your best pots as you have on previous occasions. Whichever happens we hope you will have fun and produce a great variety of work, hand built or thrown.

Private View Saturday 29th June, 10.30a.m. to 2pm.



A CHANCE TO TRY SALT GLAZING

There is to be a communal firing of the Guild's wood fired salt glaze kiln during May (on a date not yet fixed but probably on a Sunday. This will be an opportunity to learn how to fire it for those who want to use the kiln later.

Anyone who is interested in having pots fired should get them to Jerry Seaborne (089 56 39468), John Capes (911 6018) or Alan O'Dell (0727 69383) before the end of April. The shapes, sizes and numbers of pots received will determine what goes into the kiln.

For those not familiar with the technique of salt glazing or with the Guild Kiln the following may be helpful.

Size of pots

Size is limited by the availability of shelves. Pots should be no wider than 8 inches, and preferably no higher than this, though a few tall pots will be acceptable. Small pots will stand a better chance of fitting in as fillers.

Clay bodies, slips, glazes and decoration

The body should fire to stoneware temperatures and (according to Peter Starkey) contain less than 2.8% iron, since iron tends to resist salt. Our experience is that St. Thomas's gives a rather nondescript result. Moira works reasonably well despite its high iron content, but gives a very dark brown colour. An effective alternative is to use a mixture of Moira and white stoneware. The surface may be given more variety and colour by using a slip consisting of feldspar and china clay in the proportion 80/20 to 0/100. The former gives a shiny finish (Peter Starkey sprays cobalt oxide on to this slip) and the latter produces a dry orange/red surface. The insides of bowls and enclosed pots should be glazed with a conventional stoneware glaze since the salt does not penetrate to these areas.

One of the most effective forms of decoration is to use incised marks which are enhanced by salt glaze.

Preparation of pots

Pots should be biscuited in advance. A fairly deep undercut at the edge of the base inhibits salt from penetrating to the contact points between pot and shelf and prevents sticking. Lids should be separated from pots by small pads formed from a paste of alumina and china clay. A strip of sellotape around pot and lid will prevent the dried pads falling out when the pot is moved.

Wood

We need all the wood that we can get, preferably soft wood, including old pallets or anything that can be easily broken up.

Reference

'Saltglaze' by Peter Starkey in the Ceramic Skill Book Series edited by Murray

West Forest Potters, Loddon Hall, Twyford, 8th March, 1985, John Solly Demonstration and Slides

Fulham Pottery and Pottery crafts offer a discount of 5% off list prices to Guild Members

Any enquiries regarding the Don Byrne Society's Raku Group at Bullbeggars Tip, Berkhamstead should now be addressed to Roy Adams, 55 Shrublands Avenue, Berkhamstead as Krzysztof Buras will be making and teaching pottery in the Carribean Islands for some time.

If anyone is interested in a Children's Activity Day please contact Roger Winn (Chesham 782033)

Pot and Plant Sale, 15th June near Ruislip. Plant people will be found for you if necessary contact Roger Winn (Chesham 782033)

Anyone interested in Salt Glazing contact Alan O'Dell (St. Albans 69383)

Medieval group kiln project - contact Leslie and Anne Sutherland (907 4944)

Reminder - Membership Fees are now overdue - LAST DATE FOR PAYMENT 28th FEBRUARY