



Leach Pottery  
Studio & Museum

Winter 2017

## Introduction from the Director, Libby Buckley

The nights are drawing in and we are looking forward to celebrating a fantastic year with the 'Feast & Flames' event on 3 November; everyone is welcome, so please come and join us!

I have been at the Leach Pottery for over a year now and people keep asking me how I am getting on. My answer is always the same – I love it. I have completely fallen in love with the place. I meet fascinating people from all over the world, I work with fantastically talented people, and come to a site that has such a lovely feel and is always inspiring (and I get to walk through an amazing shop every day!). What more could you want? It is such a privilege to come to work each day and feel that I am a small part of somewhere as special as the Leach Pottery.

This autumn we had three fantastic talks from Matthew Tyas, Roelof Uys and Bonnie Kemske. They gave a fascinating insight into William Marshall, why we like patterns, and the teabowl. I am already looking forward to planning the talks for next year. Roelof and I were also invited to an interesting talk by Tomoo Hamada at the Japanese Embassy in London, celebrating the 5th anniversary of the signing of a Friendship Agreement between Mashiko and St Ives. There are just a few more days to see the Jim Malone exhibition if you are in St Ives for half term - on until 29 October. Please remember that between November and the end of February we close on Sundays.

## Potter of the Month

Potter of the Month for October has been Cornwall-based Russell Gibbs, whose fresh, spontaneously decorated earthenware has been very popular.

November's Potter of the Month will be our own Deputy Studio Manager Kat Wheeler, whose new pots are always worth waiting for; beautifully thrown, with such fine attention to detail and skillful glazing techniques.

December's Potter of the Month will be Matthew Foster, a member of our Production Team whose work is already selling very successfully in our Shop.



## Aprons



The new Leach Pottery aprons made by Falmouth-based Francli Craftwear have been popular and now sold out. More aprons have been ordered and should be available mid-November in time for Christmas.

## Exhibitions Roundup: ‘Teachers’ Pots’ to Open and ‘The Teabowl: Past & Present’ Continues

### ‘Teachers’ Pots: Celebrating The Work Of Our Education Team’

Preview: 3 November 2017, 6pm onwards | Exhibition: 4 November to January 2018.

‘Teachers’ Pots’ is a selling exhibition of new pots by the Education Team. It includes the works of staff and freelance tutors alike, featuring Amanda Brier, Jacqueline Clark, Chloe Hefford, Debbie Prosser, Matthew Tyas, and Fleur Winter.

Jacqueline Clark, a Learning and Participation Officer at the Leach Pottery, is a ceramics graduate from University of Wales, Cardiff. Jacqueline makes thrown and hand-built forms based on the environment where she lives in Devoran: the coastal landscape, and creek views, inform her aesthetic language.

Debbie Prosser, a freelance tutor on the Leach Pottery’s Throwing Courses, is an experienced potter who first setup a workshop in Penhalvean, in 1988, before eventually establishing her current workshop in Trembath, Newlyn, in 2009. Debbie’s pots are typically made in porcelain, decorated with clear or celadon glazes on the inside, and the outsides treated with Terra Sigillata slip.

Matthew Tyas, a freelance tutor on the Leach Pottery’s Throwing Courses, has been based in Cornwall for several years – originally coming to the county to undertake a research degree with the Leach Pottery. Matthew’s pots are typically stoneware, made using self-blended clays that have a sense of texture. The glazes are often formulated to allow them to develop their own character during the firing.

Fleur Winter, a Learning and Participation Officer at the Leach Pottery, graduated from Brighton University in Wood, Metal, Plastics and Ceramics, in 2003, and has a varied background in teaching and learning. Fleur has been working with thin sheets of porcelain as if it were like cloth, using tacking methods to join the seams together to make new forms in clay.

**The exhibition runs in the Leach Pottery Entrance Gallery. All works for sale.**

### ‘The Teabowl: Past & Present’

In the Cube Gallery until 11 March 2018.

This exhibition tells the story of the teabowl, a highly valued ceramic form closely linked with Japan and becoming increasingly popular in contemporary Western ceramics. It presents 55 examples of teabowls, including historic teabowls from the East, teabowls made in the West in the spirit of tradition, and teabowls made with a sense of subversion.

