

SOLOists in Stitches!

Recently three of us set out from Chessington to the Walled Garden in Sunbury which has the Millennium Tapestry in a purpose-built exhibition gallery. The journey was quite easy as it's only two miles from Hampton Court so we were there in 20 minutes. The work began on the Tapestry in 1997 by a group of enthusiastic embroiderers and cross-stitchers in readiness for exhibiting it during the Millennium year. Their handiwork is truly amazing and the more you look at it the more interesting it becomes.

The Tapestry is made up of 130 pieces of embroidery and is 10 metres long and depicts aspects of Sunbury village life at the turn of the century with buildings, houses, shops, parks, the River Thames with wild life and lots more. There was a lady volunteer at hand who actually had worked on part of the tapestry herself and was so helpful, informative and enthusiastic in all that she said. The Walled Garden was built during the early part of the 18th century and includes a knot garden, and a Victorian garden and more and is suitable to visit any time of the year. This exhibition is on permanent display and is open six days a week and is quite free! Amazingly what caught my attention were the blocks of plaster, hip high, which went along the front of the tapestry and which had been pre-cast of some of the embroidered pictures which blind or poorly sighted people could feel with their hands to enable them to get a very good idea of what the tapestry look liked – what a great idea.

When you can tear yourself away from this Tapestry there is also in the same gallery a temporary exhibition of photographs of flowers and plants from China, including Camellias and Clematis which were captured on photographed by a gentleman and who will be giving a talk at the Gallery later this year about his expeditions to China.

The three of us finished off our morning by having coffee and cake in the Café attached to the exhibition and then a walk round the gardens. A most enjoyable morning.

'SOLOS' GROUP AT HOOK CHURCH

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