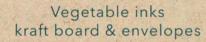
ARDGAINS Newsletter July 2024



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Welcome to July!

Here I am again starting with the weather. My hopes of a good June were dashed early on, though it did redeem itself later in the month. July really does look much better, so we can all look forward to some sunshine. I'm writing this on Midsummer's Day, so it won't be long before the nights start drawing in again!! Such joy!!

Annual member visits

Thank you to all members who have welcomed Charles and Alan into their stores for the annual visit. They enjoy meeting up with members, chatting about their business, learning about member experiences, and showcasing many supplier promotions. These promotions are designed to give members the opportunity to buy great product at very keen prices to trial a new offering in store. It's so important for customers to be engaged with new items.

New suppliers

we're thrilled to announce a new supplier joining the Cardgains portfolio this month.

Meg Hawkins is a licensed and award-winning British watercolour artist. Based in Shropshire Meg set up Meg Hawkins Art from the kitchen table in 2015. Fast forward 6 years and the business has gradually gone from strength to strength. With a shop now in Shrewsbury Town selling her cards, prints, homeware, and multiple licensing agreements under her belt the Meg Hawkins brand is always growing, while remaining a family run business. See page 3 opposite for Meg Hawkins product and contact details.

Thank you again to all members who are embracing the new suppliers joining the Cardgains portfolio this year. Just in case you've missed them, please check the list to make sure you're maximising the fantastic and diverse product opportunities from Alandra Products, Alpha Packaging, Ashleigh & Burwood, Letterbox Love, Lily-Flame, Lucilla Lavender, Ohh Deer, Pink Pig, Sock Academy, Sooshichacha, The Gifted Stationery Company, Tilnar Art, Toynamics and Tracks Publishing.

Cardgains Charity Challenge 2024 - It's NOT Grim UP North



At the time of writing, it's the day before our annual charity event, though by the time you're reading this it will all be over for another year, and we will hopefully all be walking properly again, and any sore feet will be healed.

Following some very generous donations, the total at the time of going to print stands at over £14,000, which is 40% of target, and I'm confident that donations will continue to arrive during and after the event. If you would like to donate to Mind, please visit: <u>https://www.justgiving.com/page/cardgains-itsnotgrimupnorth</u>.

Trade shows, exhibitions, and events 2024

We had a lovely experience at PG Live at the beginning of June, and saw many of our existing members and suppliers, as well as making contact with new independent retailers and potential suppliers for the portfolio. PG Live is a really friendly show and a great opportunity to network and see product displayed at its best. If you didn't make it this year, it's certainly worth a visit if you can.

The Retas

Again, this event will be over by the time you read this, though I'm sure the winners will still be on a high. There were over twenty Cardgains members as finalists for regional awards and for ideas and initiatives. This is testimony to the quality retailers who are members of Cardgains enjoying the many benefits of membership.

Thanks for reading and as always, "Thank you for your continued support"! Penny









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Alan Harwood	Sales Executive - South	<u>alanabridewelluk.co.uk</u>	07717 447450



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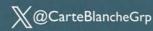
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Bran Wee

Scotland's Trade Fair is nearly here!

18th-19th August 2024 SEC Glasgow

Christmas Greetings Just for You Frae This Haiky Festive COO COORTE IN AND GET ALL COSY HOPE YER DAY IS fan dabi dozi !

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9

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Lives

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CHRISTMAS SOCKS

Following the success of our much-loved everyday range, we have launched a range of *Eco Chic Christmas Socks*. Featuring amazing designs of snowmen and Father Christmas amongst others.

> Our Eco Chic super-soft socks are breathable and lightweight, making them ideal for leisure and sport activities. They will keep you cool in summer and warm in winter. Made from

Christmas

Socks

co chic

Christmas

Socks

the finest quality materials, they are kind to sensitive skin, yet durable enough to endure the wear and tear of everyday use.

* The free on-loan double-sided counter spinner will feature two sides holding 18 designs and will cater for men and women combined.

eco chic

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20

co chic

- Machine Washable Durable
- Moisture Absorbing Super Soft
- Odour Reducing

Recycled Dog Bandana

DOG ACCESSORIES

Christmas

Socks

A brand-new range of stylish accessories in a variety of fun designs. Perfect for furry friends and good for the planet too!

> The Dog Accessories that are a little different. The collection consists of the four main ranges you would expect; Dog Leads, Dog Collars, Dog Harnesses and Bandanas. All available in the typical Eco Chic style.

