

November 2016

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Your ClayAround Newsletter

ClayAround



It all started when Helen Cruikshank told me she had bought a wonderful tutorial from [Craftcast](#) teaching her how to make pods. It is an excellent tutorial by [Doreen Kassel](#) and you will see an example of her work above left: Doreen's style is so reminiscent of my mother who was a well known professional artist. That is "creativity is king" and "making a mess" is irrelevant to an artist who is a genius!

So what better topic for this month's newsletter. But then, what do I find, Ginger has beaten me to it with a very motivational [collection of images](#). However, we can't ever have enough inspiration "so its inspiration rather than tutorials today! To start with the best, I would direct you to the amazing work of [Kathleen Dustin](#). These Nigella pods are lovely "but do look at her other work, some of which is quite phenomenal.

Whilst Kathleen makes handbags, here is a [glass container](#) made into a pod, or you could simply make earrings like [these](#) or create something with [Klew's signature beads](#) or make a variety of jewelry pieces similar to this piece (further down the page) called 'Metamorphosis' by [Cynthia Toops](#).

This [pinterest page](#) is full of ceramic seed pods, but who says they have to be ceramic?

Finally if you want to venture into wood, there is an interesting idea [here](#).

My pods, top right, are going to go into my garden amongst some pebbles and rocks

that are now under a fir tree, a tree that simply won't let anything grow under it! They will surely multiply.



This is the last newsletter before Christmas so I naturally feel I should remind you that it is not too late to make Christmas goodies. In particular the wonderful moulds from Penni Jo are ideal for making last minute tree decorations or with the tiny moulds decorations for parcels. Above is a combination of the "Here Comes Santa Claus", the Poinsettia and Holly, "Santa's Elves" and "Santa's face and holly". They can all be found [here](#)

What about choosing to have polymer clay associated stocking fillers? Here are some ideas:

[Buna Cord](#) (£1.50 metre)

[Ring blanks](#) (you could pop some clay into those!) (£1.20)

[Small scissors](#) (£1.50)

[Atomiser spray bottle](#) (80p)

[Fine Glitter](#) (45p)

[Texture sheets](#) (£1.50)



Lauren Melling currently lives in Preston in Lancashire and was in the military for a time, and subsequently qualified as a lawyer. She became ill and occupational therapy was recommended "and from there she found polymer clay! Now, like so many of us, she is addicted! She is very new to polymer clay and has already expressed how very happy she is to be part of the polymer clay community.

She is a fan of Donna Kato's work so Japanese netsuke beads are motivating her, and of course lots of reds. She is also experimenting with mokume gane.

She left me standing when she explained this::

'With the Indian red clay and chocolate for example I will make faux cinnabar from them, mould to make Japanese netsuke beads so one large on the cord and a netsuke with O rings over the holes. With the inks and translucent clay I will make layered cabochons and inked cabochons.'

Above is one of the pieces she has created. I do love her work and will look forward to seeing more examples of what she has been doing.

[3 x 3 acrylic plate](#) (Â£1)

Finally â€“ the price of Pan Pastels are going to rocket with the next order (â€˜Brexitâ€™ is blamed!) so buy now. **If you buy three or more colours we will give you one of [these](#) Kemper made sponges free with your order!**

This offer is until January 1st 2017!

Our next Clayday is on January 14th 2017 - details [here](#) as usual. Holiday season over by then, so an ideal opportunity to relax with some clay and meet lots of interesting people. All welcome.

At ClayAround we sincerely hope that the Christmas season is how you want it to be.

Donâ€™t get your tinsel in a tangle! Continue to sparkle!

Anon

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