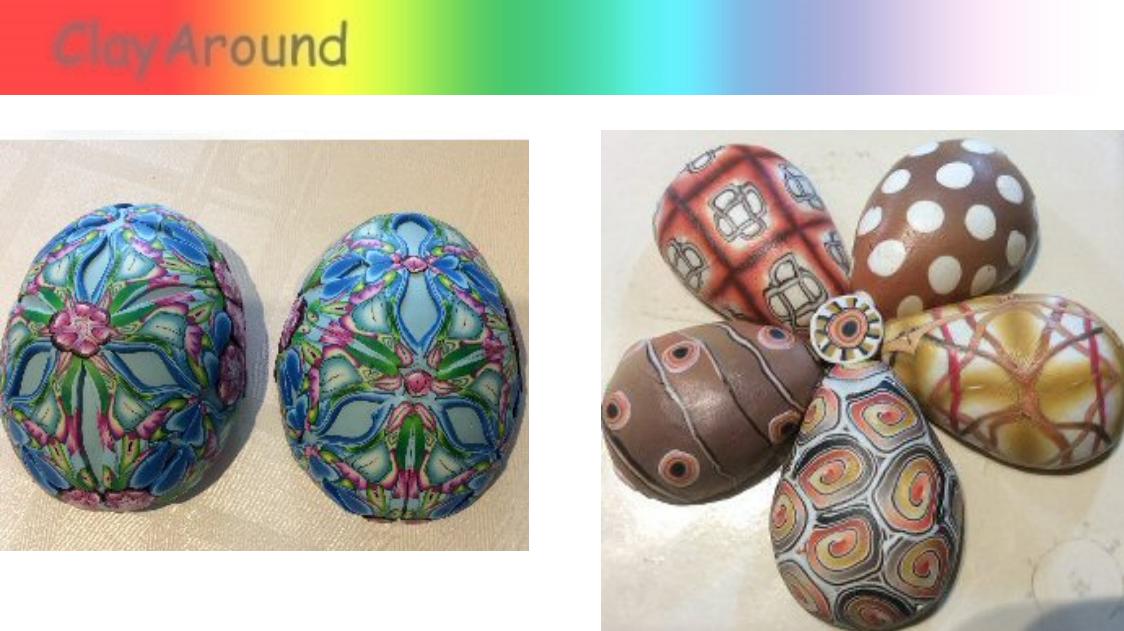


# March 2018

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## Your ClayAround Newsletter



Well, last month's newsletter resulted in quite a lot of 'egg comment' Jennifer Greenwood in particular did eggcraft for a number of years so was particularly interested in the references. She even has a special tool for marking the centre top and bottom of eggs which is apparently on [this website](#) However it is worth looking at the eggs on the site even though it is not polymer clay, for there is some stunning work.

Last month David Osborne pointed out that in 2006 he had written an article about preparing eggs to cover – but he was covering in [papier mache](#).- worth reading never-the-less. And I have since found some Easter eggs made of papier mache but with [Polymer clay decoration](#)

So I couldn't resist continuing the theme and finding eggs for Easter, mainly concentrating (for its not too late) on how to make simple eggs with the children.

The [first one](#) is a tutorial for simple decoration and the [second one](#) looks as if it uses extrusions, but it doesn't! A [third one](#) is another tutorial with simple ideas. This further one is [applique..](#) Have you made any [Stroppel canes](#) with your scrap lately, for if you have you can use that on an egg as well. If you are a person who can

Follow me on Instagram with my handle @the\_mother\_stroppel\_clay - https://www.instagram.com/the\_mother\_stroppel\_clay/

Follow instructions without pictures the [Marina Stewart](#) website has some instructions. Even '[Cane builder](#)' has a tutorial with lots of ideas on her website. There are lots of simple ideas on the [stitch and sew](#) website. Then there is a [petal egg](#) which would be fun for a child to make.

Looking at some rather more sophisticated Easter eggs you might like these that have used [extrusions](#) or these using [filigree and stamps](#). I love this one which is covered with a [skinner blend](#) – so simple yet so effective.

Top left are a couple of eggs created this week by Bonnie McGough. ( Bonnie has been creating and demonstrating polymer clay for almost 30 years - Google for her and you will find more of her work ) Of course we just have to include [dragon eggs](#) so Mandarin Moon has some examples

Not had enough yet? Here is a [Pinterest page](#) full of them and not all polymer clay, but [these are pretty spectacular](#).

I do hope your Easter is peaceful and celebrated in the way that is appropriate for you.

A reminder – it is April Fool's day tomorrow as well as Easter Sunday – do not let the children catch you out! The picture top right is a pendant made by Helen Cruickshank – it is not a collection of Easter eggs!



Well, the Easter Break has precipitated some 'housekeeping' on the shopping cart so I have produced a '[Reduced stock](#)' page onto which I will constantly add a supply of goods that are considerably reduced in price. Added to this you will see that I have a new supply of [texture sheets](#) from Lisa Pavelka. The fashion is to sell texture sheets singly but she still sells two in a pack, so they are excellent value.

Polymania left us low on Kato



Di Wilkins has a story to tell. above is a necklace made of souffle clay that is sitting on a stone from Budleigh Salterton Beach which is also covered in souffle clay and slices of translucent clay. Di explained to me: 'Di, Jane, Jenny, Mel and Sue - we are five passionate amateur photographers who about 3 or 4 years ago went to photograph the Woolsery

(predictable given that it was a Kato sponsored set of workshops) but we are expecting a delivery on Tuesday so will be up to speed with what is most popular.

Oh and my experiments with crackle paint came to nought so I am investigating other brands at the recommendation of so many people who populate and offer excellent advice on Facebook.

**Our next clayday is on 7th April - Details and directions [here](#) as usual. But do let me know if you are coming! Do look at that link and see what creative ideas our people come up with!**

**Look at the work of Fiona Abel-Smith [here](#). I am so very impressed with her work. She is currently producing a series of free YouTube video tutorials, mostly of cane making. They are clear and concise and her lovely gentle voice is a joy. I recommend that you simply go to YouTube, search for Fiona Abel Smith, and sign up to her series of quite excellent videos.**

Show in North Devon. It was there that we met [Jo Hunter](#) displaying her beautiful polymer clay jewellery.

Before we know it we have booked up on one of her courses to learn the basics. Since then we have got together once a month to have a day chatting and making jewellery. We try to conquer a new process each time we meet. We especially like Soufflé clay as it is not so difficult to soften.

Since the beginning things have moved on apace for some of us. Sue moved to silver clay and then onto silversmithing; Jenny produces in profusion and sells her items at a shop and at fayres; Mel dabbles and Jane and I just make things for ourselves, giving most of it away to admirers.

We love the excuse to meet up and learn something new which would not have come about if we had not already indulged in our photographic passion. One hobby leading to another!"

Well - you can find details about Di on her website [here](#)

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Creativity is contagious, pass it on .

Albert Einstein

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