

UK/US BEAD PALS

2014-2015 PROJECT

EMBELLISHED BUTTONS

Booklet Editor: Diane Fitzgerald

Participants

<u>Country</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Page</u>
US/UK	Forename	Surname	
US	Carla	Abler-Erickson	4
UK	Rachel	Bertenshaw	5
UK	Jenny	Boyle	6
US	Francie	Broadie	7
UK	Dana	Cleak	8
UK	Sue	Davies	9
US	Diane	Fitzgerald	10
US	Kathy	Franke	11
US	Ann	Gilbert	12
UK	Jean	Hall	13
US	Pauline	Hinton	14
UK	Stephney	Hornblow	15
US	Jane	Langenback	16
US	Liana	Magee	17
US	Susan	Manchester	18
UK	Linda	Peel	19
UK	Vicky	Pritchard	20
US	Carmian	Seifert	21
UK	Carol	Stevenson	22
UK	Catharine	White	23
UK	Elizabeth	Wilson	24

Note from the Editor:

Our sixth challenge continues to amaze us with the variety of ways to embellish a simple object. Creativity lives! Take a look at these beautiful pieces.

As we begin our next and seventh project, Beaded Bunting, we thank Rachel Bertenshaw for suggesting this inspiring topic. Let yourself go in new directions.*

Diane M. Fitzgerald.

*Happy Beading,
Diane Fitzgerald, US*

Bunting: today this word refers to a lightweight cloth or paper often used for flags and festive decorations; originally bunting referred to a specific type of lightweight worsted wool fabric generically known as tammy, manufactured from the turn of the 17th century, and used for making ribbons and flags, including signal flags for the Royal British Navy. The fabric had a high glaze, achieved by hot-pressing.

The Sixth Bead Pals Project: Embellished Buttons

By popular demand, especially from the UK, we are going for the SIXTH Bead Pals Exchange. For this challenge, we have selected embellished buttons because they seem to have such potential as brooches, clustered for a bracelet, sewn to a multi-sided box or long strip of ribbon. Jane Langenback recently covered a small dress form with buttons, and embellished buttons would be even more glorious!

So, if you're inclined to join this challenge, and please be assured we are not pressuring anyone to do so, here are the parameters:

- 1. Embellish a button that is at least 1.25 inches (3.2 cm) in diameter.*
- 2. The button must be usable as a button when you are finished.*
- 3. The button may be either a shank button or a sew-through.*

4. To unify the completed project, your embellishment must contain some lime green bead(s). Examples of lime green are Delica # 262, 733, 766, 763, 147 and 174. Lime green is defined as a yellow-green, not grass green or pea green.

5. Your embellished buttons, should be finished and delivered to either Steph or Diane by August 15, 2015. Please put each in a small plastic bag with your name on it.



Carla Abler-Erickson, US

With all of the exchanges that we are doing I decided that I wanted to put them somewhere I could admire them. This led me putting things in shadow boxes. I can the put the boxes on the plate rail in my dining room where I can admire them on a daily basis.

This year I decided to use pastel colors which are not my favorite and was outside my comfort zone. I usually have a lot of trouble coming up with ideas and buttons are also not my thing, but I fell in love with the sparkly buttons and had to figure out what to do with them.

Each year it seems easier and easier to come up with what to do so the process must be working to stretch my creative juices. I'm always looking forward to see what the other people in the group come up with, its so much fun.





