

UK/US Bead Pals

2013-2014 Project

Embellished Found Objects

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
US	Francie	Broadie	6
UK	Sue	Davies	7
US	Diane	Fitzgerald	8
US	Kathy	Franke	9
US	Ann	Gilbert	10
UK	Jean	Hall	11
US	Heather	Hambrick	12
UK	Stephney	Hornblow	13
US	Jane	Langenback.....	14
US	Liana	Magee	15
US	Susan	Manchester	16
UK	Vicky	Pritchard	17
US	Adele	Recklies	18
US	Carmian	Seifert	19
UK	Carol	Stevenson	20
UK	Catharine	White	21
UK	Elizabeth	Wilson	22

Note from the Editor:

These UK/US exchanges just seem to get better and better! To think that we have now completed our fifth challenge and are already well into our sixth one. Many of you mentioned how surprised they were at the beaded found objects when they received them. Such a creative group. Thank you to everyone who is part of this exchange.

Hopefully, it has given you new ideas, the opportunity to learn from others, and to stretch your brain to put together a puzzle with many right answers.

As we begin our next and sixth project, Embellished Buttons, let yourself go in new directions.

Diane M. Fitzgerald

*Happy Beading,
Diane Fitzgerald, US*

UK/US Bead Pals Challenge 2013-2014

Embellished Found objects:

What is a found object:

Any little thing can be considered a “found” object. Think about what you would like to have added to a bracelet or necklace. Please take the word “found” in its most liberal meaning. This means you can “find” a small object in your junk drawer, on the street, at the dollar/pound store, at a hardware store, in the garage, ANY WHERE!

The finished found object should be up to one and one/quarter inches or 3.2 cm and should be beaded and finished with a beaded loop so that it can be hung. Make one for each person in the group and one for yourself. Found objects might include: a metal nut, small key, washer, ring pull off a coke can, light for a torch or flashlight, watch face, shell, safety pin etc.

Embellishing: Embellish your found object as you wish. Have some fun with it. Add a fringe or an extra bead; get creative.

Color: To make these pieces unified, please limit the colors of beads you use to copper, silver, pewter, gunmetal or any other metallic color except gold. The found object itself can be any color.

Due Date: August 1, 2014 (US send to Diane; UK send to Steph)

Please put each in a small plastic bag with your name inside.

The final exchange included 8 UK participants and 11 US participants for a total of 19 people.

Note from the editor:

I came across a word that fit our challenge perfectly and it inspired one person in her arrangement of the pieces:

KICKSHAW: a trinket, gewgaw

Examples of KICKSHAW:

a display case in the antiques shop filled with costume jewelry and various kickshaws from the 1920s>

Origin of KICKSHAW: by folk etymology from French “quelque chose,” which means “something;” first known use: 1597

Synonyms:

bauble, bibelot, curio, curiosity, doodad, gaud, gewgaw (also geegaw), gimcrack, knickknack, novelty, ornamental, tchotchke, trinket



Carla Abler-Erickson, US

This challenge gave me an opportunity to try something I've wanted to do for years and that's to try the beading on wax technique used by the Huichol people of Mexico. I had some trouble with using two different types of medium to ensure that the beads did not fall out causing me to have to redo a number of eyes. Since I don't wear a lot of jewelry I've chosen to mount the pieces in a display case and put them on a plate rail in my dining room. This way I can enjoy my "gallery" of Bead Challenges. On to 2015!





Rachel Bertenshaw, UK

This is hat number 3 for the bead pals project. I was particularly excited to receive my found objects this year as I was actually in Minneapolis with Steph Hornblow as Diane's guest and was able to meet and put faces to so many of the US participants, which made it an even greater pleasure to put them all together.

I was originally going to hang the found objects from corks under the brim of the hat, but I found that the corks just dwarfed the objects and it was not nearly as effective. I have used long dress making pins to attach all the objects round the brim. The pins slid between the two layers of fabric with some patience and manipulation! The four objects on the sides of the hat are secured with hat pins.

Can't wait til next year.....





