



THE SCOTTISH POTTERS' ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1984

I'm sure that you will all be delighted to hear that our exhibition, presently at Beauly, will be coming to Edinburgh in October. Barbara Davidson of the Scottish Craft Centre has kindly agreed to show the exhibition from 8th-22nd October.

The private view will be on Saturday 6th October from 6-8 p.m. The perfect way to finish our mud slinging day at Canonball House! Please feel free to bring a friend and spread the word to anyone who might be interested.

Since you will be coming to Edinburgh for the opening why not bring a selection of pots and apply for membership to the Scottish craft Centre. It's too good an opportunity to miss.

To exhibitors:- Remember your back-up stock, very important for sales during the exhibition: deliver to the Craft Centre or contact a committee member. Also back-up stock needed to take to Middlesborough and Holmfirth. This can be delivered to Edinburgh at the same time. All must be clearly labelled with name and selling price (inc. commission and VAT). Items do not need to be identical with those selected for the exhibition as they will be stored and sold separately but they must be of similar style and standard.

Paul Clough, Marketing Office of Highland Craftpoint writes about the S.P.A. touring exhibition:

Ceramics from Scotland opened at Highland Craftpoint with a Private view on the evening of 24th May. The opening was a good end to the long weeks of preparation, with Anne Lightwood and Bob Park contributing a hugh share of the work of installation. We appreciated very much the effort made by many members of S.P.A. who travelled long distances to be with us: it was a little disappointing not to see more faces from Inverness and the surrounding areas.

During the summer each year the range of visitors to Highland Craftpoint is enormously wide - far wider, I think, than for most galleries, craft centres or shops. What is immensely pleasing this year is that all our visitors are enjoying **Ceramics from Scotland** with a high level of appreciation of the range of design and technique represented. For many people it is clearly an eye-opener.

And how many people? With just over a fortnight of the Beaully showing still to go, the exhibition has been seen by 8,500 visitors, and pots worth £1,150 have been reserved for purchase at the end of the tour. Other business will have gone direct to exhibitors.

It has been a pleasure to be hosts for this exhibition: we have enjoyed it and hope that you have too.

Paul Clough, Marketing Office, Highland Craftpoint

Northern Potters are keen to make the opening at Middlesborough into an event, and there will be two "private views", one on Friday (2nd November) evening for councillors etc. and one on Saturday for N.P. Members. Anne Lightwood and Ian Pirie will demonstrate on Saturday afternoon. If anyone is interested in travelling down and car sharing please let Anne Lightwood know soon and we will see what can be done about overnight accommodation.

Royal Festival Hall

When the exhibition reaches the Royal Festival Hall in London in February (11th-25th) we have to set up and police the exhibition ourselves! - so could anyone offer their services for part or all of that time. We can't afford to pay someone to do it so please let me know if you can spare some time.

Future Workshop Meetings

October 6th	Canonball House, Edinburgh	10.30 a.m.
November 10th	Paisley Art Gallery, Paisley	11.00 a.m.
January 26th	Glasgow, Ronnie Fulton's workshop, 9 Dalhousie Lane. Mark Stanczyk demonstrating	
February	Edinburgh Art College (date and details later)	
March 23rd	Kirkcaldy Art Club. Irma Deianczuk demonstrating.	
April 26th-28th	Kinfauns Castle, Perth.	

Canonball House Workshop 6th October 10.30 a.m.

A Throw-in (Clay, methods, questions, answers)

This is going to be a D.I.Y. day. We thought that there are so many things we could learn from each other. So, whether you are a hobby or professional potter you will have a lot of fun. Please bring some clay (the more unusual the better), your pottery pinny and your favourite tools. Someone suggested bringing some leather hard pots to compare different methods of putting handles on. We will also be having a film some time during the day just to add a little more variety, then on to the grand opening and a much needed glass of wine! Just to spread the community spirit and to cut down the number of drunks on the road, please let me know if anyone would like to have a free bed for the night in Edinburgh.

