



BULLETIN  
SEPTEMBER  
1987

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday September 18th at 8 pm, Northchurch Social Centre  
Bell Lane, Northchurch, Berkhamstead:

#### PETER HAYES - CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE

Peter Hayes was born in 1946. He studied at Birmingham College of Art from 1961-1964. After working at his studio in Cornwall for 6 years, he was invited to establish a training workshop in Lesotho. Later he joined the Commonwealth Secretariat and has travelled extensively, his most recent trip being to India and Nepal in 1984. He set up a studio near Bath in 1982 and has had exhibitions in 1984, 85 and 86 in Bath and London.

Friday October 18th AGM at Northchurch. Arthur Ball will give an illustrated talk about his tiles for the Watford Mosque.

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### SPECIALIST GROUPS AND OTHER NOTICES

- RAKU Three sites now available for members' use as follows:
- 1 Pitstone Museum, Pitstone, near Tring. A sheltered kiln with workshop beside it which includes two wheels. Can be used any time.  
Details from Christine Bull (Princes Risborough 3515)
  - 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.

MEDIAEVALISTS Contact Lesley & Ann Sutherland: 01 907. 4944 if interested in the making of medieval pots.

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 Christine Bull (Princes Risborough 3515) for further details.

VIDEO Three titles available £2.50 plus deposit (weekly). *The Potter's Craft, Rolled Figures Audrey Blackman, Exhibition Work Audrey Blackman.* Other titles on the way. Guild use is for members' showing at Open Houses (no charge then). 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. 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.

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### EXHIBITION

RUTH BROWN, PEGGY FANCETT, DORIS WAKELIN,  
SHEILA WILLIS and JACKIE WILSHERE  
are having a group exhibition of  
earthenware, stoneware and porcelain, at  
WATFORD MUSEUM, 194 HIGH STREET  
MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10 am - 5 pm  
Opening SATURDAY AUGUST 29th until OCTOBER 3rd 1987

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### POT CRAWL TO WILTSHIRE AND SOMERSET

I met the coach at Chorleywood - already two-thirds full with potters from the St Albans pick-up point - not knowing what to expect of the day. Yes, it was my first pot crawl! Then off we zoomed along motorways, stopping once to queue for tea and toilets at a service area, until we reached our first destination: the village of Lacock in Wiltshire. It was rather like entering a time capsule - unchanged, seemingly, for centuries. One wondered what the inhabitants looked like?

The narrow streets hindered our coach somewhat, but we eventually found Sheila and Robert Fournier's pottery, converted tannery buildings, next to the church. Sheila showed half our number the working and display areas on the first and second floors.

She explained that Robert had had more than one heart attack and so they were retiring from potting, selling their house to another potter and moving to much smaller premises. Some of their large collection of pots, therefore were being sold. Robert showed us their fascinating collection (from Pre-Dynastic Egyptian ware through to Geoffrey Whiting teapots) some of which had been acquired through keen observation. The casserole, spotted in a coffee shop lying neglected on a shelf and still containing ancient soup(!!) which was found to be early St Ives ware. The grotty black dish bought in a junk shop which, when cleaned, revealed itself to be Spanish lustreware.

We left the Fourniers to explore the village, visit the Fox Talbot Museum and eat our lunch; after which we set off for Somerset, and Julia and Brian Newman's pottery at Aller, near Langport. At this point I dozed off, waking to discover we were lost (but only a tiny bit).

Hill Farm Pottery had a rather plain frontage, but this belied the attractively converted outbuildings (now workshops, showroom, etc) set in a charming garden at the rear. The Newmans have been here since 1965, overcame early financial hardships to reach their present successful position. I had not realized that Brian made anything but the sculptures for which he is so well known, but we saw a large selection of stoneware pieces from tiny lidded boxes to large lamp bases, with tenmoku, celadon, and very dry crusty glazes (to name but a few!).

We bought pots, chatted with Brian and Julia and enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere of their garden for a while before taking our leave, boarding the pot-mobile for the short trip to Muchelney and John Leach's pottery. This was easy to find: black smoke was drifting out of the kiln chimney.

John showed us into his thatched workshop and chatted while demonstrating bowl-throwing, putting lugs on casseroles and handles on jugs. He told us of his journey to discover village pottery in Nigeria; of the recent American exhibitions where his black "individual" pots were in demand. When asked how old the buildings were he admitted that he did not know, but said he bought them in 1964 for £1500. They had been on the market for 2 years; the wagon shed at the rear had a preservation order on it and no-one else wanted it. This shed now housed the wood fired kiln, electric kiln and biscuit ware storage space.

John's wife, Elizabeth, found enough mugs to give us all tea (poured from a giant teapot) and fed us with flapjacks and brownies still warm from the oven. We watched the kiln being stoked, reluctant to increase its temperature; visited the shop (several times, it was so difficult to decide!) and drank more tea.

All too soon it was time to start our journey home, in the capable hands of our cheerful driver. I had had a lovely day - many thanks to Jenny, Valerie and anyone else who was involved in organising this year's pot-crawl.

PAULINE HOWES

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Friday 9 October 1987 at 6.30 pm

Southern Television "TVS" are showing a film which they have made with GUY SYDENHAM.

It is called "Poole Harbour in January" in their "Country Ways" series, which runs through the winter.

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### TILES OF PORTUGAL

On a recent holiday to Lisbon we discovered a tile museum so new that the Portuguese do not know where it is themselves - so here is the address which you can always show to the tram or taxi driver:-

Museu do Azulejo; Convento da Madre de Deus

It is closed on Mondays from 1 - 2.30 pm.

The entrance is flanked by two enormous terracotta jars and is well worth a visit, especially as it has an inner cool courtyard with a fountain! Displayed throughout the beautiful, old buildings are Portuguese tiles from all ages, starting with the star-patterned tiles of the Moors; past tiles with raised designs connected with wine-making; devoutly religious scenes; a long, panorama of Lisbon in blue on white as it was in the 18th Century and finally the results of a recent tile design competition.

Many houses have a religious fresco of their favourite saint on their front wall. Apparently in times past landlords were responsible for decorating apartments they owned every seven years, so to avoid this they applied tiles and this tradition continues. Modern apartments near us were covered with turquoise tiles each having a centre of vivid blue thus reflecting the colours of the nearby Atlantic.

PAM. TAMES

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### FOR SALE

Kilns and Furnaces. Electric Kiln AB 20 RT 1300  
15" x 15" x 15" Complete with main isolator heat Input  
regulator door interlock. Heat fuse to 1350.  
BTC/TI Control system: Kiln furniture: Stand  
Elements completely renewed recently:  
**GOOD CONDITION: £200**  
Purchaser Removes: Wokingham 786577