Francie Broadie, US

I thought this was going to be the first time that I couldn't follow through with the challenge. Once I learned what the swap parameters were, I had great fun envisioning what I was going to make. When it finally came down to the wire, I ended up making something completely different than I had planned, but I really liked what I made. I was so excited when the swap pieces came. They were so different that what I had imagined people making. The metallic bead additions weren't quite as unifying as I had hoped. The pieces I received fell clearly into one of two color families, with a few exceptions. This made me think of a fabulous charm necklace that Diane Hyde made, that was monochromatic.

In the interest of time and bronchitis, I made the executive decision to make three pieces. To some of you it may seem like making multiple pieces would take longer than making one, but my design brain just wasn't working due to the germs. I divided the pieces into the gunmetal/blue category and the brass/copper category. I have a few pieces left over that I plan to make into a bracelet in a similar style, or perhaps, turn in to a funky tassel. I started with the blue piece. I found a few extras in my stash to work into the necklace. I added all of the charms first, then filled in with Chinese crystal and other sparkles. I liked the way it turned out but I wished it was a bit fuller. So for the second necklace I decided to go whole hog, and added a charm to every link of the chain in the front. It is definitely fuller, but I think some of the



charms get a bit lost. I did make sure to work in a few bits of turquoise, cream and dark red to tie it all together. This was a great challenge. I can't wait to get to the buttons.





Sue Davies, UK

Here are a few words about my first Bead Pals experience.

I have been beading for a few years now but had always used kits until I joined Stephney Hornblow's Zebra Beaders group just over a year ago. As soon as I joined the group I was asked if I would like to join this years Bead Pals. I have really enjoyed the challenge and was pleased to combine my two favourite hobbies which are beading and crochet. I am now working on the new Bead Pals challenge.





Diane Fitzgerald, US

For my found objects, I found little tiny bottles of nail sparkle at the dollar store and knew that they were what I wanted to embellish. The sparkle looked almost like beads! As I began to embellish them, they became more and more elaborate. I just love tiny things.

When all the “bits” arrived, it was delightful. So many cute little things. I added a few of my own that I had found, a zipper pull with a half-circle of beads through the ring and a plastic Dr. Seuss piece that says “Wow!” So appropriate for this necklace.

I decided to split my pieces into two groups, one is the pieces made with bronze or metallic pieces and the other group is the more colorful pieces. So now I have two necklaces and can wear them together or separately. On the bronze one I added tiny bells between the elements and one bell hits against the thimble making a most happy sound.



Thank you so very much to everyone for participating. I think this challenge is my favorite of all so far...can't wait for the embellished buttons.

At left are the found objects from a walk across the Hennepin Avenue bridge over the Mississippi River on December 14, 2014. Some nice colorful bits ready to be beaded!



Kathy Franke, US

When we were asked last year to vote on the project for this year, found objects was not my choice. I am so glad there were more daring individuals who saw the creative potential of this option. From beginning to end, it has been my favorite project and it really forced me to stretch my creative muscle. I was very lucky to have found a virtual storehouse of found objects at my now late mother-in-law's house. My late father-in-law collected every object he ever spotted, whether broken or whole, and had drawers and coffee cans full of delicious junk! It was so much fun to go through it all with totally different eyes. I have no idea what half the stuff was that I chose, but it was fun to figure out how to embellish it and make it work. As my husband has inherited this trait from his father, he gladly contributed a number of pieces, too. This summer when we cleaned out his parent's house, we found a huge metal hat tin of his mother's that was full of buttons, hooks, broken zippers and old watch buckles that became yet more additions to the large stash I already had. In my pickings, I came across a length of old chain that I decided to use as the base to which I would hang all the found objects I received. I immediately knew I wanted the chain to hang vertically, so to start, I searched for a large focal piece for the bottom and my husband had the perfect piece in his stash that I then embellished with chain maille using copper jumpings from an old project. My goal was to keep all the embellished objects facing forward as much as possible and while this wasn't too difficult, I ended up with a lot of gaps that needed



