

# December Newsletter

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



Christmas is over and we are looking toward the new year. Judging from the enormous number of orders before Christmas everyone has been particularly busy. As have been the men in your lives: it has been such a delight to get "secret"™ pre-Christmas orders from partners and husbands. So good to know that they recognise how important our crafting is to us!

So what better time than the new year to use up the scrap clay? There are so very many possibilities. Above right is the "flower garden"™ pendant I made out of scrap " to be fair, as is so often the case, it was serendipity - but hey, that is no reason not to be delighted. The method used is the very common technique of mirroring sliced pieces (in the same way as one makes Natasha beads) " on [this blog](#) there are some excellent results too.:

One cannot even begin to talk about scrap without mentioning the Stoppel cane that we have espoused so readily. If you haven't™ tried it yet, you absolutely must, details on her website [here](#) Another practical use for the scrap is the [feather cane](#) devised by Robin Milne. Meanwhile [Constanza](#) has taken some scrap clay, shaped it and textured it with a texture stamp and paint " to great effect Along similar lines Anna [Fjelborghas](#) has taken some scrap, shaped it, and laid an interesting surface layer of clay onto the shapes before texturing and adding decoration. The resulting Cabochons are great.

inevitably there is a pinterest page [here](#) (this one is one of Cara Jane's) with lots more ideas – so much to do and not enough time. Finally – have you heard of the project by Ron Lehocky yet? He makes and sells polymer hearts, made out of scrap that is donated, and then sells them to raise money for the pediatric therapies for children project. Look at details [here](#).



We are delighted that after many requests, over many years, we finally have access to Donna Kato's Marxit tool. This is such a useful tool whose raised surface puts dents into the clay to indicate the measurements. The accuracy that can be achieved is so very valuable, and there are a variety of measures: 20mm, 15mm, 10mm, 7mm, 5mm and 3mm.

From the photo on the top left you will see I have acquired the latest tool from the Lucy Clay company. I have been using it over Christmas and in my main oven (I usually use a halogen oven) and it has been valuable for curing a lot of pieces at the same time. It has 'waves' cut into the sides so one can thread sticks into them (sticks not included) – I have tried wooden skewers and they seem to work: it has the potential for 52 skewers! So what do you think? Should I stock them? Like all Lucy tools they are expensive but well made. They will retail at £60. If you



Tony Caplin is our 'token male' – a regular, and very welcome, visitor to our claydays. Tony is a professional wood turner who sells to the likes of Harrods, producing stunning work (it is Tony who made the bowls that we have been selling on the shopping cart - but he no longer has time to make them sadly). We introduced him to polymer clay and he has combined his considerable skills with his claying and produced these lovely pens (the pen second from the right is actually wood turned!). Tony has his own website [here](#).

The next Clayaround clayday will on Saturday 10th January 2015 – details [here](#)

If you haven't already, now is the time to book into the workshop that is being held in Bristol by Cara Jane - she has very few places left and everyone expects it to be a really excellent event. If you haven't met Donna Kato - or experimented with Kato clay

made. They will retail at £229. If you are interested let me know via the website and I will order some.

or experimented with Kato Clay, then here is your chance!  
Details [here](#)

## May next year be the best yet for you!

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.

Neil Gaiman

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