



# newsletter

Scottish Potters Association



John Calver



Craig Mitchell

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Jane Perryman

## spring 2007

Newsletter free to members  
£1.00 to non-members

[www.scottishpotters.org](http://www.scottishpotters.org)



# Kindrogan Spring Weekend Information our 20th Kindrogan!

## AGENDA FOR AGM KINDROGAN FIELD CENTRE Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007

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### Demonstrators at Kindrogan

**John Calver** will demonstrate the throwing, clay handling & decorative techniques that he uses in his work.

**Craig Mitchell** hand-builds figures responding to current political & personal events.

**Jane Perryman** explores the vessel form using traditional making & firing techniques and will be smoke-firing over the weekend. So bring an open bodied (grogged) low temp. (850—900) bisque fired pot, preferably burnished.

Kindrogan's office phone number is 01250 870150. This can be used as an emergency contact over the weekend during office hours only. For all other enquiries please contact a member of the Committee.

### Paul Adair photography

Paul has come to Kindrogan for many years to photograph members work in Studio conditions and offers digital formats as well as slide images at reasonable cost. Just remember to bring your ceramics to be photographed with you. Forms will be in the welcome pack and can be completed and work taken to the studio on Saturday morning and collected later in the day. It's a great service and good images will help your work to be selected for exhibitions.

## Kindrogan 2007 Weekend Provisional Programme

23rd—25th March, 2007

### Friday 23rd March

**4.00 pm** onwards Check in at Reception, pick up welcome pack  
**6.00 pm** Welcome and introductions over a glass of wine  
**7.00 pm** Dinner  
**8.00 pm** Slide Shows & Introductory Talks by the demonstrators

### Saturday 24th March

**8.00 pm** Breakfast  
**9.00 am** Demonstrations by **John Calver, Craig Mitchell, Jane Perryman** begin simultaneously

**1.00 pm** Lunch (If you have pre-booked as a day visitor lunch is included in the price)

**2.00 pm** Demonstrations continue

**4.15 pm** Illustrated Talk by Jane Perryman about Traditional Indian Pottery

**5.30 pm** AGM followed by raffle and mug swap

**7.30 pm** Dinner

**9.00 pm – 1am** Ceilidh – Music by Craigendarloch Ceilidh Band, Fancy Dress (optional, but a prize for the best outfit). Theme: 'The Twenties' (past, future or when you were 20!)

### Sunday 25th March

**9.00 am** Breakfast

**9.30 am** Demonstrations continue

**1.00 pm** Lunch.

**2.00 – 3.00pm** Demonstrations wind up, Discussion of glazes from glaze groups. Presentation of Kindrogan Award at 3pm. Thank yous

**3.00 – 4.00 pm** Clear up, farewells, tea and coffee

**Trade stalls** – Alasdair Kettles will be there on Saturday only; he may be able to deliver pre-ordered items for you if you contact him beforehand. Roger Bell – Dexterity will be selling a range of books all weekend. Paul Adair will be in the Stable Room for photography – Saturday only. Sale of members' second-hand equipment all weekend

SPA Sweatshirts, Aprons and Bags for sale –

**Special Kindrogan offer on bags 200 bags for £10**

### Kindrogan Checklist

- Your entry for the Kindrogan Award
- Bisque fired pot to go into the smoke firing
- Work for members' display area
- Mug (or similar) for mug swap
- Pots to be photographed by Paul Adair
- Donation for Raffle
- Items for sales table (clay, glazes, oxides, tools etc)
- Ceramic problems (cracking, warping etc – someone will help!)
- Glaze tests for Glaze group discussion
- Fancy Dress –The Twenties – prize for the best outfit
- Towel (none provided by Kindrogan)
- Any items (photographs or cuttings) for the SPA Yearbook
- Warm clothes and hot water bottle – it can get very cold at Kindrogan

# SPA Committee Letters

## Chairman's Letter

As you will see from this edition of the Newsletter the Committee has been hard at work planning what promises to be another exciting Kindrogan. The weekend is almost full, although if you haven't booked, there may be last minute cancellations – but please don't just turn up without booking first. The later date will, we hope, result in less serious problems with snow – although, with the weather being so topsy-turvy this year, I will still take my snow-boots just in case!

