

Blog #47 - A Sampler Exhibition

Saturday - 24 December 2016

Time to pack up this amazing exhibition!

The intention was for this exhibition to be held over three weekends in November but the days had to be extended until Christmas as those ladies who visited at the beginning of the exhibition wanted to tell their friends and to come again and as news of the exhibition spread, stitching and church groups also wished to visit.

Thank you. Thank you, to everyone who loaned their pieces of needlework so that I could create the displays. Without you, this event would not have been possible.

And, thank you too, to everyone who visited. Without you, the exhibition would not have been a success.

Some days the house was crowded - other days it was quite quiet.

Prior to this exhibition there has been no charge to visit any exhibitions at the Needlework Gallery but visitors to this exhibition were asked for a donation of \$10.00 on their initial visit as proceeds were being passed on to Cranford Hospice in Hastings. Each visitor was given a catalogue on their arrival and this catalogue was valid for all subsequent visits.

\$1,250.00 was received and able to be donated to the Hospice. Awesome!

A Sampler Exhibition

at ... **Heirlooms** Needlework Gallery
WYNDOM HOUSE
1821 PAKOWHAI ROAD
NAPIER

Sunday, 13 November 2016
Saturday & Sunday
19 & 20 November
26 & 27 November

Needlework Samplers ~
Antique, New & Reproduction Samplers

Sampler Designers ~
Samplers & sampler inspired needlework designed pieces by
Earberry Row
Gigie
JEW Designs
Pawinkle Promises
The Sweetheart Tree
With My Needle
and more ...

view over 90 beautiful samplers worked by numerous young girls and needlewomen

Mystery Samplers ~
A Sampler of Stitches
The Favoured Shades Sampler
The Butterfly Sampler
~ in progress ~
Family Quaker Sampler

ADMISSION PAYMENT ~
Valid for ALL days of the exhibition
~
VISIT AS MANY TIMES AS YOU CHOOSE

EXHIBITION HOURS ~
10am ~ 4.00pm (Each Day)
Visit any time between these hours at your convenience

\$10.00 Admission
~
PROCEEDS TO CRANFORD HOSPICE

Complimentary cup of tea or coffee available

Disclaimer: Heirlooms Needlework Gallery & Wyndom House are not responsible for any loss of belongings and/or personal injury that may occur during the visit to the exhibition



Over ninety - yes, 90 - samplers were on display and the catalogue contained pages and pages of images of many of the samplers with an explanation of the design title, the designer/design company and the name of the person who stitched the sampler and in which room of the house the samplers were displayed -
Needlework Gallery : Hall :
Front Entrance : Master Bedroom :
Guest Bedroom : Third Bedroom :
Dining Room : Breakfast Nook :
Family Room : Library
and the new needlework gallery (under construction).

The most significant samplers on display were the antique samplers. The majority of these amazing samplers (12) were a selection from the awesome collection owned by Jeanie Jenkins of Hastings. These samplers dated from 1810 to 1917 and were stitched by young girls aged from seven to fourteen years of age and one by a gentleman.

Here is an image of the complete display -



and a few images of individual samplers -



Eliza Drake
London 1810



Charlotte ?
1837 ?
(Name, age and date difficult to read)



Frank
1917
(Stitched on perforated paper)
Possibly stitched by Frank
in France during WWI
and sent to his mum in England



Frances ?
Aged 12 years
Undated



Jeanie has graciously given her permission for me to chart the samplers in her collection and to follow are two samplers that have been charted.

One is currently available for purchase

BARB 2005

Helen's Sampler ~ 1864

\$ 22.50



and this sampler will be available soon.

BARB 2006

S.A. Percival ~ God is Love

The pattern will provide the chart and instructions for stitching as a sampler to be framed and as an ornamental.



In addition to the samplers, Jeanie loaned pieces of her antique china - all pieces featuring needlework designs/patterns.

China pieces were by the following companies -

Royal Albert : Bovey Pottery Company : H & K : Masons : Royal Doulton : Royal Winton : L & Sons Ltd

Thank you, Jeanie, for allowing us to enjoy these amazing pieces of needleart created so many years ago and to see so many needlework patterned pieces of china. Sincerely appreciated.

Apart from appreciating the beauty of these samplers and the china, I was able to be thankful for my Heavenly Father's protection as only a couple of days after setting up the display, the devastating earthquake that so badly affected the South Island was experienced here in the Hawkes Bay. Doors and windows rattled, iron window weights in the window frames clanged, hanging ceiling lights swung wildly, closed drawers opened, open doors shut, etc. - but NOT ONE antique sampler fell from the wall or its easel and NOT ONE piece of china fell over or was broken! God is Good !!

Another antique sampler on display was kindly loaned by Margot McLennan of Hastings.

Mary Anne Crozier

Aged Seven Years

17 May 1823

Of this sampler, Margot says,

"My mother purchased this sampler during her first holiday without parents in Ireland (pre WW2). Mary Anne has no connection to our family but mother had a good eye for lovely things and this sampler is something that I really treasure".

