



Blackwork Journey Blog

May 2014

'Save the Stitches' Blocks 8-9

Hands up for Uganda

New e-book!

SAVE THE STITCHES
Blackwork Journey Designs by Elizabeth Almond
Block 8 Patterns 38 - 44

Chart

Embroidery

Number



Blackwork Journey
Butterfly Ball
E-Book 1



Learn how to create a colour blackwork design from the beginning using traditional techniques and colour shading! Instructions, photographs, stitches and chart are included.

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by



NEW!

An e-book called 'Butterfly Ball' EB0001 has been added to Blackwork Journey this month.



Blackwork Journey Butterfly Ball

E-Book 1



Learn how to create a colour blackwork design from the beginning using traditional techniques and colour shading! Instructions, photographs, stitches and chart are included.

This 13 page e-book contains 30 pictures and diagrams and is designed to take the mystery out of coloured blackwork. If you are new to blackwork, there is an introduction to the history which then leads on to the choice of materials, threads, stitch details and method of working for 'Butterfly Ball'.

Work each stage step-by-step following the instructions and diagrams to create your own piece of coloured blackwork.

The e-book will be dispatched by e-mail as a PDF download. Price £6.00 (UK)

'Hands up for Uganda' – an inspirational exhibition for a good cause!

Raising money for charities is always difficult, especially in the current economic climate, so I was fascinated when I saw a most unusual exhibition at a craft show in England recently and with the permission of the organiser, I thought I would share it with you.

The Kisaabwa Project in Uganda has been supported by Martin and Bobby Britnell for many years. Bobby is a textile artist and tutor and along with her husband, they work as volunteers in the UK to raise awareness and funds for a Farming Project, Education, Apprenticeships, Vocational Courses, Local Crafts, Healthcare, Water and Electricity.

Janet Middleton is a well established shoe designer and her collaboration with Bobby and Janet came about by a simple conversation during which they discussed ways of using bark cloth creatively to promote the 'Hands up for Uganda' charity.

The idea was to encourage textile artists to decorate the bark cloth which Janet would then make into 'art shoes'. Support from textiles artists from all over the world and from all walks of life subsequently led to this unique exhibition and the 'Barkcloth to Artcloth' creation.

What is bark cloth?

Bark cloth is a non-woven fabric and comes from the matuba tree in the Buganda Kingdom of Southern Uganda, as well as in other parts of the world. Baganda craftsmen have been manufacturing bark cloth for the royal family for centuries and it is still worn for ritual and healing ceremonies, for cultural events and for funerals. Today, it is seeing a revival in Uganda and the exhibition will not only promote this revival, but raise awareness of the charity.



Children's shoes made from bark cloth and decorated by artists from round the world.



HANDS UP FOR UGANDA





WHO WE ARE




Martin and Bobby Britnell have been involved with Uganda for some years, and during this time they have formed a firm partnership with their Ugandan Project Manager, Fred Ssetyaba, a local man from Kisaabwa. Fred is the driving force behind this charity in Uganda and has extensive community insight, knowledge and commitment to the project.

Supported by a dedicated UK committee, and many kind volunteers, the charity 'Hands up for Uganda' has been created with the overriding aim of empowering the people of Kisaabwa, by giving them hope of a self-supporting and sustainable future.



HELP US PROVIDE A BETTER FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN



* HELP US IMPROVE HEALTHCARE — MALARIA, AIDS AND JIGGERS ARE ALL MAJOR CONCERNS

WHAT WE DO



Kisaabwa, in Southern Uganda, is a very poor rural community lacking in many facilities that we in the western world take for granted. However the community, with our help, are determined to make a difference. They are prepared to work collectively and contribute their time, energy and skills in shaping their future. This is the Kisaabwa Project.

We work as volunteers in the UK to raise awareness and funds for the following:

- Farming Project
- Education
- Apprenticeships
- Vocational Courses
- Local Crafts
- Healthcare
- Water
- Electricity



HELP US IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS



HELP US SUPPORT ORPHANS AND HOMELESS FAMILIES



HELP US PROVIDE CLEAN WATER



Bobby and her project



Many different embellishments were used to create these 'art shoes' from sequins and beads to feathers and appliqué. Each pair is unique and reflects the interests of the different artists.



This is just a small sample from the collection. I hope you enjoy looking at the shoes as much as I did!

Jacobean Embroidery

I never fail to marvel at the novel methods artists use to display their work.

