

The Stitchers Voice

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Official Newsletter of The Stitchers' Village

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS ...



This month we hear from Deborah Dick who lives in northern Idaho, up in the mountains above a small town with the tiniest LNS ever, and who's comment 'Thank

goodness for the Internet and groups like *The Sampler Life for inspiration*' would be understood by many of our members who live in remote areas ...

We'll let Deborah tell the story from here. The first experience I had with stitching was a piece of needlepoint, for a coffee coaster. It was a rather ornate Celtic cross, a rather ambitious project for a girl of my age, I suppose, but it whetted my appetite. I was about 12 then and was in a church group whose leader must have been a stitcher. This was way back when girls of that age had no electronics to play with and TV had so few programs it was hardly worth turning the knob.

So reading and stitching became my favorite activities, and of course making pot holders on my little metal loom, and yards of that spool lace done with Knitting Nancy. Essentially, threads and fibers of any kind and all those wonderful colors - far more than in my box of Crayolas - and what they could be made to represent, fascinated me.

Then in 1978, when I was just 30 I met a crotchety old woman (she was at least 50) and the real love affair began.

The fascinating woman lived in a

weathered, 3 storey Victorian house on the corner of a busy street, hidden by an enormous hedge. The town and traffic were hectic - noise, dust, not so appealing. But when I walked through her front door, I entered a world of samplers.

Her walls, crowing with 12 foot ceilings, were covered, literally, with samplers of every kind. All old looking and some really were old, because as I said, she was ancient - 50, you know.

She shared her knowledge, some fabric, took me to several of her favorite shops and we began. She even taught me how to buy old frames at the flea market and cut to size to add to the charm of the sampler reproductions that I adored.

Like Alice Down the Rabbit Hole I began my enchanted journey ...

So just like Alice Down the Rabbit Hole, I began my enchanted journey, from Merrily Beams to Darlene O'Steen to all the hundreds of other wonderful designers.

And on into the world of special stitches, linens, and even dying my own fabric. I came to appreciate many styles but my favorite remains the old fashioned sampler.

Now I have begun to dabble seriously with designs of my own and hope one day someone will stumble through the front door of this old lady's house - for I am now far past 50, you know - and discover that magic world of painting with needle and thread.

Deborah has a wonderful Webshots photo album page, and she has kindly shared the link with us so that we can go and visit her own wonderful stitching world.

<http://community.webshots.com/user/Thistletoes>

What's New In The World of Needlework!

or ... A Little Retail Therapy is Always Good For The Soul!

LOTS OF NEWS FROM DINKY-DYES!

Dinky-Dyes will be releasing 5 new silk colours and adding 5 colours to the ever-growing range of silk ribbons at the end of September TNNA Fall Needlework Show.



KNOT OF CELTS

Knots of the Celts is the latest addition to Dinky-Dyes Celtic Collection and will be available after the TNNA Fall Needlework Market.

Finished size is 192H x 193W and the model is stitched on Antique White Jobelan in Dinky-Dyes silks.

FLORAL SCISSORS

New to the Dinky-Dyes Scissor collection is this pretty pair of floral scissors. These lovely scissors represent excellent value for money as do all the scissors in the range.



2 NEW DESIGNS FROM HEIRLOOM EMBROIDERIES!

Christmas Sweetie Bags - Merry Christmas and Noel and a new ornament - Snowflake.

Both charts include the full instructions on how to make the lined Sweetie bags and ornament.



What's New In The World of Needlework!

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A STITCHER'S CHRISTMAS TOY BOX

New From The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio

This design will be released end September, 2009 at the TNNA Fall Needlecraft Market.

A glorious fabric box filled to the brim with little stitching accessories that double as Christmas decorations. There's a Christmas cracker stitching roll, a present scissor fob, a 3" rule pocket, a triangular threadkeep holder and a wee little tin topper for pins and needles.

Christmas in Australia is bright and sunny and full of flowers - and the colours in this new design reflect that wonderful tropical feeling of Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere.

Originally a teaching piece, the charts, stitching instructions and finishing notes for this project are extremely clear and comprehensive. This design comes as a 20 page booklet.

Stitched on 32 count Belfast Gold/Raw using Dinky-Dyes Silks and Silk Ribbons Floss and ribbon packs for this project are also available.

Be sure to contact the Village Shoppes to place an order for your Christmas Stitches Box and Noel, Naturally (below) soon!



NOEL, NATURALLY

New From The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio

This design will also be released end September, 2009 at the TNNA Fall Needlecraft Market.

A lovely little 'natural on raw' French-inspired Christmas ornament which will only take a couple of evenings to stitch and construct.

The pack includes the stitching chart, comprehensive finishing instructions and a skein of Dinky-Dyes 'natural' silk floss. A wonderful 'starter' project for young stitchers, and an easy project for experienced stitchers looking for a pretty little Christmas gift for a friend.



Sheila's Bletter

Here in the UK August and September are busy months. Everyone is starting to think about the local shows where work is to be exhibited. I live in the North East of England and there are lots of small shows where people show off their skills at flower and vegetable growing (and arranging), craft skills and of course cooking.

Northumberland has lots of agricultural shows where the animals are shown at their best and crafters travel round the shows competing in all the different competitions. We all like to get rosettes for 1st in show - even a special commendation is welcome!

The embroidery and craft show season really starts in earnest at the end of August with Festival of Quilts at the NEC in Birmingham 20th - 23rd August (www.twistedthread.com) followed in October by The Knitting and Stitching shows in Alexandra Palace, London (8th - 11th Oct) and Dublin (29th Oct - 1st Nov) with Harrogate later in November (19th - 22nd).

The Stitch and Creative Craft shows are held in Manchester (4th - 6th Sept), Esher in Surrey (18th - 20th September) and Belfast (12th - 14th November). (www.sccshows.co.uk).

