



Clay Times

The monthly newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 1: December 2006

The Clay Studio opens in Christchurch

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The Clay Studio is the latest fun and creative activity in Christchurch. Situated in Castle Street, the two floors of The Clay Studio provide an inspirational environment for children and adults, guaranteeing fun for families, friends and visitors alike

The Clay Studio is a short walk from the town centre car parks with free 30-minute parking (ideal for pick-ups) even closer. There are also bus stops just outside

Painting pottery generates inspiration and is great fun for everyone. A wide range of bisque is displayed so there is always a multitude of choice. You can choose to paint a small item that is finished quickly and so paint more items in one session or choose a larger piece which may require more than one visit - we will give you a discount on subsequent visits and store your masterpiece carefully for you until your next visit. You can even paint a whole dinner service if you wish - a superb idea for a hen party and gift for the bride and groom! Our experienced and friendly Clay Studio staff are always there to help as much as you wish.

The Clay Studio is the ideal venue for parties. We have a separate upstairs area which can be reserved for your exclusive use and seats up to 30 people comfortably. Paint your own pottery is great fun for children's birthday parties. We are able to provide the food and drink and do all the tidying up afterwards - making it a hassle-free option for busy parents. Painting can also be a fun evening out for friends. We open late Tuesdays and Thursdays so you are welcome to "bring a bottle" - we will provide the

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Have-a-Go Night

Make the Robin plate
Thursday 14 December 2006
See page 3 for details

What's New for December

With Christmas almost upon us, The Clay Studio has a range of seasonal bisque that will be in-stock until the end of December. With school holidays as well, this is a perfect opportunity to create unique Christmas gifts or decorations for the home.



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glasses! Alternatively, sign up for our "Painting Academy" a six-week course for beginners, which will teach you various techniques and give you six masterpieces to take home at the end of each course.

Our range of bisque changes with the seasons so there is always something new to paint. Just now we have Christmas themed bisque in stock which with your creative input will make ideal items for those special gifts or for use as Christmas decorations - or even future heirlooms! The Clay Studio always has a range of unique and quality gifts - ideal for those special Christmas presents.

The Clay Studio also has a Café area which offers a great range of quality food and beverages. We aim to source as much of our food as possible from quality local suppliers. The Café welcomes everyone whether you are painting or not - although you might find you are so inspired by your surroundings that you give the painting a go!

There is most definitely something for everyone at Christchurch's The Clay Studio. Come along and try painting pottery and bring out the artist in you!

Have you thought about.....

having a birthday party at The Clay Studio?

Pottery painting is ideal for children's birthday parties. Come to us for the party and we will ensure that all the children have a wonderful time and have something to show for it afterwards. What's more, a party at The Clay Studio keeps them quiet! We set a side a whole area of The Clay Studio for your party. You can put up balloons, streamers, banners, indeed anything to theme the party. A birthday party at The Clay Studio ensures that all the guests will keep talking about it afterwards and have something unique to go away with.



The pottery painting process

Your first task is to select an item to paint from the range of around 150 unpainted pottery or bisque items that we have in stock. These range from the practical to the flamboyant and there are always some seasonal items.



Check that the piece is clean and free from dust. Also ensure that you wash your hands as any dirt or grease from food will affect the final piece.

Next you need to decide what you are going to paint. You may have something special in mind like a birthday. Alternatively, you can choose a theme or picture to paint. Our staff will help you out if you are struggling with ideas. For more complex projects we have stencils and other tools to make the painting easier. You can draw the design on the bisque

first as any pencil marks will burn off during firing.

Choose the colours and type of paints that you wish to use. Remember that the colour looks very different once it has been glazed and fired so check the colour chart. The paint dries quickly so you can easily add another two or three coats or you can apply a different colour on top. Ask our staff for details of these.

Enjoy yourself painting. There is no hurry to finish it. For larger pieces you may wish to spread the painting over two or more visits. We will look after the piece for you in the meantime.

When you have finished painting, hand the painted bisque to a member of our staff. They will give you a card with a collection date. This will be ready within a few days. If you are unable to collect it in person, we are happy to post it on to you in protective packaging.

Look at the transformation. Our staff will have glazed and fired your pottery. Look how much more vivid the colours are. You now have something unique that you have created yourself.

Drop and shop

How do you keep the children occupied when you are shopping? The Clay Studio's "Drop and Shop" enables you to leave them having fun in a safe environment while you complete your shopping.

Choose from a simple piece to paint that can be finished in one session or paint a more complex item over several sessions. Once finished, the pottery is glazed and fired at The Clay Studio and can be collected a few days later where your child will be amazed at the transformation.

