

# December 2016

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ClayAround



Its winter. The highest temperature recorded on Christmas day in the UK was 15.6 degrees C (60 degrees F) – it was close here in the UK this Christmas day at 15.1 degrees C. and yet we continue to represent winter as white one way or another. Look at this beautiful piece produced by [Mel West](#)

At the Christmas clayday here at ClayAround last year we had a winter theme, an example of what was produced can be seen above left – a beautifully decorated glass ball produced by Bee, one of our regulars. An inevitable snow theme.. The most attractive snow theme I have found is the lovely note book cover (pictured above right) in this tutorial produced on YouTube by [Mandarine Duck](#)

I like the prettiness of so many of the pieces produced in polymer clay – Nakihra produced a clever [winter spirit pendant](#) which is an example. In this [YouTube tutorial](#) you can learn to make a equally pretty cameo pendant or you can produce a winter steampunk pendant with the [Kater's Acres tutorial](#). Here is a tutorial for interesting [winter polymer clay earrings](#). If you want to make something nice and simple there are some booties and mittens [here](#) (Do you think perhaps his partner has recently had a baby?!) and if you want to make something more challenging there is a great YouTube tutorial made using a fairly light [here](#) or a cleverly sculptured and very sophisticated snow fairy [here](#)

Well, despite this winter fantasy, let's hope that we continue to have a mild few

months and that the new year is a positive and healthy one for all of us.



We have a [new section](#) on the shopping cart as we have quite a collection of bezels and settings now – they are inexpensive so ideal for those pieces you make for the many craft fairs that you attend through the year. I have moved the buna cord to that section too as it seems appropriate! Above you will see the cuff link blanks.

I was claying with a meticulous friend who said she wanted to make money by selling her work. She produces beautiful brooches – except that so far one brooch (to be fair in development) has taken her six months! I was pointing out that she will never make any money that way, and duly cut out a circle of white clay (to fit the blank) dipped it in some oil colours I had on my claying surface, and textured it with a texture sheet. It took just two minutes!

We are also experimenting with selling [polymer clay books](#) – a small number initially, mostly targeted at people who are new to polymer clay. These are my choice of books published by the most generous of the polymer clay tutors. They are not newly published but they are all well respected books.



Susan Lush lives in Scotland with her dog Tealing and doesn't get out much because she, like so many crafters, has Arthritis. However, she (again like so many), has been interested in all sorts of crafts over the years. She is not new to polymer clay, but only returned to it about a year ago.

Susan decided she needed a challenge so she is going to take part in the [Polymer Clay Adventure](#) which is sponsored by Polyform.

Susan has a new shop on Etsy called [lushcraftcreations](#) so give her a visit to boost her page hits! This new shop has limited stock so far but her work is beautifully presented as you will see from the above photograph

Our next Clayday is on January 14th 2017 - details [here](#) as usual. If you are in striking distance come and visit us - we have people who join us from South Wales, from North Wales (wales is a long country!) and from Manchester and Birmingham - it is an easy route and all are welcome!

Our postal arrangements are changing in the new year for we will be sending virtually all parcels by courier. So be sure to cultivate your local courier and tell him or her where to put your parcels safely if you are not available

Did you notice that we have the demonstration sets of stamps™ on sale? They are now less than half price – [a bargain](#) if you want some stamping fun.

parcels safely if you are not available to receive them.

Kindness is like snow – it beautifies everything it covers.

Kahlil Gibran

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