

September Newsletter

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



You know by now that we have a new website, and after one or two “blips”™ it seems to be working well. Do let me know if you feel there should be improvements, and if the system allows I will do something about it.

I have just returned from three days in the Cotswolds at Polydays “ as ever a brilliant three days of workshops instigated by Alison Gallant and including Christine Dumont and Loretta Lam. People attending the workshops have let me take photos which I will be sharing.

Meanwhile, however, I have been playing with the “patchy moulds”™. I regularly do talks to the WI teaching them to make random canes as their first step. I discovered to my delight that if you put a random cane into a patchy mould you have a butterfly with all the patterns which you would otherwise spend hours producing “ all within minutes (see top left).

I also tried putting some lace on some clay into the patchy leaf mould and produced a lovely effect (adding pearlex too).(See top right) So “ on our clayday next Sunday we intend to experiment further with lace to see what we can achieve.

And here are some ideas for lace, not just embossing. Including lace into designs can be really lovely. See this lace jewellery [here](#). And scroll down on the website [here](#) to see some silk lace effectively added to a blue polymer background. As I have dabbled in making more delicate bobbin lace I found the idea of including lace in a design attractive. Chantilly lace is used [here](#). Using Tatting for edges would be particularly effective too.

It is not difficult to use lace to make exceptionally effective texture designs. Look at this lovely bowl [here](#). Or you may simply enjoy using it for jewellery. [here](#) is a simply idea:

Another really good idea is to buy silicone lace molds or much better, make them yourself, see these [here](#).



Mel Muir taught us how to finish our work as immaculately as she does by finishing the work before it is even cured. One of her favourite tricks is to smooth her work with Layout paper (paper that has a cotton base) so that you have minimal sanding to do after curing. A pad of layout paper will last you a lifetime (!) so I have put together inexpensive packs of 24 x A5 sheets for you to buy. You will see them amongst the Accessories on the new website.

The Lucy tools are selling fast, and Christmas is on the way. We still have slicers available and a very special Chrome slicer if you are feeling extravagant. We also have extruder sets available they include the first 5 of the discs, a long extruder and a vice. The vice is designed to hold your extruder whilst



Debbie Bulford was at the workshop at the weekend and she ran with the ideas that Alison was presenting and produced this lovely cuff. The necklace was as a result of the valuable experience of the use of colour which Loretta Lam shared. Lovely work!

Debbie has written a book mostly for beginners, but with lots of useful hints and tips. It can be bought on Amazon: Polymer Clay Jewellery Projects. And she also has a website you might like to look at [here](#).

The next Clayaround clayday will next Sunday, 5th October details [here](#)

Oh, and of course we have Souffle clay now too! Lets hope they let us have some black and white very soon however!

Improvements to the layout of the newsletter are courtesy of the valuable

you wind the handle saving a lot of effort for weary hands " as with all the Lucy tools, a very clever design. And we have individual long extruders too.

advice given to me by Christine Dumont - a very special person and artist! Let me know if this layout is kinder to you!

"Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions."

Albert Einstein

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