ATTENTION PLEASE

A NOTE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

I have only received 86 membership payments from a total membership of 129.

I will extend the final date for payment to JANUARY 31, 1987

It will be very sad to loose 43 members, but please accept this as your final reminder.

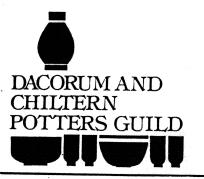
MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

SINGLE : £6 FAMILY : £8 (Full Time) STUDENT : £3

SEND TO: Valerie Williams
5, Saxon Close
Letchworth
Herts. SG6 4RF

Thank you and best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year 1987.

Valerie Williams (Secretary)



BULLETIN
JANUARY
1987

SECRETARY:

Valerie Williams 5 Saxon Close Letchworth Herts SG6 4RF Tel: Letchworth 6765

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday January 23rd at 8 pm. Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane, Northchurch, Berkhamsted. (See map in last Bulletin).

FILM EVENING

MUD AND WATER MAN: A film about Michael Cardew TZINTZUNTZEN: A film about a UNESCO project in Mexico

Tuesday January 27th Mick Casson's Craft of the Potter and Audrey Blackman's Rolled Figures will be shown at 7.45 pm. This event will be combined with an open house. Ruth Karnac, 35 Kingsend, Ruislip (0985 631738).

Friday February 27th at 8 pm. Northchurch Social Centre.

Russell Coates on Japanese Kutani

SPECIALIST GROUPS AND OTHER NOTICES

ABROAD Another visit to La Borne is being considered within the last two weeks of August 1987. Those interested contact Roger Winn (Chesham 782033). Cost approximately £80.

Research into possibilities for a similar trip to Germany is being undertaken. Any contributions with regard to pottery areas etc worth visiting would be very welcome. Contact Roger Winn.

RAKU Three sites now available for members' use as follows:

 Pitstone Museum, Pitstone, near Tring. A sheltered kiln with workshop beside it which includes two wheels. Can be used any time. Further details contact Roger Winn.

- 2 A kiln at Pipers Corner near High Wycombe. Further details from Jenny Templeton, Amersham 7243.
- 3 Berkhamsted, Bulbaggers Tip. For details contact Roy Adams, Berkhamsted 71095.

SALT GLAZE KILN Available for use to Guild members and their friends. Wood fired, and about 30 cubic feet of setting space. £10 will entitle you to as many firings as you would wish during the year. Contact Alan O'Dell (St Albans 69383) or Roger Winn for further details.

<u>VIDEO</u> The video-tape made by Mr Athill of the Dave Roberts Raku demonstration last June is now available.

LIBRARY DISPLAYS Campaign for more members opened up in Chesham and so far bookings have been made at Kings Langley, Berkhamsted, and St Albans. January and March still free. Bookings are very much desired in Watford and Tring areas.

CHORLEYWOOD ARTS CENTRE Regular members' meeting each Wednesday, plus opportunity to pot. Ring the Chairman of the Chorleywood Community Arts Centre on Chorleywood 2918, or the Secretary on Chorleywood 4627 for further info.

THE FIFTH MEMBERS' EXHIBITION

This year's exhibition at Hemel Hempstead has been a considerable success, considering the difficulties of the venue.

When the booking was made eighteen months ago, the whole room was available but subsequently, the management of the Arts Centre let the room for use as a snack bar and restaurant on a permanent basis.

I had to come to an arrangement with them to use part of the room as an alternative to backing out altogether. In view of the difficulty of finding somewhere else I decided, with the backing of the committee, to go ahead and make the best of it. I also hoped that the people using the restaurant might bring us in some trade.

For these reasons, we were very short of space, the display was rather overcrowded and we had to reject many pieces purely on the grounds of lack of space; this was a great pity for those members who submitted such fine work.

/Contd

On that subject, it is really exciting to see what a high standard is now being reached by the Guild. I am sure we are all grateful to those 30 members who supported the Guild by submitting their pots . . . but, come on all the rest of you, let's be having something from YOU next summer. There will be plenty of space in the Cow Byre Gallery in Ruislip in 1987.

I would like to have been able to replace sold pieces, but this is impossible unless the replacement is identical. We cannot alter all the copies of the catalogue if different replacements have been used.

Does anyone know of a suitable venue, preferably in the St Albans, Hemel Hempstead, or Berkhampstead area, to use alternatively with Ruislip? If sc, please inform any member of the Committee . . . we can at least investigate. It must be available for at least 2½ weeks and have suitable storage and display facilities. It should also be situated not too far off the beaten track . . . a barn in the middle of a field, however attractive, is not really a business proposition. It also needs to be fairly cheap.

On the subject of prices: as you know, the potter gets twothirds of the selling price, leaving one-third for expenses such as printing, hire of hall, etc. Without the handling fee we would barely break even. Increased sales would, of course, improve matters but we do not have much control over that.

There is always some difference of opinion about pricing. A viable, commercial gallery would almost certainly double the potter's price. We take only one-third of your price and this is only possible because our labour and yours is very cheap! This fact makes it impossible for those of our members who are professionals to "compete" fairly where prices are concerned and it is to their great credit that they continue to give us their generous support. Perhaps we would sell less work it it were "realistically" priced, but who knows? A lot depends on where the gallery is, how the work is displayed and on our Private View invitation list.