You will see that we have been trying to plan a programme well ahead to give members plenty of warning. All this takes time and all the Committee are already busy with their own workshops or other jobs. The more people we have to help, the easier it is, and we will again be needing new Committee members. This is not nearly as daunting a task as it might seem and can be a sociable way to learn new skills (especially with computers). We meet four times a year and fully understand that not all members will get to all the meetings, but with e-mail communication this need not be a problem. However, while the membership shows that at least 25% of our members are men, this is not reflected in the volunteers for the Committee! So please think about putting your name forward. Alternatively you could offer to help without actually being on the Committee, especially if you have specific skills such as graphics or web design etc; the efficient organisation of the Kindrogan bookings by Katy Low is a good example of a member working hard for the Association without being on the Committee.

When I took over as Chairman nearly two years ago I was keen to organise some smaller workshops, which would offer members in each area more of a network. Unfortunately this has been surprisingly hard to organise. Perhaps with the Association covering so large an area there is a role for regional representatives, who could organise smaller local events for networking and socialising. Let me know what you think! One new venture we have been working on is the idea of a mentorship scheme – there is more about it in the Newsletter and we will discuss it at the AGM.

I look forward to seeing you at Kindrogan.

## Editorial

There is so much happening with workshops and exhibitions, Kindrogan and Potfest, that I sometimes wonder how anyone has time to make pots as well!

Now we have yet another opportunity to improve our skills with the mentorship scheme. This still needs to be planned but, it seems to me, that it is especially important with less ceramic degree courses around these days. There is quite a gap between being a keen evening class student and setting up a studio/pottery workshop to make a business out of an interest. Informal mentorship has been a great strength of the SPA in the past but now we are thinking about how this can be more formal. Then the mentor could be paid for their time and skill and the "mentee" could claim the support as a business expense, perhaps.

Lastly, let's get some discussion going about pottery in the 21st Century. Is it worth making functional vessels when "developing" countries can do it more cheaply? Should we be contributing to the carbon footprint of the world by firing our kilns? Would microwaving our pots be a more ecological option? Do we make pots, or ceramic art to make money (there must be an easier way!) or for the pure sensual pleasure of feeling clay moving and forming under our hands. What do you think?

The newsletter and the web site could be places to discuss such theoretical issues as well as practical concerns such as how safe are our glazes and which potters have just married each other - its all important news!! I look forward to seeing you all in a spring-like Perthshire soon!

Fran Marquis-Faulkes (Ed.)

**Many Congratulations to Fiona & Brian!!**  
Who got married and set 2 records – a ceramic wedding cake (reusable) and we think, are the only two ex-chairmen of the SPA to have married each other!



## articles of interest

### Pricing

At almost all demonstrations and workshops the thorny question of how to price pottery is raised. I would like to write a short article about this for the next Newsletter so if you have any special formulae or tips on how you price your work that you are happy to share with other members please send them to me (confidentially if you prefer!)

Veronica Newman

### Glaze Testing for Metal Release Update or "The Ceramic Articles in Contact With Food (Scotland) Regulation 2006"

The new regulations concerning the testing for lead and cadmium in glazes will come into force this May and as the regulations for Scottish potters are different from the rest of the UK this means that everybody, irrespective of whether they are using lead and cadmium as raw materials for their glazes or not, needs to get them tested and certificated. The obtained certificate will then be handed down the line of customers, i.e. from potter to shop or gallery owner to the public, or anybody who wishes to see it.

If you wish to get your glazes tested, the Ceram laboratory in Stoke-on-Trent will be your best bet. Getting one sample tested will cost you £45, so I suggest you cover different surfaces of the inside of a bowl with all the glazes you use. The full guidelines about the regulations coming out can be found at :

[www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/ceramicguidescot.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/ceramicguidescot.pdf)  
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### Mentorship Scheme

The Committee has been discussing the possibility of setting up a scheme to enable SPA members, especially those setting up new workshops, to benefit from the experience and expertise of more experienced members. It should be possible for members in receipt of a setting-up grant to claim for the cost of professional business advice from a recommended mentor. This should not, however, deter members from asking other members for free advice on simple matters.