Rachel Bertenshaw, UK

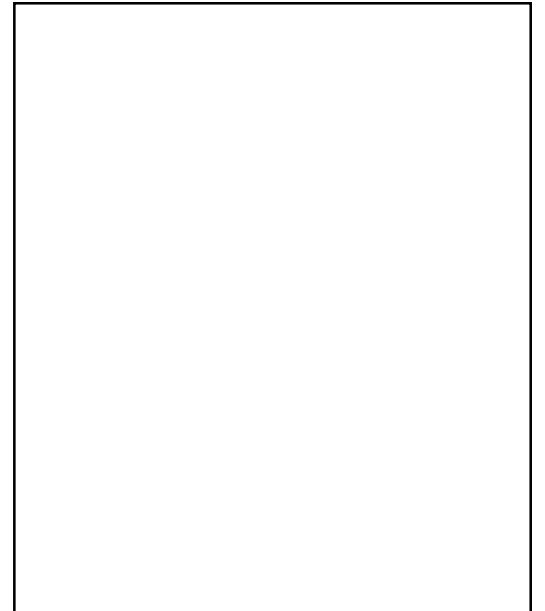
This is hat 4! The buttons are the best project of all I think. Mine are the biggest, mainly because I got them before the permissible size was reduced. I used wire, which is very unusual for me and each button has a little bell so it sounds good as well as looking pretty. I actually bought the bells in the US, so they are international buttons.



Jenny Boyle, UK



Francie Broadie, US





Dana Cleak, UK

I really enjoyed making the beaded buttons and, thankfully, managed to complete the set before some major works on the downstairs of our house. It was many months before all of my beading equipment came out of storage and a little longer still before I managed to get any table space. As soon as I was able, I got my wirework gecko out and started to prepare him by beading his eyes and claws. When the much anticipated Bead Pals buttons arrived, it was like Christmas Day. I loved all of the diversity of colours and styles and it was such a pleasure to plan their final positions on the piece. They are all lovely and there is even one with my initial on it! The actual stitching on of the buttons was more of a challenge, as I had not considered that working my needle in and around a solid 3D structure could pose any problems. Many bent and broken needles later, it was finally done. The finish on the metal had rubbed off in places as the result of turning the gecko over from side to side as I worked and had to be touched up. Finally, Gordon the Gecko was ready to be unveiled and he now resides on a wall in my hallway, where he has been much admired. Many thanks to all of the talented Bead Pals who have contributed to a lovely addition to my home. I am very much looking forward to seeing what you have all made with your buttons.

Aside from the challenge, I have recently been away in the Lake District learning how to set up and weave on a loom. It was very



intensive and quite a steep learning curve, but rewarding. It is tempting to give it further experimentation, but there is a limit to the number of craft activities one can seriously pursue before becoming a total recluse and, also, my bead stash does not seem to be going down significantly, as planned - there always appears to be something else I need to buy in order to complete a project.



Sue Davies, UK

What a joy it was to receive all the beautiful buttons. I decided to combine by two favorite hobbies of beading and crochet again this year. Using lime green to outline the granny squares has really made the lime green in the buttons stand out beautifully. I shall enjoy using my very special bag when going to beading groups. Very much looking forward to the next Bead Pals challenge.





Diane Fitzgerald, US

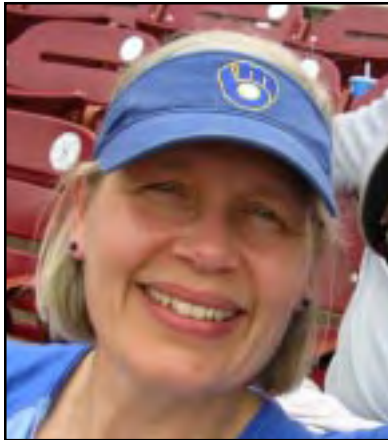
49 Buttons!

My finished Embellished Buttons may look a little larger than most of the other Bead Pals. This is because I also exchanged buttons with a beading class at the Sievers School of Fiber Arts. In addition, I got so much into embellishing buttons that I made several extra and thought I might as well include them.

My idea was to embellish a crazy quilt with the buttons for a wall hanging. I sewed scraps of satin, taffeta, silk, old neckties, and other “fancy” fabrics to a heavy backing with a zigzag stitch, but when this was finished, the patches seemed to be too dominant. To soften the patches, I found a piece of sheer fabric with spirals sewn onto it and laid that over the piece. With all of this going on, I thought the buttons should be laid out in a grid to give some organization and stability to the piece.

I wonder what will happen to this piece? I signed the back and dated it and plan to hang it in the bathroom of my studio where people can enjoy it as they relax.





