

Professional training for ceramic archaeologists

The Medieval Pottery Research Group with funding from English Heritage will be continuing its training courses in 2009. The courses are designed to provide career development for archaeological ceramicists, whether working freelance, within commercial archaeological organisations, or in university or museum sectors. Whilst designed for those involved with post-Roman ceramics, they will also be useful for archaeologists whose specialism is the study of prehistoric and Roman pottery.

Each course runs for 2 days and costs £50, to cover tuition, course notes, refreshments and a light lunch each day. There are only 12 places per course so please book early. A booking form can be found on the MPRG web site

<http://medievalpotterynews.blogspot.com/>

Medieval Imported Pottery (2 courses)

9 and 10 February, 11 and 12 February 2009

Tutors Duncan Brown and Alan Vince

Venue Tudor Merchants Hall, Westgate Street, Southampton

- introduction to imported pottery found in UK ceramic assemblages
- detailed examination of the main imported ceramic wares and their dating
- practical microscope work to improve skills in identification of imported pottery

Technology of Pottery Production (2 courses)

26 and 27 May, 28 and 29 May 2009

Tutor John Hudson

Venues John Hudson's pottery, 44 Shillbank Lane Mirfield, West Yorkshire and the Swarthmore Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, Leeds

- introduction and demonstration of modern country-pottery clay preparation practices, clay digging, sieving, drying out and pugging. Discussion on ware types and usage, decorating, glazing, firing and distribution of wares with reference to medieval and post-medieval practices
- visit to West Yorkshire Archaeological Services to handle ceramic finds, discuss clay sources and identification and pottery sites and their identification and excavation
- practical work at the Swarthmore Centre, Leeds. This will include working on a medieval-style, momentum-wheel, tile making, slip-trailing, Roman lamp making, figurine making, Delft painting, coil and thumb pottery, clay tempering, sgraffito work and impressed and applied decoration

Ceramic Fabrics: a practical guide to inclusions and descriptions

September 2009 (2 courses, dates to be confirmed)

Tutor David Williams

Venue University of Southampton, Avenue Campus, Highfield, Southampton

- introduction to the history, theory and methods of identifying inclusions
- introduction to geology and how this might affect locally available clays
- introduction to the effects of firing on inclusions
- practical microscope work to improve skills in identification, and recording of inclusions including sherds provided by the tutors and trainees

- practical work on writing fabric descriptions required for publication, including appropriate terminology and correct use of Munsell charts

For more information contact

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