A draft proposal has been drawn up which will be discussed at Kindrogan. Anyone unable to go to the AGM or wishing to read the proposal before then can obtain a copy from Veronica Newman.

VN

### **Business Advice**

If you are looking for business advice two useful websites that have been added to the list of links on the SPA website are: [www.voluntaryarts.org/publications](http://www.voluntaryarts.org/publications) where you will find a selection of briefings on subjects such as Health and Safety, working with children, preparing press releases, applying for funding and copyright. The briefings can be read online or downloaded and printed.

[www.appliedartsscotland.org.uk](http://www.appliedartsscotland.org.uk) is another useful website which also has advice sheets that can be downloaded and information about events and opportunities in the visual arts in Scotland.

### **SPA Open Exhibition 2007**

Broughton Gallery will be the venue for this year's Open Exhibition from 4th-18th Nov. (dates to be confirmed) with Private View on Saturday 4th November. The title will be '**Scottish Pottery Today**' to inspire as many makers as possible to participate and to invite visitors to see just what Scottish pottery is all about in 2007.

In addition, there will be two prizes, both generously awarded by Broughton Gallery, with votes cast by visitors to the exhibition. One will be for the best functional piece and the other for the best decorative/ sculptural piece i.e. not functional in form.

In order to give the gallery plenty of time to ensure that every piece can be properly catalogued, labelled and displayed the gallery would like to receive work no later than the first week of October. Further details will be available later but please put the dates in your diary now.

### Maps

We hope to have enough SPA maps to last this year. In order to help with distribution please can you let Hannah McAndrew know how many you have, and if you think you will need more this year or if you have more than you will need. If you can return any spare maps to us at Kindrogan or Potfest we can redistribute them. There is no point in members keeping boxes of maps they cannot distribute as has happened in the past.



## what's on

### Potfest 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2007

Potfest in Perth is already almost 80% full but with very few potters from Scotland so if you are thinking of taking part you need to book now. The SPA will again be running demonstrations and having an information stand. We will need help to run it from any members willing to give up an hour or two on the day. To book a stand contact Matthew Cox on [potfest@gmail.com](mailto:potfest@gmail.com)  
For further information or if you would like to help please contact Veronica Newman.

### **Well Worth a Visit - Potfest in the Park – July 27-29th 2007**

Members will have heard of the various Potfests around the country, but perhaps have not realised how different is Potfest in the Park. We have visited it at least 5 times and being approximately 120 miles from Edinburgh on a good road find it is very accessible.

Take Junction 41 off the M6 and it is situated 2 miles north of Penrith at Hutton-in-the-Forest. The setting is lovely with lots of parking; it is child and dog friendly and there is food available.

There are usually about 100 selected potters, many who have demonstrated to us in large marquees. The work is very varied and of a very high standard. We often car share and suggest that groups could get-together and do the same for a great day out – only raid your piggy bank before you go! Sandra Halley

P.S. Potfest in the Pens, August 3-5th, 2007 still has a few places left. To keep up to date with developments check out the website [www.potfest.co.uk](http://www.potfest.co.uk)

### Autumn Weekend Cromarty 29 -30th Sept C07

We are planning to hold a weekend workshop in Cromarty with Andrew Appleby from Orkney. Andrew makes copies of prehistoric pots and we hope to be working with members of the Scottish Basketmakers Circle to construct and fire a basket kiln. More details should be available at Kindrogan and in the next Newsletter. In the meantime put the dates in your diary.

If you would like to help or be involved please contact Barbel Dister.

## **Jane Perryman Workshops 2007**

**Workshop 1 26-28<sup>th</sup> May Smoke Firing, Pit Firing , Barrel Firing & Paper Kiln Building**

**Workshop 2 14-16<sup>th</sup> Sept Smoke & Saggur Firing, Pit Firing**

**Workshop 3 13-14<sup>th</sup> Oct Smoke & Saggur Firing**

**Full Details & Booking: [www.janeperryman.com](http://www.janeperryman.com)**

## adverts

KICK WHEEL available for free, but you will need to collect.

Interested? Phone Judith Ferguson on 01389 841613 or e mail at [wrymouth@hotmail.com](mailto:wrymouth@hotmail.com)

### **Plastic bags, plastic bags, plastic bags !**

Plastic bags with the SPA logo printed on them( blue on white ), biodegradable and strong enough to hold 3 bricks , will be going cheap at Kinrogan and at Potfest .

