

Welcome

From Jane Chiodini



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Welcome to this wonderfully festive edition of the Craft Creations magazine. Firstly I wanted to thank you for the many beautiful cards, wonderful letters and messages so many of you sent, wishing me well on my road of treatment for breast cancer. The editorial is something I've enjoyed writing regularly for many years but I never appreciated that my communications had that much impact on anyone else, and so, to receive the outpouring of affection and caring from so many was both a surprise and of enormous comfort. Just a quick update in that last week, I received my final session of chemotherapy and will have radiotherapy through November but it should be mostly completed in time for Christmas, which feels wonderful.

The summer has gone quickly and I've experienced a great deal, keeping myself as busy as I can. Side effects of drugs have slowed down my card production in terms of my dexterity, but that hasn't stopped me planning and buying cards and fabrics. I've created a new website for the nurse training I provide, put my cards on there and even started a blog, so if you want to learn more go to www.janechiodini.co.uk - it's certainly a website that's a bit different but has been fun to do!

Emotions continue to be a bit of a rollercoaster but in the face of adversity, it's strange how one can find a lot to laugh at. We abandoned our booked summer holiday for ad hoc days out when I was well enough. About seventeen years ago I went on a school trip with my son's class to Cromer with the primary objective of visiting the RNLI lifeboat station. My husband and I are particularly fond of crab meat so we decided to take a journey of nostalgia and kill two birds with one stone; see the lifeboat and treat ourselves to a famous Cromer crab! Well it was a lot further away than I remembered and

we arrived mid afternoon, the weather was beautiful, the scenery stunning but the poor coastal resort was plagued by ladybirds! There had been an invasion of hundreds of thousands of these bugs into Norfolk; the biggest since 1976, and everything was awash with them, they were flying and landing anywhere and everywhere. We bought traditional fish and chips to eat and sat near the beach but it was a challenge to ensure one wasn't crunching a ladybird at the same time!

I was sporting a new hat that day, now much needed as my hair was thinning badly and, having adjusted to the ladybirds, I sat on a bench on the top of the hill overlooking the bay, when a gust of wind blew my hat off leaving me exposed! Would the ladybirds land on my head as well I wondered? My husband decided to see if he could climb down the bank and get my hat, but suddenly I had visions of him falling and hurting himself and the lack of a hat didn't seem important, the insects could adorn my bare head!

So we returned home late that night full of fish and chips, perhaps a few ladybirds consumed and a delicious crab to look forward to! It was a most surreal but enjoyable day and one I doubt I'll ever forget! If you live in

Cromer and are reading this, the hat was a beige colour with some pretty flowers on it - keep it as a souvenir with my very best wishes!



Not long to Christmas now, so hope you enjoy the build up towards it making your cards, although the pressure is on with the current postal strikes. So I will plod on despite my sore fingers and get cracking - where there's a will there's a way!

Until next time.

Jane

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