

# March Newsletter

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## ClayAround

I hope you have some time to do some claying during the Easter break

Surface techniques are my theme for today as I was lucky enough to spend some time with Lisa Pavelka at the end of this month. Lisa was her usual generous self in a series of workshops. She has a selection of new stamps out there that aren't easily available in the UK yet, but showed us lots of really interesting ways of using all her stamps. I liked her 'tapestry' clay - in essence she did a variegated 'sutton slice' and then put it through the pasta machine. Really lovely! You will see some of her ideas on this excellent YouTube video: <http://community.clayaround.com/lisa-pavelka-sutton-slice.html>

Lisa also told us about her technique of melting embossing powders and dipping beads into it to create an effect. This is done on a bead created with a flower cane it can produce lovely 3D effects. She did warn that on a hot day and a lot of efforts it went misty after a few months - so maybe it is worth experimenting with caution.

Meanwhile, have I drawn your attention to the samples that Helen Breil has produced to show off her stamping. Really stunning: <http://community.clayaround.com/helen-breil-page.html> - look at the slide show. She uses Inka Gold with Gilders paste both available on Clayaround:



**We now have a stock of Perfect Pearls** (<http://www.clayaround.com/index.php?cPath=40&osCsid=d19ad5e8ce74fac8f955803372feb712->

and as you will see we have single colours as well as sets) which is similar to Pearlex, but which has a binder in it so its uses can be extended. For instance you don't have to put a layer of sealant onto your work as you do when putting Pearlex onto cured clay. I have mentioned it before, but you can also create faux 'Glimmer mist' by putting a small amount of Perfect Pearls into an atomiser spray bottle, with a little food colouring and lots of water (and shake!) Lovely effects can be achieved (using stencils on your clay) and you can create as many colours as you have

Carol Blackburn is running a series of workshops at West Dean College, Chichester, this year. She is an outstanding clayer and teacher if you are interested :

<https://www.westdean.org.uk/CollegeChannel/ShortCourses/Courses/Ref=S13TD3876> and

<https://www.westdean.org.uk/CollegeChannel/ShortCourses/Courses/Ref=S133D4022>

She is also doing an introduction to Polymer clay jewellery from 27th April at the same college but they don't appear to have listed it yet! Contact me if you are interested.

Next month I will be in Croydon at the Sarah Shriver workshop and will also be in Lichfield for two days the following weekend. On the 27th of Polymer Pamper Play I will be available with lots of goodies too. And the bad news is.....Fimo prices have gone up for the first time in years. The good news is.....all the rest of the clays stay at the same price being.

Finally, our next Clayday in Wales will be on 27<sup>th</sup> April where we'll be meeting a number of new people. Details here:

<http://community.clayaround.com/welsh-claydays.html>



imagination -and atomizer bottles !

Another of my ventures this month was to trek (through the snow) to see Alison Gallant demonstrating, to the London Group, how she uses her beautiful silk screens to produce patterns onto clay. You can buy the screens here:

<http://www.millefioristudio.com/chains-findings.html> - and the technique is very simple. Put the silk screen onto your raw clay and spread acrylic paint over it with a credit card, being sure to wash the screen immediately after you have created the impression.



In London I was also taken by the necklace worn, and made, by Na colours are quite lovely, and isn't the detail stunning? You can see <http://www.hopedesignjewellery.co.uk/page2.htm>

Preconceived ideas are the locks on the door to wisdom – and creativity  
Anon.

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