

**Blog #109 - A New Design & A Jigsaw:**  
 April 2021

The month in which the significance of Easter is remembered and celebrated and usually - every year - over this weekend I will enjoy creating a jigsaw and this year was no exception.

A new puzzle I had received as a gift at Christmas time was the one I chose to do. Portrait of our Queen Elizabeth II at the time of her Coronation in 1953.

As for stitching, completely finished the stitching of the over one fabric thread version of GigiR design - Elizabeth A. Wendon 1864 - and then finished it as a little pillow.

Keith also framed the over two fabric threads version and both are now on display in the Needlework Gallery and are pictured below -



**GR : EAW**  
**Elizabeth A. Wendon 1864**  
**\$ 29.50**

After finishing the piece above I created the chart for the scissors case I had been inspired to create when stitching the alteration to JBW Designs 'Ooh La La' design shown a couple of blogs ago (Blog #107 - February 2021).

Decided this to be a companion piece to an earlier design - Sampler Keep - that I published many, many months ago and as a reminder of that design, both the front & the back of the design are pictured to the far right.

Consequently chose the same fabric and thread colours and began stitching it.

Pictured to the right is a sneak peek -



**BARB 1027 : Sampler Keep : \$ 35.00**

Fabric: Belfast Linen - 32 count - Lt. Mocha  
 Thread: Sampler Thread - Midnight  
 Finishing Thread - DMC 3750

And now to continue on with Melissa's, Ashleigh's and my UK experiences:  
 Thursday, 3 October 2019 - Hampton Court

Hampton Court Palace is a royal palace in possession of our Queen Elizabeth II and the Crown and is situated in the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames, about 12 miles southwest of central London on the River Thames.

In 1514 Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, at that time a chief minister to and a favourite of Henry VIII, acquired the property and over the next seven years Wolsey spent lavishly to build the finest palace in England.

Today, little of Wolsey's building work remains unchanged. The first courtyard, the Base Court, was his creation, as was the second, inner gatehouse which leads to the Clock Court courtyard. Wolsey's seal remains visible over the entrance arch of the clock tower which contained his private rooms. The Base Court contained forty-four lodgings reserved for guests, while the second court (today, Clock Court) contained the very best rooms – the state apartments reserved for the King and his family. Henry VIII stayed in the state apartments as Wolsey's guest immediately after their completion in 1525.



In 1529, Wolsey fell from favour, and so the cardinal gave the palace to the king to check his disgrace. The palace went on to become one of Henry's most favoured residences. Soon after acquiring the property, Henry began his own rebuilding and expansion of the property so that it might more easily accommodate his sizeable retinue of courtiers, as Henry VIII's court consisted of over one thousand people. Thus Henry transformed Hampton Court into his favourite and principal residence.

There are ten statues of heraldic animals, called the King's Beasts, that stand on the bridge over the moat leading to the great gatehouse. These statues represent the ancestry of King Henry VIII and his third wife Jane Seymour. The animals are: the lion of England, the Seymour lion, the Royal dragon, the black bull of Clarence, the yale of Beaufort, the white lion of Mortimar, the White Greyhound of Richmond, the Tudor dragon, the Seymour panther and the Seymour unicorn.



Seymour lion, the Royal dragon, the black bull of Clarence, the yale of Beaufort, the white lion of Mortimar, the White Greyhound of Richmond, the Tudor dragon, the Seymour panther and the Seymour unicorn.

In the following century, King William began further rebuilding and expansion.

After the death of his wife, Queen Mary, King William lost interest in the renovations and work ceased in 1694. He died in 1702 after injuries received from falling from his horse and he was succeeded by his sister-in-law, Queen Anne, who continued the decoration and completion of the state apartments. On Queen Anne's death in 1714 the Stuart dynasty came to an end.

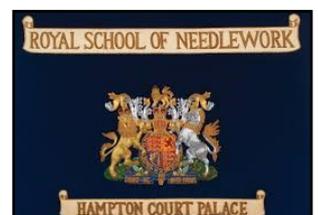
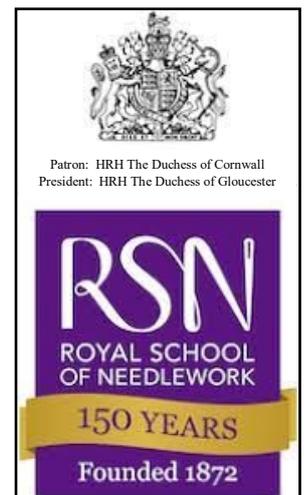
Queen Anne's successors were the last monarchs to reside at Hampton Court.