Get them while the stock remains : 200 bags for only £15.- ! If you wish to order in advance , please contact barbel on 01381 600240 or email [barbel@ecosse.net](mailto:barbel@ecosse.net)

### **Assistant wanted**

for the summer season in Cromarty Pottery, small workshop on the Black Isle.

For more details please phone Barbel on 01381600240, email [barbel@ecosse.net](mailto:barbel@ecosse.net) website [www.cromarty-pottery.com](http://www.cromarty-pottery.com)

### **Looking Ahead – Future SPA Events**

Broughton Gallery (p 4) for the Members Open Exhibition, Strathearn gallery for the selected show and then with the Basket-Makers Circle we are planning a joint selected exhibition possibly in 2008 (no dates or venues decided yet).

But well before that come to this exciting workshop in a beautiful part of Scotland:

### Raku workshop Carrbridge Studios Saturday 28th April

Alice Buttress has offered to hold a small hands-on raku workshop for members at her workshop in Carrbridge (free to members, £10 for non-members). Numbers may be limited so please contact Alice if you wish to attend and for directions (01479 841247)

Rob Lawson and Penny Weir both have workshops nearby so you may be able to visit them as well (their opening times will be available when you book with Alice).

### **Build and Fire a Soda Kiln**

over 5 days in May, in the Lake District. Repeat of last years successful course - Help to build the 30 cu. ft. woodfired kiln and then fire your own pots. 16th to 20th May at Greystoke Gill Pottery.

Full details from

Bob Park 017684 83123 or

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

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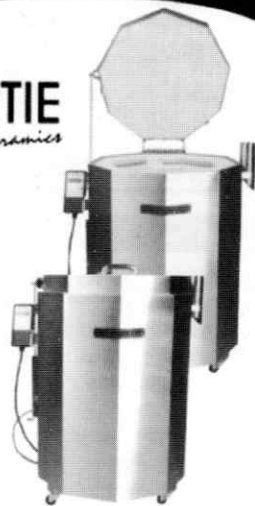
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### Thank you!

Many thanks for all the articles, images and input from the committee and other members—the newsletter is empty without you all—any comments, exhibition reviews letters or thoughts send them to the editor for the next newsletter by 1st April 2007 at: [newsletter@scottishpotters.org](mailto:newsletter@scottishpotters.org)  
Please send jpg images by email at least 300dpi Thanks! Fran

### What's on summary see pages 2,4 & 6 for details

*Kindrogan Weekend* 23rd–25th March, 2007 (p.2 )  
*Design Collective Exhibition*, Glasgow , 3rd March–7th April, 2007, (Opening 2nd March 6-9.00p.m.)  
*CAL 2007* = Ceramic Art London 2007, Royal College of Art, London, 2- 4th March 2007  
*Visual Arts Scotland* RSA, Edin. 17th Mar–12th April submit 26-27th Feb.  
*SPA Raku Workshop* Saturday 28th April Carrbridge Studios, 01479 841247  
*Potfest* in Scotland 25th– 27th May book now [www.potfest.co.uk](http://www.potfest.co.uk)  
*Feat of Clay*, Strathearn Gallery SPA Selected Exhibition, Exhibition 28th July–1st Sept.  
*Potfest* in the Pens August 3-5th, 2007 [www.potfest.co.uk](http://www.potfest.co.uk)  
*Earth and Fire* Rufford 23-24 June 2007 Rufford Country Park, Notts.  
*Aviemore Trade Show* 22nd–24th April, 2007 Selected Trade Event for 100 Scottish makers new event. Check [www.aviemoretradeshows.co.uk](http://www.aviemoretradeshows.co.uk)  
*SPA Autumn Weekend* Cromarty 29 -30th Sept '07 (p.6)  
*SPA Open Exhibition Broughton Gallery* from 4th - 18th Nov.  
*Clay Art Wales* 19-20 May 2007  
*Oxford Ceramics Fair* 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Phew! What a lot of happenings! Enjoy! and send the newsletter a review if you go to one of these events—please! Ed.

