



**Leach Pottery**  
Studio & Museum

January 2014

**Happy New Year and welcome to the Leach Pottery's latest newsletter.** 2014 is already promising to be an exciting time for us here as building works draw to a close and the whole place enters a new phase of activity, projects, residencies and partnerships. We've summed up the main news stories for you here but please remember to join our Facebook group too or link up to our Twitter feed @leachpottery. We hope to see you at the Pottery soon.

## **2014 Season Opens with an Exhibition of Functional pots by Mike Dodd 15th February to 30th March**



Beginning our 2014 exhibition schedule at the Leach Pottery is British potter Mike Dodd. Largely self-taught, Mike's work has received widespread critical acclaim. He studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge and a one year ceramics course at Hammersmith College of Art before setting up his first studio in Sussex in 1968. In 1975, along with friend and potter Peter Schofield, he founded the Cider House Pottery at West Cornwall's Godolphin estate, where they built a small wood-fired climbing kiln, and later constructed and worked with a traditional Thai kiln. Mike remained in Cornwall until 1980, when he travelled to the central jungles of Peru to build a wood-fired Anagama kiln for an Amuesha Community, in a project funded by Oxfam and Survival International. He now works from his studio near Glastonbury in Somerset.

Producing work that has been referred to as 'pottery without ego', Mike works mostly in stoneware, and sometimes in porcelain, producing functional pottery that eschews conceptual approaches to ceramic work in favour of the direct relationship between maker and object - "a sensibility to clay quality and glaze surface and depth – and an appreciation of throwing which is expressive of the clay itself, soft and vulnerable," - and ultimately object and user. Fired in an oil-fired kiln using what is known as a 'reducing flame' to create warmer, earthier colours, Mike employs subtle glazes made from natural granites, clays and wood ashes and his work reflects the unpretentious, preindustrial qualities of directness, spontaneity and generosity of form.

His solo exhibition opens on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February, with a preview on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8pm. On the Friday afternoon Mike will also be holding a demonstration between 1pm and 3pm in Bernard Leach's old studio. Places are limited but if you are interested please call Margaret on 01736 799703 to book a place.

### **Forthcoming Dates**

The 2014 programme continues with the following exhibitions:

**Peter Swanson** - June 7<sup>th</sup> to July 19<sup>th</sup> (preview Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 6pm-8pm).

**John Bedding** - July 26<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup> (preview Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 6pm to 8pm)

**Ashley Howard & Risa Ohgi** – September to October (Final dates to be confirmed)

**Jeff Oestreich & Pat Burns** (from October residency) Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December

## Exciting link with prominent Cornish Business

Over the next few weeks we will be launching a collaborative venture with Seasalt Cornwall, a family business that began in Adelaide street, Penzance over 30 years ago, and now sells its clothing range nationally and internationally, with 350 stockists including John Lewis and 16 of its own shops. All of their products are designed in their studios in Falmouth. Whilst the details of the partnership are being finalised at the moment, one of the important threads is that with Seasalt's support we will be establishing a bursary which will enable a new apprentice to train full time at the Leach Pottery. We look forward to giving you more news soon.

## Old Pottery Roof Repairs

As part of the Capital Asset Transfer of the Leach Pottery and Beagle Cross from Cornwall Council to the Bernard Leach (St. Ives) Trust Ltd., the scantle slate roof on the old pottery is currently being replaced using traditional techniques. The work has been executed by Cornish building contractors Gloweth. It has been a mammoth task, especially given the weather conditions over the past weeks, but they aim to be finished on site by February 14th so we will have the old workshop open to the public again shortly after.

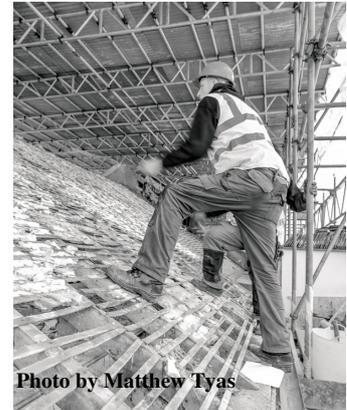


Photo by Matthew Tyas

## Internship and Volunteer Programme

The internship and volunteer placement programme in the production studio has proved more popular than ever and places are now filled until 2015. This year we have the following incumbents:

Tinni Arora (India) 12 month placement to August 2014

Ian Morrison (US/UK) April 2014—March 2015

Laura Crosland (UK) June 2014 to May 2015 (funded by Adopt A Potter)

Drake Bialecki (US) October 2014—September 2015

Applications for 2015 placements will open in April.

### Intensive Throwing Courses

There are still places available on our 5 day throwing courses 10th - 14th February and 17th - 21st March, and 3 day courses 24th - 26th February and 24th - 26th March. Please phone Margaret or Amanda for more information. Dates from May to September will be arranged shortly, keep a look out on our website for these.

### 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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