



Leach Pottery
Studio & Museum

May 2014

Welcome to the latest edition of the Leach Pottery newsletter. First a word of thanks to everyone who supported our recent appeal to 'Light the Leach Pottery Fire' (details below). This is the first in a series of fundraisers we are carrying out triggered by taking on a 99 year lease of the site from the Council earlier this year. This was an exciting and historic step for the Pottery but it is also a huge responsibility and we now need to generate a reserve fund in order to safeguard the future of the charity and its historic buildings. The Trustees have set a target of £70,000 over the next two years so if you would like to contribute please send your donations to Margaret Parma at the address below and mark the envelope 'Trustees Reserve Fund'. Otherwise please look out for the special events we will be running to help raise the money.

A quick welcome also to Ian Morrison who has joined the Leach studio from Arkansas, USA. He is with us for the next twelve months working alongside Roelof, Kat, Britta, Tinni and our new apprentice Callum.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and we hope to see you at the Leach Pottery very soon.
Julia Twomlow, Director

Fire-starters – 130 people donate to help restore the Leach Pottery fireplace

Over 130 people contributed and pledged funds to the Leach Pottery's recent 'Kickstarter' appeal to light the Leach Pottery fire for winter. In total they raised over £5,000 between them. Work starts in July on restoring the old fireplace in the historic workshop to working condition.



During the recent replacement of the scantle slate roof on the old pottery by Cornwall Council, the chimney breast was pinned to prevent further deterioration and collapse and a new chimney pot built. Now that the wall is stable a new flue can be put in place and the surface of the wall restored. A grate and ironwork furniture will be commissioned and Tang figures found to replace those that once stood in the alcoves above the fire. During the September Festival potter Philip Leach, Bernard's grandson, will carry out a mini residency in the old pottery making a new owl plate to stand on the mantelpiece. Work will be completed in October when all the project supporters will be invited to the official lighting of the Leach fire hosted by former Leach apprentice Jeff Oestreich who will be on his second residency at the pottery.

Tanimoto Yoh – Shu Ha Ri - 20th June, 1pm and 3pm

Book Now for our workshop with Japanese master potter Tanimoto Yoh who will present and demonstrate Iga yaki pottery. The title of the workshop, SHUHARI means "first learn, then detach and finally transcend". Entry is by donation. Please book your space by contacting the office 01736 799703 or office@leachpottery.com

Peter Swanson – 40th Anniversary Exhibition

7 June to 19 July (Private View 6th June from 6pm to 8pm)

On 7th June we open our new exhibition in the Entrance Gallery with more than 80 pots by West Cornwall based potter Peter Swanson. An independent studio potter for the last four decades, Peter is entirely self-taught and his distinctive and highly accomplished works have established him as one of the UK's most respected contemporary potters. This exhibition marks 40 years since he moved from Hampshire to Cornwall to open a family run pottery at Penbeagle, St Ives in 1974.

Peter works in stoneware and porcelain using locally sourced clays and produces his own ash glazes from various natural materials such as oak, beech, lavender and granite dust. With a style



inspired by Leach and set very much in the Anglo-Oriental tradition, he has travelled extensively in Japan and Korea, absorbing ideas that have greatly enriched his working practice, and has most recently visited wood-firing potters working in Australia's NSW.

In this brand new collection of work Peter has explored new shapes and forms in the creation of both his domestic and stand-alone ceramic pieces. Working from his studio near Cornwall's beautiful Prussia Cove, he uses a gas-fired reduction kiln in the making of his work and also a Japanese wood-fired Anagama kiln which he built at his home in 2004.

"Extracting the best from my kilns and materials, whilst constantly seeking perfection is paramount. To attain a level that approaches the best of history's pots is a very demanding target and keeps one's mind focused."

Seasalt Bursary Apprentice appointed to Leach Studio

Following a search that saw applications from as far afield as Spain and the USA we are able to announce the appointment of our new apprentice, funded by a bursary set up with Cornish clothing company, Seasalt.

St Ives-born Callum Trudgeon, 25, is the lucky individual who now gets the chance to train and study at the internationally-renowned Cornish pottery. Callum has studied furniture making and design at Cornwall College but it was an evening class in pottery that first got him interested in this new medium. Callum found out about the bursary through Facebook and decided to apply. He said, "These sorts of opportunities don't come up very often especially at somewhere like the Leach Pottery. I feel very lucky to have been chosen – it's pretty much a dream job."