The committee is open to comment from you, so do put your pen to paper or finger to typewriter if there is something you would like to say. Send it to Valerie Williams (address on Page 1) and we will try to put it in the next newsletter.

RUTH KARNAC

POTTERS OPEN DAY 15th November 1986

JOHN GIBSON

Trained as a salt-glazer and found the huge smelly kilns exciting. John is concerned with visual texture. He likes to make tall jugs or vases but in two sections. He gets to the approximate size and shape as quickly as possible, then uses profile formers to build up initial textures on the pot, incising particularly at the base. He uses the same amount of clay for the top and the bottom, joins the two together, runs over the pot with a rib to even up the thickness, then throws downwards towards the collar for a sound join. The rim is thrown next before the final shaping of the neck.

He uses plaster impress stamps, carving into the plaster when just dry; forming his own designs. Also synthetic sponges, cutting pattern shapes with a thin heated wire. John also works with underglaze and finds that masking tape and florist's wrapping paper, which has a good wet strength, are useful to resist the slip.

He is a great adaptor of everyday utensils, demonstrating his special double chip fork! He obtains a lot of ideas from Japanese textiles, Persian rugs, patterns and themes from Greek Mythology.

His decoration features grid patterns formed by slip trailing. For the slips he uses 100% powder porcelain with manufacturers' recommended amounts of added oxides. The porcelain body is Potclays 1146. Kiln firings are taken to cone 9.

John's presentation and dry sense of humour came over very well and although his decoration is at times a little excessive, his work was much appreciated.

GARY WORNELL

He studied at Stoke, in particular, methods of working with porcelain inlays.

The inlay colours are achieved with body stains mixed in water then into the plastic clay. One of the irritating parts of this process is the constant washing of one's hands and working surfaces, to ensure no contamination when handling the different bodies.

After wedging, blocks or cubes of the bodies are formed a few inches across, then thin slivers are cut, pressed together in a sandwich and lightly rolled with a rolling pin.

The pancake shaped sandwich was then slapped down hard onto the bench several times causing it to stretch and take on an organic appearance, like leather. Further stretching allowed the under layer to partially show through.

Then by allowing one surface to partly dry, created interesting textures, with additional slapping and stretching.

Gary showed us examples of his porcelain abstract pictures built up from thin slivers and strips of the different coloured bodies, cut mainly with a scalpel then fixed to a white porcelain tile.

He biscuit fires first, uses under glaze enamels brushed on after wax resist, then the resist peeled away. The firing is taken to 1320° orton cone 12 to create the ideal translucence.

Gary also demonstrated the making of fine pendant jewellery.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS OF INTEREST

MARIGOLD AUSTIN Lecture/demonstration on Teapots

On Monday 23rd February at 8 pm
Entrance: 50p members
£1 visitors,

The Lecture Theatre De Haviland College Campus West Welwyn Garden City

RENA GREEN Exhibition of Ceramics

Sunday 22 February to Saturday 7 March 1987 Daily 10 am - 6 pm Sundays 2 pm - 6 pm The Cow Byre Gallery Bury Street Ruislip



| A | BRIEF | SURVEY | - FCR | ALL | MEMBERS | - | JAMUARY 1987 |
|---|-------|--------|-------|-----|-------------|---|--------------|
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| | | | | | | | |

MAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

It would be helpful to the Committee to have the answers to the following questions, although we may not beable to act on the results immediately as much of the committee work and programming is done in advance.

POTTERS OPEN DAY and EXHIBITION POSTERS

When you receive your POSTER each year do you. ... KEEP IT/DISPLAY IT If you display it please give place name:-

Are you willing and able to accept a few more posters each year and make yourself responsible for displaying them around your own area?

YES/NO

If the answer is YES please make a list of the actual places to which you will deliver the posters and see to it that they are in fact displayed properly.

EXHIBITION :-

Bearing in mind the ideal situation and facilities at the COW BYER at RUISLIP

Do members want the Exhibition to be held there every year? YES/NO

Do you have any other venues in your area, where they hold large exhibitions? YES/YC (It has to be available for a whole fortnight)

If your answer is YES: - Please give the Name/Address/Telephone number of the person responsible for hiring.

Do members prefer the Exhibition in SUMMER ... JULY AUTUMN ... NOVEMBER

TRANSPORT :-

Sometimes we get asked if there are members who feel able to offer a lift in their car to students/members who have difficulty with night driving or who would simply like to have company to get to Guild meetings.

Are you able to offer a lift service ? YES/NO

Would you take turns sharing journeys? YES/NO

If YES to either question :- How many could you take in your car please

PLEASE RETURN THIS SURVEY BY JANUARY 31st 1987

To :- GILLIAN LONGLAND,

5 High Grove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts HP1 7DW

MISSING!

One of Jean Sedgley's pots, after the Exhibition in Hemel Hempstead.

Has it got into the wrong box?

If found, please let the Secretary know.