Kathy Franke, US

When I started this project, I was really excited because I had gotten a huge stash of buttons from my late mother-in-law and had a lot to choose from. But when I sat down to start, I was totally perplexed. It took

me quite some time to figure things out because I wanted to do something different from what we have been doing. At some point, the idea came to me to work with covered buttons, so I bought a pack of 10 and these wound up being my first attempts. And what a challenge they proved to be. I never took into account how difficult it would be to stitch on a domed surface, keep the thread path from showing and how to start and end the thread without knots showing. As I figured this all out, they really got fun to do, but I was sure glad I had a magnifying lamp!

Once these were done, I planned to stitch some, but after doing one, decided to go in a different direction. I started playing around with embellishing the large buttons with small ones and liked the way it looked, but wanted to make sure that all my buttons had beads. So this led to gluing beads hole-side up around the smaller buttons and then using a pouring medium to trap the beads in a permanent coating. This led to adding anodized jump rings for more patterns. I even used jump rings to circle the button holes to act as a dam to keep the pouring medium away from them. I then found lime green glitter and had all kinds of fun with this. Towards the end of the project, an artist friend gave me cards of her laser cut and hand painted buttons and I chose the butterflies which I used to embellish a number of buttons.

When I received my buttons, as always, I was blown away. They were so amazing. The only idea that came to me was flowers, so I wired them all to stems, added some leaves and fillers and, with help from my husband, now have a gorgeous button flower arrangement! It's awesome!



What started as a potentially frustrating project turned out to be really fun!



Ann Gilbert, US

My earliest memory is sitting on the floor in the front 'parlor' and sorting my great grandmother's buttons. I must have been three. My great grandmother was famous for never wasting a single thing. She was the original recycler: I have a braided rug she made from my great grandfather's old suit, my mom's coat and other things.

This past year my mother gave me her grandma's button box. I found so many lovely buttons among the simple white shirt buttons and shoe buttons. Her button box (which was an old fruitcake tin) is the inspiration to make another button box. It is much more colorful and has a whole different energy inside.



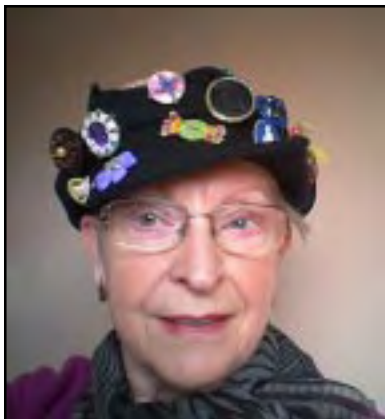


Jean Hall, UK

The idea of displaying the Embellished Buttons as a flower arrangement was suggested to me by the lovely gentleman who framed my beaded clock for me last year. I didn't know whether or not the idea could be used until I received my Embellished Buttons, but my luck was in! The hardest part was finding a suitable vase to put them in – everything is covered in Christmas designs at this time of year!

As usual the best bit is receiving the bag of treasures from everyone else involved – it is always really exciting opening up your bag, and even those not taking part in Bead Pals love looking at all the bags of 'goodies'! It has been wonderful to see the buttons that others have chosen and how they have embellished them. Thank you to all who have taken part in this year's challenge for making more little treasures!





Pauline Hinton, UK

I have been with Stephney Hornblow Zebra beaders for 2years. This is my first bead pal project which I have really enjoyed even though challenging at times.

I saw the hat in a charity shop and thought the shape would compliment the buttons.

When my son saw it he thought I was putting a new twist on a pearly queen.





Stephney Hornblow, UK

My Beadpals this year is 'Hands across the Ocean'
I found these gloves in Amsterdam when I spent a few days watching my son Jono running in the 1932 Olympic Stadium. They reminded me of Ndebele blankets! It was a memorable trip and I think of it fondly.

So the opportunity to 'marry' three or four loves of my life; Jono, Ndebele strips, buttons and beads and all the wonderful friends I have made along the way - no brainer really.





Jane Langenback, US

I enjoyed decorating the mother of pearl buttons as I have many of them. I have been a member of the Minnesota State Button Society for 25 years and I buy buttons at all of our shows. I really like using the buttons we made as a decoration on a chicken wire basket that I have had for many years. It needed just the touch of our decorated buttons.