Margot has also graciously given permission for me to publish this sampler. To date it is charted and the thread colours have been chosen (as can be seen on the sampler piece of fabric in front of the sampler) but as yet I have not stitched a model of it. I hope to do this very soon.



In addition to the details of the samplers and their makers, the catalogue also contained information about the four different Mystery Samplers that were on display and had been stitched in the previous three years and the one currently in progress.

The significant features for all mystery samplers were -

- * No-one knew beforehand the finished look of the sampler
- * Instructions for only a portion of the design were given over a period of six months
- * The sampler colours were to be the stitcher's choice
- * Colour shades suggested for each band/section/area could be changed
- * A verse or another band or design could be added

To follow are more particulars and images of *some* of the Mystery Samplers on display.

Favoured Shades Sampler (2014): In addition to the features listed on the previous page, this design was to be worked with seven shades of one colour - the stitcher's favourite colour - and two complementary Perle cotton threads.



Two versions
of the original sampler



Joy Hurford
Havelock North



Linda Graham - Christchurch
Robyn Phillips - Hastings



Pam Hales
Otane



Marilyn Thorp
Taradale



Ruth Kerr
Taradale



Sharon Gordon
Napier



Maree Duffett
Auckland



Maryann Kingston
Waipawa



Elisabeth Beachen - Napier
Janet Jones - Hastings



Annette Webb
Hastings

A Sampler of Stitches (2013): In addition to the features listed on page three, this design was to be worked with one variegated thread and five solid dyed complementary coloured threads and two complementary Perle cotton threads.



Elisabeth Beachen
Napier



Linda Graham
Christchurch



Marilyn Thorp
Taradale



Maree Duffett
Auckland



Framed Pieces -
Back : Joy Hurford
Havelock North
Front : Maryann Kingston
Waipawa

Bellpull -
Dorothy Devane
Waikanae

I love the verse that Elisabeth added to her sampler. I cannot remember the exact words, but the message was that the only time that 'housework' came before 'needlework' was in the dictionary! Don't you love it too !!

The Butterfly Sampler (2015): In addition to the features listed on page three, the butterfly in this design and some of the rows of stitches were to be worked with one variegated thread and the remainder of the stitches were to be worked in three solid dyed coloured threads that were in the overdyed thread and two complementary Perle cotton threads. Once again, the stitcher was to choose a variegated thread that contained their favourite colours.

This sampler incorporated various embroidery techniques - Counted thread stitches, Blackwork and Hardanger.

This sampler was designed by Linda Graham of Christchurch and the image to the right shows one of her two original samplers.



To follow are some of The Butterfly Sampler Mystery Samplers on display.



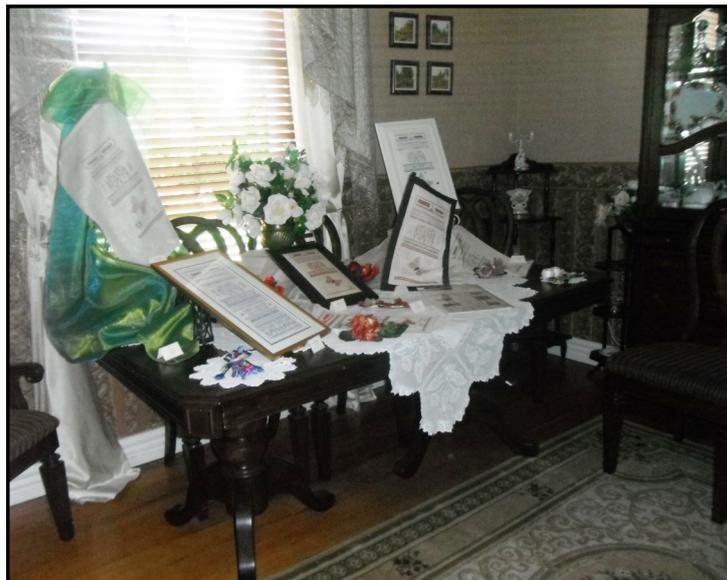
Maryann Kingston
Waipawa



Pam Hales
Otane

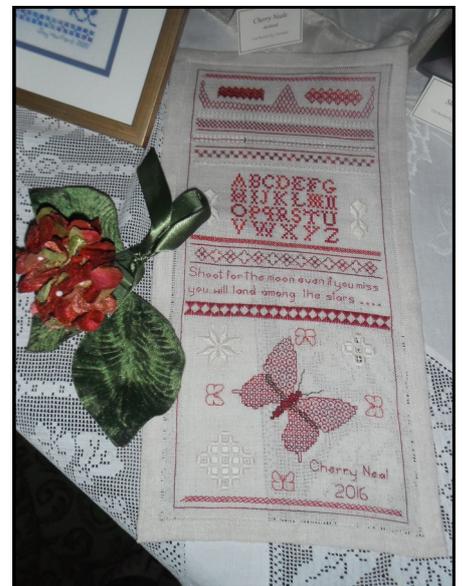


Robyn Phillips
Hastings



Both of these ladies opted to make changes
to the original sampler
~
Joy Hurford
Havelock North
chose to replace the butterfly
with the name and birth date of her granddaughter
and added additional rows of stitches

~
Cherry Neal
Auckland
opted to add a verse:
"Shoot for the moon
even if you miss you will land among the stars"



The Butterfly Sampler displays continued ...