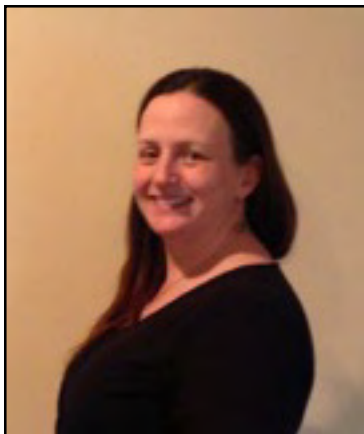
filling. Working with the many unused found objects I had collected, I started by incorporating these into the open spaces and then started hanging the beaded objects from them. It took a lot more time than I anticipated trying to get it looking balanced and right, but it really forced me to let go and just have fun. The end result wound up being not only a showcase of my beautiful assortment of beaded objects, but also an homage to my late mother and father-in-law as well as to my husband. While none of those individual pieces actually tell a story, all together it represents a part of their lives. It was a great experience and the whole process was so much fun that I was actually bummed when it was finished!



Ann Gilbert, US

What a project! Trying to unify all these treasures was quite a job. I ended up sorting by metal color. The two smallest items, a key and watch parts, made terrific earrings. It was like unwrapping 20 little presents!





Heather Hambrick, US

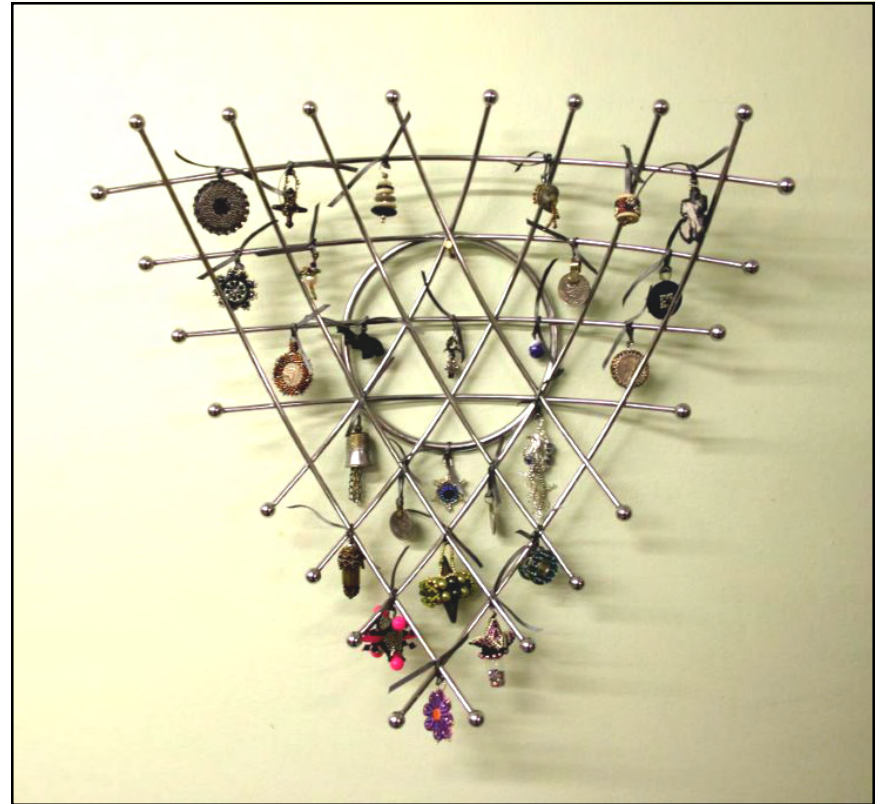
Since signing up for this challenge I have moved twice and anticipating another move soon. I am also now 8 months pregnant with my first child. My bead mojo and motivation have suffered greatly to say the least. I'm not completely satisfied with the pieces I've created, but I will look forward to playing with the charms again when my beading groove has returned. I thought this challenge was great fun, I love to see pretty things made from items that might otherwise be junk. It was a challenge to create my charms, I have wanted to use a thimble as a charm for a while now. This was the perfect opportunity. Thanks for the allowing me to participate with your bead pals group. I hope to be invited to participate again when my life isn't so crazy.





