

## Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



I am unashamedly going to feature magnets this month as I have many available that have so many uses. [These](#) are the large ones but we have smaller ones too. I first discovered them when Helen Breil produced one of her brilliant tutorials using magnets. You can find her tutorial [here](#). (Most examples I have found use 'low level magnetism' circular magnets. The ones we have are much stronger). Fimo have a [nice tutorial](#) for a start and here is a video for a couple of easy [Christmas fridge magnets](#): There are more Christmas ideas here – they call them [retro magnets](#) and a pretty [little house](#) to make as well. This [little fellow](#) is a must to copy as a fun piece. Here is a [another tutorial](#) showing how to make a father Christmas – lots of transferrable skills too. Continuing this train of thought, he company called 'tinythingsbybownen' have [loads of ideas](#). [This piece](#) reminded me that it doesn't have to be just fridges that are a place for magnets. What is being sold here is a winter scene with interchangeable pieces all on magnets. My major memory when a child was having a piece of firm card on top of what were creatures with magnets affixed, and underneath a second magnet that I could move to make the creatures move without the mechanism being seen. I have photographed on this albeit on the edge of a card to demonstrate what I mean (up left). I spent many hours playing with these.

There are many animals one could make. Here is a [YouTube video](#) of farm

animals. On this site there are some more [exotic animals](#) and we must not forget Cara's lovely cat tutorial (and this one even has a [Christmas hat](#))

Finally, why just focus on Christmas? I have been particularly attracted to [these foxes](#) for they are simply elegant. And of course the fridge magnets can be sophisticated. Look at these lovely [Mandala's](#) made with silk screens.

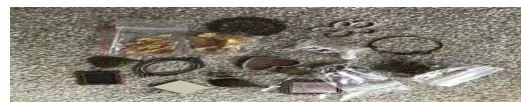
With Helen Breil's idea in mind, you can make lovely brooches using magnets: one on the piece and one under the garment.. Fiona Abel Smith lovely artwork (top right) would be ideal (and there are [tutorials for these](#)).

There are so many possibilities for you to make stocking fillers or small pieces to sell at Christmas fairs, so now is the time to get making!



Brexit is on my mind so I have been buying (mostly from Europe) before nasty tariffs overtake us! The result is lots of interesting goodies. For instance I have found some of [Lisa Pavelka's texture stamps](#). I have always favoured these because they are good quality and deep cut so are versatile. You will see, too, in the picture above, that I have bought some value for money [Pinata Exciter Packs](#) if you are collecting Pinata Alcohol inks.

We have some new Moiko silk screens, and have bought one at



Liz Welsh, a member of the polymer clay community has died. She was a talented artist and capable clayer. Her friends have offered to sell her large quantity of crafting goods on behalf of her estate, bequeathing the proceeds to Breast Cancer Now. They have put together over 100 'goodie bags' that are exceptional value (an example above, but every one will be different) and I encourage you to go to the web page that has been built in her memory, and [buy now](#). ClayAround will forward the proceeds on your behalf.

A reminder that I offer the opportunity for you to give gift vouchers, and Christmas is, of course, the ideal time. Just email me saying what

least of her double screens – they [over lay](#) on each other creating particularly clever designs.

If you want more textures you might be interested in these fun [texture rollers](#), inexpensive and effective:

I have increased the range of Cernit colours again too - Number One and Opaline. Cernit does seem to be popular now and has overtaken Pardo in popularity. However, [Pardo translucent clay](#) is still very much in demand.

My Kato supplier has stopped stocking Kato [concentrates](#), but I have had requests from more than one person for them, and I have found some from a different supplier. Here is [a review](#) of them if you don't know what they are.

Being near to Christmas I inevitably want to remind you of how versatile these new [Christmas templates](#) are. These, too, could be fridge magnets, for they are quick to make and would be ideal gifts this season.

As you can see I have been busy ostensibly 'before Brexit' (but one wonders if it will ever happen) Sadly the effect on businesses is profound with the fluctuation pound affecting prices, so you will inevitably see

[amount you want your giftee to receive and £4.50 will be added to that amount for postage. I will send you an invoice and will set up a code \(of your choosing\) for that person to use on the shopping cart.](#)

It was in 2016 that I featured Helen Cruickshank previously. Since then she has become a recognised teacher and clayer. Helen is known for being a top carriage horse driver in the UK, but now she is getting a reputation for her polymer clay work. Helen is an animal lover and works closely with her father's animals and birds on their small farm. Between them they have a plethora of cats and dogs too, animals that are near to her heart. But her overriding interest is polymer clay. She has been teaching a lot (more than once for my claydays) and went down a storm with the Irish Guild.

This week Polymer Clay Adventure (PCA) announced their collection of tutors (over 20 of them) and Helen is one of them. If you are interested then [book here](#)

Below is a picture of what she is teaching – 'Pat the flat cow' as with all her animal creations it is fun. You may have seen her book with more

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prices creeping up.

The recent bad news is that Staedtler tell me they won't have any Professional White 454gm blocks available until the end of November, and that means not available to me till mid December when they shut down for Christmas so probably won't be available until the new year. Not impressive organisation on their part m'thinks! (We still have Soft white 454gm blocks however)

creatures, [available here](#). Helen now has a [blog](#) on her website too.



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'crafting empties your wallet but fills your soul'

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