

Tudor Roof Tiles

Face to Face



Interview with our MD

**Tudor
Roof Tiles**

Plain & Peg Clay Tiles

Hand Made in England

Paul John Lythgoe

Q How did you get into the industry and to your current position?

I started at H&R Johnson Tiles (wall tiles) at age of 21 as a manual worker, before being accepted onto a management-training scheme, which gave me hands on experience of all the key jobs within the factory, as well as working alongside key managers. After two years I was given my first department to manage and then spent five years with the company in South Africa. After this I worked for 12 years with Pilkington's Tiles in Manchester, and one year with British Ceramic Tile in Dorset.

In 2001 I moved to Tudor as Works Manager with the brief of improving the production and firing processes. During the following 14 years, I was invited onto the Board of Directors and now I am proud to be one of the three major shareholders.



Q How do you feel the industry has changed in recent years?

Undoubtedly the clay roof tile market has changed. Like the floor and wall tile market 15 years ago, it has seen an influx of cheaper imports of varying and sometimes questionable quality. Though ostensibly attractive to buyers, these imports do not come with same level of customer support as UK-manufactured tiles, so we are of the opinion that it is always better and, in the long run, safer to buy British.

Q What are the current challenges facing your company?

The challenge for any manufacturer is to correctly interpret and respond to market demand. At Tudor, we always listen to customers before adding to our range - this is how the new **Romney Roof Tiles** were developed.



In response to serious competition from overseas competitors, Tudor remains committed to manufacturing here in England (even though skilled labour comes at a premium cost), and to producing high quality roof tiles backed by local customer service..

Another major industry-wide challenge is the cost of energy. Gas and electricity constitute approximately 30% of our overall manufacturing cost. To counter this, Tudor has bought a new kiln, which is more gas efficient and able to fire more consistently than older kilns.

Q What has been your biggest challenge so far?

As a production person all my working life, the responsibility of driving sales growth has been a personal challenge.

I approach this in a very simple and straightforward way: give customers value for money, competitive prices and a long lasting beautiful roof. Fortunately, I am backed by a committed production, sales and admin team who share this approach to customer service.

Q What has been the highlight of your career to date?

I have been fortunate to work with many people whom I respect. I admire down to earth attitudes and abhor politics within the workplace.

My current Board of Directors and staff are totally focused on establishing Tudor Roof Tiles as the best in its field and I am proud to be a part of this team.



An insight into Tudor Roof Tiles

Q As the roof is a key feature of a building, what are the main considerations when choosing roof tiles?



There is always going to be a balance to be struck between the cost of the roof and the overall aesthetic and design you are trying to achieve.

As the actual tiles represent a relatively small proportion of the overall build cost of a roof (which is largely labour costs, scaffolding, roof timbers, battens, breathable membranes etc.), it's always worth getting the best quality hand-made roof tiles you can afford!

Q What do Tudor tiles bring to the finished roof?

With no two tiles alike, our handmade tiles make any roof stunningly unique. This simply cannot be achieved with mass produced and more uniform machine clay or concrete tiles.

Q What can we expect from clay roof tiles in terms of performance?

The past few years of extreme winter weather has been hard on the performance of both bricks and roof tiles. All manufacturers have therefore had to improve the 'freeze thaw' durability of their products so that they are much higher than new European Standards.

Q What practical considerations should be taken on board when installing handmade roof tiles?

The idiosyncratic variation in shape and camber (curvature) of handmade clay roof tiles has enormous aesthetic appeal, but their laying is more complicated therefore requiring skilful and experienced expertise.

Q Once the roof is installed what maintenance checks should be made?

Moss is the main problem for most types of roof tiles. Although some people prefer the natural look of a mossy roof, it must be remembered that all plants have roots, and once these roots penetrate under the tile skin, they can lead to rapid degradation of the tile. Therefore, large moss build up should be avoided.

Q Roof spaces need adequate ventilation in order to prevent condensation. What solutions does Tudor offer?

Building design regulations cover all aspects of ventilation, and insulation for roof spaces. With this in mind, Tudor offers a patented ventilation outlet that is totally invisible from the outside of the roof. This system utilises the double camber of Tudor's tiles, and is suitable for both passive and mechanical ventilation. A cheaper semi-visible system is also available if preferred.



Tudor Roof Tile Co. Limited is based in Kent and is proud to be the largest independent manufacturer of handmade only clay roof tiles in the UK.

With the brands Tudor Roof Tiles and Romney Roof Tiles, it focuses on providing customers with high quality, aesthetically pleasing, UK made roof tiles.

MAKE YOUR ROOF UNIQUE

Tudor Roof Tile Co Limited
Dengemarsh Road
Lydd
Romney Marsh
Kent TN29 9JH

Tel: 01797 320202 Fax: 01797 320700

Email: info@tudorrooftiles.co.uk

Web: www.tudorrooftiles.co.uk