



Blackwork Journey Blog

March 2015

Box of Delights - Introduction and Block 1

New designs

Fans in history!

New E-book! Floral Fantasy

Tiny Treasures

Reader's embroidery



Chocolates by

Slattery

Master Chocolatiers!



Fresh
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Designs for
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CrossStitch
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23 BEAUTIFUL PROJECTS TO STITCH!
Stitch Your Way Into Spring!
April 2015

Elegant Peacock
page 17

CHOCOLATE 'BOX OF DELIGHTS'

Of all the foods that people try to resist, none cause more controversy than chocolate, as it is the one treat that cannot be ignored, however hard people try!

More is written about healthy eating at the beginning of a new year than almost any other subject, which is why I would like to introduce you to a non- fattening 'Box of Delights'

Over the next six months, why not join me on a journey to create your own embroidered box of chocolates through the new 'Box of Delights' project in the 'Freebies' section of the 'Blackwork Journey' website as at the end of the journey, you will have a 'guilt free' present to either indulge yourself, or present to your family and friends.

Different combinations of the design can be worked, ranging from an individual chocolate, a box of two or four, up to the full box consisting of 36 different designs. Each is a different Blackwork pattern and can be worked in colour, black and gold, or in white and metallic threads on a coloured fabric.

This project is promoted in conjunction with Slattery, the award winning Patisserie and Chocolatier from Manchester, UK who have produced a special box of their chocolates copying the original embroidery designs.





Enjoy a chocolate experience from one of Britain's premiere Patisserie and Chocolatier since 1967

www.slattery.co.uk

197, Bury New Road, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 6GE

A Three-Storey Emporium of Treats!

Slattery's is much more than just a chocolate shop! The "naughty-but-oh-so nice" food emporium that has been created at Slattery's is truly one of a kind and attracts visitors from far and wide.

Make your choice of handmade chocolates from Slattery's collection and designs from Blackwork Journey to create a box of chocolates as a special gift!



Slattery's shop in Whitefield, Manchester is a riot of colour and taste!



John Slattery and his team have created a special box of chocolates based on the designs for 'Box of Delights' knowing that sweets and chocolates appeal to almost everyone!

*'Creative Chocolate'
John Slattery*

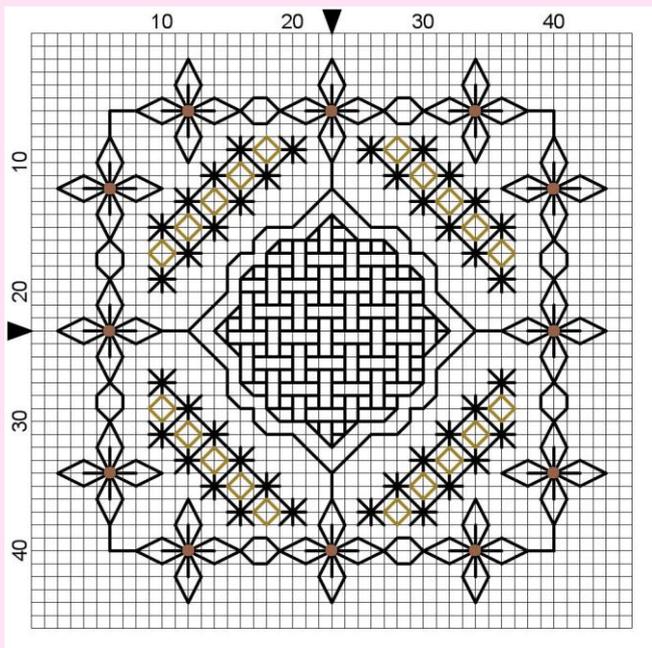
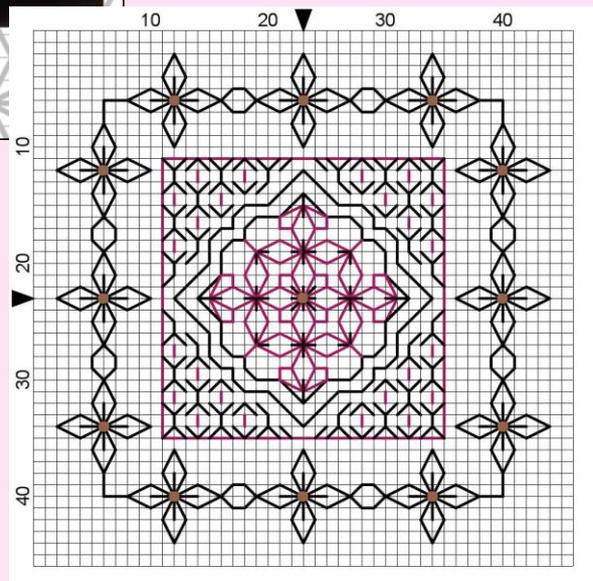
Handmade delights for all tastes!





