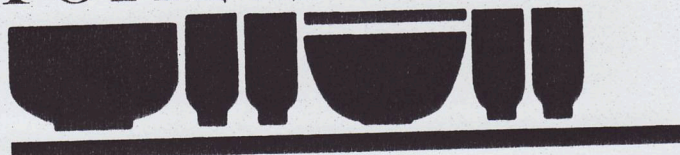




# DACORUM AND CHILTERN POTTERS GUILD



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Demonstration by DAPHNE CARNEGIE



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NEWSLETTER  
Winter 2007  
£1.50



## FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH

From Left; Daphne Carnegie & Competition Winners - Natalie Torbert (2<sup>nd</sup>) Danielle Bunker (1st) & Veronica Powell (3rd)

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## EDITORIAL

Printing the Newsletter needs a suitable lead time, but at present I want to remind you about the Potters Open Day - 10<sup>th</sup> November. In addition many of our members have failed to renew their subscriptions, so I am preparing this in double-quick time, to remind some of you about both of these things.

I hope you will forgive a photo-copied edition, but that is the only way I can produce this in time. Following our AGM we now have another Pitstone organiser, being Natalie Torbert, and I am glad to tell you that Kirsteen Holuj has volunteered to act as Bookings Supervisor.

We still do not have a Workshop Organiser, and have also now lost our Librarian, since Julia Knowles is now unable to continue.

Please let me know if you are able to help with either of these jobs for us.

I have several articles for the next (proper) issue of the Newsletter, which I will complete when I have time to do so.

Mervyn Fitzwilliam

## Pitstone

On 27<sup>th</sup> August it seemed likely that Ruby Sharp would be on her own at Pitstone Museum, for the Raku activity. The reality is that if only one person turns up, then talking to the public and also firing the kiln becomes an impossibility. Being conscious of this I decided to take an electric wheel & some clay, so that I could throw pots with anyone who was interested, and/or help Ruby. In the event, John and Veronica Powell also arrived, so things looked much better on the day.

We soon got into the swing of things, with Ronnie (Veronica) helping the people decorating pots, Ruby firing, & me throwing. John helped with everything including selling the pots, and the crowd reached record numbers of about 300.

Our takings were around £100, so that meant we could make a substantial donation to the museum, with money in the kitty for future activities.

If you are interested in Raku, or want to help at Pitstone, call Ruby Sharp, on 01494 728 364. or email [rubysharp@furniture.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:rubysharp@furniture.fsnet.co.uk)

Your unwanted Pots & sculptures are always wanted for the Pitstone activity, either bisque or finished ware. Please remember this when turning out your studio or shed.

Editor

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership renewal subscriptions were due on 1<sup>st</sup> October. At present a substantial number of members have not renewed.

Please send your cheque directly to our Treasurer, Jan Kent. His address is;

48 Coleshill Place, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK13 8DP.

Membership rates are;

Single £17.50

Family Member & Spouse/Partner £21.00

Full time Student £9.00

## Future Guild Events

*Guild evening meetings are held at the Methodist Church Hall, Kings Langley, starting promptly at 8.00 pm., unless otherwise stated.*

*Admission is free to members £3 for visitors.*

## Sat 10 Nov Potters Open Day At Longdean School, free entry for Guild Members.

(have you renewed your membership?????)

Demonstrators;

Josie Walter ([www.josiewalter.co.uk](http://www.josiewalter.co.uk)) works with earthenware clay, decorated either with a fine or thick slip, raw glazed prior to firing. Her current work is based on leaf decoration.

Nic Collins ([www.nic-collins.co.uk](http://www.nic-collins.co.uk)) makes wood fired stoneware using local clays, firing in Anagama style kilns. Some pots are fired up to seven times to achieve particular textures.

It is now too late to book lunch, but tea & coffee might still be available. You can just turn up on the day, but we would prefer to know you are coming if possible. **phone Joy Wills on 01296 481 015**  
Doors open 9.00 am. Come early to pick up some sales bargains.

Demonstrations start at 10.00 am. **PLEASE BE ON TIME. TO AVOID DISRUPTING THE DEMONSTRATIONS.**



**Fri 7 Dec Sylvia Dales** at our Christmas meeting. She is a member of the CPA who makes finely thrown pottery influenced by classical forms and fired in reduction.