When we create our embroideries, we need to consider what we will use them for and how best to display them! Looking back through historical publications can provide an insight into how embroidery was used. For example, in Jacobean times embroidery in the form of stumpwork was mounted on wooden boxes to display the skills of the needlewoman. We still use boxes to show our work today.



Boxes used to display two pieces of embroidery by Liz Almond

A stumpwork casket made by Hannah Traphm (1671) is on display at Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire, England (National Trust property). It is made of silk, wood and silver. Stumpwork is raised embroidery, where sections of the design are padded to provide a 3D effect. It was widely used in England from around 1625 to the end of the century to decorate caskets, mirror frames and book bindings as well as embroidered pictures. This type of work was considered part of a girls needlework education and would have often contained personal possessions such as mirrors, writing materials, needlework equipment and jewellery.



A treasure from the past!

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To explore Jacobean embroidery in more detail there is a free e-book available from www.gutenberg.org which is full of illustrations and information which could be used in modern embroidery.

Project Gutenberg e-book, 'Jacobean Embroidery - Its Forms and Fillings including Late Tudor' by Ada Wentworth Fitzwilliam and A. F. Morris Hands



Extract from 'Jacobean Embroidery' by Ada Wentworth Fitzwilliam

'Save the Stitches'

Blocks 8 and 9 have been added to my 'Freebies' site this month. The e-mails and pictures continue to come in from around the world, including Russia and Japan. It is so exciting to see how people are working the charts, the colours and materials they are using and the enthusiasm which they are showing. It has been wonderful for me to read the e-mails and the comments in my Guest Book and learn of the pleasure this is creating in the embroidery community.

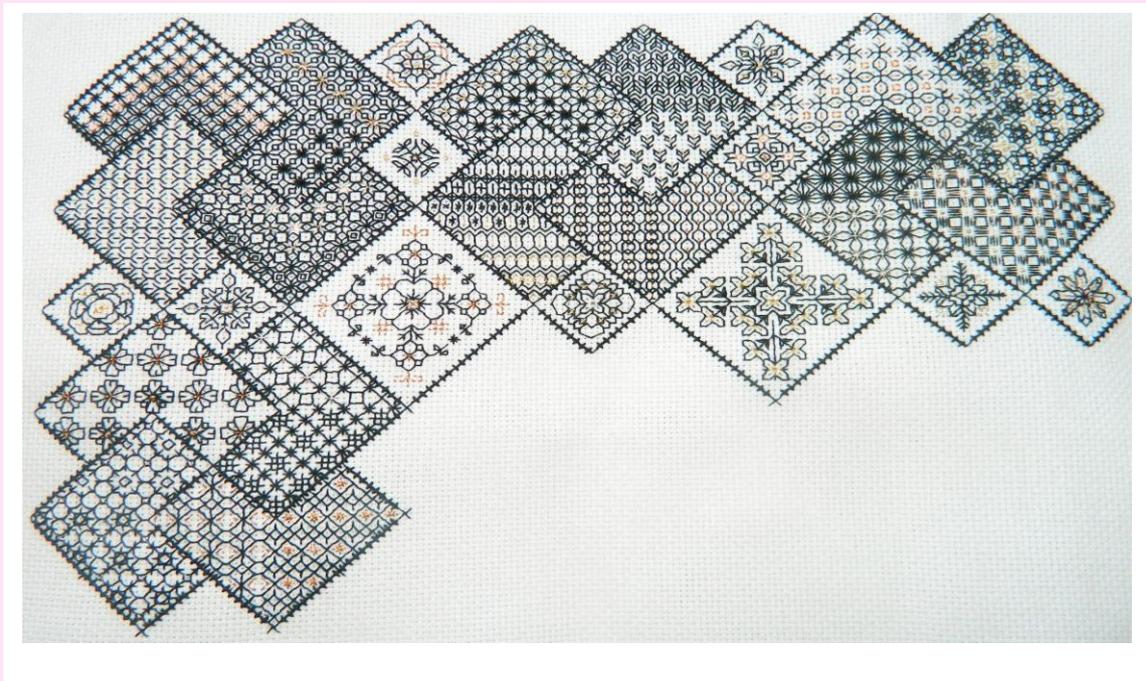
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The 'Pinterest' web site has been a very satisfactory way of displaying your work and so far, the boards are being followed by over 150 people, so if you haven't explored the site yet go to: www.pinterest.com/elizabethalmond/Savethestitches and have a look!