The Seasalt Bursary coincides with the launch of a unique collection of tableware created by the Leach Pottery for Seasalt which is available in selected Seasalt shops and from their online shop www.seasaltcornwall.co.uk.

John Bedding Summer Exhibition

26 July to 6 September (Private View 25th July from 6pm to 8pm)

Throughout August we are presenting an exhibition of new work by respected ceramicist and Honorary Lead Potter of the Leach Pottery, John Bedding. John's longstanding relationship with the Leach Pottery began in the 1960s when he was apprenticed to Bernard Leach. Since that time he has made a significant contribution to the field of international ceramics and the pottery scene in St Ives, establishing St Ives Ceramics and the Gaolyard Studios, and in 2004 becoming a founding trustee of the Leach Pottery Restoration Project.



This exhibition of new pots, held thirty six years on from his last solo show at the Leach, defines the individualism, creativeness and traditional craftsmanship of John's work and his ongoing search for new paths to his perfect pot. Formed on the wheel or slab built and sculpted into shape,

John's preference is for the silky, tactile quality of burnished surfaces, and the sharp primitive lines of unglazed decoration. Having developed his work far beyond the observed Leach style, John still retains the legacy of his early training whilst employing a variety of 21st century techniques. His distinctive and richly illustrated pots use computer generated graphics and light sensitive emulsion to saturate his pots in bold, distinctive patterns. His porcelain works are largely decorated with stencils made from open weave fabrics, which are wrapped around the pot before slips and pigments are applied in layers, and surfaces cut back with diamond polishers to give a smooth quality to the raw clay.

"At present the trend in pottery is for either minimalism, or accidental and natural effects in the kiln; to cover my pots in decoration is rather going against the grain, but I try to isolate myself from influences of various trends. Some of my pots have pure abstract designs while others have a narrative. My inspiration comes from no particular source, some from native materials and oriental carpets, from paintings and illustrations, and yet others just abstract ideas and thoughts from my head. I aspire to always move forward in my work and explore new ideas and techniques." John Bedding

Joe Finch Residency & Workshop

From 7th to 13th June we are welcoming Joe Finch for a mini residency, workshop and talk at the Leach Pottery.

Sat 7th & Sun 8th June— mini residency in the Old Pottery. Joe will be throwing pots in the Old Pottery workshop where visitors can meet him and watch him at work.

Mon 9th to Wed 11th June – Kiln Building Workshop. Create a new kiln at the Leach Pottery with kiln expert Joe Finch, author of 'Kiln Construction: A Brick by Brick Approach'. There are limited spaces available so early booking is essential - £195 per person. 01736 799703

office@leachpottery.com . For more details of Joe's work visit his website www.joefinchkilns.co.uk

The new kiln will be packed and fired over the Wednesday afternoon and Thursday ready to be opened on the Friday. Joe will also be giving a free talk and demo on Friday 13th 1pm to 3pm (while the kiln is cooling) – the kiln opening follows soon after.

Royal Visit



We were delighted to welcome the Duchess of Gloucester to the Leach Pottery on 28th May as part of a tour of St Ives. The Duchess visited the historic workshop and museum exhibition where she met with Trustees, staff and volunteers from the Pottery and watched a throwing demonstration by Leach Potter, Kat Wheeler. She then went on to visit the new studios where she met the production team and the new apprentice.

Finally she visited the Leach Pottery's new Clore Learning Studio where she met with children and parents taking part in a Claydays family workshop with Education Officer, Amanda Brier. The Pottery's Director, Julia Twomlow presented the Duchess with a gift of two celadon Leach espresso cups from the new glazed range and a DVD of the Leach Pottery in 1952.



Claydays—Family Fun Sessions

Children's Workshops will be held in the Clore Learning Studio at the Leach Pottery on 29th & 30th July, 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th, 26th & 27th August. There are only 12 places on each workshop so booking and pre-payment is required to secure your place. Ages 6-12, £6 per workshop or £5 for multiple bookings (adults free).

Leach Pottery Opening Hours

March - October Mon-Sat 10am to 5pm (last entries to museum 4.30pm)
Sun 11am to 4pm (last entries to museum 3.30pm)

November - end of February
Mon-Sat 10am to 5pm (last entries to museum 4.30pm)
Closed Sundays
Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day

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