Come and find out how she achieves such subtle and beautiful colours with shino, ash and celadon glazes.

**Fri 11 Jan Gwen Bainbridge.** Gwen makes exquisite pots from slabs of delicately textured porcelain in her studio in Penrith.



Tonight she will give a presentation, and demonstrate her handbuilding techniques. See

[www.gwenbceramics.co.uk](http://www.gwenbceramics.co.uk)

**Saturday Special with Martin Avery on the photography of ceramics**

**19th Jan from 11am to 12.30pm with private photography sessions afterwards**

Martin will give a presentation from 11am-12.30pm on the basic principles of how to photograph your own work, and will indicate various DIY approaches. Then he offers a special deal to members requiring a professional photography session of 30 minutes for £30, plus £6 to prepare a CD and post it.

Otherwise the meeting is free to members, £3 for visitors, and will be held in the Methodist Church Hall in Kings Langley as usual.

Please let Ros know by Fri 7th Dec if you wish to have your pots photographed. Contact by email at [ros.mcguirk@gmail.com](mailto:ros.mcguirk@gmail.com), or phone 01727 834326

**Fri 8 Feb Mike Braisher.** 'A little

**Clay wrestling: large flatware and pitchers'**

Hotfoot from his recent trip to New Zealand Mike will talk about potting and potters on the Other side of the globe, and demonstrate throwing his large platters with their luscious glaze effects.

Mike is a retired teacher of ceramics, who is now enjoying a second career as a potter. He also makes pottery and sculpture tools. For more info see

[www.mikebraisher ceramics.co.uk](http://www.mikebraisher ceramics.co.uk).

## Other Events

For even more events see [www.studiopottery.co.uk](http://www.studiopottery.co.uk)

**25Oct-11Nov 'Northern Fire II'.** Northern Potters Association at the Oxo Tower, Bargehouse Street, S. Bank, SE1 9PH. 11-6pm daily. Free. See

[www.oxotower.co.uk](http://www.oxotower.co.uk)

**12Oct-7Dec 'Teabowls and Unomi'.** An online exhibition at [www.shibusa-gallery.co.uk](http://www.shibusa-gallery.co.uk)

**14 Nov 'Urban Field'** A one day symposium on rural and urban craft practices. The Crafts' Study Centre, University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, GU9 7DS 01258 891450

**17 Nov 'Making it – the Vessel'** Chris Keenan, Richard Godfrey, Sasha Wardell + 2 others. Many techniques. Univ of Westminster, Harrow Campus, Watford Rd, Northwood Park, Harrow, HA1 3TP. Tel 01279 723229, or email [john@masterton.freemove.co.uk](mailto:john@masterton.freemove.co.uk)

**17Nov-16Dec 'Potters in Jesus' Lane'.** Christmas show by the East Anglian Potters at All Saints Church, Jesus Lane, Cambridge. 10-4pm. [www.anglianpotters.org.uk](http://www.anglianpotters.org.uk)



**24-25 Nov 'Art in Clay'** Farnham Maltings, Farnham. 10-5pm. Tel 01159 873966, or [www.artinclay.co.uk](http://www.artinclay.co.uk)

**27Nov-9Dec Joanna Bird Pottery.** Gallery's Christmas Show. 0208 995 9960. 10-5pm

**28Nov-21Dec London Potters** at Morley Gallery, 61 Westminster Bridge Rd, SE1 7HT. Lambeth North tube. Mon-Fri 11-6pm, (Thurs till 7pm) and Sat 12-4pm. Tel 0207 450 1826 or [www.londonpotters.com](http://www.londonpotters.com)

**9-20 Jan Designer Crafts 2008.** Thrown porcelain exterior works. The Mall Galleries, The Mall, SW1. 10-5pm daily. Tel 0207 930 6844 or see [www.societyofdesignercraftsmen.org.uk](http://www.societyofdesignercraftsmen.org.uk)

**25-29 Jan 'Collect'** 41 galleries with +350 artists including many ceramicists at the V&A. Tel 0207 278 7700 or see [www.craftscouncil.org.uk](http://www.craftscouncil.org.uk)

## **The Box Moor Conker Festival 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007.**

We had a beautiful day for this event, and as usual we had many willing participants, both young and not quite so young.