Stephney Hornblow, UK

I had an idea for the found objects, but it was shelved for next year at the moment Diane called across to me whilst we were rummaging around an antique centre here in England. 'What about this for your found objects Steph'. I liked the quirkiness of the 'gridded fruit bowl' and thought it would make a wonderful 'found object' for the 'found objects'. Hope you enjoy looking at it as much as I do and here's to the buttons. Another great challenge for the Bead Pals.





Jane Langenback, US

I wanted to use a matte gold color chain for the necklace part and I had fun arranging the pieces on it. The chain is from AD Adornments out of Chicago, IL. I really enjoyed decorating the bullet casings to exchange with you all and I thought they kind of look like lipstick tubes.





Liana Magee, US

From the very beginning of this project, I had visualized having a necklace with all the Found Object pieces as charms. I kept telling myself that the idea was too simple and I should think about something more “interesting” to do. Then, last September, while I was in London with Diane Fitzgerald, we went to a wonderful antique show at the Horticulture Center. There was one particular seller, a man in a kilt, who had several old and very interesting items to sell. On the table, next to his treasures laid a newer, long chain necklace, kind of funky, with varied sizes of links and a few smaller chains hanging off the main piece. It certainly didn’t belong with his other treasured items, but it “talked to me”. He let me have it for nearly nothing, saying it was just an extra piece that had been in a box with other more collectible and valued items. It ended up being perfect for the Found Objects. And I really do like it, simple or not.





Susan Manchester, US

I was not surprised that our very creative beading group came up with a diverse set of found objects. But I was surprised at how nicely they aligned themselves when I decided to group them into a set of necklaces. Not only is the entire set very wearable together but they also look great worn individually. Definitely one of my favorite final products out of our US/UK challenges.





Vicky Pritchard, UK

I found this to be the least challenging of the bead pals so far. I am proud to say that I didn't have to buy anything for this challenge as I had all the beads and the cotton spools in my bead box.

Finding a way to display all the objects was a little trickier but as I wanted to put everybody's work on display I decided to sew them all to a bag that I can take to my beading group. I am very pleased with the results even if I say so myself!





Carmian Seifert, US

What a challenging project! It began with the 'hunt' to find just the right object. I wanted to find something unique that had not been done before and that had some special meaning to me. I also wanted to create my own design for beading the object. There were many many objects that fit these criteria but the real challenge came when I had to keep in mind how any of my choices would work with the size and color guidelines that were the underpinnings of this project. The result: the selection of a piece from the game of Jax, one of my favorite games to play as a child, embellished with delicats and crystals selected from the colors in the guidelines using a geometric peyote stitch.

The challenge continued with deciding how to best showcase all the beaded objects from the exchange. I felt they each needed their individual place to 'shine', so I put them in a display format as if they were in a kickshaw in an antique store or in a jewelry store for sale.

This is the poem I wrote about my beaded found object and enclosed with each one.

"Jax is the childhood game

From which my found object came.

