

# Mystery Sampler

Sunday, 7 April 2013 - Oh, dear, I am well and truly behind so many of you with my sampler! In fact, I know some of you have already finished your sampler!! Three of our local ladies have, and one of these ladies, Faye Miller, has actually begun stitching this sampler design again - but - with different colours. She is already down to the area that has the large flower and acorns in it that is bordered by the chain stitch (inside the backstitching). She came into the Gallery last Friday - and here is a picture of it. Very similar in shadings to her first sampler as her favourite colour is blue. To me, this reinforces what a wonderful project this has been, as Faye loves and always has worked the most beautiful free-form embroidery pieces. Stitching a counted thread piece has been a bit different and challenging at times for her. I also photographed her finished sampler (the Whitework section she has adapted in many ways) but I will only show you to the end of Part Five of it in this progress update. So too, same with Robyn Burn's.



As mentioned above, I am so behind with my sampler - what with being at the needlework trade show when Part 5 arrived, then once home trying to unpack all the suitcases of new goodies for the Gallery and catch up on all the tasks that had accumulated whilst I was away (piles of mail; replies to Emails and answer phone messages; orders received, etc.). And then, just one week after my arrival home (15th of March), my mum had another fall at home, gashing her head which required 10 stitches. As she is so frail she is still in hospital and probably will be for some time and so, visits to there every day and seeing to her needs.

A confession though, and that is, I am not particularly fond of Whitework and so I've procrastinated a little.

Also, an apology. I forgot to photograph everyone and everyone's work when they came for the day on Sunday the 24th. I am so sorry. As per usual, we had a lovely time together.

## However, on to Part Five:

**Band Twenty Two:** Long Arm Cross Stitch - it was suggested by Elizabeth that this should be worked in Perle 12 - but I opted for Contrast A (Heather : 3861). I also reversed the slant of the long arm to that in Band Twenty.

**Band Twenty Three:** This band is to be worked in Perle 8 and Perle 12 in the colour of your choice. Traditionally, Whitework is worked with the thread colour matching the fabric colour, but many of the ladies in our stitch group have opted for a coloured Perle cotton to complement their variegated silk thread colour - and these samplers look just as wonderful! As can be seen in the two samplers above. Faye has chosen a colour : Robyn has chosen tradition.

*(Also notice that Faye changed the style of alphabet on her sampler - it is not the same as charted in Part Four).*

As for myself, I have chosen to stay with tradition with regard to thread colour, but I wasn't too sure which colour I liked the best - 644 or 3033 - and so stitched half of this band in one colour and the other half in the other colour. Unfortunately the colour difference doesn't show up very well in the photo, but I've chosen to use 644. So I have had to do some reverse stitching. However, I have broken with tradition in that I am not a fan of thicker threads and so I'm only going to use Perle 12 to stitch all my Whitework bands.

As I've said so many times before - this is what I've so enjoyed about this sampler project - that is, adapting it to make it ones own.



Faye  
Miller



Robyn  
Burn



# Mystery Sampler continued ...

**Band Twenty Four:** For those of you working on Belfast Linen - **BEWARE!** Fortunately Elizabeth Beachen of our group warned me of this before I began removing my threads in this band - and so I was aware of it - and I am **SO** grateful to her, as she was **SO** right with her findings! Like her, I was so upset and frustrated when trying to remove the threads. They kept breaking and getting "fluffy". There is NO way you can remove two rows of fabric threads at a time and then reweave the empty space with the withdrawn threads. I ended up opting for cutting all the threads at the centre, taking them back to the tacking lines and then weaving them into the back of the threads beyond the tacking lines. Even so, over this short distance the fabric threads would break and become fluffy. Even with coating them with beeswax . Grrrr .....

Incidentally, Elizabeth has worked her sampler with *The Thread Gatherer's* variegated silk thread colour, *Giulia's Dream* (dyed especially for and named for Giulia, Cece's and my special friend from Italy whose design company is known as *GPA - Giulia Puntì Antichi*).



Elizabeth's choice of fabric - cream Belfast linen. Just lovely. And, she is one of the ladies to have completely finished her sampler!

**Band Twenty Five:** I worked this band with Perle 12 rather than with Perle 8. Just my preference.

**Band Twenty Six:** I was not looking forward to removing the fabric threads in this band! But, band is now finished. So on to Part 6 ....

Faye & Robyn's samplers - despite my bad photography, the effect of using the coloured thread instead of the traditional in the above bands can be seen. Result gives quite a different look. Both lovely!

And so, only one more part until this wonderful sampler project is over. I have to confess to feeling sad that it is finishing.

No date has been set as yet, but the intention is to have a Friday evening and a weekend where those of you who wish to, may have your samplers on display. I think it will be awesome to see them all displayed together at one time.

Another get-together is planned for a time of fellowship, friendship, inspiration and encouragement and to see the progress on one another's samplers - and of course, see those that have been finished. Details of this day are below. See you then. Shereilyn



A closer look at Faye & Robyn's samplers  
*(Apologies, Faye. Photo focus is not good)*

*MSG - Mystery Sampler Gathering - Stitch Day*

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**VENUE:** Heirlooms • 1821 Pakowhai Road • RD 3 • Napier

**WHEN:** Sunday

**DATE:** 28 April 2013

**TIME:** 11am - 4pm \*

(\* *Visit at a time convenient for you ~ come when you can : leave when you must. No reservation required*)

**WHAT TO BRING:** Your Needlework project : Your lunch : Your smile

*A cup of tea or coffee will be available*