

Cherry Parker's Jan 2021 Newsletter

The tree is down and the first hot cross buns have appeared in the shops. It must be January!

I love working with felt and the ladies at our first meeting of 'Hand stitching and Crafty things' had fun with making their owls. The finishing touches to some will be done at home although several were completed. One has already gone to a grand-daughter fresh from having an operation. Whether it be owls or a small teddy bear, they make great gifts at difficult times. Or just to give for fun.



Just before Christmas I finished my Forest Gnome all made from felt. I have never been good at eyes and noses, so I used doll/bear eyes with washers at the back and a 2mm felt pompom for the nose. Extra easy which is just what I like.

I found that if I changed the props in the photo he soon became a Christmas Forest Gnome. Change the holly leaves for other little felt leaves and he is an entirely different Forest Gnome. An extremely versatile little pattern. The tiny leaves are die cuts that came in an American order of felt as a thank you. I have had them for several years not quite knowing how to use them. It just shows if you keep something long enough a use will appear.



(Or more likely you throw the item out and need it the next week). However, he turned out so well I couldn't stop at one gnome and had to carry on with a second one.

This one has nothing to do with trees but all to do with socks. Strange I know, but all will become clear. There are five of us in the house and over the winter when everyone wears socks, the matching up after each wash is a mission. Invariably there is always one odd sock left. It makes you think we should all buy 6 pairs of the same patterned socks but we never will. It was decided that



some pixie (or gnome) obviously took one sock for a special reason and gave it back after a few days, as the missing sock does invariably turn up.

So one of the new little gnomes is the result of that dilemma. New ideas often come from fabric, felt, a skein of cotton or a discussion about where missing socks go.

I also have a request for three gnome patterns that can be kitted. No pressure this early in the year!

Patterns need to be easy to read and sew if you are to capture the busy people of today. The modern stitcher wants a good result fairly quickly. There is time later for the project that will consume many hours and take a year to complete.

With this in mind the first of the three designs to be kitted is extra easy.



As you can see you can choose between a felt beard or a fake fur one. Both extra easy.

The design of the Holly and the Ivy mentioned last month is nearly finished. That flowed

onto another idea so the 'Rose Bush Biscornu pincushion' is now on the drawing board. It is fairly quick to stitch and will use up coloured fabric that is sometimes difficult to find a pattern for.



You need to be careful when selecting a background colour as some will 'absorb' the colours of the design itself.

It is always good to have a few projects on the go at one time. If you get tired of stitching one, there is always another option.

So this month I have been swapping between felt gnomes and Biscornu rose pincushions as well as sketching. New ideas often come from fabric, felt, a skein of cotton or a discussion about where missing socks go.

With so many lockdowns around the world crafty pastimes have become increasingly popular.

Many new cross stitchers are coming on board especially those in the Northern Hemisphere. Emails I get from those who are unable, for whatever reason to get back to New Zealand are keen to stitch a memory of home.

One such person stuck in England wrote last week saying how much she would love to hear the native birds of New Zealand again. She is snowed in and lockdownned. What a world we live in.

From our little island at the bottom of the world it is difficult to relate to those who are in freezing temperatures and have been in some type of lockdown now for nearly a year.

Although we carry on warily in New Zealand with our new normal, we are only too aware that the virus is hammering at our door. A hotel door is all that is keeping it at bay. That is the reality.



Last March when all New Zealand was locked down for 6 weeks a lot of us did heaps of cleaning out. Linen cupboards seemed to be a favourite thing to turn inside out. Being housebound was an ideal opportunity to give everything a spring clean. If we hadn't used or worn something in the last year out it went. To find a new life.

In the times we live in, a lot of things are being repurposed. There is always someone who wants what you no longer need. The shoes that look great, but always cause a blister, the

jumper that tickles, the cross stitch fabric that is too fine, you name it, we all have something like that.

Tidying up and moving some stuff on makes us feel better.



Then the next cluttery problem is the computer, laptop, tablet – whatever.

All those files and documents and emails and stuff all over the place.

So.....a new year and some more tidying up. I have files and folders that contain patterns and ideas from way back. Some will never be used, some might be, some will be, some have been used already and are filed under 'New Zealand', some under 'Pincushions' some under 'Other'. It just goes on and on.



It was time for order and also a review of my patterns on Etsy because things change. My nzcrossstitch website is no longer, but some older patterns referred to it.

There is nothing worse than clicking on a site that is referred to and you find it no longer exists. So this year has begun with a sort through of each pattern listed on Etsy. The current patterns all go into one folder, the ones that have been deactivated into another and so on.

I must admit it is working out well with the same satisfaction as the linen cupboard. As I find over the years I have doubled up on files and pdf's and graphs, I am culling these duplicates and restoring order.

