

## **Blog #36 - Special Occasions**

Friday - 29 May 2015

*Oh - how I enjoyed the long Easter weekend at the beginning of April!*

*I had no guilty feelings as I sat and stitched almost every day - all day long - and remembered and reflected on the reason for acknowledging this significant event all those years ago, and quietly gave thanks for what Jesus went through so that I could become a daughter of the King of Kings and have a home in Heaven prepared for me.*



*I really needed to recharge my batteries after the hectic last two weeks of February and the month of March.*

*In my Blog #34 I mentioned that I needed to stitch some more models and some more sampler type pieces of needlework so that I will have something new to display at Sampler Gathering. This is the piece that I stitched over the weekend -*



*I intend to make a little cushion using the fabric that is pictured behind the piece of needlework and then attach this piece of needlework to it.*

*More details in another blog when it is finished.*

*Also over the weekend I added a few more stitches to a sampler design that I had begun a few weeks prior to Easter.*

*This design has been created by Ellen Chester of With My Needle.*

*This lovely piece has the title, 'Of Female Arts'.*



*This design is available for purchase from Heirlooms -*

*Design Title: Of Female Arts*

*Code: WMN:FEMALE*

*Design: \$32.50*

*As this is rather a large piece I know that I will not be able to have this piece completed before the sampler weekend - and so, adding only a few stitches to it now and again and concentrating on working other projects.*

*April also ended up being another very busy month due to the release of the new Mystery Sampler project which was on the 1st of April. Many of the participants requested that I send fabric and thread options for the design.*

*I LOVE sorting out different colour combinations - at least six options per customer - but doing so can take up so much time. Firstly, an overdyed silk thread is chosen (as this thread is used for the wings of the butterfly) and then 3 tones - a light, a medium and a dark - of one of the colours that are in the variegated thread. These three shades of thread colour are needed to work the various bands/rows of the sampler.*

*And, of course, several days of the month of April and May were taken up with the typing up of the instructions and drawing stitch diagrams for Parts Two & Three of this project.*



*On the 14th of May I officially became a pensioner as I celebrated my 65th birthday!*

*It was a very quiet day - in fact, I did not see any family or friends. Everyone is SO busy these days. Keith and I went to the Mission that evening for a lovely evening and meal together.*

*To mark this special occasion  
I have decided to fulfil a dream  
of visiting Italy  
and booked a place on the*

*BELLA ITALIA  
Stitches & Threads Tour*

*After the tour has finished  
I'm then going to stay for four days  
with my lovely Italian friend  
and needlework designer,  
Giulia and her husband, Mario  
before travelling to Belgium  
for a week to see my friends  
Monique and Gigi  
and spend some time with them  
in their beautiful country.*



**Bella Italia**  
**Stitches & Threads Tour**  
**23 Days, departing 28 August 2015**  
**Escorted by Robyn Tubb**

*Never having been to Europe before (apart from several days in London), I am really excited about this trip. But more about that in another blog.*

*This month I made the decision that over the Queen's Birthday weekend I would have an exhibition featuring the 'Favoured Shades' samplers (the 2014 mystery sampler project) and other pieces of needlework featuring sampler inspired designs. With this latter thought in mind, at the beginning of the month of May I finally began stitching one of Ellen Chester's pieces from her lovely 'Fruit of the Vine' sampler design project which she taught in an all-day class when she and Tom stayed with us in March of last year. You may recall me writing of this awesome event in previous blogs.*

*To remind you, this was the project -*



*At the beginning of the month I began stitching the needleroll.*

*This is how it looked on the 7th of May -*



and pictured to the right this is how it looks today - the 29th of May.

This past week I have packed up the Christmas needlework display and set up the Favoured Shades Sampler display and displayed all the sampler pieces kindly loaned and stitched by my friend, Joy Hurford, in readiness for the exhibition that opens tomorrow for the next three days.



Prior to this week I had to design the exhibition invitation and send it to all my needlework friends by email and also send invitations in personally addressed envelopes by post to about 150 friends. It is surprising how long it takes to complete this latter task (and how long it takes for the Post Office to deliver them!)

Earlier today I had to design and print the labels to accompany each sampler. These labels have the needleworker's name on them, plus information of the fabric and thread colours they used to create their samplers.

I also had to design and print the Viewer's Choice' forms. This is for the visitors to the exhibition to vote for their favourite sampler and so win a pack of Special Edition Sampler Threads for the needleworker.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharon Gordon (Trudi) - Cobalt &amp; Lime</li> <li>Annette Webb - Cerise &amp; Lavender</li> <li>Sharon Gordon - Indigo Blues &amp; Violet</li> <li>Janet Jones - Sweet Pea Mauves</li> <li>Glennie Harris - Dark Chocolate</li> <li>Linda Graham - Ice Blues</li> <li>Katyn Roberts - Navy Blues</li> <li>Robyn Phillips - Shades of Teal</li> <li>Cherry Neal - Aqua Seas</li> <li>Alison McCluskey - Garden Greens</li> <li>Elisabeth Beachen - Anemone Violet</li> <li>Marilyn Thorp - Rusty Peaches</li> <li>Pam Hales - Rust &amp; Old Bricks</li> <li>Ruth Kerr - Apricot Floss</li> <li>Maryann Kingston - Sampler Blues</li> <li>Joy Hurford - Brethren Blues</li> <li>Sherelyn Whiteman - Olive Greens</li> <li>Sherelyn Whiteman - Burgundys</li> </ul>	<h2>VIEWER'S CHOICE</h2> <p><i>My choice of Favoured Shades' Sampler is by ...</i></p> <p>Needleworker .....</p> <p><i>in the following shades of ...</i></p> <p>Colour .....</p>
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Photos and more about this exhibition in my next blog.

