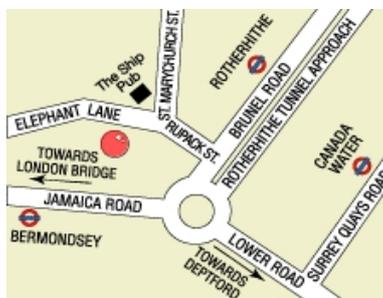


Meeting of the London Polymer Clay Group 24 May 2009

Report and photos by Carol Blackburn

Our May London Polymer Clay Group clay day was again at the Bubble Theatre in Rotherhithe, South London.



After introducing ourselves and welcoming 5 newcomers, we kicked off the day with a demo of twisted cord making. Having the option to construct our own cord means that we can make one that is exactly the right style and colour to match or set off a focal or pendant bead.

Emily responded by showing us another type of cord made on the fingers of both hands. It was a woven cord I hadn't seen before; apparently of medieval European origins.

Before lunch Debbie demonstrated 'image transfer'. This technique uses toner photocopies of black and white images which is transferred onto unbaked polymer clay. Several of us had a go at this very effective technique.

While the 'old hands' to polymer clay had their sandwiches down by the river in the sun, I gave the 5 newbies a lunch time mini class, discussing the basics - from conditioning, types of clay and their properties to storage with a demonstration showing a jelly roll, bull's eye cane, twisted strings and making a Skinner blend.

After lunch Christine, who had brought her laptop, talked us through her Voila! project. This web-based community learning site aims at raising the standard of work with tutorials and critiques by other polymer clay artists around the world. The objectives of the project and its anticipated benefits were the subject of a lengthy discussion. The site is currently being tested. If you'd like to find out more about it, email Christine at voila@allovercreation.net

Clare demo'ed her spider's web cane which she had used on one of her polymer clay characters she'd brought along for the 'show and tell' table.



To help us plan our clay days everyone was asked for their thoughts and suggestions for planning our future clay days and what they would expect from the day. Several felt they needed more time between demos to try out each technique. We will plan our future clay days with this in mind so there will be more clay play time.



We also realised that as we grow in numbers at each meeting there is a need to show some newcomers the basics of working with polymer clay. At future clay days we will make this the first part of the day. Our next LPCG meeting will be at the Bubble on Sunday 26th July - as ever, everyone is welcome. Admission for the day will be £15 at the door.