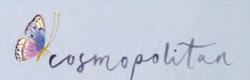


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Recycled Dog Bandar



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Cosmopolitan is "Golden Painted Perfection"

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Modern (a)Musings

Sixteen bold new designs, across a wide range of themes and styles. Something for everyone and a card for every occasion!



T



gentleman never tells:

How old he is How much he's had to

drink

Where he

got that traffic cone







COR

Isawit

DO YOU THINK MY

SWING IS IMPROVING? birthday

stacho

hought

YES, BUT TRY HITTING THE BALL THIS TIME

HE'S JUST TURNED UP UNINVITED ..

HOW VERY DAIRY !



2025

furband

WALN

WORDS 'N' WISHES

TO A GREAT DAD

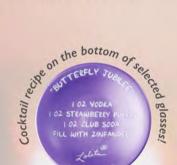
Covering: Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Easter & Father's Day.



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Come and see the Lolita collection and more at Harrogate Home & Gift, 21 — 24th July, Hall A Stand A05



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Tilnar Art has been at the forefront of an influx of innovative products that are not only fair trade and handmade but also recyclable, reflecting a growing consumer demand for ethical and sustainable goods. Tilnar Art has been ahead of this curve for nearly 20 years with each product being meticulously handmade, ensuring uniqueness and high quality, while supporting fair wages and safe working conditions for the artisans.



Additionally, their recyclable nature means they can be repurposed or returned to the earth, making them an excellent choice for environmentally conscious consumers. This blend of ethical production and environmental sustainability represents a significant step forward in the creation of products that respect both people and the planet.

TRADE SHOWS 2024

Harrogate Home & Gift - Harrogate – 21-24 July 2024 – Hall/Marquee DP4 Stand DP4-76 Autumn Fair - NEC – 1-4 September 2024 – Hall 6 Stand J30 GLEE - NEC – 10-12 September 2024 - Hall 9 Stand D04 <u>sales@tilnarart.co.uk</u> www.tilnarart.co.uk



This latest launch of **Artisan** is a beautiful collection of cards developed by **Clare Tupper**, inspired by her love for nature and in particular her dogs, Noodle & Muzzy. These cards share inspirational and fun sentiments as well as stunning collages of intricately designed borders.

> Happiest of all Birthdays

> > Have a of -erly

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inspiring kids' imaginations for over 50 years



Important Information About Your Balloon Gas Filling Kit

Dear Customer,

As a responsible supplier, the safety of our customers is a priority. Therefore, we advise that in accordance with the Pressure Safety Regulations it is not permitted to use a balloon gas filling kit after a 5 year period and we suggest that you replace it.

You can identify the date of production of the filling kit by checking the date stamp as shown in the photo opposite.

Best regards, BOC Helium Product Team



BOC Limited

Customer Service Centre, Priestley Road, Worsley, Manchester M28 2UT, United Kingdom Tel 0800 111 333, Fax 0800 111 555, boconline.co.uk

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Thank you to another member for sending through some thoughts for this month.

As you're aware some suppliers run competitions throughout the year for the best window displays for both Everyday products and Seasonal occasions.

There are some great prizes to be won but, more importantly your window display is a key marketing tool to attract customers in.

Here are a few tips to consider:

WINDOW DISPLAYS

- Ensure all windows are well lit with no bulbs out!
- Try to switch up your window displays regularly, according to seasons and products available.
- Be creative! Even when there are no specific seasons to display, think about a baby window, wedding window, adult / kids ages, licenses, film releases e.g. Paddington in Peru etc.
- Keep your window area clean there's nothing worse than dust and dead insects to put people off!
- Don't overcomplicate your display. Make it easy for customers to see your theme and the products you sell.
- Colour themes are also a great idea and give you the chance to display various products along that colour theme.
- Try to dress your window according to your target market. You probably know many of your customers so plan to target them through your window display utilising your 'best sellers'.
- Ask customers to comment on the window display. Did it attract them to come inside?

- Use props to display products at different levels and to hang from the top. Bear in mind the average eye level looking from outside.
- Don't block the view to the inside of the store if the window doesn't have a back; customers will want to see inside and come in! And, if possible, have your door open!!!

Cardgains Accounts Team

The team are available to answer any member queries. Please give them a call between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Thursday or 8.30am to 1pm on Fridays.

Cardgains Cumulative Turnover

Remember that your statement shows your cumulative turnover so you can see how you are performing in relation to the Cardgains member bonus bands.











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