Curated by artist and writer Dr Bonnie Kemske, and Dr Matthew Tyas of the Leach Pottery, the exhibition also tells the history of the teabowl, as it arose in the East through use in chanoyu, or Japanese tea ceremony, and its journey to the West. Outside of Japan, many potters have venerated traditional teabowl techniques and aesthetics, while some have chosen to subvert and challenge its deep cultural legacy.

# Feast & Flames

Leach Pottery Celebration & Exhibition Opening

3 November 6:00pm 'Teachers' Pots' Exhibition Opens | 6:30pm Raku Party | 7:00pm Scarlet Wines: Drinks & Wood-Fired Pizza

## **Pop-up evening event with Scarlet Wines, wine merchant and restaurant. Includes exhibition opening for 'Teachers' Pots' & Raku Firing Party**

**Event date:** 3 November, 6-10pm

The Leach Pottery will host a unique exhibition opening this November, as the Pottery teams-up with local wine merchant and restaurant Scarlet Wines. The evening's theme continues from the popular and enjoyable 'Fire It Up' event last November, celebrating all things fiery: from cooking with flames to making pots with them, and keeping warm and drinking with friends beside the fire.

The evening will host the opening preview of the new Entrance Gallery selling exhibition 'Teachers' Pots' which celebrates the work of the Education Team. It includes exciting and engaging new ceramics from staff and freelance tutors, featuring Amanda Brier, Jacqueline Clark, Chloe Hefford, Debbie Prosser, Matthew Tyas, and Fleur Winter.

In Beagle Cross garden, the newly-built soda kiln will be used by Scarlet Wines as a wood-fired pop-up pizza oven to cook the perfect pizza at lightning speed. There will be music and a bar full of luscious wines, and a selection of award-winning cider (including warming mulled cider) from craft producer Secret Orchard. Shelter will be provided by local company Jabula Stretch Tents.

The Leach Pottery is also excited to offer a Raku Firing Party, giving participants the unique opportunity to glaze pots in the Studio before watching them being fired in the Raku kiln. The great thing about Raku is that the pots will be ready to take away at the end of the night. To top it all off, there will be a special 10% discount on all Shop sales for this one event and, of course, any pots bought can be used during the evening!

### **Summary**

Exhibition Preview 'Teachers' Pots': FREE

Beagle Cross Fiery Feast: FREE Entry (food & drinks to purchase)

Raku Firing Party: £15 per person, limited to 24 places: pre-booking essential (see [www.leachpottery.com](http://www.leachpottery.com)) \*FULLY BOOKED\*

Shop: 10% off purchases during the evening.



Photo by Sarah White

## Studio Team News Round-Up

We've had a successful summer developing some new work, including a bespoke range for the Tate and some new forms for the Shop. It has been a really busy September, with the festival in town and our Lead Potter, Roelof Uys giving a talk at the Arts Club. Now our order boards have filled up with orders for the Christmas season - it will be busy for the next couple months. Fortunately we have a full crew in the workshop!

In the midst of it all, we had a wonderful visit from Mashiko! The delegation included the Mayor of Mashiko, and Tomoo Hamada, here to celebrate the 5 years since signing the friendship agreement between our towns. Tomoo kindly gave us some new brushes that we are excited to test out, and it was really lovely to share the visit with them all!



Photo by Sarah White



After a rigorous interview process, we are thrilled to welcome Annabelle Smith to the Studio as our new Seasalt Apprentice. The recruitment process proved to be highly competitive, with over 70 applicants and many strong candidates. Thank you to everyone who participated! We are also happy to have Shannon Bartlett-Smith back in the workshop, volunteering with us for the next 6 months.

Workshop volunteer Lexie Macleod has begun work at a pottery in Roros, Norway. While we miss her in the workshop, it's a brilliant opportunity and we look forward to seeing what she gets up to out there!

Carson Culp, who has been volunteering with us for the past 11 months, is now making some of his own work in the Old Pottery. He will be exhibiting in the Shop from 17 November. Carson has been a real asset in the workshop: hardworking and upbeat. We will be sad to see him go, but it is exciting to see the work he is coming out with and we encourage everyone to come by and check it out!

