



Hello Everyone Happy Eastertide

Let us hope that new life will be springing up on the social scene when our turn comes for relaxation of the COVID-19 restrictions. We will keep you informed once we know more.

Meanwhile Joy has provided a document based on the third Embroiderers' Guild Folio as we cannot share them at a meeting. I have also put together some pictures on Ribbon Embroidery as planned for April. Julia Goudge

Volunteer Sewing

You will probably have heard how Barbour of South Shields is making clothing for the NHS. Volunteer sewers have become involved in making clothing, which can be easily washed, for NHS workers called 'scrubs'. Some hospitals are still fussy about colours used matching their uniform colours and asking for heavy cotton, some are asking for any colour and using poly cotton. It looks like you may need your own pattern. 'Scrubs' suits are a basic top with short sleeves and drawstring waist trousers. Normally in theatre hats are made of paper but my sister-in-law has been making hats in cotton for Bristol Royal Infirmary. One group, featured in the Northern Echo, are using Facebook to co-ordinate for Middlesbrough.

There is a national volunteer site at <https://scrubhub.org.uk>

They are asking for donations for materials as well as volunteer organisers and sewers.

The nearest local organiser for County Durham is victoriaemmerson17@gmail.com is swamped with offers from sewers. Sounds like another organiser would be welcomed.

I also contacted North Tees Hospital, their contact is joanne.merrilees@nhs.net. She is just getting organised.

Ribbon Embroidery

I was first shown how to do ribbon embroidery many years ago at a craft event in Ushaw College by a member of the Durham branch of the Embroiderers guild.

I had a refresher recently in one of the Knitting and Stitching show workshops at Harrogate with Molly Brown's Emporium. I bought some of her kits for presents and for trips away from home.



She has a website and a Facebook page:- <https://www.mollybrownemporium.co.uk>
<https://www.facebook.com/Molly-Brown-Emporium>

I checked out her website to see if the kits might be available to you.

It turns out that she is sending kits but just for a Ribbon Embroidery Workshop 2nd May 2020 which she is conducting in Real Time using Zoom, so that she can still give tuition. (That might be a suggestion for something to try for anyone you know whose living is dependant on textile art and teaching.)

I like to buy hand embroidered greeting cards from Oxfam. This is a picture of irises worked in satin ribbon. They have used lazy daisy stitch with an extra stitch looped through and a contrasting yellow straight stitch.



They have teamed the ribbon with a green embroidery thread. Commonly you will combine ribbon with stranded cotton or perle for example working stem stitch in cotton. You can use straight stitches possibly over a second needle to leave a loop French knots can be effective in ribbon try over a thread of the March canvas. Only the tulip picture above uses only ribbon stitch.

The best ribbon to use is silk. It is soft yet tough. Don't use long lengths as passing through the fabric does cause wear on the ribbon. In my experience a frame makes a big difference to successful ribbon embroidery. You can work on any plain weave fabrics. You can back silk or delicate fabrics with a light calico for support.

The most important rule in ribbon embroidery is DO NOT PULL TIGHT.

Check the back and try not to come up through previous stitches because the ribbons can get trapped and pulled through to the wrong side. You can take a straight stitch over a second needle to leave a small loop.



There is a stitch which is unique to ribbon embroidery. Secure the end of the ribbon at the back of your work either by a knot or stitching it down. Using the crewel needle come up through the fabric. draw out to the length of stitch required. take the needle down through the end of the stitch and slowly pull through to the back but not too far. You want it to lie on the surface. If you pull too tight it will disappear. You can vary the stitch by going through the centre of the ribbon or going to the right or left of centre. You could also put in twist before stitching down.



If you don't have silk, you can try these roses with anything you happen to have at home including raffia and paper string. You could work it on a card instead of fabric.

With a single strand of embroidery cotton work 5 stitches from a central point so you get a 5-armed star. For silk ribbon bring the ribbon up from the back of the work. For others fold over a small hem and stitch the end down near the centre of the star. Give the ribbon a little twist. Using a tapestry needle or with the blunt end of a crewel needle weave the ribbon over and under the arms of the star. Continue going round until you have filled the shape. Finish the end by tucking under the rose and stitching down with a small hem.

The stems can be stitched in place or couched down as I have done with the gold roses.



Darlington Branch Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DarlingtonEG

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