Liana Magee, US

I have limited space in my bead-room, so I decided to display my Buttons from the Bead Pals Exchange by sewing them on a long piece of black grosgrain ribbon. This is the same thing that I did for the beaded Shapes that we exchanged last year. By finishing the buttons in this manner, I am able to hang them both, side by side, on a narrow wall. I like the colors on the black, and I enjoy being able to see them both.





Susan Manchester, US

When we did the flower challenge several years ago, I was at a loss as to what to do with all those beautiful beaded flowers when I ran across a rusty wire teapot at a thrift store up by my cabin. After spray painting it gold, I attached the flowers and loved the result. For our button challenge, I went back to that same store and found this heart-shaped basket that hangs on a wall. It also got painted gold and now displays all my lovely buttons.





Linda Peel

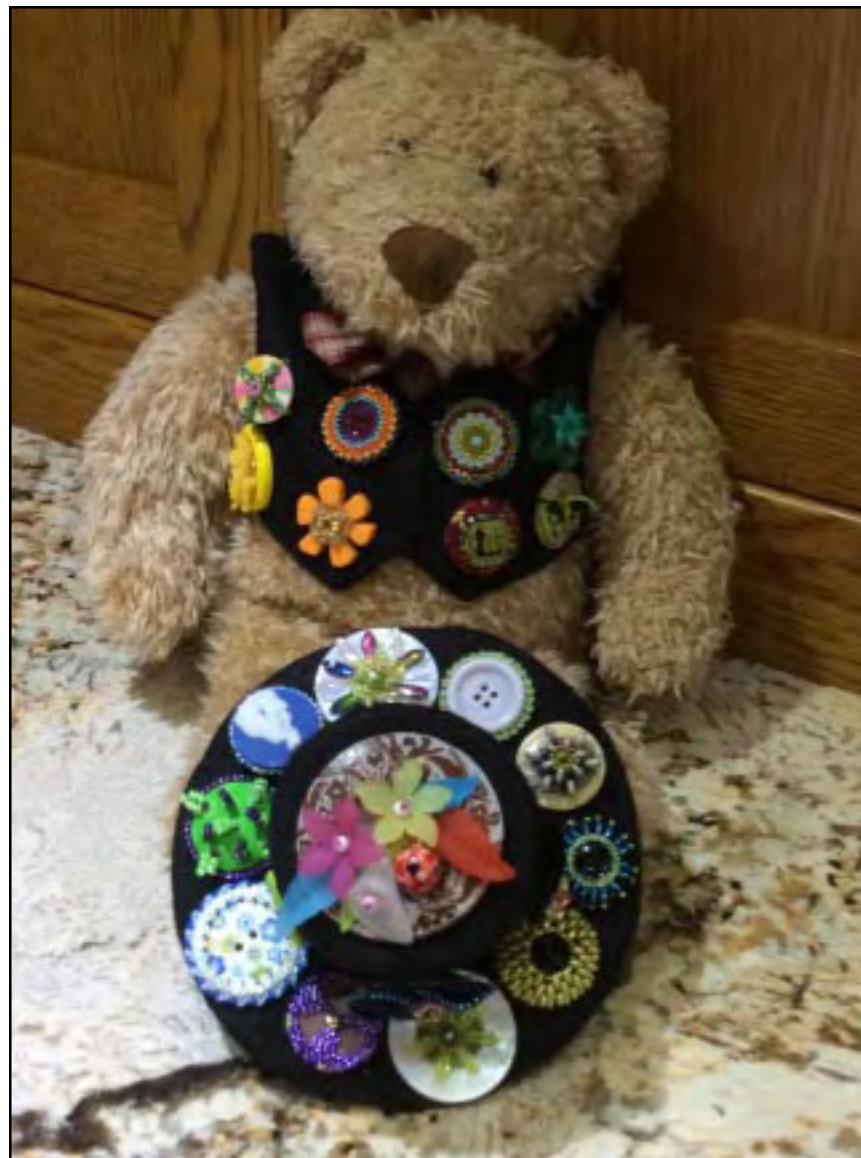
A few words about my first Bead Pals experience

I am married to John, we live with two cute loving bunnies Benny & Beau at a canal side cottage along the Staffordshire & Worcester canal. We have lived here for the last 38 years, and loved every moment.