Callum Trudgeon, a member of our Production Team, recently attended the Scanceram 2017 conference in Tolne, Denmark. Callum joined a panel talking about Mashiko & St Ives - A Contemporary View. Fellow panelists were Phil Rogers and Anne Mette Hjortshoj. Callum gave an overview of the Leach Pottery as it is today and his own experience of being the first Leach-Seasalt Apprentice.



## Learning & Participation Team

This autumn we welcome back Amanda after her maternity leave and now there will be three of us working in Learning and Participation as we continue to develop our programme of classes and museum activities.

All the Education Team, including our very valued throwing tutors, are currently preparing for the upcoming show, 'Teachers Pots' which takes place from 3 November through to January 2018. We very much look forward to seeing those of you who can make it along to the opening night.

This September and October, we have been working closely with Jillian Echlin, a PHD student from University of York, on our teaching resources. School groups will be able to have access to these before their visit to the Leach Pottery enabling their learning experience to link-in more thoroughly with their curriculums.

Continuing on from this, we have been developing our links with the local St Ives Junior School and in November we will be working with Years 4 and 5 on their curriculum projects making Greek Pottery and Viking Boats. We plan, in the future, to develop closer links with all our regular schools, both locally and cross-county, and work with them on the workshops and resources we offer as part of our new strategy.

Once again, we have hosted a visit from a group of children from Chernobyl. For the last 22 years, the charity 'Chernobyl's Children's Lifeline' have brought children over to St Ives to stay with host families and take part in various activities. In recent years they have been coming to the Leach Pottery where they get to experience Raku firings. However, this year they made tiles due high winds from Hurricane Ophelia but had a great pottery experience nonetheless. We plan to put the tiles through our kilns so that they are ready for them before their return home.

We will soon be hosting a group of school children from Mashiko, Japan, which we do every year in November as part of an exchange programme set up with Mashiko School and St Ives School - we offer all the children the opportunity to take part in a Raku firing. This year we will be giving each of the children a hand-made porcelain sweet as a gift, as is Japanese culture. This is a continuation of the 'Sweet Shop of Words', a one day project we held in the Museum in July with poet and artist Sally Crabtree: she brought an alternative perspective to the Museum, amalgamating poetry with pottery.



On 16 December we have a Glazing Day with Kat Wheeler, where she will be demonstrating glazing and the kiln packing. This course is for potters with at least 20 pieces of bisque stoneware clay pots and is a follow-on from the evening Throwing Classes. For more information please email Kat: [kat@leachpottery.com](mailto:kat@leachpottery.com)  
[www.leachpottery.com/1-day-introduction-to-glazing/](http://www.leachpottery.com/1-day-introduction-to-glazing/)

We had a very successful 3 day Masterclass with Jim Malone in September, using a momentum wheel kindly loaned to us by Peter Swanson - thank you Peter!

Summer 'Clay Days' was a great success so thank you to all the children that came along and participated. If there are any local families who took part, please don't forget to come and collect these precious creations which are now in the Museum's 'Hands On' area, named and ready to collect.



## Have A Go Thursdays

**FREE drop-in session (subject to entry to the Museum)**

Thursday 21 December, 10.30am-12.30pm in the Old Workshop. Handbuilding with a Christmas theme! **No need to book, just turn up on the morning!**

## Potter's Prize Draw

We were very proud to work alongside the St Ives Rotary Club for the Potter's Prize Draw (previously called Spot the Potter). The draw raised £2445 and added to the £1000 kindly donated by the St Ives Rotary Club to fund a new travel grant: the Travel Bursary for Potters from Cornwall – to help potters with their professional development.



An application form is on the website and a lucky recipient will hear by the end of November. We are hoping to run a similar event each year so that we can raise enough, annually, to sustain the travel grant year-on-year. Photo courtesy of St Ives Times & Echo

## Repair of Old Buildings Course

Richard James, our Site Technician, recently attended The Repair of Old Buildings Course in London which is run by The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The society was founded in 1877 by William Morris and its former members have included John Ruskin, Sir John Betjeman, Beatrix Potter and Auguste Rodin. Their approach is one of minimum intervention along with regular maintenance, repair and protection, rather than restoration. The course ran for a week and covered many aspects of traditional construction methods including Structural appraisal, Lime work, dealing with damp, brick/stonework, timber, plaster and surface finishes.

