

### NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

There's been much activity around the Village Green as more retailers move into their freshly decorated shops.

The Stitchers' Village warmly welcomes the following shops which are now Open and ready to help you with your needlework requirements.

- Shop 11 Nordic Needle
- Shop 14 Traditional Stitches
- Shop 22 Always In Stitches
- Shop 27 Cross Stitch Treasures
- Shop 30 FibersAndThreads.com
- Shop 31 Dyeing To Stitch
- Shop 32 Lazy Daisy Stitchery
- Shop 39 Haberdashery
- Shop 40 It's All Just String.com

and BushMountain Framing which has now moved into the green two storey building next door to the building which houses The Stitchers' Voice.

Gary of BushMountain Framing runs a blog from his shop - and is happy to answer questions on framing needlework. If you have a query head over to his shop and see if he can supply the answer. His range of framing options continues to grow so visit soon!

Have you visited our wonderful collection of shops around the Village Green recently? You'll find a wonderful selection of all things needlework, and there's bound to be several items that are just going to have to come home with you!

The staff in all of the shops are extremely helpful and ready to find just what you need in the way of charts, linens, threads and accessories.

So, gather together a group of friends, pop on your best hats and gloves, and spend a little time exploring each and every one of our Village shops sometime soon!

### FOCUS ON ... Hanging By A Thread - London, England

Hanging By A Thread was created by Susan Albury in the autumn of 1996. Frustrated at not being able to obtain the range of projects or classes with designers she had experienced on her trips to the USA and Canada, Susan decided to do something about it, which may seem strange for someone who hates sewing on buttons!

"I loved school, but my least favourite subject, after gym class, was needlework! These classes focussed on tailoring clothes and like many people; I decided that if this was 'needlework', it wasn't for me."

"It wasn't until many years later when I left college and started work that I first tried my hand at needlepoint and then I discovered cross-stitch on linen. After one small kit I was hooked! I moved on to bigger and more complicated designs but after a few years was looking for a fresh challenge. On a visit to the Needlecraft Fair at Olympia (London) I discovered the beautiful band samplers of Nan Caldera (Just Nan). A whole new world of beautiful stitches using stunning fibers and embellishments opened up in front of me.

You can imagine how excited I was to meet Nan in person on my first visit to a US trade show and we have been friends ever since. Nan has even designed an exclusive sampler for Hanging By A Thread called Regency Roses."

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Regency Roses by Just Nan

## FOCUS ON ... cont'd

"One of my proudest moments was gaining my Royal School of Needlework Certificate in Embroidery. Part of what drove me to start this business was the desire to share my knowledge with others.

I try to visit the USA at least twice a year and this usually involves taking classes with some of my favourite designers such as CA Wells (CA's Eclectic Collection), Lauren Sauer (Forget Me Nots In Stitches), or Tricia Wilson Nguyen (Thistle Threads).

I have been honoured that these talented ladies have become friends and have taught classes for me in London for several years now.

In November 2009, CA Wells will return to London for the twelfth year running to teach two stunning projects! CA's speciality is finishing three-dimensional objects – from the outside using her special linen binding stitch.

Plans are already in hand for classes in 2010 with an exciting announcement due very soon – watch our Stitcher's Village storefront for news!

If you are interested in purchasing advertising space in  
**The Village Voice newsletter**  
please email us on  
**advertTSV@stitchersvillage.com**

## VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Through the generosity of stitchers all over the world, Bushfire Kitty has raised over AUD500 in just under a month! Donations are still coming in, and The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio will continue to donate all funds to The Australian Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal as long as there are stitchers out there donating to the cause.

Janie and her friend Roz are bowled over by the response and would like to say a really big thank you to all that have donated, and to those who may like to donate in the future.

For a donation of USD3.50, Bushfire Kitty comes as a pdf file, and includes the cross-stitch charts for both the kitty and the words '07.02.09 Black Saturday' and suggested floss colours. Finishing instructions are not included as there are so many ways you could choose to use this design.

If you would like to help the cause copy and paste the following into your internet browser, and follow the prompts.

[http://thecatwhiskers.net.au/bushfire\\_appeal.html](http://thecatwhiskers.net.au/bushfire_appeal.html)

## MARCH COMPETITION WINNER!

Congratulations go to  
**Linda Hamisfar**

who correctly answered that there were 24 chimney stacks in The Village.

