

cherry menlove



A New Dawn, A New Day, A New Word



It's January! Hmmmm, now that is hard to get my head around. 2011 was a year of such extremes for my family and me that I'll be very happy for 2012 to be a lot quieter. I have a feeling that I may not get my wish but whatever the year throws at us I'm sure we'll take it on the chin.

I don't make resolutions at the start of a new year. I never keep them and I immediately feel like a failure. What I do, and have done for several years, is choose a word for the year. This word becomes like a self-fulfilling prophecy a lot of the time so I am beginning to think very carefully about the one I eventually choose, staying away from words like lethargy and aging!

The word I have chosen for 2012 is 'energy'. I gave birth to twins in June 2010 and then with all the adventures of last year and raising two small babies my energy levels feel a bit depleted. I think it has a lot to do with the fact that I am constantly trying to get more organised (a previous word of the year) and as I do I am able to relax more, stress less and in turn have more energy.

It's not that I want to have more energy to do more 'stuff'. It's that I want more energy to enjoy the 'stuff' I already do. It's not about being superwoman but about being a sane woman.

Of course I also know that a great deal of my energy comes to me when I am making things and learning. Whether I am working with felt, fabric or wood I get a surge of contentment when I've completed a project and it is finished and working the way it should. This year I want to push the boat out in my crafting and try new patterns and techniques that I haven't used before. This will in turn leave me with items that will be very useful and ultimately save me money. I'm describing a less disposable way of living. Clothing, home furnishings, heirloom crafts, etc. You know what I'm talking about or you wouldn't be reading this magazine!



I'd also like to get outdoors more and take my kids with me. They'll be two years old in June and I was that age when I first started to ride horses. I think I'll try them out this summer and see how they get on. My kids have no fear right now so if I keep them safe then hopefully they'll love being outside on horseback as much as I do.

I'd also like to improve my photography skills. When I was working with Keiko Oikawa (www.keikooikawa.com) I was constantly amazed at the beauty she managed to capture with her camera. She is much better than me technically (I tend to point and shoot) and I am inspired to learn. However it can sometimes be a bit cumbersome carrying my huge camera around with me, so lately, when out and about, I have been using my brand new Canon PowerShot G12. It takes fantastic pictures and is a lot lighter to carry. This is a great camera if you are thinking about starting a craft or making a blog but have never taken a photograph in your life.

Oh yes, and I want to bake more. I want to become wildly proficient at using all of

those piping nozzles that are lurking at the back of my pantry and create fabulous edible goodies!

As you can probably tell I will be doing more 'stuff' as it's in my nature to be busy. But I'll do my best to keep a check on it and not get ridiculously tired. There's nothing wrong with grabbing life by the lapels and daring it to throw all it has at you. You never get stuck in a rut, you have adventures you've only dreamed of, and, the best bit, you meet people that you end up loving and taking with you though life.

And I'd certainly trade a wee bit of energy for all that!

Lots of love Cherry x