

# June 2018

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



I have massive respect for the work (and the person) by Melanie West. Top right is an image of one of her signature pieces, and it features magnets that hold it together. And you will see here details of [a workshop](#) that she did in Malta with Kathleen Dustin as long ago as 2014. On the left you will see an image of a piece made by Helen Breil and this, too, is held together by magnets. As I told you last month my group of clayers were lucky enough to partake in the making of a pendant from Helen's [magnetic pendants tutorial](#) and we met her when she came to our group, from Canada, via technology. Inevitably I started researching the topic. To my amazement there is very little evidence of polymer clayers using magnets in their jewellery designs. I did find [a review](#) of a book that included ideas for using magnets in your work. The nearest to jewellery I found was this [interactive art](#) What I found, of course, were dozens of example of how to make fridge magnets. Here are some examples [A straweberry](#) on YouTube; a [simple heart](#) tutorial; some [veggie and fruit](#) magnets; some [pop art](#) magnet and [a sunflower](#). [This mandala](#) is rather more sophisticated too.

Of course there are other ideas. [Crafty Goat](#) chooses to put her magnets on the dish washer (and she used recycled tin lids as well). One suggestion I found was to put lots of pieces on a on a base, to make a collage, but actually the fun thing to do would be to have a metal base on a wall and add lots of pieces to it to make a

collage that can be changed at will.

However it is apparent that not many ideas have been pursued. It seem that, for decoration, the joy is having variety because pieces can be moved. Movable pieces on a metal picture frame for instance, or a hanging chain on which one could attach different polymer pieces. One could have a sheet of metal as a diary cover with movable pieces on the cover. I am sure I could come up with lots more ideas.... Not the least numerous ones for use in jewellery. However, my overriding memory of childhood was being given two magnets, one that I held under a piece of paper and another make into an animal, or a car, or a doll, that sat on the top of the same piece of paper, and as if by magic I could move that top piece around. The nearest I have found to that, with a modern slant is [this](#)  
Have fun!



Well, I appear to be determined that we recognise how great it is to use magnets in your jewellery. It astonishes me that so few people have so far. What an opportunity! This newsletter is out early because Mike Breil has made an offer. If you buy magnets from ClayAround before 30<sup>th</sup> June then he is offering a 10% discount on Helen Breil's magnet pendants tutorial. For the tutorial you need a minimum of [one large](#) and [two small](#) magnets for each piece you make from the core tutorial. ( Helen is such a perfectionist – no wonder her work is so admired!) **A reminder, by the way, that using magnets is not appropriate for people with pacemakers**

I now have a stock of [J B Kwik Weld](#) which is an American bond that comes



Jennifer Greenwood inherited her love of crafts from her mother and (like me!) enjoyed needlework at school so crafts have been part of her life. And then she was introduced to polymer clay and could not believe what could be achieved.

She has been married for many years and has a son and two grandchildren who live in Australia (so she has visited thee a number of times). Now retired she enjoys the company of the people in the clay group she is part of, but is frustrated that she doesn't have enough spare time to do more but she gives what she makes to charity from time to time. She loves mixing

highly recommended (It can hold your magnets in place too!) But I have also acquired some Power Maxed Epoxy [speed bond](#) which is the UK made equivalent that is recommended as being equally as strong (and costs less!)

Lots of new goodies this month. We have more new stock: [Pebeo waxes](#) in five metallic colours (top right of picture above). These quality waxes go a very long way and can enable quite lovely decoration on the surface of your work. We have the [Pebeo pens](#) too for these can also be used for decorating what you make, or simply finishing edges.

We have renewed our stock of [Pan Pastels](#) as well.. These lovely dust free pastels have become recognised for their versatility in the polymer clay community. They are great for silk screening for instance. We have added some lovely pastel pearl shades (top left in the picture above).

**We have no claydays during the summer. The experience is that people have too many holiday commitments - and this year are enjoying the sunshine too much. However, we have a workshop planned for the end of the summer here in Wales. We have a well loved tutor lined up to join us with some brand new ideas, explicit demonstrations and lots of opportunity to ask her questions - all over the airwaves. More news next month.**

colours and creating designs and is particularly pleased with the piece above.

*Jennifer, to my delight, has frequently sent me thank you's and comment on this newsletter. Given that the letter goes out to well over 1000 people, her delightful feedback is very welcome – as I told her, I haven't a clue whether the newsletter is well received!*

A reminder that The Irish Guild are hosting a workshop with Carol Simmons in October. (Helen Cruickshank and I will be there!) It is on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at Portlaoise Leisure Centre and it is Carol's [Hidden Jewels workshop](#) I was in conversation with Carol Simmons recently and she told me that she is going to retire from teaching in 3 years. If you want to have the benefit of her incredible expertise I suggest you book on one of her courses as soon as you can.

Angie Scarr has a [new project](#) Angi is a particularly well known miniaturist, so if you enjoy making tiny things, then Angi offers you the opportunity to make a monthly subscription in exchange for a constant supply of interesting ideas, tutorials and lots more. However, you don't need to be only interested in miniature work for she is a well known teacher who has vast experience and knowledge. Your subscription can be as low as \$1 a month, and can be terminated at any time.

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I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it... .

Pablo Picasso

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