



# Clay Times

The Newsletter of The Clay Studio

Issue 5: June 2007

## Weddings at The Clay Studio

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With the wedding season upon us, The Clay Studio has developed a number of possibilities to enhance parts of the wedding with unique hand-painted pottery. Signing plates have already proved to be very popular. These offer an alternative to the guest book. A plate is painted in advance and then taken to the wedding reception with a special marker pen. Each guest signs the plate which is then baked in a normal oven to seal the ink. This provides the bride and groom with a unique souvenir showing the names of all their guests. Plates are also available for hen parties. By the way, The Clay Studio is an excellent location for a hen party. Bring a bottle or two and we can provide food.



There is also the question of what to give the page boys, bridesmaids or ushers. Again a piece of hand-painted pottery is something totally unique and very personal.

The signing plates are also ideal for other events. You do not have to have a wedding. We have already supplied signing plates for special birthdays, anniversaries and retirement parties. There are also great as a memento of a fun time with friends and family.

### Paint something personal



There is no other plate like this in the world. Creating something unique and so personal always means so much more.



### A bear a month

The Clay Studio has added Calendar Bears to the shelves of bisque. There are twelve different bears in the set and we will have a new one available each month.



The June bridesmaid is the first of the collection and will be available until 30 June when the July bear will be on the shelf.

Calendar Bears are ideal for those who wish to create a set of pottery items by painting a different bear each month. Alternatively, why not paint a bear for your birthday month?



A plate as a birthday present is very personal and can emphasise different aspects of someone's life or lifestyle. In this case, the choice of fish was important.

### Masterclass: Glazes

When you paint at The Clay Studio we glaze and fire the piece so that it has a gloss finish with vivid colours. We use a glaze that is white on unpainted bisque. It is dishwasher and food safe so you can drink out of your unique mugs, for example.

However, there are all sorts of glazes, many of which undergo quite a dramatic transformation when they are fired in the kiln. In the previous Clay Times we introduced a new range of vases called Masterpiece in Minutes. These vases are supplied with special glazes. The photographs show the "before" and "after" when these vases are painted with the suggested glazes. These show just how much the vase changes during the firing process.

Of course, it is possible to use special glazes on any type of pottery. Some of our Painting Academy sessions have taken this approach with plates, mugs, vases and other items taking on a spectacular appearance.



### New paint colours—check out the dolphins

Have you been in The Clay Studio recently? We recently added a new range of paints and the colours are displayed on 35 pottery dolphins swimming up the wall.

As before, these colours shown are after firing so bear that in mind when choosing your colours. Each of the dolphins has been given three coats of paint. Allow each coat to dry before applying the next for the best results. The paint does dry quickly.



### Family Fun Day

At our first Family Fun Day in May we welcomed many friends old and new of The Clay Studio. Children enjoyed having their faces painted or their trip to the chocolate fountain where they could dip fruit, marshmallows or biscuits into the flowing chocolate. Watch Clay Times, e-mail announcements and our Web site for future events of this type.



### Kidz Menu

It is often difficult to find something for the children to eat that is both healthy and appealing to the children. We address this with the Kidz menu options that offer high quality food with fresh fruit and a juice drink included. The Kidz Lunch Bag has been very popular with a sandwich made from high quality bread and fillings, a packet of crisps, apple and Capri-Sun juice drink. Children love to receive this bag for their lunch at The Clay Studio.



### Other options

Alternatives for children include organic beans on locally-baked bread or Cheddar cheese on toast with salad.



Does Betty Broccoli count towards your five-a-day?

### Purbeck Ice Cream

The Clay Studio has a commitment to use the best local produce, where possible, in our café. We have chosen to stock Purbeck Ice Cream which is made on a farm near Wareham in Dorset very close to Corfe Castle.

Why Purbeck Ice Cream? Not only does Purbeck Ice Cream offer a good selection of very high quality ice cream in 125ml tubs but the company has a number of elements that we believe are very important, such as:

- Use of the best local ingredients.
- Gluten and GMO-free
- Free from artificial colourings, preservatives and flavours.
- Concern for the environment.
- Interesting new flavours

Purbeck Ice Cream has won numerous awards and always has new flavours available. The new Mint Baby Choc Chip tubs were only launched in April but have quickly become a big seller at The Clay Studio.

The Purbeck team has now planted a traditional Dorset Cider Apple Orchard. Varieties have been selected by Dorset Apple tree aficionado ~ John Whittick and include the ravishing Sops in Wine, the tremendous Brown Snout, a few hearty Captain Broads and Purbeck's own favourite ~ Slack Ma Girdle! These Dorset varieties could so easily be lost if not re-planted for future enjoyment.

The planting of the Orchard benefits the environment in neutralizing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen as well as attracting a plethora of wildlife both above and below ground.

Nearby, bird and bat boxes are carefully sited to provide essential homes for the first time flyer and also provide an excellent view for the team and visitors to Purbeck Ice Cream.



**How To Find Us**

The Clay Studio is right in the centre of Christchurch.

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**Some recent masterpieces**



**Win a free Studio Fee**

Every month there are ten free Clay Studio passes for Clay Times readers to win. At the end of July, 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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