



Clay Times

The Regular Newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 3: April 2007

Kidz Painting Academy engages young creativity

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The Painting Academy for adults started at The Clay Studio on 30 January (see page 2).

Now our younger visitors are able to learn how to create their own masterpieces and really benefit from their time at The Clay Studio. The Kidz Painting Academy provides two hours of tuition in simple but highly effective pottery painting techniques. There is the choice of a items to paint and finished pieces are available for collection around three days later. This will not only keep children occupied holidays but will help to stimulate their minds and inspire their creativity.



At The Clay Studio, we have already noticed that children are very keen to learn more about pottery painting; they respond very well to the encouragement and the challenges they are given. Some of the pieces painted by younger visitors are shown in this "Clay Times" and illustrate the quality of the painting that we have already seen.

We are now able to announce two future developments for the Kidz Painting Academy. Firstly, we will be running workshop sessions on Sunday mornings and afternoons, starting at 11am for "Little Painters" and 2pm for "Young Artists" and lasting for two hours, as well as during school holidays. Places are strictly limited so advance booking will be necessary.

We will be offering a series of modules so that children can learn a whole range of different techniques, have something to show for it and, most importantly, have fun. Our sessions are divided into Little Painters and Young Artists according to the child's age so that the sessions are more appropriate for them. Forthcoming dates are shown on page 4 of this newsletter and are updated on www.theclaystudio.co.uk.



Saving those pennies?

Check out our range of money boxes.

Fairies, Princesses and Superheroes

We introduced Clay Studio birthday parties in the first issue. We have spoken with many parents and children to find out what they like about parties with us. We then introduced our Fabulous Five and Great Eight parties. These are intended to provide children with a good choice of bisque to paint. For parents, these parties make life easier and give them more control over the party. We enjoy watching the children paint and have been proud to see the high quality of much of what is produced. Furthermore, the parents who join in and paint a signing plate for the children appear to have just as much fun!

Our latest development takes children's parties further with the launch of "Fairies, Princesses and Superhero Parties". These are themed parties where The Clay Studio provides the complete inclusive party experience from sending out the invites to the guest list, to providing the birthday cake, party food and most importantly clearing up. Ideal for time-poor and stressed parents.



A flip-flop proved to be ideal for a beach scene

News from The Painting Academy

Our first Painting Academy course has shown just how easy it is to produce impressive pieces of painted pottery with knowledge of a few simple techniques. Module 1, Introduction to Ceramics, has demonstrated six straightforward painting techniques that produce professional-looking pieces. We will be running Module 1 again at regular intervals including a weekday course. Further modules are now underway with Module 2 starting on 27 March 2007. Course dates are shown on page 4 of this newsletter and are updated on www.theclaystudio.co.uk.



Preserve your memories on a plate

Now you can create a memories plate at The Clay Studio. This is a unique way to capture special times by including "sepia" photographs on a glazed and fired plate. What's more these photographs are "fired" into the plate so they will not rub off over time.

The Clay Studio is running a special Painting Academy session to create a memories plate. The two-session course runs on 15 and 22 April 2007. The paint is painted in week one with the photographs added during the second session.



Advance booking is necessary for this course with the photographs supplied electronically or in advance so that we can scan them. The cost of the two-session course is £45 to include the plate, all tuition, special photograph paper and two firing sessions.



Unique pieces for special occasions

Masterclass: Banding sponges

Have you ever wondered what the black sponge is amongst the different brushes? It is not just for painting large areas but it is a banding sponge, designed for applications such as applying paint around the rim of a mug or the edge of a plate. This makes the task much easier than using a brush and gives a neat straight finish when applied correctly.



Evan using a banding sponge

Simply spread some paint on the palette and place the sponge horizontally on the paint to pick up a decent amount but not too much as the colour will drip down the piece. Run the sponge around the rim a couple of times to ensure the depth of colour. A bit of practice helps but it is that easy to paint rims.

Forest Fresh Foods

The Clay Studio looks to source food and beverages from local suppliers wherever possible. This ensures not just that they do not have to travel far but we are able to take advantage of the fine products that come from Dorset and Hampshire.

Forest Fresh Foods supplies a number of our food items including New Forest Pork Pies and Fruits of the Forest jam. The company is conservation focussed at heart and, wherever possible, they aim to sell and use only naturally-produced, farmed and raised ingredients. Forest Fresh Foods looks to ensure that all animals, whose meat we may use, will have been reared and allowed to live as naturally as possible. The company is a strong supporter of the countryside and farming and supports the preservation of rare breads. Genetically Modified crops are excluded from Forest Fresh Foods products.

The products are all natural and use ingredients from the New Forest wherever possible. We now have Fruits of the Forest jam available in a gift pack with Tomato Relish.

Forest Fresh Foods is based at Avon between Christchurch and Ringwood and products are also available on-line at www.forestfreshfoods.com.



Helping you to Five-a-Day

The Clay Studio is happy to be stocking New Forest Smoothies from 5 April. These offer a delicious blend of spring water and fresh fruits. These are fruits grown within the New Forest wherever possible. There are no artificial colours, preservatives or fruit concentrates, only pure fruit.



Three flavours are available: Strawberry & Banana, Orange & Mango and Summer Berry.

The Clay Studio Café recognises special dietary needs

Providing quality food and beverages in a relaxing environment is one thing but there are many people who, either through choice or necessity, are looking for special ingredients or are unable to consume certain foods.

For this reason, The Clay Studio Café has extended its menu to cater for visitors who are looking for something different.

- Gluten-free cakes and rolls.
- Decaffeinated coffee and tea.
- Soya milk - ever tried a soya latte? Flora margarine as an alternative to butter.

1 in 100 people in the UK suffer from coeliac disease and are unable to eat wheat-based products such as bread and cakes. This makes it very difficult for them to eat out as wheat is at the heart of the British diet. The Clay Studio's new range of gluten-free products mean that they can visit us with their friends and family and not have to worry about what they can or cannot eat. They can enjoy the same range of delicious sandwich fillings as any other café visitor.

The availability of soya milk as an alternative to dairy milk has already proved to be popular with visitors able to choose soya milk for tea or coffee and even soya latte and soya cappuccino.

How To Find Us

The Clay Studio is right in the centre of Christchurch.

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Painting Academy dates

Module 1

Six weeks from 28 March 2007 at 10am

Module 2

Six weeks from 17 April 2007 at 7pm

Kidz Painting Academy

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

- 8 April - Module 5
- 15 April - Module 6
- 22 April - Module 1
- 29 April - Module 2
- 6 May - Module 3
- 13 May - Module 4
- 20 May - Module 5

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

- 8 April - Module 5
- 15 April - Module 6
- 22 April - Module 1
- 29 April - Module 2
- 6 May - Module 3
- 13 May - Module 4
- 20 May - Module 5



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 April, 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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