During a bad time in my life I was introduced to the magical world of beading, learning how concentrate on shapes, techniques, different size beads, using your imagination and sharing projects with others with the same interest. I have met a lot of wonderful interesting people along the way especially those who have years of experience in beading who are willing to share their experience and tips. I have used kits but now I am trying to use my own imagination with what I have learned from workshops, books, beaders and the internet.

Firstly I would like to thank Diane and Steph for including me in the Bead Pal Challenge, and to everyone included in the challenge for their beautiful embellished buttons.

For my first bead pal challenge I decided to use an old friend, Ed My Ted. We have been friends a long time and I decided he needed a makeover to his waistcoat and hat. Not only does he



look so trendy, but each button has it's own personality and character of the person who embellished the buttons for him.

I was so excited to receive my bag of buttons. Thanking everyone and looking forward to the next challenge.



Vicky Pritchard, UK

My buttons are not as embellished as everybody else's- I decided at the last minute that I didn't like what I had done and so remade them all. My buttons I have received are all beautiful and so varied that deciding how to display them was a real challenge. In the end I decided to make myself a button box and use the lid to display the buttons. I intend to print off a picture of everybody's buttons with their names and attach it to the inside of the lid as a permanent record of who made which button.

Thank you all again and I can't wait to see what everyone else has done.





Carmian Seifert, US

Big “B” for Beads, Buttons and Bead Pals!

Once I chose the buttons I wanted to use, the challenges abounded beginning with finalizing what the pattern(s) would be. The size and thickness of the chosen buttons required several trials before finalizing the different patterns.

The next challenge came with the need to incorporate some requisite shade of lime green* that would work with the color of buttons I chose, and with the color of beads available that fit the patterns. This turned into one of the most valuable learning experiences experimenting with color combinations. For example, what I thought was the perfect purple colored bead actually looked more brown when threaded next to the lime green shade I was using. Color is always a challenge for me and I was determined not to return to ‘comfortable black’ which went perfectly with the lime green. In addition, many of the patterns provided an opportunity to expand my experience using two-hole beads.

This was such an enjoyable project, I found myself making many more than needed for the exchange and keeping almost as many as I put in the exchange. To add to the fun I have included the poem below with each button.



*“Button button-you have become so unique,
Carefully covered with custom bead weaving technique.
Incorporated is some shade of the requisite lime green,
Look carefully and it certainly can be seen.”*



Carol Stevenson, UK

I was so pleased when I received my share of the buttons from everyone, all so different and so very colourful. I was in a quandary as to what to do with them! A cushion was my first thought but, as I was about to start we in the UK had a charge for all plastic shopping bags so my path with my stash was a given. I now have a very smart shopping bag, very eco friendly . Thanks to all who participated.