Have-a-Go Night

Do you want to learn how to paint wonderful-looking pieces of pottery? It is really not that difficult if you know the correct techniques.

The Clay Studio's Painting Academy will run from January, offering the chance to learn a variety of different techniques to help you create your own masterpieces. Before that, we will be running the Painting Academy during the evening of Thursday 14th December, starting at 7pm and finishing around 9pm to create the "Robin" plate. This makes an ideal Christmas gift or ornament. Furthermore, it will be a fun evening for everyone taking part.

To book a place on this course, call in, phone or e-mail us and ensure that you have a reserved place. The Painting Academy "Robin" plate costs just £20 to include the bisque, paints, glazing, firing as well as a couple of hours of inspirational fun.



Masterclass: Backgrounds

All the bisque in The Clay Studio will give a shiny white finish when your piece is complete. You can add to the interest and attraction by creating a background. Two of the easiest methods are by sponging and swishy swishy!

Sponging

Using a light colour dilute the colour with a small amount of water (to the consistency of single cream). Take a sea sponge and lightly dip into the paint. Dab this liberally over your piece of bisque. You can then paint your design on the top. Hint - use light to medium colours as dark colour will show through. An example of this is the Rose yellow vase.



Swishy Swishy

This technique gives a very very light background - like a watercolour. Take a light to medium coloured paint. Add water (2 parts of water to 1 part of paint) to create a light milk. Using a large headed brush dab this as a background to your piece. Then continue and finish your masterpiece as desired. Again, dark colour is not recommended as it will show through your lighter colouring. An example of this effect in the Studio is the Robin plate or the Deckchair plate as pictured in this Clay Times.

New to eat and drink at The Clay Studio

The Clay Studio offers a range of quality food and beverages in our café. Have something to eat and drink while you are painting or visit us for a coffee and sandwich while reading the newspapers. Where possible, we source our supplies from local producers, not only helping to guarantee quality but also to support local producers and make The Clay Studio's food representative of the local area.

In Christchurch we are fortunate to be located between Dorset and the New Forest, offering the opportunity to try wonderful local foods. You can try home-made Dorset Apple Cake with double cream or vanilla Purbeck ice cream. Our New Forest Cream Tea includes scones made with New Forest wheat grown near Exbury milled at Eling Tide Mill near Southampton and jam made from New Forest fruits. Most of our bread and cakes comes from Elizabeth's Bakery in Bransgore. Each month if Clay Times we will feature one of our suppliers.



Dorset Blue Vinny Cheese

From time to time we will have something new in The Clay Studio Café. In December we have a turkey sandwich that includes fine turkey with cranberry sauce.

With our opening times including 8am on weekdays, The Clay Studio is a place to have a leisurely breakfast. We can do a sausage or bacon sandwich or even egg mayonnaise and smoked salmon on ciabatta which tastes great. Add to this a tea of coffee and you are set for the day. By the way, you can have breakfast with us at any time.

How to find us

The Clay Studio is right in the centre of Christchurch.

The Clay Studio
12a Castle Street
Dorset BH23 1DT

01202 475000

www.theclaystudio.co.uk
christchurch@theclaystudio.co.uk



The Painting Academy

There are numerous opportunities to paint higher quality pieces by learning different painting techniques, using different types of paints and glazes and by simply learning brushstrokes and building up your painting skills. The Clay Studio's Painting Academy is an ongoing series of evening courses to help you improve your pottery painting and create a series of high quality pieces.

Our first Painting Academy Course is for beginners and starts on Thursday 12 January 2007 and runs for six weeks. Pottery Painting Essentials involves painting one new piece each week with different techniques highlighted. At the end of the course you will have a Painting Academy certificate and you will be able to show off your six newly-discovered skills to friends and family. Further courses will be announced in due course.

Places on Painting Academy Courses are limited so sign up early to ensure your place. Contact academy@theclaystudio.co.uk for more information or to book your place.

Seasonal opening hours

The Clay Studio will close at midday on 24 December 2006 and re-open at 9am on Saturday 30 December 2006. We need a short break too.

It will be possible to collect painted items on 24 December. If you wish to paint, we will not be able to have the finished piece with you until the first week of January.

Painted pottery items are ideal for Christmas presents. In order to ensure we can return your piece to you in time for Christmas, the last definite date for painting before Christmas is 21 December so that we have enough time to glaze and fire the item.



Win a free Studio Fee

Every month there are ten free Clay Studio passes for Clay Times readers to win. At the end of December, ten readers will receive a free pass for a full fee Studio Fee at The Clay Studio during January 2007.

Either leave in the competition box in The Clay Studio or send the entry form to us 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.