



Clay Times

The Newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 4: May 2007

May Mayhem! in Christchurch

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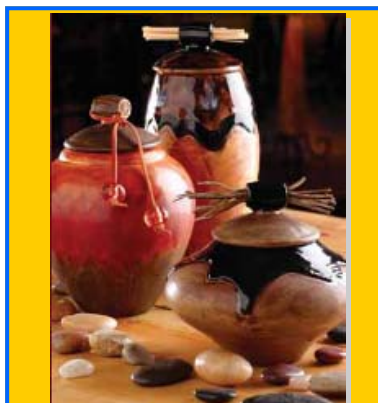
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May will be a busy month at The Clay Studio hence we are calling it May Mayhem. There will be something for everyone at The Clay Studio with fun new bisque in stock, a new menu and extensive breakfast menu and our first Family Fun Day. What's more, we are also launching our Clay Friends membership scheme for regular visitors.

Clay Friends is designed for those who are regular visitors to The Clay Studio and offers more than just Studio Fee discounts. An annual Clay Friends membership is available for adults, children and families and offers the following benefits:

- No Studio Fee payable.
- Member only special offers.
- 10% discount on Painting Academy courses for adults and children.
- Bonus for introducing new member (free plate or mug for both).
- Free tea and coffee when painting (one per session).

Full details are available at The Clay Studio, on our Web site or through e-mail to Clay Times subscribers.



Create these vases

Everything available to enable you to make these masterpieces



Our first Family Fun Day takes place on Saturday 19 May 2007. All painters win the chance to win an annual family membership to Clay Friends. For this day only, we will be reducing the Studio Fee for families. Two adults and two children will be able to paint for a total Studio Fee of £10 instead of the usual £16 Studio Fee. We have a lot of new bisque in stock with prices varying from £4 to £49. New items include snack and turtle boxes, different-sized milk jugs, new types of mug and plate and dress-shaped vases.

We will also have a chocolate fountain as well as free face painting for children (and adults if they wish!). No booking is necessary for this Family Fun day.

Throughout May we will be offering Coffee & Coasters every morning. For just £5 you can have a cup of our highly-praised coffee (served to your taste) and be able to paint a coaster. This is a great way to try out painting for little more than the cost of a second cup of coffee.

A marriage proposal

Leon Cass and Steph Powell from Southampton will always remember their visit to The Clay Studio on 1 April. Actually, we met Leon a couple of days earlier when he commissioned us to paint a very special cappuccino cup and saucer. What was special about it? It carried the phrase "Will you marry me?"

Steph thought Leon has lined up a fun painting session at The Clay Studio in Christchurch. He works in Christchurch. However, on completing her pottery piece, she was presented with an empty cappuccino cup. Well, not quite empty but with the painted proposal and an engagement ring in place of the frothy coffee.

Leon told The Clay Studio: "I'm not a traditional person and, instead of asking her over a candlelit meal in a restaurant, I wanted to ask her in a way that was original and creative."



The fact that you paint the pottery yourself makes every piece unique and memorable. Not only that, every gift is much more personal than if it had been purchased in a shop. With Easter, Father's Day as well as birthdays and anniversaries coming up, The Clay Studio offers an opportunity to create something very special. We also serve great coffee, even if not every cup comes with a marriage proposal!

Ask us about your own special commissions.

News from The Painting Academy

Each Painting Academy module offers a series of six different projects. The modules are not progressive, i.e. they do not become more difficult, but the projects are different. Module 2 has been running since mid-April. Two of the projects are shown here and can be completed either as part of Module 2 or on any visit to The Clay Studio.



Our ceramic blackboards use special paint that can be fired to allow chalk messages to be written on them.

The square bowl has been completed using sgrafitto tools that etch out a pattern on the painted bisque prior to firing.

Check for the new Painting Academy dates on page 4.

Collect Clay Points

Regular visitors to The Clay Studio can now benefit from the Clay Points scheme. Collect a card on your visit to The Clay Studio. Each time you pay a full price Studio Fee, whether it is for an adult or child, you will receive one Clay Points stamp. Once you have collected six stamps, you can redeem the card against your next Studio Fee.



The Magic Kiln Room

Why do we call it "The Magic Kiln Room"? It is simple. When glazed pieces are fired in one of our kilns they undergo a magical transformation. The two lighthouse plates illustrate the before and after kiln looks very well. Both plates have been painted with exactly the same paints with three coats of each colour. The right-hand plate is still to be glazed but look at how much more matt and dull the colours are. The fired plate on the left shows just how bright and vibrant the colours become once they have been glazed and fired. Always look at the post-kiln colours when choosing paint so that you can expect the changes.



