



West Street Potters Newsletter 30th July 2024

Dear Members,

Term finished on the 12th July, and since then, the WSP team have been busy with a deep clean of the pottery. A very big thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time and came in to help wash down class shelves & equipment, scrub damp cupboard shelves, count moulds, empty drawers, sort bisque and glazed work and so much more! Every little bit of help makes a difference, and we couldn't do it all without you, the members!

Collection of work

The Tech team will be in over the summer, preparing for the new term. They will be there on Mondays (10.00 -13.00) and Thursdays (13.00-16.00), when you can pop in to collect any work. For those, unable to make a day-time collection, Jane Henderson will also be in on Wednesday 31st July (18.00-2100) to light the gas kiln.

Summer sessions

Sessions are now available to book on Mondays (10.00 -13.00) and Thursdays (13.00-16.00) throughout the summer, whilst the Technicians are in, so that you can come in and continue to work on your projects. The Technicians will be working, so you do need to be self-sufficient and not need any help from them. All the available dates have been emailed and can also be found on the website, under enrolment - [Enrolment - West Street Potters](#)

Moulds

We are still missing about 20 moulds, which equates to about a 1/3 of our moulds! – please could you return these to WSP as soon as possible, so that they are ready for all to use at the start of term?

Gas Kiln Update

The good news is on the 18th July we had the CO2 monitor and interlock fitted on the post by the Zettle. We now have the gas engineer booked to come in on 31st July and the 1st August to observe the firing process and procedure for firing in reduction. We should then receive the final gas certification which can then be sent to our landlords, which should then satisfy their insurers. So, all the work that is currently in the gas kiln will be fired by the end of this coming week and should be ready for collection on Monday, 5th August. We will then pack the remaining work for reduction into the kiln and see if it is full enough to fire. We will keep you all updated when we do the next firing, as you are all aware the technicians will be in on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons over the summer holiday feeding work through the kilns and mixing glazes so that we will be ready for the start of term in September.

Recruitment Update

From September, both **Jane Jones** and **Julia Quigley** have decided to reduce the number of classes that they teach.

Julia will continue to teach her Tuesday classes, and her Friday afternoon class will now be taught by **Kathy Mason**, who already teaches Thursday and Friday morning classes. Thank you, Kathy!

Jane will continue to teach Monday morning sculpture, and we welcome new Tutor, **Marian Rowling** to the WSP team, as she takes on the Wednesday morning sculpture class.

Marian trained at London Fine Arts studios, a classical style atelier in Battersea, and went on to teach classes there in portrait, figure and anatomy. Recently, she has been working for the Art Academy London, teaching their Intro to Sculpture class, where students learn how

to work from a life model to create a small figure and portrait. She has also contributed to their online sessions and has run one day workshops for the West End Centre in Aldershot. You can find Marian's work on Instagram @Marian Rowling.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank both Jane and Julia for the many years that they have taught these classes, inspiring and guiding members on their clay journeys!



Enrolment and class update

From September, whilst most classes are full, we have availability as follows:

Monday PM with Myra- 1 space

Wednesday AM sculpture with Marian – 2 spaces

If you, or a friend would like to join these classes, please let Elizabeth know as soon as possible on info@weststreetpotters.co.uk.

What's been happening at WSP?

Ann Watson Award

We were thrilled to have 12 members apply for this year's **Ann Watson Award**, for such a wide range of interesting courses. The Board Directors spent much time deliberating over the entries, eventually awarding the grant to **Kirsty Giles**.

Kirsty has been a WSP member for 15 years, attending Christine Bull's class and has a love for earthenware and decorative techniques. She is interested in developing her skills in slipware decoration and will be attending a slipware decoration course with Alice Harford from RAMP Ceramics. We look forward to her telling us all about it and seeing the outcomes of the workshop.

We thank every member that entered and encourage you to enter again next year!

Workshops and projects

This term has also seen various different workshops happening:



Karen Bardell, ran an introduction to **Sgraffito workshop**, where members focussed on terracotta tiles and were given the opportunity to explore the wide range of outcomes the technique allows.



Christine Bull & Kathy Mason both ran several **Raku workshops** throughout the term. These popular and thrilling sessions had as always, unexpected and exciting results.



Christine also ran a **teepee firing** session!



With **Julia Quigley's** help, WSP is taking part in **Farnham Craft Town's magnificent Lantern Festival project.**

This is the first Lantern Festival, taking place on Thursday October 31st. 'The inspiration for the Festival is the significant Celtic celebration which marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It falls between the Autumn and Winter equinoxes and marks the passing of time, taking stock of the past and looking forward to the future. Traditionally it is a time to remember loved ones who have recently died, and celebrate babies who have been recently born, recognising the cycle of life'. The project aims, through these themes to bring together the local community, young and old and 'bring light to a dark October'. 'The project will culminate with an outdoor gathering of all the participants with their lanterns at 6.00pm on Gostrey Meadow on October 31st, coincidentally the last day of Craft Month. There will be music from local performers and traditional food stalls to create a gentle festival atmosphere. The participants will then walk with their lighted lanterns to St Andrew's Church, where the lanterns will form a craft installation, giving some longevity to the project, and enabling more people to see the large-scale communal craft endeavour'.

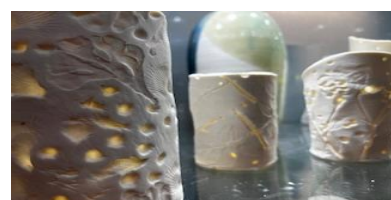


Pictures: Farnham Craft Town



Julia has cleverly put a WSP twist to our lanterns, in that ours are being made out of porcelain paper clay instead of paper. Many members have already started making theirs, with some already on display in the glass cabinet - the paper in the Porcelain makes the fired clay very light and translucent while also very strong. I think you will agree, they are very beautiful!

If you would like to get involved in this project, speak to your Tutor in September. WSP are providing the porcelain paper clay (ES 600) and covering the firing charges. It would be great to have more of these bright beacons to add to the installation.



Looking ahead

We have exciting things to look forward to in the Autumn term. **The Winter Exhibition** is scheduled for **16th, 17th & 18th November**. The exhibition is open to all members, of all levels, so plenty of time to get making!! We plan to have the private view on the 16th, to which all members are invited. We thank **Adele Goulty** for her huge contribution to the organisation of past exhibitions and this year, welcome **Nikki Tadd** and **Sue Robbins**, who will take over the event organisation.

We hope to introduce some **one-off Saturday workshops** (sgraffito, raku, handle making etc) and will update you on these in due course.

We also hope to have **Jack Durling** (@jackdurlingceramics) join us for a 2 day animal sculpture workshop (date to follow) and also a Demo with **Bridget Macklin** (@bridgetmacklinc ceramics) (1st February 2025)

Photographs and history

We would like to create some information display boards for the Winter Exhibition and so we are putting a call out for **photos of WSP days gone by as well as WSP history**. If you remember the early days of WSP, please share your stories and send any photos to info@weststreetpotters.co.uk.

As always, we love to see your work and would like to keep sharing photos of the amazing talent at WSP and also information about any exhibitions you may be in – please send your photos and info to Elizabeth at the email above. We do take photographs of work in the pottery, so please be aware that your work may be photographed for social media.

Finally, a look at some of the fabulous work from WSP members this term....

