

Blog #107 - Stay Calm And Stitch:

February 2021

This month I had to tackle the books for the accountant for them to pass on to the IRD. As per usual they should have been completed and forwarded to them by the end of July last year - but I was again procrastinating. As mentioned so many times before, I hand write all our business and private transactions. I know where I am and the state of our finances if I do them this way. I can't think of anything worse than sitting in front of a computer screen inputting data (invoices & stock received, payments made, etc. etc.). To me - what a waste of time. And to me, time is a very important & valuable commodity. Give me a cash book that I can open and immediately tell you the balance of our accounts without having to turn on a machine, find the file and scroll down or across rows of data on a limited screen area. After 33 years in business I can almost tell you the amount of profit we've made, value of our stock, etc. by an inner feeling. Enough on that subject! Now to yours and my passion

A couple of blogs ago I related that I had stitched one of the two pieces - NOEL - of Judy's 'Be Joyful' Christmas design and so this month I stitched the JOY piece.

I then finished both pieces as hanging ornaments for on the Christmas tree or a door handle. On reflection I should have chosen a different way to finish them as they are a little too large as a soft finishing. They tend to 'buckle'.

However I am sure this would not happen had I stuffed them more firmly with filling or placed a piece of cardboard in with the stuffing.

Love the designs though.

My favourite - decorative letters.



JBW 368 : Be Joyful : \$ 25.00

For those of you who have sharp eyes, you will see my error. When I first discovered it, I decided to leave it and make adjustments to the remaining elements to match my initial error.

* Have fun trying to find it! *

* When you find my error, please email your finding to me before the 20th of June and I will enter your name into a drawing with all the others who find the error and you may be the lucky recipient to receive this design as a prize. The error will be shown and the winner of the design will be advised in my next blog.

The next design I stitched was by Sandie Vanosdall of 'The Sweetheart Tree'.

A design she created at the beginning of the COVID outbreak - STAY CALM AND STITCH. LOVE IT!



Sadly, as Sandie has now retired, I can no longer order this design directly from her. I have sold out of all those that I had in stock.

Sandie is supplying a USA distributor and so you may be able to order this design from a USA needlework store such as Inspired Needle, Sassy Jacks or Attic Needlework.

I have made the decision that I do not wish to purchase from a distributor, thus once I have sold out of her designs that I have in stock, they are GONE.



Mind you, that may take a while as I have almost all of her designs from #1, and often more than one copy of a design. Thus currently have nearly 500 of her designs in stock. Being her NZ distributor for over 25 years I always felt I needed to be faithful to her by continually having all her designs available. I will miss my business contact with her but will never lose contact with her as she has become a very special and treasured friend.

Another couple of pieces of needlework I stitched was the job and scissors holder titled, 'Ooh La La' designed by Judy of JBW Designs - but with variations. That is, apart from the job. Stitched it as per the original, although stitched one side of the job with an overdyed thread and the other side with a regular solid coloured DMC thread. Judy worked her model with two DMC threads - 602 & 818.

The fabric and threads I chose were -
Fabric: Belfast Linen - 32 count - Antique White (#101)
Thread: Sampler Thread - Bubblegum & DMC 602
Finishing Thread (cords) - DMC 602

The design gave a choice of two options for stitching around the central Eiffel Tower - multiple crowns or an alphabet - both of which I liked.



JBW 333 : Ooh La La : \$ 17.50

You most probably know me well enough to know that I rarely use a printed cotton fabric for backing or lining my needlework



pieces - and so I chose to stitch both choices, using one for the front and the other for the back of the scissors holder. To create the pouch for the scissors, on another piece of equal sized fabric I stitched the bottom half of the front design again, folded down the piece of unworked fabric and laid it over top of the full front design and tacked it to the worked front piece.



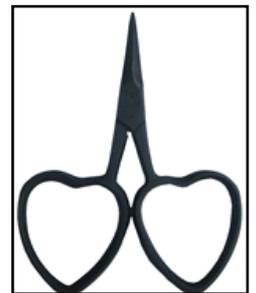
I then backstitched a border around both front and back pieces, mounted each piece onto padded cardboard templates,

whip stitched the backstitches of the front and back pieces together and finally covered the seam with a twisted cord and added a tassel at the centre of the bottom of the scissors holder.

In so doing the design this way it gave me the inspiration to design a piece - but more about that in another blog. The pencil drawings have been created and placed into my "Design Ideas Box".

In case you are wondering, the lovely little pair of scissors attached to the job are called, "Little Loves" and are available in various colours - gold, silver, black, primitive black, white, red, pink, blue, green, purple & chocolate brown.