Crafts for Christmas combined with Hobby Crafts will be at SECC Glasgow (22nd - 25th Oct) and at NEC Birmingham (5 - 8th Nov) (www.ichf.co.uk/indoorcraftsalive)

I wish I had the time, and the money, to go to them all! In November I will probably go to The Knitting and Stitch Show in Harrogate.

My favourite show, The Fashion and Embroidery Show is no longer in

Harrogate this year and has moved to NEC Birmingham for it's 21st Anniversary (25th - 26th February 2010) (www.ichf.co.uk/fashion) Please oh please come back to Harrogate!

However I can see a nice birthday treat coming on next year just in time for my Big 6 - 0!

Our local Creative Crafts for Christmas at Newcastle Arena is in October (15th-17th) (www.initialj.co.uk) and another one called Living North Christmas Fair is held at Newcastle Racecourse (5th-8th November) (newcastle.livingnorthfair.co.uk)

A friend has a stall there and I am going to help out, so we are starting to make things ready for that, it should be great fun.

I just love going to shows as an exhibitor because I get a chance to meet up with people I haven't seen for a while and the chat is all about embroidery and crafts, my idea of bliss.

I forgot to mention the small craft fair in December in Durham City (sorry no link for this one). I will also be helping my friend out there as well. Durham is a beautiful city, very quaint and old fashioned with a lovely cobbled market square and indoor market. December in the North East can be cold and wet so I'll have to wrap up warm!

That's all from me for this month. I hope you enjoyed my little tour around some of our UK craft shows. I'm sorry for those I haven't mentioned I'll tell you about them when I'm planning my shows for 2010.

Sheila



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE SHOPPES IN THE VILLAGE

Shop 2 - HANGING BY A THREAD

Patrick's Woods Classes

June 12 and 13, 2010

Registrations now open for both of these classes. You can see the beautiful class pieces on display in our windows!

Shop 6 - THREE STITCHES

2010 Mystery themed Get-A-Way begins on April 9, 2010

This is always very popular and usually booked out well in advance. Book your place through our website, via our shopfront on the homepage of the Village.

Shop 18 - NEEDLE NY-DLE NOO

NEW SHOP! Be sure to visit this month to welcome Ros and her staff to the Village, and to see what Needle Ny-dle Noo has to offer.

Shop 14 - TRADITIONAL STITCHES

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 9TH ANNIVERSARY! September 18 - 24, 2009

This is a great opportunity to start a relationship with us! Please subscribe to our free email newsletter for all of the details.

And make sure you visit us via our shopfront in the Village and see what extra special offers we have for you.

Shop 27 - CROSS STITCH TREASURES

Hosting Patricia Ann Designs Trunk Show for the month of September.

Shop 32 - LAZY DAISY STITCHERY

Hosting The Workbasket Trunk Show September 3-23, 2009

29 gorgeous models to be enjoyed if you happen to be in Long Island during September!

SPEND HALLOWEEN WITH US!

THROUGHOUT OCTOBER WE WILL BE HAVING LOTS OF SPOOKY FUN IN THE STITCHERS VILLAGE

The Shoppes are getting dressed in their spooky best to celebrate Halloween in The Stitches Village.

There will be a big scavenger hunt competition running throughout the month with a basket full of gift certificates from the participating Village Shoppes.

There will be wonderful new projects from our Village designers, designed especially for our celebrations.

THE FUN STARTS OCTOBER 1

Welcome To The Stitches Village Graveyard

**NOW
OPEN!**



Members Needlework Gallery

WE LOVE SHOW-OFFS!

We already have thirteen members showing off their wonderful stitching in the Members Stitching Gallery!

Every member has the opportunity to have their very own 'named gallery' with five 'picture frames' in place to exhibit their work. Pictures can be changed at any time, and there is no charge to own one of these gallery rooms.

So start sorting through your latest project pictures, click on the Members Gallery building, follow the prompts and become a real 'show-off' here at The Stitches' Village!

SEPTEMBER 2009 COMPETITION

Laurel's Stitchery from Norfolk, Virginia is sponsoring this month's competition.

For a chance to win a **\$100 Gift Certificate** from **Laurel's Stitchery**, complete the crossword puzzle in **Issue 9 of The Stitches Voice** and email your answers to Janie on **editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com** by end of day on Tuesday September 29, 2009.

THE SPECIAL HALLOWEEN DESIGNS AND EVENTS WILL BE LISTED IN THE **OCTOBER 1** ISSUE OF 'THE STITCHERS VOICE' ... MEMBERS ARE AUTOMATICALLY NOTIFIED WHEN NEW ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE ... BE THE FIRST TO KNOW, BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



DON'T FORGET! NEW CLASSES FROM CAROL TINSON!

One of our Village designers, Carol Tinson from Heirloom Embroideries, has created new classes that are now available in the School House. Over the past few months Carol has been making notes of what different stitching techniques members of the Village would like to learn and the new classes in the 'I Want to Make' and the 'I Want to Learn' series are the result.

Not only does Carol have these wonderful teaching pieces now available, but also due to requests from members, is conducting a Stitch-a-Long using 4 of the classes and she is offering a special package for all those who sign up for the Stitch-a-Long. Sign up for the 4 month Stitch-a-Long that will be conducted in The Tea Shoppe Forum and you will receive 4 designs for the price of 3.

The classes Carol is going to work through with participants are, the 'Name Badge' beginning September 17th, the 'Counted Stitch Sampler - Autumn' beginning October 1st, the 'Pin Keep' beginning November 1st and the 'Bookmark' beginning December 1st. Sign up for the Stitch-a-Long and receive the Name Badge class for free. **Details can be found in the School House.**

