

# December 2017

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



How about ending the year with “odd stuff”™. When searching the Net I really do love to see what fascinating things people make. I guess I want to start with the wonderful dolls that [Doreen Gay Kassell](#) makes. If you google her name and look at “images”™ you will also find dozens and dozens of her creations.. She has given me *carte blanche* to feature one and I have chosen this mouse. I love her work.

Staying with the creature theme those of you who prefer punk might prefer this little [scissor doll](#) If you want to sculpt a creature yourself there is a goblin tutorial by [Pamela contrenas](#). Or [create fairies](#) “well trees

If you want to go out on a limb you can garner ideas for creatures from Tim Jones who admits he makes [weird things](#) But it doesn’t have to be only creatures. The necklace above is made by Suzanne Anderson. If you like her work you can find more on [her website](#) or read more about the octopus and “pushing the limits”™

on [her blog](#). Combining jewellery and creatures you could look [here](#) or just produce [a zombie](#) like this one sold on Etsy.

I like the work of Alisa because she has simply applied [quilling techniques](#) to creating animal shapes. I like this work even more: these elegant [Phoenix goblets](#)

If you haven't had enough feast your eyes on a pinterest page full of [bowls](#) "truly odd", or return to creatures on this [pinterest page](#).



I have frequently been asked to find "black blades" and it has taken time and perseverance to have a company supply me. These are blades used for medical research for they are exceptionally sharp Stainless steel blades. They are more rigid than the ones we already have (but not as rigid as the steel "rigid blades" we have). They have really useful holes at the top so one can recognise quickly which end to hold your blade (how many times have you held your blade the wrong way up " I certainly have far too often!). They have an odd shape at one end as I am given to understand they are used with long handles. Of course if, like Cara Jane, you like to use a blade with a handle, it will be an ideal insert for your personal clay handle design.

We have, despite the massive increase in cost from America, replenished the [Kemper cutters](#) " they are still exceptionally popular.. The cost to me due to currency exchange etc (it's the etc that

Norma is a member of a craft group in Glenrothes so like so many of us is involved with many crafts. They had a beginners polymer clay class for the group and she was hooked on the endless possibilities, She has since learned lots from the Net and books (she loves Donna Kato's book) and learned the making of jewellery from her friend Irene.

Despite being on holiday in Australia currently she has taken some clay and tools with her and is already inspired by that country, and is taking photos and making notes. She is now a member of the Scottish clay group and has, she says, learned so much from them.

It's the end of the year. I hope that next year will be a healthy one for you; that if you make to sell it will be a successful one for you, and if you make with the joy of creating then it is a year full of ideas and inspiration! Claying is such a wonderful craft!

makes me cross!) has gone up by Â£3 per pack. How is that justified?! It makes me wonder whether to replenish the Kor rollers which are also from America. The politician in me makes me consider, too, the cost of Brexit!

We have also lots more [silk screens](#) and [texture sheets](#) from Helen Breil: her designs are original, and in demand. Do remember to get inspiration by heading to [her website](#). Her work is immaculate.

Our next Clayday is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January. We are still collecting new people. We never know who will be with us, but without fail they are a sharing caring group with lots of ideas. As usual details are [here](#)

The early new year brings [Maggie Maggio](#) to the London Polymer Clay Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February and the following month we have [Polymania](#) on 16th to 18th March. Cara always has a waiting list so do go over to her webpage just in case. ClayAround will be at Polymainia again of course!

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"Have no fear of perfection - you'll never reach it."

Salvador Dali

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