

**Meeting of the London Polymer Clay Group
26 July 2009**

Report and photos by Carol Blackburn

Even though Bermondsey tube station was closed for work on the Jubilee line it didn't deter 15 of us showing up at our regular venue the London Bubble in Elephant lane SE16. A warm welcome to new faces: Kerry, Gail, Ros and Lynne.

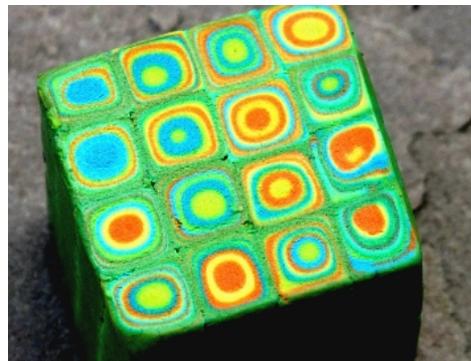
Everyone had brought their polymer clay creations for the 'show & tell' table. Always the hub of activity as we all gathered around to see what everyone had been making since we last met. A fascinating variety of work.

The first part of our clay day was devoted to those new to polymer clay or in need of a refresher course. My one hour 'crash' demo for newbies included conditioning and storing of clays, basic canes such as Bull's Eyes and Jelly Rolls, mixing colours and making a Skinner blend with the pasta machine. Hopefully this helped newcomers understand some of the technical terms heard later during the day and will be a regular item at our clay days.



Susan Rimmer demo'ed the Makin extruder. She extruded thin multi coloured strings and used them to decorate a hollow doughnut bead made using directions from Donna Kato's website.

Julie Smallwood gave an impromptu demo on making a square cane using lengths of extruded clay. She stacked together a lot of different coloured clay discs to form a log to fit inside the extruder. She extruded the clay through a large circular die and cut the extruded clay into short lengths and stacked them together side by side to form the square cane. (Photo by Julie)



A small group of onlookers gathered around Susan's worktable as she showed texturing clay with a rubber stamp and colouring it with liquid clay and coloured chalks.



There was lots of friendly poly clay chat during the day and several people tried using different shaped cutters to make hollow forms like the round doughnut that Susan had made earlier in the day.

By 5.00 pm most people were heading homewards with their freshly baked polymer creations still warm.

Remember to mark your diaries for the next clay day - **Sunday 27th September**. Till then, enjoy the summer and have fun claying.



Gail's Wedding Characters



Alison's kaleidoscope pendants & Bracelet



Carol's Extruded Beads



Ann & Emily's beads



Ros's Textured Pieces



Susan's Bell Beads



Christine's Blood River Sautoir



Sue's Beads