



Clay Times

The Newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 14: August / September 2008

Autumn Events - Something for Everyone!

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By popular demand we are adding to our range of Painting Academy courses at The Clay Studio.

Glass fusing Beginners will now take place on the second Sunday of every month. The full-day course will teach about glass products, how to use glass, "health & safety" and help you to create five projects. From there, you can call in anytime and complete a glass project. The next Beginners course will take place on Sunday 12 October from 11-3.

We have been running Claying Around workshops as part of Kidz Painting Academy sessions. We have now developed a number of adult Claying Around projects as these can be undertaken as part of a Painting Academy course. Photos of the completed projects will be available on www.theclaystudio.co.uk soon.

Our next Kidz Painting Academy workshops will run during the October half-term week and will include two different Halloween projects as well as a Claying Around clay building project. Details of these will be available very soon.

Following the success of the Kidz Halloween Party in 2007, we will be repeating this in 2008. Again details will be available soon. If you wish to mark the date in your diary, it is 31 October at 6pm.

Other events that we have planned for the autumn include our next Diva night which promises to be a lot of fun and raise funds for charity in the process. More about this in the next issue of Clay Times.

We will also have Christmas pottery available as well as a range of single-day and multiple project Christmas painting courses. This will include a project to complete a light-up ceramic Christmas tree.

Some forthcoming courses:



Halloween pottery now available including pumpkins, skulls, witches and wizards. Spooky!



Time to start thinking about Christmas

In 2007, pottery painting proved to be very popular, not only for very personal Christmas presents but The Clay Studio also showed it was a great place for a Christmas party. Our large area is ideal for family parties as well as office parties. We have a full menu as well as specific function menus that we can discuss with you. This year we are also licensed so there is a choice of wines, beers, ciders and cocktails, often made locally. As ever, we are always flexible so that what we can offer meets your requirements.

Of course you can paint Christmas items all year round. We have a special range of Christmas pottery that will be on the shelves from the beginning of November. Why not check out the Gallery on the Web site to see the type of pieces that have been painted for Christmas 2007 and 2008.



New bisque now available

We have just taken delivery of over 20 new stock items. These include a range of sea-related pottery such as mermaids, sea horses, crabs, pirate figurines, different dolphins and more. We also have a range of contemporary items such as sushi plates, wavy side plates, ying and yang nibble dishes.

We also have very large VW camper vans, hens which are almost full size (but don't lay eggs). For the kitchen we have new jugs, toast racks, gravy boats, quiche dishes and the chip & dip bowl is back on the shelf.

Competition

Name the crab: we are offering a free Studio Fee for the best suggestion by the end of September.

E-mail crustacian@theclaystudio.co.uk



Clay Babies

Painting Academy for Mums and Babies

Create Mementos and Gifts to Remember those Special Early Days

Pottery painting has proved to be a great way of remembering a baby or child's early days. Our newest Painting Academy course has been designed for mums to have painting fun with their little ones and create four very special mementos or gifts.

- Clay Imprints (framing extra)
- Clock with Baby's Hands / Feet
- Two Mugs with Hands / Feet
- Creative Piece – Several Options

Clay Babies runs every Tuesday at 10am and 2pm. Each four-week course is just £95 including all clay, pottery, paints, glazing & firing and tuition by trained The Clay Studio staff. The course is flexible so it is not necessary to attend every Tuesday, just let us know when you will be attending. Places on the Clay Babies course will be limited and advance booking is essential.



Chill out evenings at The Clay Studio

Don't forget that we are open until 10pm on **Thursdays and Fridays**. Our full range of food and drinks is available all evening. This is a great way to chill out after work or after looking after the kids all days. Get yourself some precious "me-time".

From our Kidz Summer Workshops.....

**Masterclass: Fun writers**

This fabulous Halloween plate was created using the banding and opaque techniques previously outlined in Masterclass. With minimal instruction you can use our underwriter bottles to create great designs very quickly. The best way to learn these techniques is to sign up for our Painting Academy workshops. This plate will be included as one of the Painting Academy workshops during October.

Fun writers can be used to create detailed designs very quickly and are also an easy option for writing on pottery. To use the fun writer choose your colour. They use the same colours as our standard paints. Remove the pin and practise using the fun writer on a palette. The way you squeeze the bottle and the speed with which you move it will determine the effect. Once you have the feel of the writer, transfer your design to the pottery.

**Have a Piddle at The Clay Studio**

The Clay Studio takes pride in being able to work with the best local suppliers to ensure that our visitors have a choice of high quality local food and drinks. Amongst these is the recently-founded Dorset Piddle Brewery. Based in Piddlehinton near Dorchester, the brewery was started by Rob and Paul who own Ye Olde George Inn close to The Clay Studio.



The brewery produces around 300 gallons of ale every week. Its range of five beers includes a monthly special that is changed so that it has a seasonal twist. The "house" beer "Piddle", named after the river, is a 4.1% strength beer that is easy-to-drink and very refreshing. This available in bottles at The Clay Studio and is a genuine real ale in a bottle.

The microbrewery handles the full brewing process from mashing (extracting the sugars from the malted barley) to boiling with the hops, fermentation and filling of casks or bottles. The photo shows from, right to left, the liquor (hot water) tank, Paul, the mash tun and copper.

Piddle has already proved to be very popular with visitors to The Clay Studio.

How To Find Us

The Clay Studio is right in the centre of Christchurch.

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Some recent masterpieces



Family Painting Super Sundays

Sundays are a great time for getting the family to paint together. From September until 19 October 2008 families paint for a combined Studio Fee of just £10. This compares with £16 usually.

Our full range of food and drinks is available all day so why not make a day of it? If you are thinking of painting Christmas presents we have plenty of ideas and our staff are always on hand to give advice, encouragement and even help out if you are short of ideas.

* This covers two adults and two children. Bisque pottery is additional to this