Samplers as displayed on the sideboard -



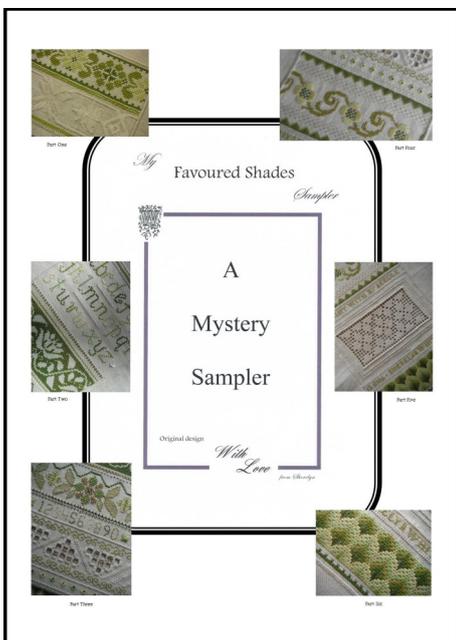
Sharon Gordon
Napier



Leta Hunter
Pukerua Bay



Elisabeth Beachen
Napier



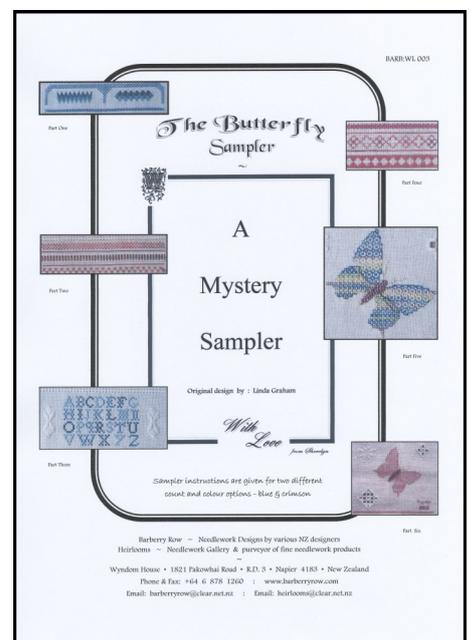
The Mystery Samplers

~ Favoured Shades Sampler ~

~ The Butterfly Sampler ~

are now available as complete designs

\$45.00 each



Barberray Row - Needlework Designs by various NZ designers
Hokitika - Needlework Gallery & purveyor of fine needlework products
Wynham House - 1821 Palisades Road - R.D. 5 - Napier 4185 - New Zealand
Phone & Fax: +64 6 478 1200 | www.barberrayrow.com
Email: barberrayrow@clear.net.nz | Email: hokitika@clear.net.nz

Family Quaker Sampler (2016): *At the time of the exhibition, this mystery sampler project was a work in progress.... and still is as Part One of the project was not released until the 1st of September. I was a bit late with designing it, stitching it and writing up the instructions.*

In addition to the mystery sampler features listed on page three, this design was to be worked with one variegated thread and solid dyed coloured threads - the quantity dependent on the number of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the sampler maker's family. The design for this sampler was inspired by samplers that were stitched by girls who attended the Ackworth School in the UK for Quaker children from 1779 to the mid 1800's.

My sampler has been worked with an overdyed Sampler Thread by The Gentle Art - Soot.

My family names -

Daughter : Melissa Joy Whitfield - DMC 814

Son : Rodney Keith Whiteman - DMC 936

Melissa's children / my grandchildren - DMC 815

Rodney's children / my grandchildren - DMC 3051



Part Six is to be released on the 1st of February and this last part will be the personalisation at the bottom of the sampler.

It is not too late to participate in this project. If you would like to do so:

Cost for design charts and instructions is \$50.00.

Please email me with your name, address and phone number advising that you wish to participate and I will reply with details of fabric and thread requirements, how to make payment, etc. - heirlooms@clear.net.nz

Alternatively, this design will be published in a few months after the mystery sampler project has finished and available to be purchased complete.

There are many, many more samplers that were on display during the exhibition, but I will feature them in my next blog.

Before then though, as I began this note - time to pack up this amazing exhibition.

I am sure that many of you will be anxious to hang your samplers on your walls again.

Once again, my sincere thanks to all ladies who willingly loaned their samplers and to all the visitors to the exhibition.