The pair pictured above and to the right are the 'Primitive Black'. \$ 33.50



And now to begin sharing my UK experiences with daughter, Melissa & granddaughter, Ashleigh. Tuesday, 1 October :

As I knew Melissa & Ashleigh were weary from their travelling, a leisurely breakfast was followed by discussions of where we'd like to go, what we'd like to see, what would be feasible, what would not.

For example - Fisherton de la Mere (Wiltshire), the village where Josephine Newell lived at Fisherton House/Manor and who created the embroidery technique now known as Fisherton de la Mere and which I teach and have used in some of my designs : Jane Austen House/Museum at Chawton (Hampshire) : Hever Castle : Highclere (where the TV series 'Downton Abbey' was filmed) : Windsor Castle : Tewkesbury (visit the home of a childhood friend who has lived on a farm there for over 40 years) :



Jane Austen House / Museum



Highclere Castle



Hampton Court



V & A Museum



Grantley Hall



Burleigh / Middleport Pottery Factory



Hexham Abbey

Kew Gardens : Hampton Court : Royal School of Needlework : V & A Museum : Harrods : Tower of London, the palaces & the other many London city sights & landmarks that Melissa had not seen but Ashleigh and I had : York : Grantley Hall near Ripon (the exclusive luxury boutique hotel & Ashleigh's workplace) : return visit to Ackworth School : Stoke-on-Trent (the Burleigh & Moorcroft factories) : The Lake District : Hexham (the home town of most of the Bennett family) ... and so the list went on

Eventually an itinerary was decided upon. Understandably some of the venues having to be discarded.

We then leisurely wandered the gardens of Langshott Manor (photos of it in Blog #104)



and late morning travelled to the mall in Horley for lunch. Melissa left me in the cafeteria area to rest and stitch and she & Ashleigh wandered off to explore the mall for a couple of hours after which we went to the movie theatre to watch the newly released 'Downton Abbey' movie. Most enjoyable.

It was 'bucketing' down with rain when we walked out of the theatre. We thought that our plans for the next day would have to be altered. A lovely evening dinner at the Langshott and to bed to rest for the first of the destinations on our planned itinerary.

Till next time, may you find peace and contentment as you spend time with fabric, threads and needle in your hands.

That is - as per the title of this blog -

STAY CALM AND STITCH.



