

DACORUM AND  
CHILTERN  
POTTERS GUILD

BULLETIN  
OCTOBER  
1988

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday October 14th at 7.30 pm, Northchurch Social Centre  
Bell Lane, Northchurch, Berkhamstead:

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (See Agenda enclosed). This will  
be followed by an illustrated talk by Mildred Slatter.

Saturday November 14th POTTERS' OPEN DAY  
at the Rudolf Steiner School in Kings Langley.  
Details and application form enclosed.

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### BOOK REVIEW

"POTTERY" - A complete guide to pottery-making techniques  
Tony Birks, 136pp, soft cover,  
published by Alphabooks: A & C Black, 1988. £6.95

This is a revision of the 1979 edition; but it can be  
classed virtually as a new book. And it is well written.  
Whilst it is comparatively easy to specialize generally, it  
is indeed very hard to generalize specially when writing  
about such a vast subject. Yet this is what the book does.  
The author has written already several books on Potters and  
pottery subjects, but he does not try to spread his own work  
to cover the whole range. Instead, he employs three  
specialists to write about their own particular leanings,  
and so we have a broad front of variety in the descriptions  
of the expressions in claywork.

The many black and white photographs show very clearly all  
the different methods and techniques of each aspect. And  
the colour photographs have been chosen to show the effects  
other than shape and shadow. For the beginner and also the  
more advanced student - and the studio potter too - the  
detailed explanations and timely hints are all freshly to  
hand.

I have three niggles, which I feel should be mentioned. On page 52 we are told to clean up the edge of a cast in a plaster mould with a (metal) knife. From experience I believe it would be better, and safer (for the mould) to use a wooden tool or a nylon thread. Also, the obsolescent word 'felspar' has been used instead of 'feldspar', which now is really the standard spelling; - and what a pity there is no index!

To counteract these three minor faults, as I see them, there is a good Glossary, and the lists of suppliers are a most useful inclusion.

So all round it is a very good book; for the studio potter (the chapter 'Your own workshop' is very helpful for starting one), and the student from the young schoolchild right up to 'A' level pottery. It would be a welcome addition to any library; home, school or public.

STAN ROMER

## EXHIBITIONS

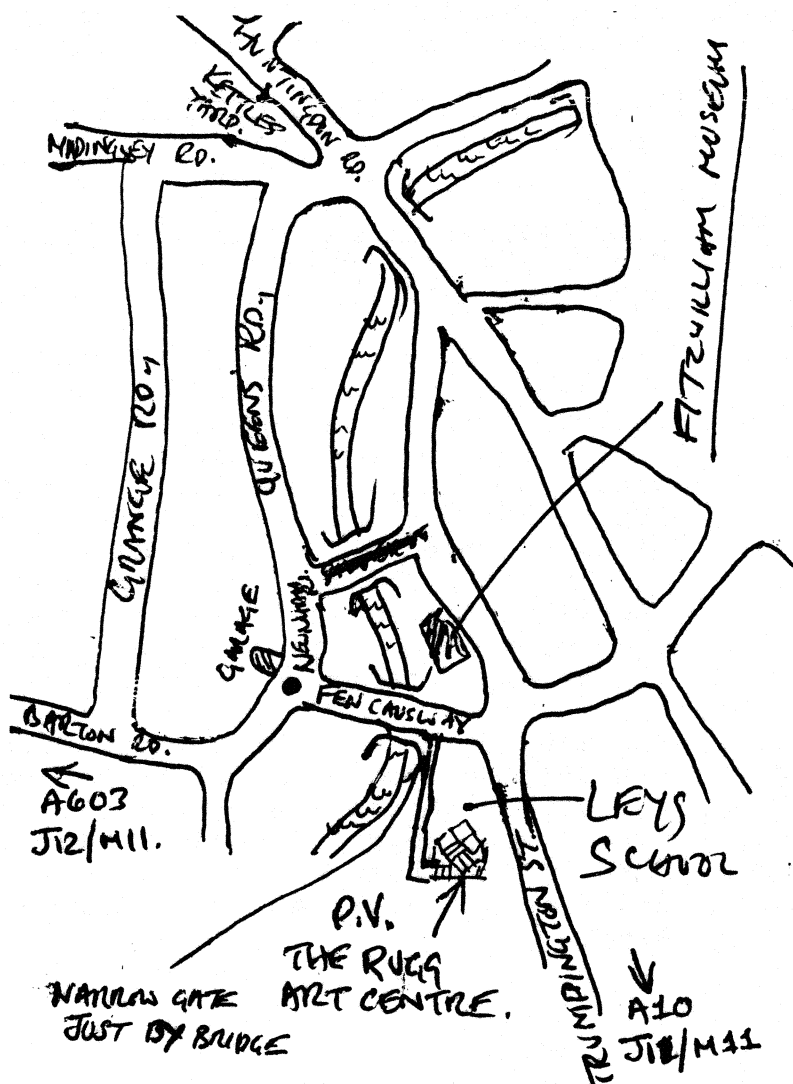
Exhibition at:-

THE RUGG CENTRE,  
The Leys School,  
Trumpington Road,  
CAMBRIDGE

5 MIDLAND POTTERS -  
Brian Ashley  
Jo Connell  
Dart Annatt  
Les Cole  
Peter Wareing

5 EAST ANGLIAN POTTERS -  
Angela Mellor  
Jane Searle  
Jane Perryman  
Elsbeth Owen  
Lesley Hennessy

OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 12th



Paintings and Ceramics  
"THROUGH THE SEASONS"

by Rosemary Carr and Marigold Austin

PRIVATE VIEW - FRIDAY 21st OCTOBER, 6 - 9 pm  
Exhibition open 22nd OCTOBER - 3rd NOVEMBER, 10 am - 5 pm  
Closed Monday

"TRADING PLACES GALLERY"  
11 New Road  
Ware  
HERTFORD

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A VISIT TO BOND STREET

Recently I went to see an exhibition of works by master potters at the attractive Besson Gallery which looks down on the elegant Royal Arcade in Bond Street. There were some pots for sale by Bernard Leach, including one of his famous fish decorated vases, but the assistant was very coy about the price it had fetched. There was a strong-looking casserole by Michael Cardew and a group of 4 large pots featuring swimmers, by Mick Casson, in that most difficult of pottery colours, blue. However, to my eyes, which had just seen the vast, exuberant and colourful collections of Elton John, the rest of the pottery looked drab and dull in its varying shades of brown.

PAM TAMES

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FOR SALE

KILN: Wenger 'Webcot' Capacity kiln 3670W, 3 phase electric, 12 KW, on stand. Fires up to 1300°C. In excellent condition. Electrical circuits blueprint diagram and reference manual.

Inside measurements 18½" wide x 29½" high x 20½" deep. Best reasonable offer secures, buyer removes, easy access from road.

CLAY: Buff clay and red plastic (throwing) clay, in cwt bags, near to roadway. Price, Half the going rate. Buyer removes. There's about \* ton of each. Will sell all (cheaper still) or separately.

STAN ROMER: Tel. Leighton Buzzard 372750

(Stan also has some spare kick-wheels, which he would sell very cheaply).