Different ideas for designs will be included over the coming months so journey with John and myself to create your own delights!

Create a biscornu using just one 'chocolate' for example Turkish Delight or, design a rich dark chocolate in black and gold!



All the information to start this project can be found in Blackwork Journey 'Freebies' this month! Readers' embroideries will be displayed in Pinterest under - Elizabeth Almond 'Box of Delights'.



'Viviana'

*Just Cross
Stitch
Magazine
'April 2015.'*

*The
magazine is
available
by digital
download
as well as
hard copy!*

Finding a name for a design can be difficult. This chart was called after a lady in the north of England called Viviana and it seemed the perfect name for a spring design!

It is thanks to magazines such as 'Just Cross Stitch' that traditional techniques can be shown to readers who may not otherwise be aware of their existence! Unless we promote the art of embroidery, it will disappear into the annals of history and everyone will lose part of their heritage.



Elizabeth 1st Painted by George Gower 1540 – 1596

New inspiration for embroidery – Fans!

Fans were used throughout history and can be traced back as far as five thousand years ago. They developed in ancient Egypt, India, and China where they were used for ceremonies and practical purposes. In the 12th century, during the Crusades, the fan was brought to Europe. At first, Europeans adopted the rigid fan and feather fans. Queen Elizabeth I of England (1533–1603) owned dozens and many can be seen in her portraits. Later in the 16th century, folding fans were introduced into Europe from Japan where they originated.

Due to their use and popularity, fans began to affect gestures and thus a fan “sign language” developed between 1711 and 1740. The language of the fan was at its height in the 18th century in every ballroom in France and England as part of a young lady's body language. Every gesture had a meaning, so enjoy embroidering this fan and remember the 18th century women who were instructed in their use!