Paisley Meeting

Paisley Museum and Art Gallery has a notable collection of modern ceramics collected since the fifties, but going back to studio pottery since early in the century. Some pieces from the collection are currently in a touring exhibition called "on and off the Wheel". This can be seen at Aberdeen Art Gallery between 6th October and 10th November, and at Crawford Centre, St. Andrews from 23rd November to 23rd December. The Ceramics curator Robert Saunders would welcome a visit from the S.P.A. and so we have arranged this for Saturday 10th November. The meeting will start at 11 a.m. with an introduction to the collection and slides showing how it has been built up. After lunch there will be a chance to see and handle a selection specially brought out from the stores. A rare chance to come close to Hans Coper, Lucie Rie et al and to appreciate the qualities that make their work so special.

I'm sure most of you will have heard through the pottery grapevine of Ann Lightwood's recent disaster. I'm sure you will join with me in expressing sympathy and wishing her good luck and success in her new venture with George Young. Here she writes with the voice of experience:

At the end of June my pottery was gutted by fire and totally destroyed. It had taken years to save, plan and build it, but in only a few minutes everything was gone.

It was a devastating experience.

However, like a violent death, it has to be accepted, grieved for, and allowed to go. Then one can start again.

While sorting out all these thoughts during the long hot summer, I have been immeasurably supported by all your letters and phone calls, and by the generosity and imagination which has sent wee packets of oxides or tools, and prompted offers to share everything from glaze recipes to workshop space. I have also been incredibly frustrated by the catch 22 clauses in insurance policies and the devious ways by which they are whittled down to very much less than you think they should be. So, on the principle that every experience should be used positively, I hope the following points may give thought to those of you with something left to insure.

1. Arrange your insurance through a broker: a broker should have knowledge of a number of companies and a wide range of policies, and can advise impartially on what type of cover is necessary. As he is paid on commission by the insurance company his services cost you nothing, though if you are bold enough you could ask what rate is paid on a particular policy! Not all pay the same. More importantly a broker carries professional indemnity insurance so that you can sue if poor advice costs you money. He may also act as your intermediary with the insurance company when a claim is made. This is not the case with insurance agents who usually work for one company only, and in country areas are frequently lawyers dealing with property transactions.
2. Have your property valued by a chartered surveyor. This is well worth the fee as most policies are index linked, and if you get the initial figure right the rest should follow. Update annually with any improvements or additions you have made.
3. Insure for reinstatement value. This is not the market value, nor the price you paid for it, but the cost of rebuilding to the same standard as before. Here you must beware of a clause called Average which means that if you have under-valued, and consequently under-insured, you will be paid proportionally less because your premiums will have been lower. (It's rather like paying the first £50 damage on car insurance, except that on a building it runs to thousands.)

4. Check the estimated life of your building. If you have an old building which you have reinstated for (say) 20 years use, and a fire happens after 4 as in my case the insurance company may claim that you have had 1/5 of the estimated life and will therefore deduct depreciation from the claim. Most buildings will be deemed to need major repairs within 30 years.
5. Consider taking out several policies rather than one package. This may sound foolish as there are package deals for small firms which cover such categories as fire, theft, public liability, loss of profits etc in one policy with one premium to pay. While cheaper and more convenient, it may mean that if there is disagreement over one area it could hold up payments in other categories. Again to cite my own case, the sum for stock and for fixtures and fittings was agreed easily, but I am disputing their valuation on the building, and as the policy was a package one this is delaying any payment at all. This is a kind of blackmail because without the money to reequip one cannot start business again, and this in turn affects the loss of profits clause.
6. Keep an inventory, and as many invoices as you can find room for. Not just for plant and machinery which is easy, but for all tools and equipment down to brushes and carrier bags that you have. You will be amused at its length and its value. Again insure for replacement value and check price lists in catalogues annually.
7. READ THE SMALL PRINT and get it thoroughly explained if it is couched in the usual jargon before you sign anything. It may be worth making your own precis so that you will remember what each clause means. And remember that somehow the same figures have to show the Inland Revenue how little tax you should pay, and the Insurance Company what a profitable business you are running - if you can do that you are a genius!