Bernadette is new to blackwork and is progressing really well with her blocks!

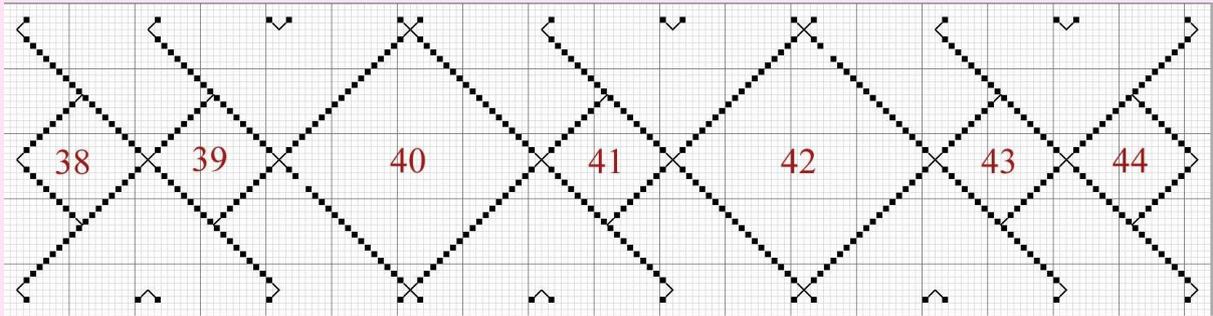


Counted thread embroidery worked on evenweave fabric is always worked over TWO threads unless otherwise stated in the chart.



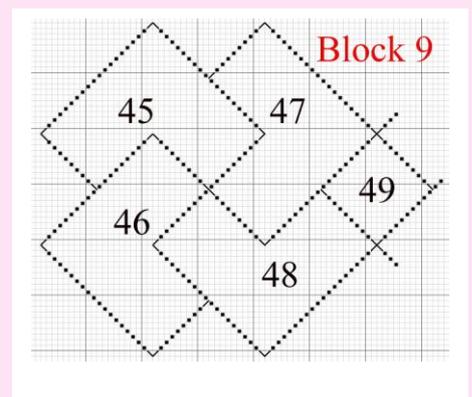
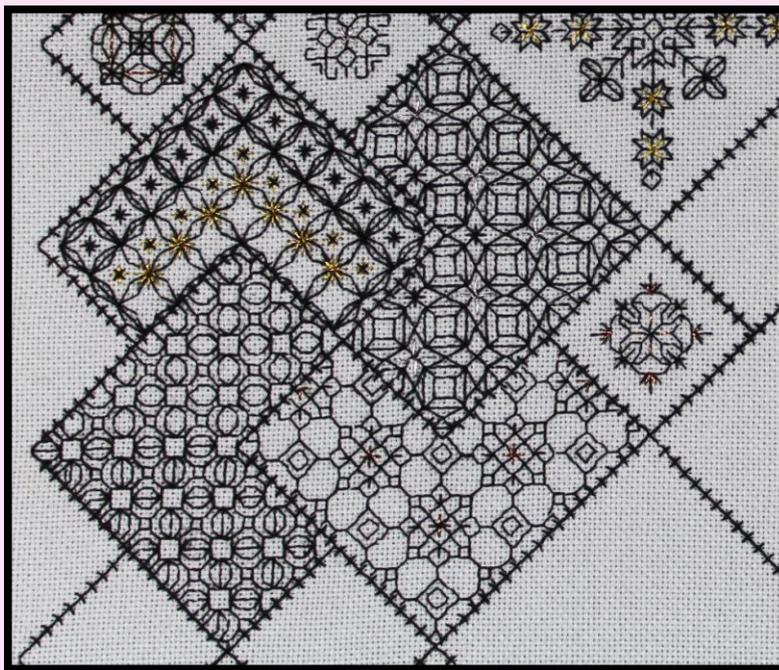
Julia from the USA has stitched Blocks 1 – 5





Block 8 is the full width of the embroidery and consists of seven different motifs which can be used for individual projects.

Once Block 9 has been completed, 49 patterns will have been added to the Stitch Dictionary. There are patterns within each pattern showing how they can be developed further, thus increasing the number of pattern variations within the project.



Block 9 embroidered!

I hope you have enjoyed this month's Blog. If you have any questions please contact me at lizalmond@blackworkjourney.co.uk

Happy stitching!

Liz