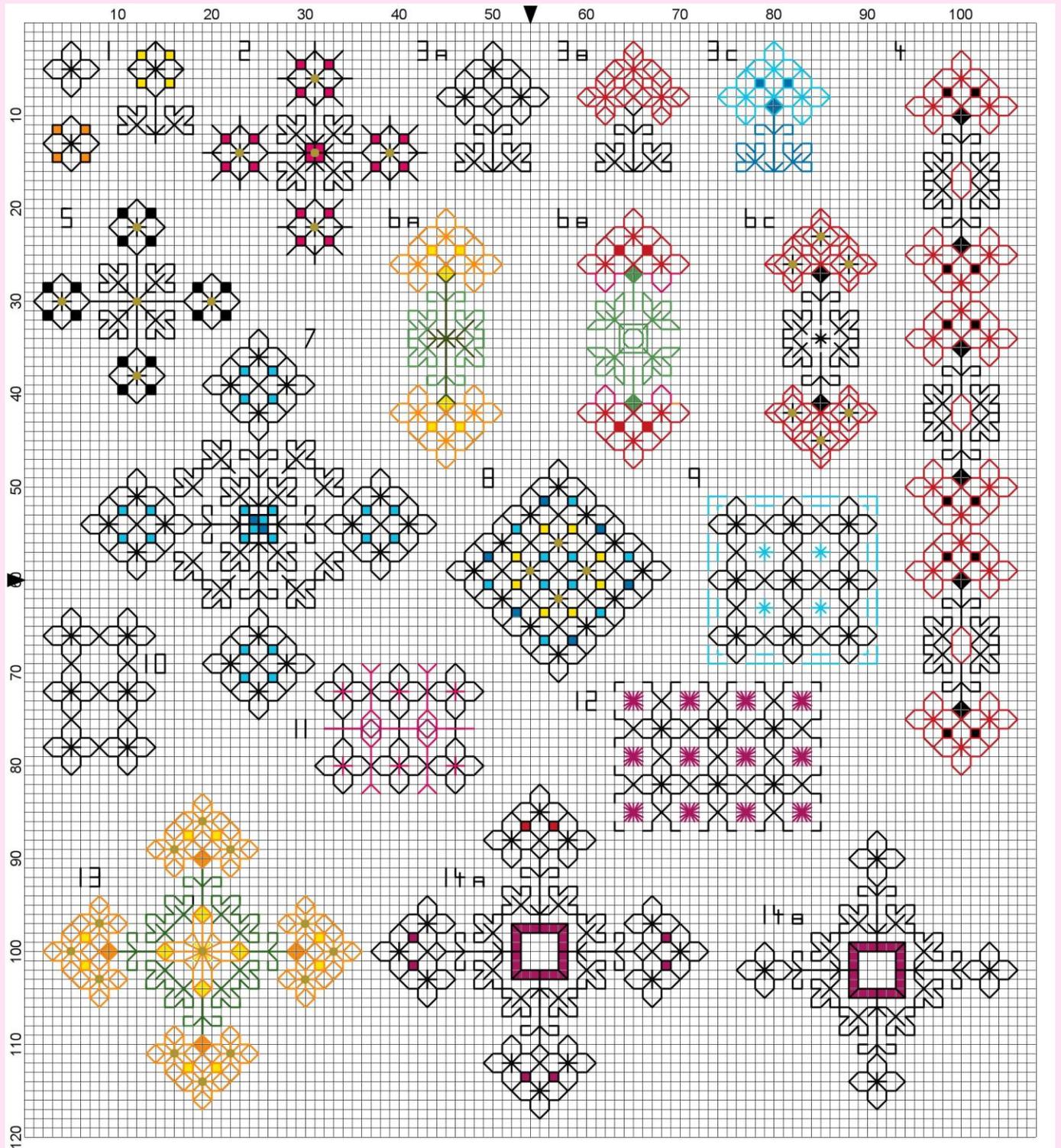


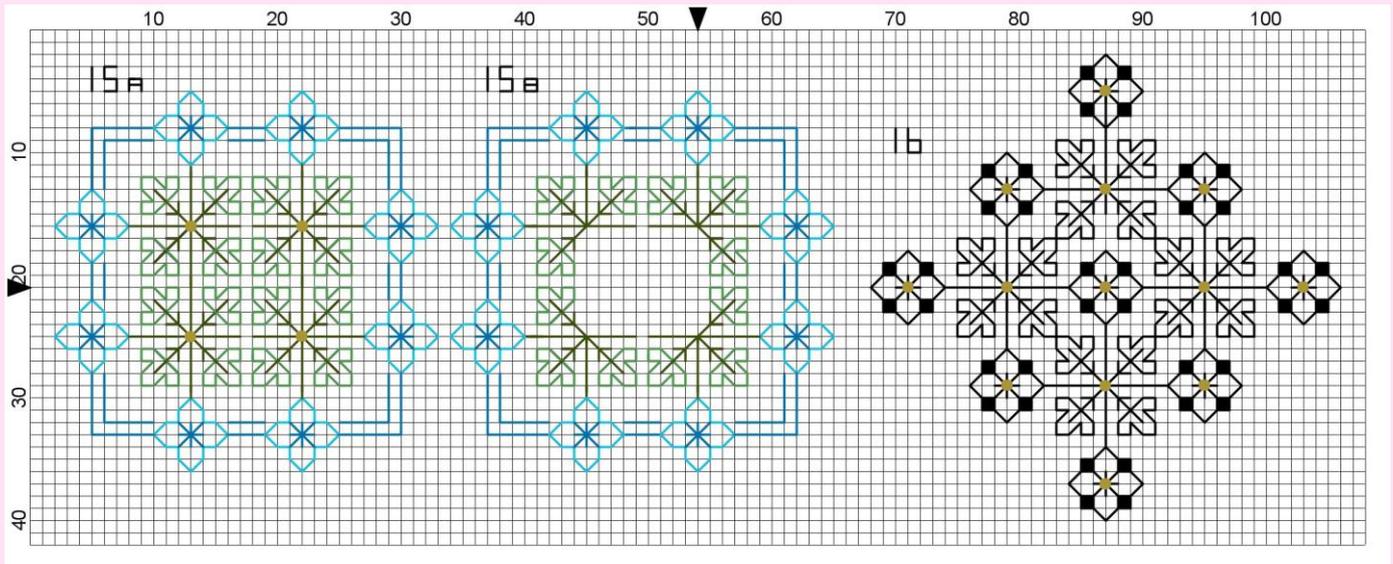
Fantastique

PR0026 ‘Fantastique’ stitched on 28 count Cashel linen in DMC stranded cottons is a pulled work and blackwork design which can be found in the ‘Projects’ section of Blackwork Journey. This design could also be worked in white using cotton P rle No.12.