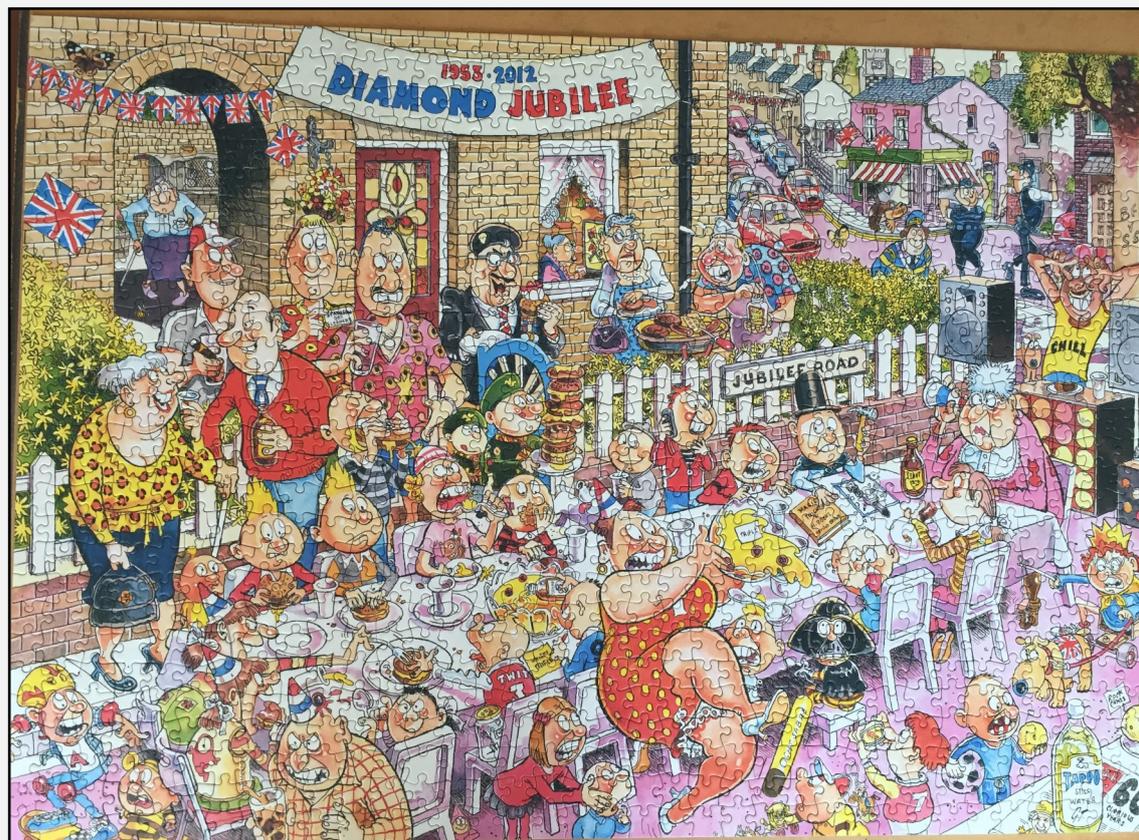
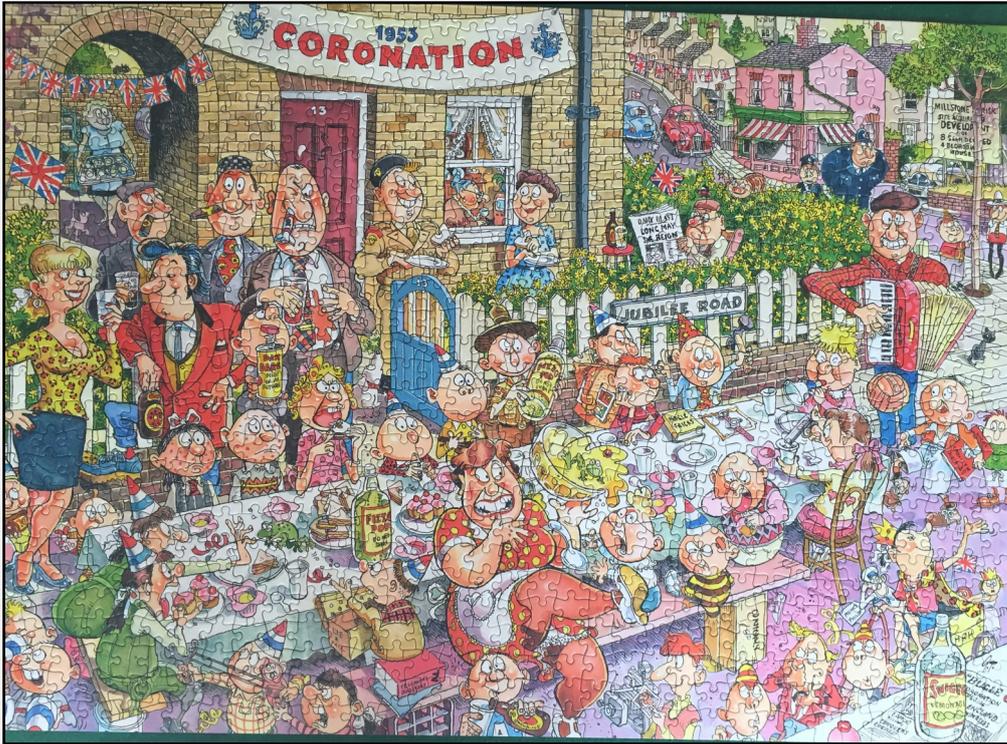
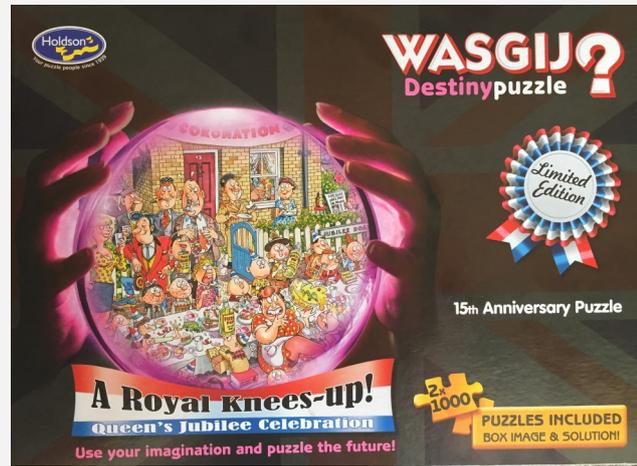
Something to make you smile
The Aging Process

Some time ago I was given a jigsaw box that contained two puzzles.
One puzzle as per that pictured on the box lid
and the other was a mystery one. One had to use their imagination.

I was reminded about these puzzles whilst I was enjoying watching
all the wonderful celebrations for the Queen's Royal 70th jubilee.

An awesome milestone. She is an incredible lady.
God has blessed her as she has always acknowledged him throughout her life.

CONGRATULATIONS YOUR MAJESTY



I especially love
the couple on the left.

I wonder if his
"chatting up"
above in 1953
resulted in them getting
together
or was he still trying
in 2012?

As for the lady coming
through the archway –
looks like me!