Please note that Ann Lightwood's address from 28th September will be:-

6 Lade Braes,
St. Andrews.
Phone No. St. Andrews 76388.

Potters Talk

I know this is rather short notice, but the Craftsmen Potters Association has organised a weekend conference Fri. 14th - Sun. 16th Sept. at Keele University. It is specifically aimed at the problems of Marketing and Economic Survival for Potters. So if anyone is interested please contact me and I will give you more details.

Aldeburgh Second Pots and Potters 15th - 28th October

For the second year the Suffolk Craft Society are providing a veritable feast for all ceramic enthusiasts. During the two week festival many accomplished potters from the S.C.S. will be demonstrating their skills. The focus of the festival is the Aldeburgh Cinema which will be constantly in action, showing two recently released films:- 'John Tchalenko's' - 'High Fire' and 'The Mudspinner' - a portrait of Walby Keeler, plus many old favourites. If anyone is interested in going for all or part of the festival please contact me, and I will give you more details.

Publicity

Ann Hughes is always looking for interesting articles to send to Ceramic review and other ceramic magazines. So don't be shy. It's amazing how much you learn from writing a short article. It doesn't have to be about what you are doing particularly. Just any views you might like to share with the rest of us.

It would also be nice to know when and where your exhibitions are. I'm sure a lot of other members would be interested to come and bring their rich friends to them. The Newsletter is for you - use it.

The quarterly nag:- Believe it or not there are still people who haven't paid their subs. More than ever before we need this money to get the exhibition properly on it's way as well as paying for workshops, newsletter etc. etc. So if you are one of the guilty parties please pay up this week. We don't want to lose you!

A good way of making money for the S.P.A. is to sell the exhibition book from your workshop, and remember the run ons, only £20 for 500. The books will be on sale at Canonball House on the 6th October. If you want them before then contact either Ann Lightwood or me.

Ideas for Meetings

We are always looking for new ideas for workshops or demonstrators. There are only 11 of us and 150 of you so there are a lot of minds untapped. Please let any committee member know what you would find interesting.

Open Eye Gallery Future Dates

<u>Paul Gandy</u>	20th August - 13th September.
<u>Robin Weich</u>	17th September - 4 October.
<u>Muriel and Gordon McEntyre</u>	8th October - 25th October.
<u>Teapots: A joint exhibition of contemporary pottery Teapots from the traditional to the avantgarde.</u>	19th November - 6th December.
<u>Joint Ceramics Christmas Exhibition</u>	10th December - 5th January.

Thomas Wilson, managing director of the gallery, would be interested in seeing any teapots, old or new that he could add to the exhibition.

His phone no. is 031-557-1020 if you want to get in touch.

ADVERTS

Space in workshop with use of equipment, available for let in central Edinburgh. For further information please contact Lindy Guise 031-556-7674.

Wanted

Second hand pottery equipment. Almost anything of interest but especially:- Electric wheel, pugmill, 5-10 cu. ft. gas kiln, kiln furniture, insulating firebricks. Please contact:- Thomas Gough, Eastertyre Cottage, Ballinluig, Perthshire.

For Sale

8 cu. ft. ceramic fibre gas kiln (Laser) with digital pyrometer and 8 kiln shelves 1 year old £600.

Compressor with tank and spray gun (Devilbiss) £200.

Continental kick wheel with batts £100.

6 (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) Amal Venturi; propane burners with piping for 30-40 cu. ft. kiln £100

14 (11'x22") silmanite kiln shelves, perfect condition £80.

11 (11'x22") silicon carbide kiln shelves, perfect condition £150.

Large selection of kiln props £30.

Good Quantity of Dexion shelving available.

Many extras at reasonable prices.

Phone:- Wigtown (09884) 3257, Anne Lindsay.

Sweatshirts

We have had some sweatshirts printed with the Scottish Potter's logo. They are in black and light blue and cost £5 which I'm sure you will agree is very good value. They will be on sale at Canonball House on the 6th, so bring plenty of money with you.

Well, that seems to be it for now. There is a lot to digest in the newsletter so I suggest you read it again and act now. Looking forward to seeing you on the 6th October.

With best wishes to you all.

CAROL STEVENSON.