Masterclass: Additions

At The Clay Studio we now have a range of "Additions" that can be attached to any item although they are probably best-suited to plates.

Additions are painted separately and are attached to the plate during the glazing process.

Different themes are available so that your plate can be enhanced with suitable pieces. These include:

- Beach & sea
- Babies
- Music
- Sports
- Princesses
- Animals



Additions provide extra interest

Check out the new menu

We have recently launched a new menu that has more options for lunches and snacks as well as more locally-sourced products.



In view of the warmer weather we have added a number of salad options including prawn and smoked salmon. Each of these has a bed of fresh, local mixed leaves.

The best coffee in Christchurch?

Well, a number of people have said that The Clay Studio offers the best coffee. We will let you judge that for yourself.

We take pride in the coffee we serve and spent a long time prior to opening The Clay Studio looking at different coffee options. We now buy our beans from Verde Coffee. These beans are roasted within a few days of being supplied to us and we grind them as late as possible so that we can maintain maximum freshness.

Our decaffeinated coffee is ground to order from beans and this ensures that the quality of the decaffeinated coffee matches that of our standard coffee.



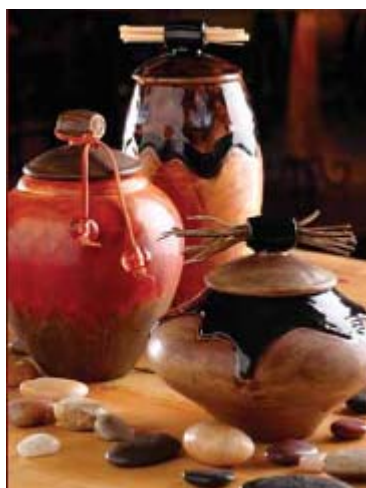
A range of quiches and filled pastry tarts is now available that have options such as goats cheese & red pepper or

salmon flakes in peppercorn sauce.

Masterpieces in Minutes

It couldn't be any easier. Each of these vases can be created by painting the special glazes onto the vase and the lid. Choose between a variety of different of glaze finishes, add the lid and your masterpiece is ready for firing. Astound your friends and family with what you have created.

The Masterpiece in Minutes range of vases and glazes is now available at The Clay Studio. Choose your combination and you can make one of these elegant vases.



Why not try breakfast at The Clay Studio? We always aim to offer something a little bit different and make eating out for breakfast a pleasure and a new experience. Naturally, our bread for toast or sausage and bacon sandwiches is baked locally in Bransgore. Try free-range scrambled eggs with smoked salmon and toast triangles. If you have a sweet tooth we can offer Clay Studio Blueberry Pancakes, fresh pancakes with Purbeck Ice Cream, fresh blueberries and drizzled with New Forest Honey. All of this with Minute Maid Orange & Passion Fruit juice or a New Forest Smoothie and superb Clay Studio coffee makes a great start to the day in Christchurch.

How To Find Us

The Clay Studio is right in the centre of Christchurch.

The Clay Studio
12a Castle Street
Dorset BH23 1DT

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www.theclaystudio.co.uk
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**Painting Academy dates***Module 1*

- Six weeks from Thursday 17 May 2007 at 7pm

Module 2

- Six weeks from Wednesday 9 May 2007 at 10am

Module 3

- Six weeks from Tuesday 5 June 2007 at 7pm

Kidz Painting Academy

Little Painters (6-10 years) (10am Sunday morning)

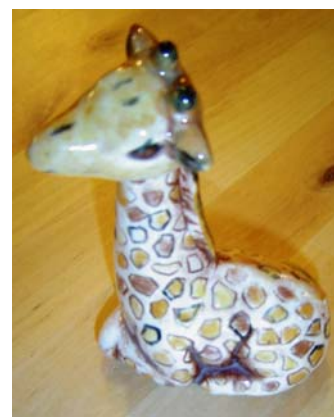
6 May - Module 3
13 May - Module 4
20 May - Module 5
27 May - Module 6

Young artists (11-16) (2pm Sunday afternoon)

6 May - Module 3
13 May - Module 4
20 May - Module 5
27 May - Module 6

Half Term sessions (Father's Day Plate)

30 May 10am
1 June 10am



Learn antiquing in Module 1



Win a free Studio Fee

Every month there are ten free Clay Studio passes for Clay Times readers to win. At the end of May, ten readers will receive a free pass for a full fee Studio Fee at The Clay Studio.

Either leave with us in The Clay Studio or send the entry form by post.

Note that entries are limited to one per household.

Please enter me in the monthly draw for one of ten free studio passes

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Please send me Clay Times every month:

Note that your details will be held by the Clay Studio and not passed on to any other organisation.

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