**Linda wins a complete set of Dinky-Dyes silks valued at \$656!**  
And thank you to everyone who entered.

## APRIL COMPETITION

Easter falls during April, so I thought we should have an Easter Egg hunt for our April Competition.

The Easter Bunny will hide the eggs on the home page of The Village website on Saturday April 11, and you will have a week to find all the eggs and then email the number of eggs you found to Janie on **editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com** by end of day on Saturday April 18, 2009.

The prize this month is a joint effort between Janie of The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio and Jo Mason of Dinky Dyes Threads. Janie is donating a set of her current 2009 new releases, plus her two previous Lounge Chair series designs, and Jo is donating the thread and ribbon packs for those designs that use Dinky Dye Threads. This prize is valued at well over \$300!



## 'TWIXT ART & NATURE

By Janie Hubble

On a recent trip to New York I was alerted to an exhibition being held at the BARD Graduate Center called 'English Embroidery from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1580-1700: 'Twixt Art and Nature', by a friend - Theresa Racht, of Arachne's Silken Web.

The BARD Graduate Center's quiet and unassuming exterior on West 86th Street welcomed myself and my traveling companion (a fellow stitcher), but gave nothing away as to what to expect from this exhibition.

Imagine our delight in finding three floors of the most wonderfully preserved and showcased needlework - and the only other people on any of the floors were the security guards!

The pieces on display included household items such as cushion covers and bed draperies, dress accessories such as gloves and caps, biblical subjects, nature subjects, royal subjects and items created as part of a young lady's education.

The work in these pieces is exquisite, and in most cases extremely fine and delicate. Both my traveling companion and I wondered out loud about how they had managed to create such wonderful work without the aid of an Ott light and magnifying glass!

At first I couldn't quite work out why the security guards were there ... surely those who visited this exhibition would be gentle and refined people who loved needlework and wouldn't behave badly!

I discovered quite quickly that the security guards were there to stop people from leaning too close over the glass cabinets and drooling as they gazed long and hard at the heavily embroidered and beaded leather gloves. I was asked on more than one occasion to 'step back a little please ma'am'. Very politely, and very quietly, so as not to embarrass ... but my traveling companion totally disowned me on the second warning.

One of the highlights of the exhibition to my mind was Item 31, a Woman's Jacket. English, ca. 1616. It is divine! It is fashioned from linen worked with silk and metal thread, and includes spangles, detached buttonhole

variations, wrapped ladder, straight, knot, chain and satin stitches and metal bobbin lace.

It features all manner of flowers such as roses, lilies, and carnations, it has pea pods and acorns, and bees and beetles and birds. The flowers are wrapped around by a gold vine design created by a complex two-step wrapped ladder stitch in gold metal thread, and all the edges of the jacket are trimmed with gold bobbin lace and spangles.

After admiring this piece for some time I discovered a video recorder close by detailing a project established initially at the Plimoth Plantation in MA, and now being continued under the careful eye of Tricia Wilson Nguyen of Thistle Threads. A group of dedicated and talented volunteers are working to create a 17th century embroidered jacket, taking its inspiration from the jacket to be found in the 'Twixt Art & Nature' exhibition.

You can find the blog detailing progress on this recreation at Tricia's website here: <http://thistle-threads.com/blog/>

I also note for those who live on the west coast of the US that Cathe Rae of 'Needle in a Haystack' will be hosting Tricia on Saturday April 18 as she details progress on the project in her lecture 'The Plimoth Jacket - A Paradise in Silk and Gold' from 5.30pm to 7.30pm. Pop into Cathe's shop here in The Village to find out more, or to book a seat.

My traveling companion and I spent a heavenly three hours wandering the floors of this exhibition, and could have spent many more had we had the time.

I purchased the hardcover book which supports this exhibition for the very reasonable sum of USD50. It is full of colour pictures of the exhibition pieces, plus pages of detailed descriptions and background information. It is a wonderful reference tool, for all stitchers and designers interested in this period of English embroidery.

The exhibition still has a couple of weeks to run (it closes on April 12) - so if you find yourself in New York with a few hours to spare, go and treat yourself to something very special. General entry is USD5. For more info on the exhibition go to: <http://www.bgc.bard.edu/>