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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



Fiona Abel-Smith and Angela Smith run the South Midland's Clayday group in Buckinghamshire, and I had the privilege of visiting them recently. It is a credit to Fiona's teaching that the picture top right is of face canes that were made by mostly beginners who attend the group. If you know Fiona's work, you know it is meticulous – and her teaching preparation was too: I learned so much. She was demonstrating how one could make faces a la Alice Stoppel – if you haven't seen Alice's work you can see it [here](#)

Producing eyes is the most difficult part of the construction, and you can see [here](#) how Barbara McGuire manages to get depth. Bonnie Kreger obviously went to one of Barbara's workshops and shows more examples [here](#) A YouTube [video](#) by Mo Clay from Italy shows you another version of the method of making fun faces.

If you want to make canes then you could start with a simple one like the one [here](#). You could produce a more sophisticated one like the one shown [here](#) You could gain inspiration from Claire Wallace's work [here](#) or you could even buy her [Craft Edu tutorial](#).

[Here](#) is a useful visual tutorial on how to put all the pieces together and Here is a different approach which may appeal to some on an [old video](#) we have seen before.

And finally there is a serious amount of information available at the [glass attic](#) Of course I am bound to suggest that if you don't want to make face canes, you

could always buy one of Penni Joa€™™s excellent [face moulds!](#)



We have foils! I am delighted to say that I have found an economical supply of foils that can be burnished onto your clay. We have 19 colours available. They are the successor to Jones Tones foils which are now discontinued. Foils are lovely decorations in their own right and Lisa Pavelka invariably gave texture to them with her array of texture sheets. But how about using silk screens on the foils for effect? With that we are opening up yet more unending possibilities.

And talking of silk screensâ€¦! Top left you will see one of Moikaâ€™™s silk screens. This is one I commissioned from her using the Vingoe logo that was drawn for me many years ago. For me, what is so great is that using different sizes, I can put the tiny logo onto jewellery I have made, and I can use the larger ones for business cards or labels. The possibilities keep popping up in my mind! She is now offering to produce similar screens for anyone who is interested. You provide the design and she will convert it into a vector and produce the screens. Full details can be found [here](#)

We still have a large variety of Penni Joa€™™s Molds, and she is keen to let



I met Caroline Schuler on the Carol Simmons course. As you can see Carolineâ€™™s work is quite brilliant.. And she was so very interesting to talk to, not the least giving a perspective on East Germany where she spent her young years before â€˜the wallâ€™™ came down. the history she relayed to me was fascinating. She is also a lawyer working for a large company: how differently the law system works in Germany. When she was young her family gave her the nickname â€˜Earlâ€™™ and she says she likes having such a sophisticated name which is why you can find her work on on [her website](#) with the same name. She also has a flickr page where you can find more of her [superb work](#) Subsequent to our having met, using the cane she made with Carol as decoration, she sent me a wonderful toadstool. You can see many more of these on her flickr page. they are delightful. You will see there, too, many examples of her very exacting work.

The next clayday will be on Sunday September 18th. As usual details can be found [here](#). We are priviledged to have a visit from Helen Cruickshank very soon so we will organise another

you know that she has produced [another mold](#), the scissor-tail Flycatcher. I do not have it in stock currently but if it interests you I can, of course, acquire it. She has also reminded me that anyone can download her free tutorials. You can find them [here](#)

very soon so we will organise another clayday around her visit - watch Facebook for details.

Today is the day that bookings for Polymania are open – have you booked yet?

Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen, and thinking what no one else has thought

Einstein

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ClayAround
Larkrise,
Garthmyl
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