

## Blog #91 - A Needlework Challenge & UK4

Wednesday, 4 March 2020

In January 2019 lovely Belgium needlework designer and friend, Gigi of GigiR designs challenged everyone to stitch a sampler in a month. Her words were ....

**“To be true to our tradition of starting a sampler on January 1st and to be blessed all through the year, if it is finished by the end of the month”**

You may recall I took up the challenge and the piece I stitched and finished in that month was : Ann Gould 1821. Here it is again -

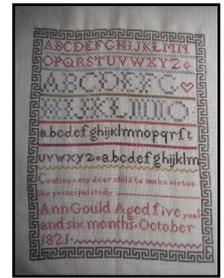


**Design Title:** Anne Gould 1821  
**Design Code:** GR:AG  
**Price:** \$29.50

Worked with the following threads & fabric -

Sampler Threads  
 & Simply Shaker Sampler Threads

Belfast Linen - 32 count - Summer Khaki



And so, as per last year took up the challenge this year and began another of Gigi's reproduced sampler designs.

However, prior to the commencement date I was undecided whether to stitch it as per the colours of the original sampler or just use a single colour.



**Design Title:** Petite Susana  
**Design Code:** GR:PS  
**Price:** \$29.50

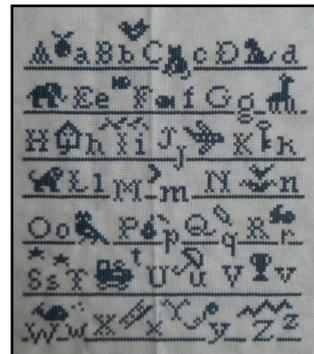
To the right is a pic of the thread colour options.



In the end opted to stitch two versions - coloured version over one fabric thread and tones of a single colour version over two fabric threads. Managed to stitch both versions by the end of the month but at that time did not have them "finished".

To date they are now completely finished. The 'over one thread' piece as an ornamental and the 'over two fabric threads' has been framed. These are pictured below.

So too are a couple of others as two girls in one of my stitching groups also took up the challenge and pics of their samplers were taken just a few days before the end of the January. Robyn had completely finished stitching her sampler and Glenys almost finished hers (she had finished it by the end of the month).



Robyn's was a JBW design and Glenys' was a design she had in her stash. I forgot to ask her the title and the designer's name/company.

At the beginning of every month I have to "close off" my accounting programme, send out statements and print various reports. Went to do this and found no copies of invoices, any statements or reports would print. Telephoned my super helpful computer gurus and discovered that I was not the only person with the same problem - but also hundreds and hundreds of people throughout the country.

What everyone had expected to happen - and which didn't happen - at the beginning of the year 2000 (Y2K) was computers crashing. Instead, it happened at this time. What a disaster! Just what I didn't need. Outcome was to purchase a new accounting programme (one that suited my business) and so time spent (wasted and lost) looking at all the different data recording options plus a very costly exercise. Then there was the huge task of setting it up and the worst problem of learning how to use it. Sadly I couldn't "copy and paste" from my old programme into the new but had to enter each customer and their details individually (hundreds of them) and stock details individually. As you can appreciate there are thousands and thousands and thousands of items in the Needlework Gallery. A mammoth task. What a headache! As a consequence decided to stocktake as I entered the data. To date I still have hundreds of items to install.

For the past year I have been pondering what 2020's Mystery Sampler would be like/about. I had first thought of something to do with motifs and the significance of these and had begun gathering up info and writing up info about the motifs I had chosen, however, decided to shelve that idea for another time and opted for flowers from Quaker samplers.

Consequently hand charted my new idea, then entered it into my design programme and sorted out the main overdyed silk thread colour for it and the fabric colour and count. The next step was to choose the accompanying colours and to do this - as I always do when sorting out colours - I worked a few rows of satin stitch with the silk thread to see the colour variations in the thread and then cross stitched a few rows of possible matching or complementary colours, keeping a record of the colours I had used.

From the stitched samples I chose the colours I liked the best.

Here is a pic of my colour samples & record of the colours -



Color	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Blue	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209
Green	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219
Red	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229
Yellow	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239
Purple	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249
Orange	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259
Pink	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269
Black	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279
White	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289

The silk thread I have chosen is a Silk 'n Colors thread from *The Thread Gatherer*. SNC 230 - Forest Berries.

I have been in touch with Cece (my very special and gifted friend who has such an amazing eye for colour) and she is going to dye this beautiful combination of colours for me to ensure I will have plenty of stock for you for your sampler.

As for the other colours, these are DMC stranded cotton colours and those I will probably use are -  
150 : 154 : 309 : 420 : 779 : 729 : 936 : 3011 : 3051 : 3350 : 3722 : 3731

To date I do not have a commencement date for this Mystery Sampler but probably not for a few months yet as I now have to stitch the model and then write up the stitching instructions. I will keep you informed of progress.

And so ... to continue on with my UK adventures. Day four .....

This day (Tuesday) had booked a mini bus tour through the Yorkshire Moors to the seaside town of Whitby. As well as enjoying the scenery, it was lovely just being able to sit back and relax after my previously full-on, busy sightseeing days.

The first stop after travelling from York was the picturesque market town of Helmsley. Really quite quaint as it has retained the layout of a medieval town around a market square.