Tiny Treasures

Small motifs are always a useful addition to ones library and those below are simple and quick to stitch for that last minute card or gift tag. It is also a good way of using up the scraps of fabric and threads that we all accumulate, but never want to throw away ‘just in case they come in handy!’



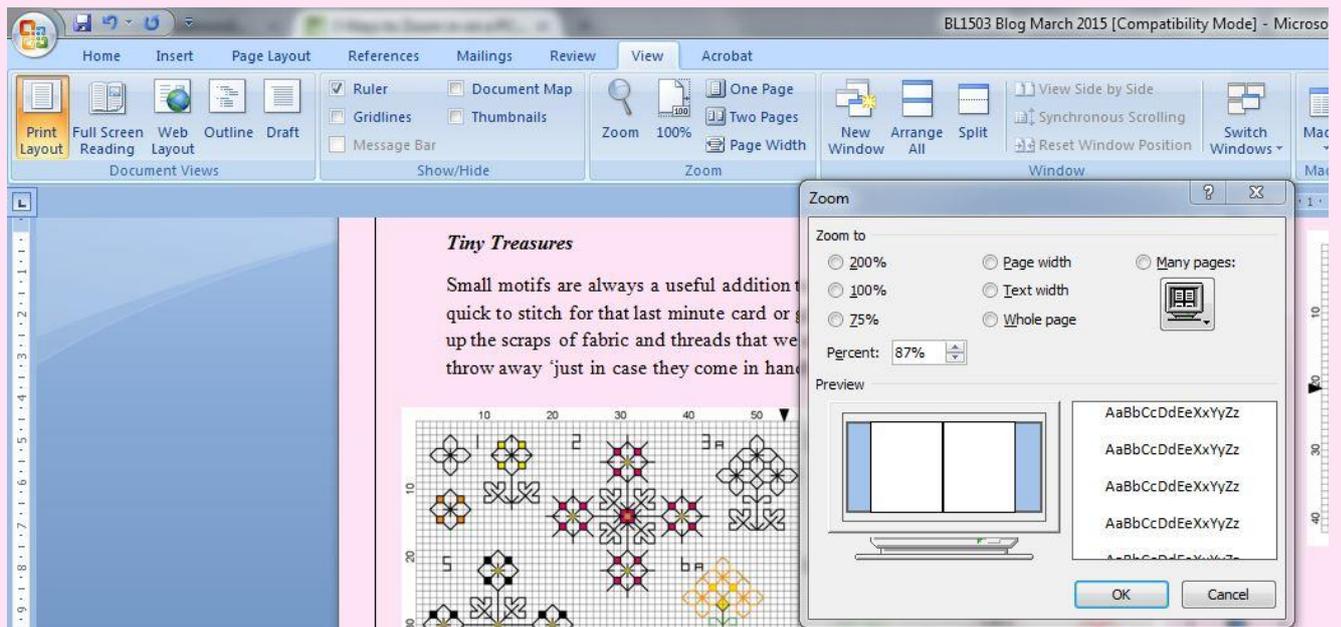


Tiny Treasures – variations on a theme!

Fifteen different motifs are all derived from one small flower. Adding or removing lines changes the dynamics of a blackwork pattern and makes the pattern as simple or as complicated as you care to make it. There are very few needlework techniques where this can be so easily accomplished and the more you work with blackwork patterns the easier it is to understand how they are constructed and alter them to your requirements.

Using the ZOOM on the computer to enlarge print and charts

1. In any browser, you can go to View >> Zoom In to magnify what's present on the screen.



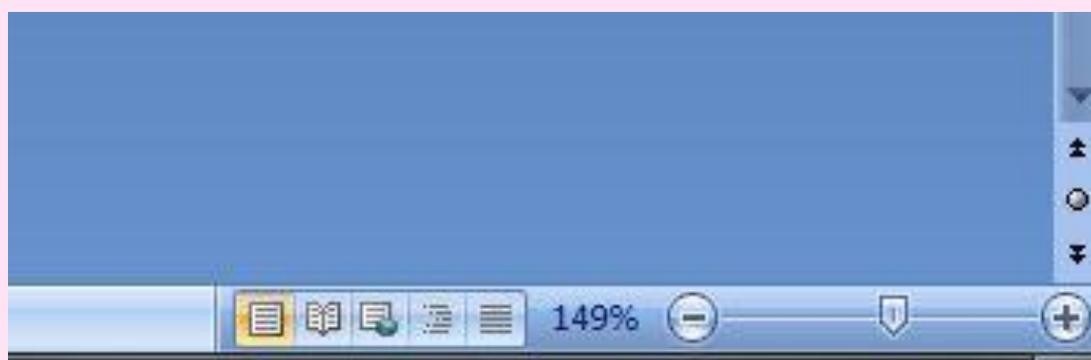
2. Use the scroll wheel on your mouse

Press and hold the **^ Ctrl** key; then scroll up with your mouse's scroll wheel or laptop's trackpad to zoom in.

