

The Scottish Pottery Society

Glasgow Branch Newsletter

Charity No. SC003935

No. 243 September, 2014

Welcome to our new season of meetings. I hope you have had a pleasant break and have procured some items for our first meeting in September. For a change the weather in July was very sunny and warm, but not so good now..

1. Last meeting, Monday, 12 May, 2014. The Port Dundas Pottery

Douglas Leishman brought the year's programme to a close with a fascinating presentation on Port Dundas Pottery, one of the biggest stoneware potteries in Scotland. He took us through the development of the pottery from its foundation around 1816 to its closure in 1930, discussing changes in ownership and output over the years. The pottery was known for its salt-glazed wares and Douglas described the process of salt glazing and the detrimental effects this method had on the kilns and on the wider environment. During its lifetime Port Dundas made vast quantities of stoneware for industrial and domestic use. A report in 1879 recorded that the pottery was able to produce over 30,000 bottles a day on 34 steam-powered throwing wheels. Typical wares included beer bottles, jam jars, spirit jugs, acid jars, butter crocks and tobacco jars. It had notable success as an export business and won awards for its charcoal water filters in the United States and Chile.



water filter

From about 1870 onwards the pottery was marked with the familiar oval-shaped impressed mark: Port Dundas Pottery Co., Glasgow. Art ware by the company, including incised flagons and vases, were sometimes marked with the initials of the individual makers.

Graeme Cruickshank kindly provided the coda, discussing the production of Rockingham ware at Port Dundas and talking us through some interesting pieces from his own collection, including examples of impasto and roulette designs. He left us with an intriguing puzzle piece to consider (shown below) with two square chambers, each closed at the top apart from a slit-shaped opening. It has been suggested that this vessel could have been filled with hot



salt glazed
Courtesy of P. Mernick

water and used to warm butter knives, though that did not explain why the bases of the two chambers are different, one flat and one indented. If anyone can explain what this container was used for, please get in touch!



We thank Douglas for filling the gap in our programme with this very interesting and informative talk, and for all the other roles he so ably fills for the Glasgow branch throughout the session as chair, photographic archivist and newsletter writer.

Hazel Mills

Pieces from members' collections



2. Next meeting, Monday 10 September: Summer Finds

I hope you will come along with or without your summer purchases. If you have not bought anything why not bring along one or two of your treasures?

3. Subscriptions

This year our subscription has again remained at £22.00 for single membership but now there is a charge of £6.00 extra for each additional family member.

There is a new category for students where the subscription is £6.00

. Would overseas members who pay by cheque in their own currency please add £5.00 (the bank charge for conversion to sterling) to your subscription. Overseas members can also pay via PayPal to : shop@scottishpotterysociety.co.uk Please be sure to credit the full sterling amount and enter your name in the text box.

Please send cheques to Brian McCrossan, our treasurer, at 34 Hamilton Park Avenue, Glasgow G12 8DT, or pay your subscription to him at our September meeting. His phone number is 0141 334 8684 and mobile 07511 682936. Please pay your subscriptions by the end of October 2012 or you will not receive further newsletters.

4. Programme for Season 2013–2014

September 8	Summer Finds
October 13	Graeme Cruickshank – ‘The Turra Coo’
November 10	David Paton – Nautilus Porcelain
December 8	Christmas Party and studio pottery
January 12	T B A
February 19	Hugh McIntyre – The Campbellfield Pottery
March 9	Members Night on Spongeware. Bring along your own pieces.
April 13	Branch AGM plus pottery celebrating the Great War and afterwards
May 11	SPS AGM (Glasgow) and Robin Jones: ‘A Glasgow Girl with a Difference’

5. The Scottish Potters Association

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Scottish Potters Association. A series of events to celebrate the anniversary includes a selected exhibition at the Barony Centre, West Kilbride, to showcase the range of ceramics made by SPA members. This will run from 11 July to 14 September. For more information see: www.scottishpotters.org/

6. Exhibition – Glasgow Potteries and the British Empire

This exhibition has been mounted entirely by Graeme Cruickshank at his own expense. One Glasgow member contributed a jug. The exhibition is to celebrate the Commonwealth games 2014 and is displayed on the fifth floor of the Mitchell Library It is a very interesting exhibition with a few surprises. and well worth going to see.

It is on show till October 2014

7. Some Forthcoming Fairs (September/October, 2014)

Sunday	7 Sept/5 Oct	Meadowbank Stadium, London Road, Edinburgh
Saturday	6 Sept/ 4 Oct	Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling
Sunday	14 Sept/19 Oct	Bellahouston Leisure Centre
Saturday	20 Sept/25 Oct	The Citadel Leisure Centre, Ayr Baths, South Beach Road, Ayr
Saturday	13 Sept/11 Oct	Loch Leven Community Campus, the Muirs, Kinross KY13 8FQ
Sunday	31 Aug	The Carnegie Conference Centre, Halbeath Road, behind Holiday Inn, Dunfermline
Sat/Sun	27/28 Sept	Ingliston, Edinburgh

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