It conjures up many memories of delight and joy

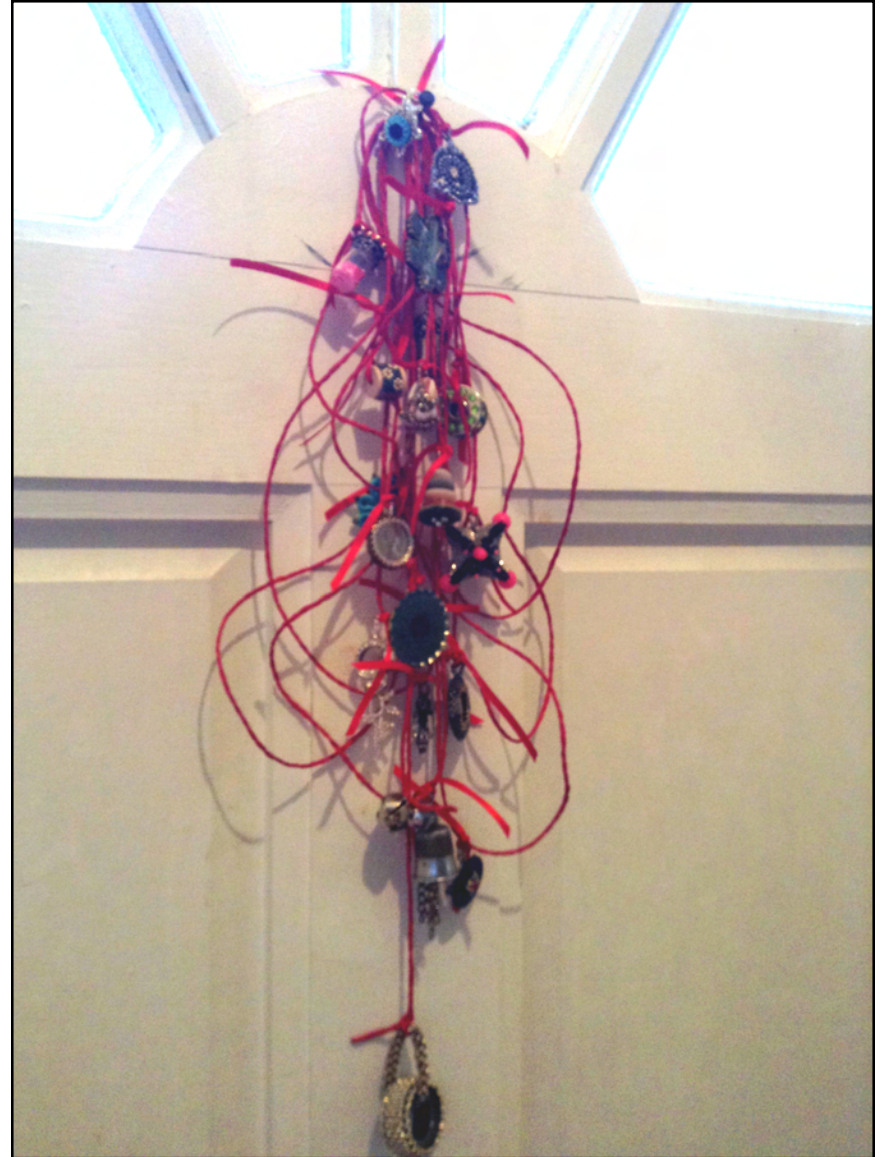
Similar to those with beadweaving techniques we employ!"





Carol Stevenson, UK

As a change I have hung my alternative Christmas tree on my door. Our house is on the small side and we don't have much room for a conventional tree! Thank you to all Bead Pals for such a diverse and interesting collection this year. My found objects were going to be old curtain rings but I did not have enough, on my search through a local craft shop for more I found a daisy chain as an alternative.





Catharine White, UK

“My mother in law died just before Christmas last year, she was an avid crafter for most of her 90 years. When I was clearing out her house I found lots of fabric, ribbons, knitting needles, buttons etc. But what inspired me to bead was a whole load of sewing machine bobbins. I found it very stimulating to use a small set of beads and see what was achievable - some of the patterns I used were very simple - some you couldn't even see the bobbin because of the amount of beads.

Thank you everybody for the charms that they made. As always, when they arrived I really didn't know what to do with them. But earlier this year I did a lovely tassel class with Julie Ashford of Spellbound beads and when I was reviewing the “stuff” I have made this year I realised that these charms would make a lovely tassel fringe. “





Elizabeth Wilson, UK

I was very fortunate this year to be blessed with sixpences, kindly donated to the bead pals project by Carol. I then decided to try and find a practical use for my finished item.

Inspired by a few simple beaded jug covers, I was given a beautiful crocheted cotton lace cover by Clare, from her extensive vintage collection. Thanks to my dear friends for their help.

The mix of shapes and sizes I received was unexpected, however I have decorated the edge of the lace with a thin ribbon and the eclectic beads to make a really unique jug or bowl cover.

Now it will be on permanent display and useful too!