It also involved two days of site visits which included Frindsbury Barn built in c1403, one of the finest surviving medieval barns, Rochester cathedral in Kent, Bulmer Brick & Tile Company in Suffolk, whose bricks are all handmade and fired in a coal fired kiln (Hampton Court Palace are among their regular customers), and Copped Hall in Essex.

Richard reported that it was an interesting and illuminating course and he learned a lot that will help us maintain and preserve our Old Workshop, Kiln Room and other buildings.

## Masterclasses: Forthcoming workshops

**Jill Fanshawe-Kato : Japanese Pottery for Food & Drink** 1-day talk, demonstration and workshop - 28 October - £75

The day will begin with an illustrated talk on Japanese pottery for food and drink, followed by a demonstration and hands-on activity based on Jill's work. Participants will also enjoy a vegetarian sushi lunch. \*FULLY BOOKED\*

**Adrian Brough :Throwing Masterclass** - 15 November - £100

A throwing masterclass exploring form and surface using slips, incising, and other creative techniques. Held in the throwing room of the Old Pottery and working on the historic kick wheels.

To book a place, or for further information, visit [www.leachpottery.com/masterclasses](http://www.leachpottery.com/masterclasses) or call 01736 799703

## Throwing Courses

The 3 & 5 day throwing courses for 2018 are now available to book on our website. Courses are suitable for beginners and improvers. Courses are already booking up for 2018 so do check out the dates ([www.leachpottery.com/intensive-courses](http://www.leachpottery.com/intensive-courses)) and make your booking as quickly as you can!

## Gift List

Our first wedding gift list was completed in September, with every one of the pieces on the 'list' being bought by generous friends and family of the couple. They were sent on to them after their honeymoon and we have had a very good response.

Our Gift List service enables you to create your own bespoke Leach Pottery wish list. Whether you are celebrating a wedding, special birthday, anniversary, or setting up a new home, you can choose pieces from any of our Standard Ware or Porcelain ranges and share them with your friends and family who will then be able to join your private page and purchase items from your list. Additionally we can offer the service of gift packaging your pots which can then be sent to any chosen address. To find out more about our this service, please give us a call or send an email to [shop@leachpottery.com](mailto:shop@leachpottery.com)



# Summary of Events in 2017

Title	Time & Venue	Date	Cost
Jill Fanshawe-Kato: Japanese Pottery for Food & Drink	10am - 4pm Leach Pottery	28 October	Fully Booked
Feast & Flames, including 'Teachers' Pots'	6pm - 10pm Leach Pottery	3 November	Free
Adrian Brough: Stoneware/Slipware Throwing Course	10am - 5pm Leach Pottery	15 November	£100

## Happy Birthday to one of our long serving volunteers

Margaret Daniel, one of the Leach Pottery's longest serving volunteers, celebrated her 90th birthday on 22 October. The Leach Pottery hosted a small tea party for Margaret attended by friends and Pottery staff, and enjoyed by all. Margaret, who was born in Halsetown and has lived in St Ives all her life, worked at the Leach Pottery in the 1980s with Janet Leach and has many interesting stories and fond memories of the Pottery. Margaret continues to volunteer in our Museum Entrance where visitors can enjoy her knowledge of the Pottery.



**Leach Pottery Website:** up-to-date information about all our exhibitions, events and classes available on our website [www.leachpottery.com](http://www.leachpottery.com)

**Leach Pottery Online Shop:** <https://www.leachpottery.com/shop-home/>

**Future Newsletters:** if you would prefer to receive future newsletters via email, please contact Margaret at [office@leachpottery.com](mailto:office@leachpottery.com) with your email address. Thank you.

### Leach Pottery Opening Hours

#### November 2017 - end of February 2018

Mon-Sat 10am to 5pm (last entries to museum 4.30pm)

Closed Sundays

Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day

#### March - October 2018

Mon-Sat 10am to 5pm (last entries to museum 4.30pm)

Sun 11am to 4pm (last entries to museum 3.30pm)

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