

## **Chit chat from the shop**

Everyone likes to hear a bit about life in the shop over the Christmas period. However, if you're a regular visitor to these pages or live locally, you will already have know that [Archie](#), our delivery 'boy' died at the end of the year. It was therefore a very sad start to the festive period for our bunch of helpers.

I decided to have a 'team' meeting, lunch included I didn't expect anyone to show other than wandering into the shop as they usually do, just to say hello. So, an email was sent and very quickly I received a number of 'yes' replies asking when, where and what's for lunch?

My main reason for arranging the meeting was to get ideas: what changes should I make to the layout of the shop; any niggling wee things about the shop we should do something about; should we stock different flowers; should we extend our delivery area; and so on.

### **Top Tips & Rants**

The day dawned, the helpers, Party Girl, Malky and Sandra, arrived, and lunch was served at 1pm. By common consent, the shop layout had to be changed, get rid of the table in the centre, put all the stuff at the edges, move the wrapping table nearer the customers, so you can chat as you wrap. Done!

We then asked Moyra from the dentist's to come over and give us her opinion. Yes, she liked it! Much more open... After that we discussed the delivery areas, flowers to stock, accessories to include. The best suggestion came from party Girl who wanted to dress the door wreaths with 'these candy cane things. Well, we bought them and guess what happened? They dissolved into the holly when the rain came on. I informed party Girl and it was sort of 'Oh yes - and someone ate one on the display' - on to the next design!

Overall everything went really smoothly. We also decided at the meeting that it was healthy eating all the way – that resolution went downhill within three days. After that, it was just a case of gobbling down sweets for customers in the front shop or nibbling a slab of cake with a coffee in the back shop.

Other news? Yes, plants went missing again and we received a delivery of cactus plants in error. 'No mine,' says I and informed the supplier. We looked at them and thought they needed a full make-over if they were to sell. Out came the spray glue, then glitter in festive hues of purple, red, gold and silver. They looked lovely! Next day, a phone call from a Glasgow supplier – the cactus plants were needed for a wedding on 30 December! They'd send a delivery van – must be really serious, think I) and then I broke the news – we've covered them in glitter!

To this day, who knows what happened when they arrived at the other end, but they were collected and we were credited. Let's hope the wedding went with a – em – sparkle!

Now all the Christmas stuff has been dismantled and packed away and the Valentine's Day box has arrived. Watch out for the window changing at the beginning of February. The big day is on Saturday and because of the fun [we had with them last year](#), this year we're going to have a bunch of photo frames with daft wee sayings. Sometimes, just keeping it simple is a winner. This takes us on to flowers for Valentine's Day: simple not too big, not too cluttered,

not too many colours or varieties; and hey presto, you're bound to win your Valentine's heart.

See you soon...