Here is a pic of the delicatessen/bakery and the combined butchery and grocery shops.



Had a cup of coffee at a little café and discovered the owner and his NZ wife were in NZ visiting her family.

Small world, isn't it?!



I couldn't get close to it because of time constraint (as you can see from my pic) but from a distance saw the remains of the east tower of Helmsley Castle.

This castle was sold to Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who later became Richard III, although he mainly stayed at Middleham Castle.

After Richard's death at the Battle of Bosworth, Helmsley Castle was restored to its previous owner by Henry VII.

The next stop was the abandoned Rosedale Ironworks on the Yorkshire Moors.

Evidently the iron mining community in Rosedale flourished for three generations from 1850 till 1929 when it was abandoned. The ironstone was first carried by horse and wagon and later by rail across the moors to smelters on the River Tees for shipping all over the world.

During these years Rosedale was a noisy and sooty hive of industrial activity and home to around 5000 miners.

Although a lovely fine day, there was a very cold wind blowing at this site. I was grateful for the warmth inside the bus. As I sat there whilst others explored and took photos, the thoughts that came to my mind were of the book I had read by Catherine Cookson - *The Dwelling Place*. In it, Cissie and her five siblings created a home in a cave on the moors when their parents died and they had nowhere else to go (apart from the workhouse).

The next stop was the coastal town of Whitby. I opted not to go to the ruins of the Abbey atop the hill overlooking the town, instead, as it was almost lunchtime, decided to sample the local fish and chips at the infamous Trenchers Restaurant. Before visiting Whitby I had planned on visiting the Captain Cook Memorial Museum housed in the 17th century house where James



Wikipedia Image



Cook lodged from 1746—1749 while serving his seaman's apprenticeship.

The house on the harbour belonged to Cook's master, the Quaker shipowner, John Walker. It was here in the attic that the family housed their apprentices when they were not at sea serving the coal trade.

As mentioned earlier, was a little weary this day, and so did not go to the museum despite James Cook being such an important part of our early NZ history but sat and watched the throngs of tourists milling about.

From Whitby we began our travels back to York via a different route - our next stop being the village of Gaothland.



For those of you who have enjoyed the TV drama series, 'Heartbeat' which first aired in 1992 until 2010, would love visiting this place as it is the location of the Aidensfield Arms (Gaothland Hotel), Scripps Garage & Funeral Services and the Aidensfield shops and Post Office. Parked outside one of the gift shops is the original Heartbeat police car.



Wandering down past the hotel and down the slope is the railway station where David would meet and collect passengers from the train to transport them in his taxi to their various destinations.



It was from here that I caught the train and travelled partway back to York on this preserved heritage railway. Quite an experience.

The final part of the return journey was the mini bus again.

And so, another full day comes to an end.

And all the news for this blog.

Bye for now. Till next time, enjoy your needlework.



P.S. Just received an email with a query about the Needlework Gallery. See next page for an explanation ....

*P.S. An answer to queries received ..... hope this helps .....*

*As some of you receiving a copy of this blog have only recently joined, you are/may be wondering what I mean when I make a reference to the old and the new Needlework Gallery.*

*When we purchased the land and moved the wreck of a 100 year villa (in 3 pieces) on to the property, it was my dream to build a purpose-built little cottage on the property (not far from the house) to accommodate a needlework gallery, a class room and a little tea shop.*

*But - as the orchard land was so overgrown with neglected apple trees, long grass and thistles (not even a driveway into the property) and the old house in such a dilapidated condition, we had to concentrate on setting out the property and restoring the house first.*



Moving Day : 7 November 1999  
House piece number two



January 2000  
The three pieces joined & on foundation piles



August 2000  
Foundations being laid for extension



September 2000  
Keith working on the extension framework



June 2004  
Extension finished (office, breakfast nook & family room)



December 2006  
Keith completed planting of avocado plants & ornamental trees (200)

*To begin with, due to the house being in such a terrible state, I could not set up a temporary needlework gallery in the house until the cottage was built, and so I had to take a short-term lease on a retail shop in the township of Taradale for 18 months. After this time moved everything back to the house and set the temporary gallery up in the largest room (the one that was planned to be our eventual formal lounge). However, restoration of the house and property took so much more time (as Keith was still working full-time) and took so much more capital than we had anticipated. The needlework cottage dream was put on hold.*

*This is how the house looked in 2012 and a pic of the entrance to the temporary needlework gallery.*



*At the end of 2013 we were ready to begin building our plans for the cottage - BUT discovered that the council would not allow another building on the land (despite there being more than 6 acres). Had to forego my dream of a cottage, class room and tea shop. The outcome was that we were allowed to make an addition to our existing home and so my office was dismantled and has become a library and added to this two needlework display rooms - one large and one small to display all the stitched models, designs, fabrics, threads and other needlework necessities - two storerooms (one for storing additional products & display stands, easels, etc. and the other for storing printed designs in rows and rows of plastic storage boxes on shelves) and an office for myself.*



March 2014  
Keith beginning to destroy a garden for gallery foundations



May 2014  
Framing for the new gallery



January 2015  
Outside waiting for large front window. Inside - nothing done

*And now the inside of the addition is all finished - and the new Needlework Gallery is waiting for me to set it up!*