



mudlark

August 2020

South of the River Potters' Club Newsletter

COMING EVENTS:

- October meeting –
SATURDAY 10th
October at 2pm
- City of Melville ART
TRAIL Raku Day
Saturday October 17th
- Atwell Christmas Bazaar
- November 20th onwards

Whew!!!!

The last month has been a whirlwind of activity for the Club and it has been a really exciting time. We began with the Shabbi Phelps saggar firing workshop, a pit firing at Chris' place followed by the Empty Bowls fundraising event and then into the Glorious Mud exhibition which featured a 'Lunch in the Gallery' with renowned ceramicist Graham Oldroyd as guest speaker.

And we're not done yet – we will have a raku day in association with the Melville Art Trail on October 17th and then the Atwell Christmas Bazaar begins on November 20th. So lots of reasons to get potting and participate in great events!

September Meeting

The October meeting is being scheduled for a weekend to allow working members to attend. It will be on Saturday October 10th at 2pm and it will be great to see lots of members there who are unable to get to Wednesday meetings. The City of Melville Art Trail will be combined with the 'Spirit of the Swan' event on October 17th and we will have our annual raku day and display in that day. There will also be the opportunity to set up a stall and sell pots.

The latest estimates for the construction of the new ceramics studio are that it may start before the end of this year but at the latest should be complete by the end of next year. Discussions around the furnishings are progressing

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and there is also a proposal to include a fire pit in the landscaping to allow for pit firings and social events.

We need to upgrade the cleaning of the work shed and a monthly housecleaning roster has been proposed. The idea is that two people could join forces to give the shed a thorough clean-up and make the shed a safer and more pleasant work place.

Shabbi Phelps Saggar Firing Workshop

After two delays due to Covid and bad weather, the saggar firing demo and workshop took place on August 23rd and was a great success. Shabbi was a delightful presenter and most generous with her advice and guidance. Lots of fun was had choosing all the goodies to be included in the saggars to create colourful effects and eventually all of the pots were wrapped in foil and committed to the flames.

The results were exciting and everyone ended the day with beautiful new pots to take home. Hopefully you will have had a chance to see some of them in the Glorious Mud exhibition.



Pit Firing

A few of us made their way up to Chris' place at the beginning of the month and by all accounts the event was a great success. Chris' husband, David, helped to prepare the pit and acted as photographer to record the day's proceedings. Lots of lovely smokey creations emerged from the ashes and several of them were featured in the Glorious Mud exhibition.



GLORIOUS MUD

The exhibition has just wound up and it has been a resounding success. A record number of members participated and although the display looked fantastic. The variety and quality of the pots on display was amazing and many of the visitors commented that it was a pity to limit the exhibition to just one week. The gallery display was greatly enhanced by the inclusion of a marvellous collection of paintings by Debra Scidone.

A huge amount of hard work went into organising the event and congratulations are due to Narayani Palmer and Sandy Robertson as well as Electra Reiss and Jenny Rygiel who helped select the exhibits and create the display. As well as a record number of participants, there were record sales and the Club was able to cover the costs of gallery hire and promotion.

The exhibition was opened by Mayor George Gear who spoke encouragingly about the prospect of our new ceramics facility. Guests at the opening were treated to a marvellous buffet and sales were brisk.

At the end of the exhibition the exhibitors gathered to help clean out the gallery and then relaxed with a glass of wine to debrief and discuss the event. There was some discussion about whether Glorious Mud should become an annual event as it seems to be popular and is certainly an excellent showcase for the Club.

Congratulations to all involved, especially Narayani and Sandy. Special thanks are also due to Sandy's husband, Paul, who set up the Square Reader EFTPOS facility which worked brilliantly all week.

The 'Lunch in the Gallery' on Wednesday was very well attended and it was great to see and hear about Graham Oldroyd's marvellous ceramic creations.