We had 3 Pottery wheels, and one table for hand building, plus a sales table, all set up as last year, in a marquee supplied by the trust. We gave simple throwing lessons, or hand building instruction to all who wanted to have a go. The participants greatly enjoyed it, and I think they would have kept us there much longer - if we had only had the strength!

We raised £243 for the Hospice of St. Francis, which means that in the last three years we have raised almost £600 for this charity.

Thanks to our helpers; Ruby Sharp, Joy Wills, John & Veronica Powell, Linda Ablett & Sylvia Fitzwilliam, for putting in such a terrific effort for us.

Letters of thanks have been received from the Hospice, and also from Louise Baldwin of the Box Moor Trust.

The event will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> October in 2008, and Louise has invited us to participate again.

Mervyn Fitzwilliam

## **Membership News**

### **New Members**

Brenda Potter is one of our new members, from Northampton.

Andrew Sharman has joined us & also lives in Northampton.

Juliette Purdy has joined us. She lives in Potten End.

Jon Raine is a new member from Chinnor  
Sue Lines & Peter Hand live in Letchworth & are both interested in hand built ceramics.

Adrienne Mansell gives her interests as Stoneware & Raku. Anyone interested in Raku will always be welcome at our Pitstone events.

Judi Tribe gives her interests as Salt Glazing, Kiln building & mixed media with ceramics. Judi lives in Little Chalfont.

We are always glad to have new members joining the guild, and hope you will all enjoy the events, meetings and workshops which we arrange.

## **Daphne Carnegie Evening (AGM)**

Daphne began with an illustrated slide presentation on the history and development of tin-glazed earthenware. Early pots came from Persia in imitation of Chinese porcelain. The technique spread to Spain and was eagerly sought after in Italy where it became known as 'majolica' ware, the name being a corruption of either Majorca, or possibly Malaga. From Italy it spread to France where it was called 'faience' after the Italian centre of production. Then we got Delftware and English Delft. In Italy it became fine art, but mostly it was more rustic in nature, and many beautiful pieces can still be seen in museums. It was a fascinating account well illustrated with slides.

After the break, Daphne set about painting a splendid jug which had been thrown in two sections, biscuit-fired, and glazed beforehand. These notes were made as the work progressed.

-It is important to have your work at a comfortable height. Daphne's jug was placed on a banding wheel atop a spectacular heap of a dozen bats on a wheel head, where it remained throughout the demo, as if glued in place.

-Daphne uses Valentine's red clay, and a tin glaze recipe from Alan Caiger-Smith.

-Pots should be glazed at least a day in advance of decorating in order to get good absorption of the colours and to prevent the glaze lifting off.

-Similarly, the glaze should be left for a day or two after mixing. The bentonite in the mix can give a false impression of thickness. Let it settle, remove the top water, re-mix the glaze and replace the water if required. The glaze should be about 2mm thick - scratch it with a pin to check. Also, it is too thin if it runs off the handles.

-Pots should be glazed in one go, preferably by dipping. Large quantities of glaze are needed, and a pair of glazing tongs. Large pots are glazed on their side in a baby bath, then lifted out upside down until they have stopped dripping. The pots are not shaken, as this makes more glaze runs.

-Do not spray the glaze, as this creates a surface like an aero bar....which is difficult to paint.

-Glaze runs are fettled off with a knife and during this process a mask should be worn.



-Always have a glaze brush handy, to touch up the surface.

-Daphne creates many of her designs from the flowering plants in her garden.

- She draws the design on her pot using a soft pencil on its side. Alternatively, food colouring may be used. Both burn away in the firing.

-Find brushes that suit you. Simple water colour brushes made of artificial hairs work well. Daler brushes are springy and resilient and are also inexpensive and widely available in art shops. Daphne uses mostly one stroke brushes (with squared-off ends), and fine-liners. With a little practise, and a light touch, fine-liners can draw very long lines, as, indeed, we were shown.