It will be an ongoing project for some weeks but it is worthwhile. It brings order to my mind as well. Tasks ticked off are satisfying ones.

A request came in for a NZ Hawk (karearea). After trawling through all my bird patterns, I realised I had never stitched our local hawk. Not sure how he got missed but missed he was.

The stitcher makes a cross stitch gift for her son's teacher each year. Their classroom names are native flora and fauna. Next year her son is in 'Karearea'. This very organised cross stitcher has a plan for what she will stitch each year. I have plans too, but reality is often quite different. If my year had 18 months in it perhaps all the plans would be accomplished.

Sometimes more exciting things pop their heads up and the goal posts get moved. Plans are made to be changed surely. That is exactly how my files in the computer get in a muddle.

So back to that plan before anything else (well – maybe)

Here is the Karearea Heather. At least you have several months to stitch it.

New Zealand Hawk

Karearea

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Stitch Count: 62sts wide x 43sts high

Design Size: 12cm wide x 8cm high

Fabric: 25 count Vintage Marble Lugana by Zweigart®

DMC Threads:

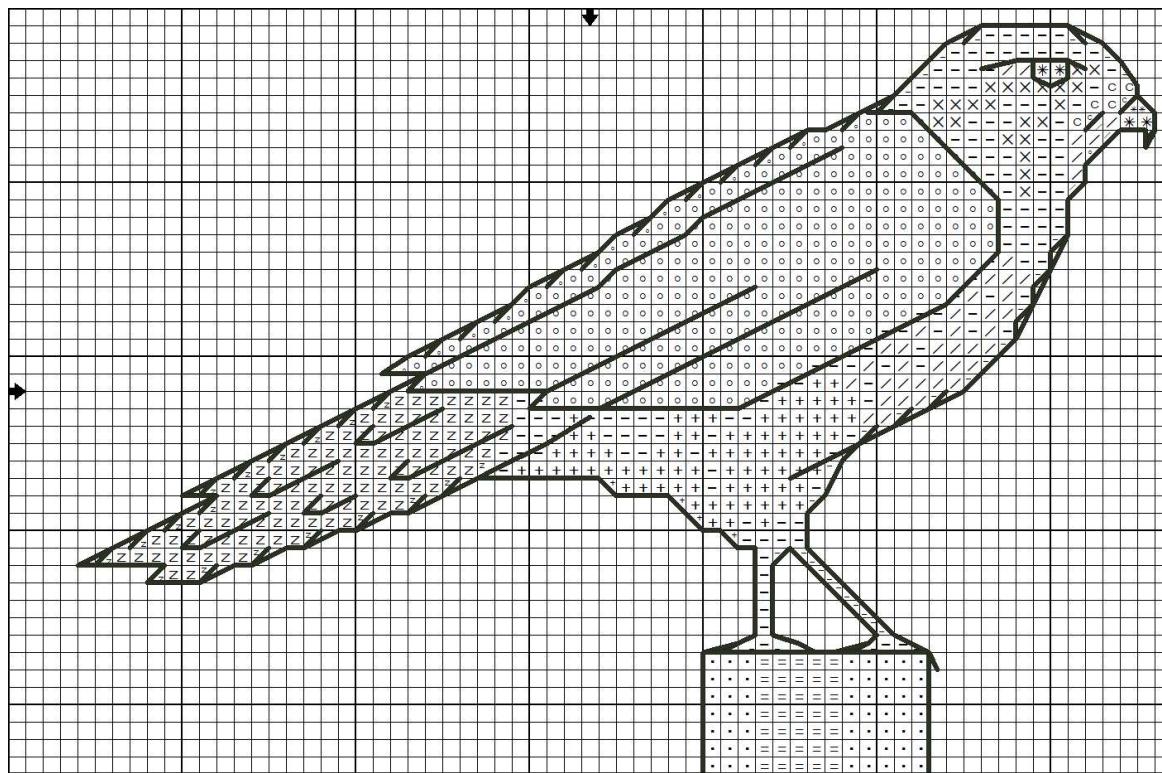
+	433	Brown - med
.	436	Tan
=	437	Tan - light
z	610	Drab Brown
/	842	Beige Brown
bs	839	Beige Brown - dk
c	3046	Yellow Beige - med
x	3047	Yellow Beige - light
-	3790	Beige Grey
*	3799	Pewtar Grey
o	842	One strand of each colour worked together
	3790	

The design is cross stitched with two strands of thread over two strands of fabric.

Back stitch across the top of the eye with two strands of 3799. The beak and the remainder of the eye are bs with one strand of 3799.

Backstitch the wing with one strand of 839.

The tail area is bs with one strand of 3799. The remainder of the design is bs with one strand of 610.



That's all the ramblings for this month.

Cherry

As always, request a pattern, ask a question, or unsubscribe at cherry.parker@xtra.co.nz

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