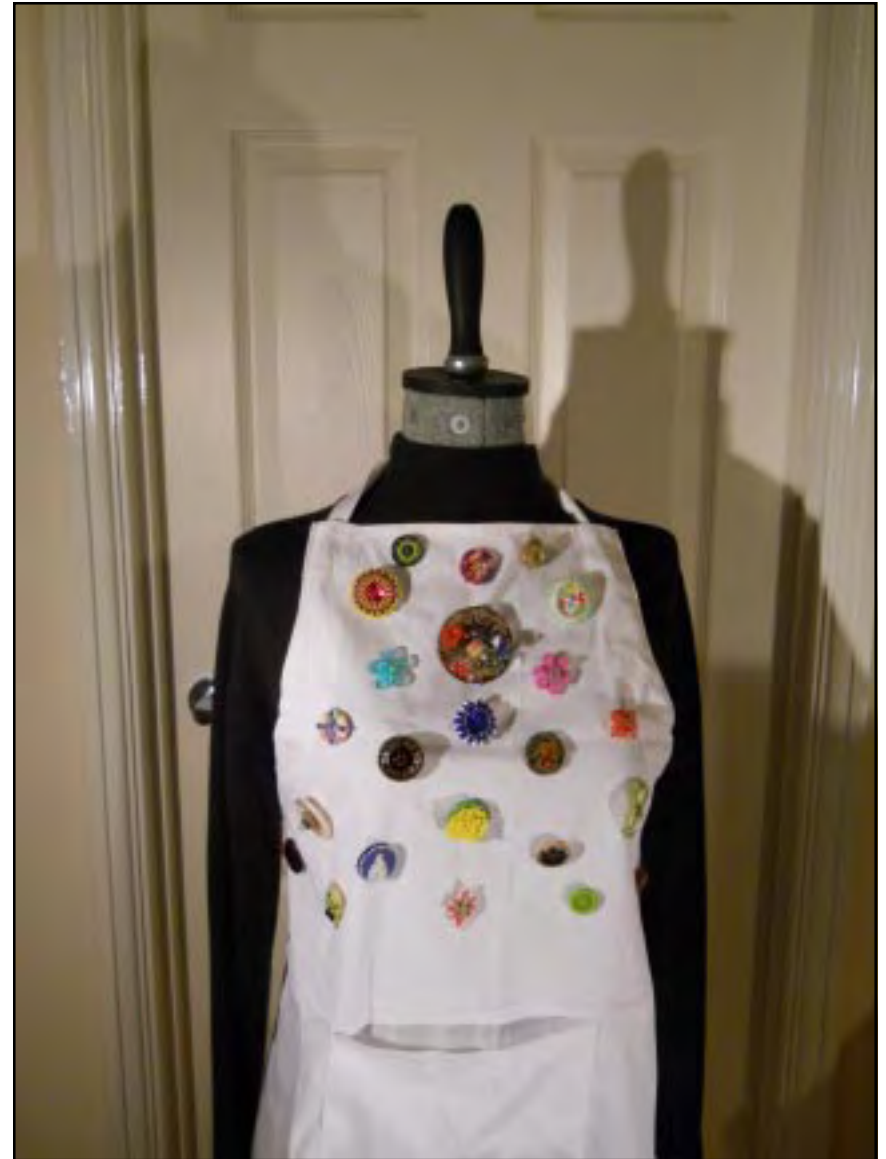




Catharine White, UK

“I really didn’t know what to do with the beautiful buttons people have created. Eventually I decided on an apron, it is not something I wear every day but my grandmother (“Nanny”), always wore an apron, on entering the house it was the first thing she reached for. Her “pinnie” as she called it had three pockets at the front – one had a packet of cigarettes and a lighter (which I used to try and hide from her) the others scissors, a bodkin; darning mushroom, wool, embroidery floss – and other crafty things – I am sure it is from her that I have received my design/craft genes. After more thought my practical side kicked in - an apron is to protect from spills etc. so needs to be washable, I didn’t want to have to cut off the buttons every time it needs washing – which knowing me was going to be very frequently – so back to the drawing board.

Last month Melanie Potter very kindly allowed Worcestershire Beaders (the beading group I belong to), to make her Festoonery Brooch as a project. The brooch uses tie tacks, and that gave me the idea of gluing tie tacks to the back of each of the buttons, for easy removal, so the apron idea was feasible again. I did hope to make a replica “pinnie” but I am afraid time got the better of me. I have arranged my buttons on a white apron I purchased – and they can be removed and re-positioned anytime I want. And can think of my Nanny and my beady friends when I wear it.



Many thanks to my friend Lis for the loan of Muriel for the pictures.

Thank you for another interesting challenge – onwards to bunting!”



Elizabeth Wilson, UK

These beautiful and very varied beaded buttons inspired me to make a collar. My initial idea was to sew them all round on a long narrow collar but that has now morphed into a cape style collar with the beads sewn just at the front. This will enable me to frame it. The embroidered poppies help to define the edge and give contrast to the buttons.

I can't wait to see the other finished projects!