From the 1760s, the palace was used to house 'grace-and-favour' \* residents. Many of the palace rooms were adapted to be rent-free apartments, with vacant ones allocated by the Lord Chamberlain to reward past services rendered to the Crown. From 1862 to his death in 1867, the scientist and pioneer of electricity, Michael Faraday lived here. From the 1960s the number of new residents declined, with the last admitted in the 1980s. However existing residents could continue to live here. By 2005 three remained, with none by 2017.

\* A grace-and-favour home is a residential property owned by a monarch by virtue of his or her position as head of state and leased, often rent-free, to persons as part of an employment package or in gratitude for past services rendered.

In 1796, the Great Hall was restored and in 1838, during the reign of Queen Victoria, the restoration was completed and the palace opened to the public. Once opened, the palace soon became a major tourist attraction and, by 1881, over ten million visits had been recorded. Visitors arrived both by boat from London and via Hampton Court railway station, opened in February 1849.

In 1986, the palace was damaged by a major fire, which spread to the King's Apartments. The fire led to a new programme of restoration work which was completed in 1990. The Royal School of Needlework moved to premises within the Palace in 1987.



Some of the tapestries and needlework we saw in Hampton Court when touring King William & Queen Mary's apartments.



The gardens at Hampton Court were also very lovely.



There are two plants that have been at the gardens for centuries.

Firstly The Great Vine and secondly The Great Wisteria



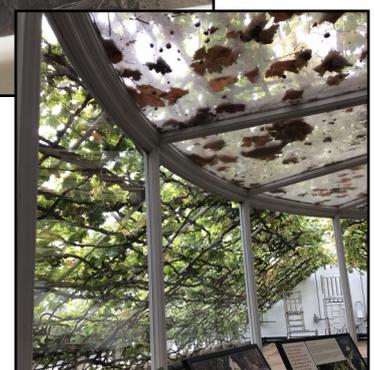
The Great Vine - the largest grape vine in the world.

The vine was planted in 1768 for King George III (r1760—1820) by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783), his Chief Gardener at Hampton Court Palace.

Visitors have flocked to see the Great Vine since the 19th century. To ease the queues, a new glasshouse with a public viewing cabin was built in 1904-6.

The vine house today was largely built in 1964. The vine was so tangled up with the old structure that the new glasshouse had to be built around the old iron framework.

The vine produces a large crop of sweet Black Hamburg grapes every year. These are a variety of dessert grapes, not used for winemaking. The grapes darken in August but they are not ready to eat. They need about three weeks 'hanging black' to let the sugars develop. The Vine Keeper tastes them and, when they are judged ready, the daily September harvest begins.



On the palace wall to the right of the grape vine glasshouse is The Great Wisteria which was planted in 1840.



Overshadowed by its 18th century neighbour for most of the year, it bursts into flower each May for two weeks, smothered with spectacular sweetly scented purple flowers.



Programme for the day was to tour the palace kitchens, have some lunch, tour the William & Mary apartments, then the art gallery, the grape vine in the glasshouse and walk some of the gardens before wandering through other rooms ..... but

by this time I was really tired and so while Melissa & Ashleigh went off to tour Henry's apartments, the Chapel, etc, I went to have a rest - a sit-down and a cup of tea, before going to visit the Royal School of Needlework's needlework shop. I had wanted to visit the needlework rooms, but they were not open this particular day. I had to satisfy myself with looking through the windows. I tried to take some photos (pictured to the right) but unfortunately the gardens reflected on the glass window panes.



As for the shop, I was surprised to see that it was very, very small. So much smaller than I had anticipated. Didn't end up buying very much as not too much in the way of choices for the type of needlework that I like to do, however did purchase a needlework kit to create a reproduction of an old sampler (I still haven't stitched it as yet) so that I would have a reminder of my visit. I was thrilled to see though that there were a lot of Phillipa's beautiful crewel work kits available for purchase.

Also, as a memento of my visit I bought some special RSN items - a coffee mug & a tea towel.

Also had a little spend in the Hampton Court gift shop (bought some lovely little ceramic buttons with William Morris patterns on them) before we headed down the long walk to the front gateway of the palace to wait for our Uber ride.



And so another wonderful fulfilling day came to a close.

More needlework and adventures to follow in my next blog.

Bye for now.