This is probably the simplest way of enlarging the screen so that you can have a closer look at the charts.

3. Sliding scale

In the bottom right hand corner of the PC is a small sliding scale which again can be used to enlarge the print.



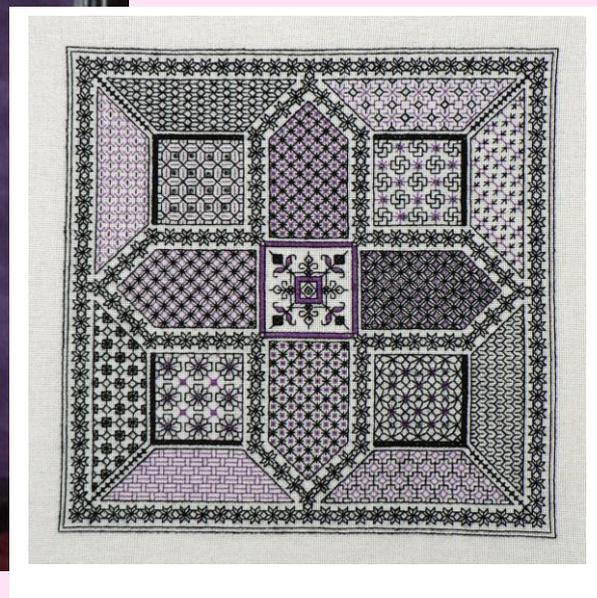
By using any of these methods looking at designs in detail becomes much easier and less of a strain on the eyes! It also enables a closer examination of the stitches which can be helpful if the colours on the charts are very similar.

Congratulations!

I recently received an e-mail from Stacey in the USA enclosing a picture of one of the designs I contributed to 'Cross Stitch and Needlework' May 2013

'Da Capo' won the Best in Show prize at the 51st Annual Woodlawn Needlework Exhibit held in Alexandria, VA, USA.

Congratulations Stacey! I am thrilled that you won and especially that you enjoyed working the design.



'Da Capo' by Stacey

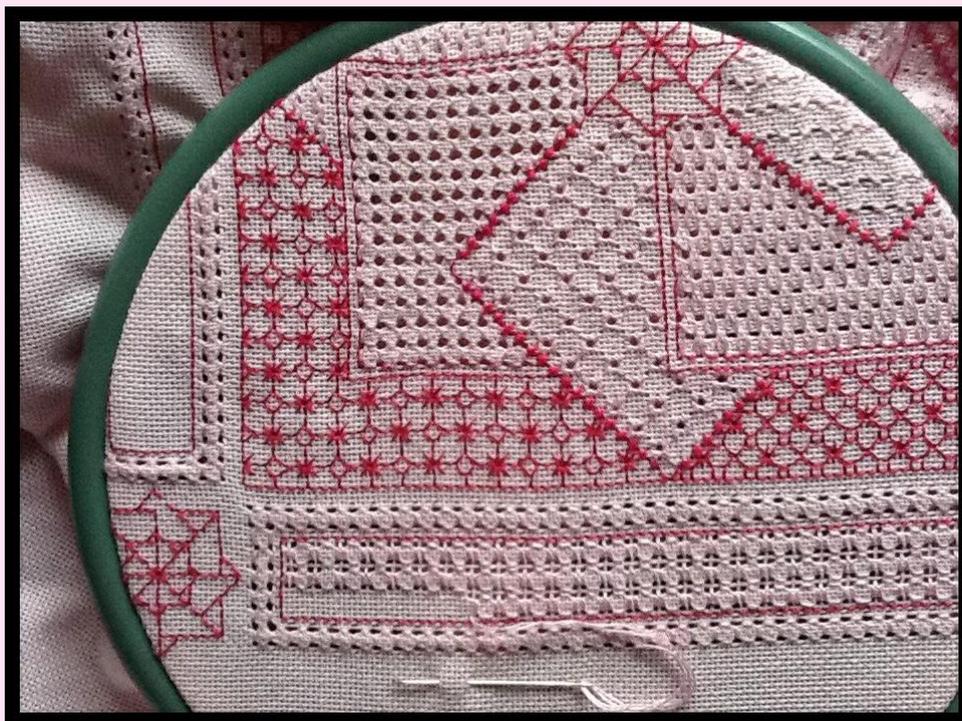
Congratulations also to Helen who stitched this design and used it for the lid of a hand-made box for her mother.