-It is useful to have a test piece beside you when painting, so that you can test the consistency of the colours before they go on the pot.

-Daphne uses underglaze colours in powder form. She mixes them with glaze to a double cream consistency and then adds water until they paint well.

-Oxides are also used. Most of these are fluxes and hence do not need to be mixed with the glaze. Rutile is an exception, it requires glaze.

-Oxides can be mixed with underglaze colours, eg cobalt with Canary Yellow to make a leafy green

-Only one coat of colour is required, unless one is over painting with another colour.

-Daphne blocked in the design using one stroke brushes loaded with colour.

-She outlined the shapes using a mix of cobalt with a little copper. A fine liner was used, with a light touch and just the tip of the brush. Each line has to be done in one go.

-Imperfect lines are left as they are. Obvious mistakes and accidents may be carefully scraped off using a palette knife or needle, and the glaze touched in, if necessary.

-The dark background required for the design was carefully blocked in at the end, leaving a white outline around each shape. Daphne used to create this with the aid of wax resist, but nowadays does not bother. She has become adept at painting accurately. She uses a mix of cobalt, chrome and iron to produce a rich dark blue.

-Wax resist is best produced by melting candle wax in paraffin. This noxious mix is virtually free of fumes if heated by a 60watt light bulb!! (Slow cookers are often used by potters, but these get far too hot, and should not be used.) She uses it for outlines and on the bases of pots to be glazed.

-Lead bisilicate glazes are quite safe if fired high enough, and if you avoid using copper on the inside of food vessels. Daphne takes the biscuit firing to 980C, and the glaze to 1080C. The glaze firing is fast at first - 150C/hour up to 850C, and then slower to the top, with a ½ hour soak.

Daphne studied pottery as an apprentice to a faience potter in France and subsequently at the Harrow Studio Pottery course. Since 1980 she has had her own studio at the Kingsgate Workshops in London, producing contemporary tin-glaze earthenware. Daphne is also the author of 'Tin-glazed Earthenware' (A&C Black, 1993) and teaches at Harrow.

**Ros McGuirk**

### WORKSHOPS

Currently we do not have any workshops planned. We need help with this, so if you are interested in helping please talk to any committee member or phone the editor.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Murray Fieldhouse** (President) 01442-851 229  
Northfields Studio, Tring, Herts. HP23 5QW  
**Mervyn Fitzwilliam** (Chairman & Newsletter)  
"Longfield", Bulstrode Lane, Felden, Hemel Hempstead,  
Herts. HP3 0BP 01442-242332  
**Jan Kent** (Treasurer/Pitstone Organiser) 01908-674 051  
48 Coleshill Place, Bradwell Common, Milton Keynes,  
Bucks. MK13 8DP  
**John Beckley** (Secretary) 01923-822 659  
44 Wolsey Road, Northwood, Mdx. HA6 2EN  
**Digby Stott** (Membership) 01442-404 122  
"Broomfield", 36 Box Lane, Boxmoor, Herts, HP3 0DJ  
**Joy Wills** (Open Day Organiser) 01296-481 015  
21 Tindal Road, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1HT  
**Ros McGuirk** (Programme Organiser & Vice-Chairman)  
13 The Park, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 4RU 01727-834 326  
**Kirsteen Holuj** (Publicity & event bookings)  
01280-823 331  
Railing, 7a Mitre St. Buckingham, Bucks. MK18 1DW  
**Julia Knowles** (librarian & Open Day) 01442-240599  
1 Shendish Edge, London Road, Hemel Hempstead,  
Herts. HP3 9SZ

### COMMITTEE HELPERS

We are very grateful to any members who help with guild activities, and especially to our members who help us on a regular basis. Other members sometimes need to contact these helpers, so phone numbers are given below;

Tina Hall (Pitstone & Catering) 01442 826 223  
John Powell (Website) 01494 774 398  
Ruby Sharp (Pitstone) 01494 728 364  
Workshops Organiser \*\*\* Vacancy

### Advertisements

#### **Wanted**

#### **Kiln Space Needed**

Please phone Helen Hargreaves, 01442 256 585 if you can help with kiln space for stoneware firings.