Check out the small designs in 'Freebies'. Many of them can be used for unusual gifts.

FR0014 Meander Free





Future new design combining blackwork and pulled work for April

There are many new charts and two e-books to come over the next few months but your contributions to the site through comments and pictures are valued and appreciated.

Check out Pinterest Elizabeth Almond ‘Save the Stitches’ and ‘Box of Delights’ to see just how readers are progressing!

New E-book launched this month! EB0003 Floral Fantasy

I have been asked to create an e-book suitable for people new to blackwork who would like to build up a project in stages working either small patterns or a larger design.

EB0003 Floral Fantasy has been designed to fulfil these requirements with 25 pages full of charts, photographs and information.

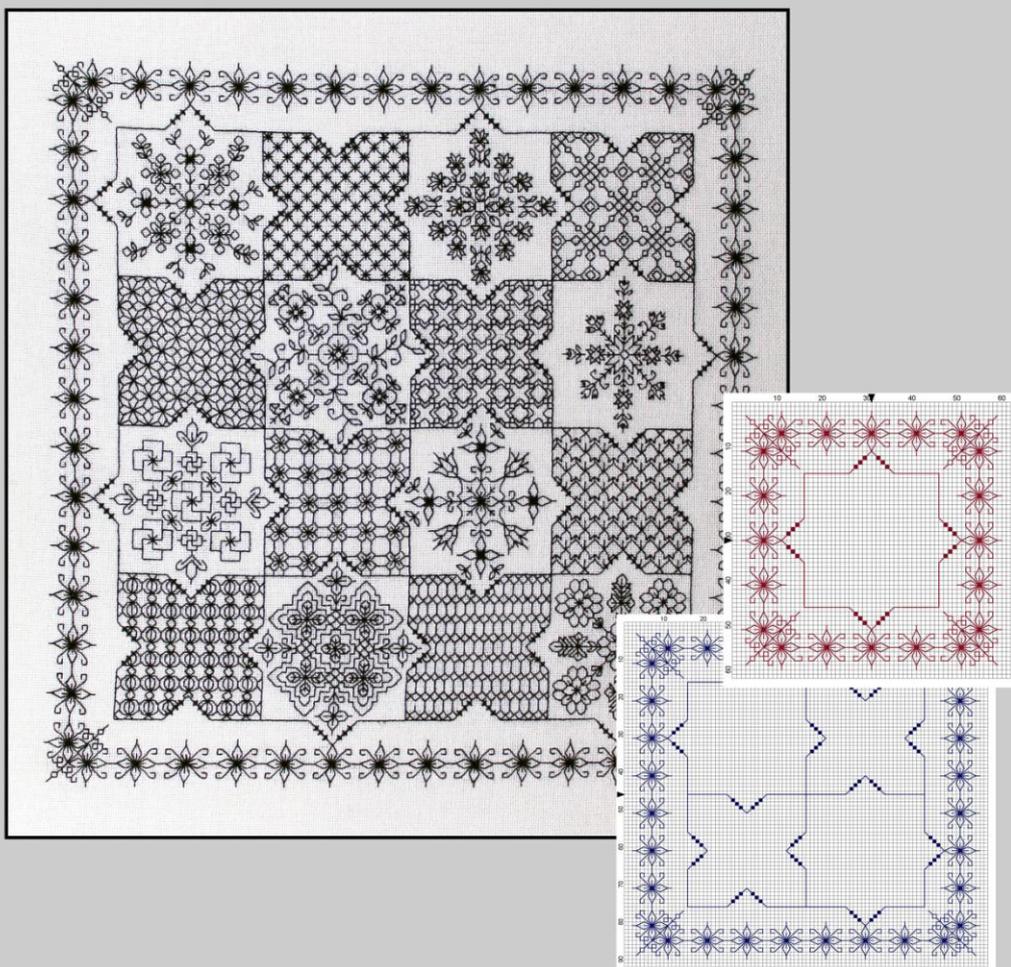
I hope you enjoy this month’s Blog.



Blackwork Journey

Floral Fantasy

E-book 3



Create a counted thread blackwork design in 3 sizes!
Charts, photographs, diagrams and instructions are included.©

25 pages of charts, designs and photographs!

Happy stitching!

Liz