

Blog #97 - Another Letter / Lady Anne 4 (22 September 2019):
 Thursday, 14 May 2020

Happy birthday to me! Seventy years young.
 God has granted me three score years and ten.

The words on the card pictured to the right read -
 "Life is a pathway we travel each day
 and our memories are the flowers we gather on the way
 Their fragrance and beauty remain in our hearts, ever dear
 As we add to the bouquet each wonderful year"

Looking back over the years, there are many happy memories,
 but there has also been a mixture of highs and lows,
 good times and bad times, blessings and hardships,
 but all experiences together have shaped me into the person I am today.

My sincerest wish is that I have been a help to many in some small way
 and that for my remaining time on this earth I sincerely hope that I can
 and will be able to find ways to be a blessing to others.

Since writing my last blog I have continued as often as possible to stitch.

Consequently I have stitched and completely finished
 the letter 'Z' of the alphabet series.

Pictured to the right is both sides of the ornamental.
 Z = Zealous / Zinta

This letter has been worked with three shades of pink,
 (DMC 961 : 962 : 963)
 but the instructions (when I have written them)
 will be the same as for all the other letters.

That is, alternative colour choices will be given -

- Antique Mauve - 3041 : 3042 : 3740
- Antique Pink - 778 : 3726 : 3727
- Blue - 312 : 334 : 3325
- Blue Violet - 340 : 341 : 3746
- Brethren Blue - 931 : 932 : 3752
- Dusky Pink - 223 : 3722 : 3727
- Pink - 3687 : 3688 : 3689
- Purple - 211 : 552 : 553



Antique Mauve



Antique Pink



Blue



Blue Violet



Clear Pink



Brethren Blue



Dusky Pink



Pink



Purple

As used
 for
 'Z'
 pictured
 above

I've also continued stitching my Mystery Sampler
 and here is a sneak peek at Part Six - the final part.



On the bottom left-hand corner I've placed the date of 1779.
 This is the year that the Ackworth School opened
 and in the bottom right-hand corner
 I've placed the year in which I stitched this sampler.

In addition to placing my initials inside the rose wreath,
 I also stitched my name above the date
 but then removed it
 as had stitched it over two fabric threads
 and I felt this was too large.

I think I will re-stitch it but this time
 only over one fabric thread.



Note: The tacking threads of the outside edges are still in place

And now to continue on with relating more of Lady Anne's Needlework Retreat - Day 4: After breakfast we boarded our luggage packed bus and left the beautiful medieval city of York and travelled south for several hours to Stamford in Lincolnshire.

Whilst our bags were delivered to our rooms at the wonderful historic building housing the hotel, 'The George of Stamford', enjoyed a cup of tea.



The Back Entrance

The internal courtyard of the hotel (despite the drizzly rain) was so inviting with its little pockets of wicker chairs and tables amongst leafy green shrubs.



Inside, on the corridor walls to my room, framed pieces of needlepoint / tapestries were hung and at the landing at the top of the stairs above reception, on a long seat, tapestry cushions added a cosy touch.



After unpacking I wandered outside the main entrance to the hotel to begin my exploration of Stamford as we had a couple of hours of free time before our next class began.

Either side of the main entrance to the hotel were the most gorgeous white hydrangeas planted in window boxes and these made a magnificent display and reminded me of home and all our hydrangeas planted beneath our avenue of 'Little Gem' magnolia trees.

Further along the street I passed an old inn and lots of quaint little shops selling all sorts of things (clothes, gifts, etc.).

Almost every shop was closed due to it being a Sunday.



How lovely to be in a place that still recognised Sunday as being a special, significant day.

I eventually reached the paved & cobbled village square where I found a little teashop to have some lunch whilst sitting at a window table and watched the comings and goings of the locals and various tourists.

Very peaceful.

At 2pm until 4pm it was class time. My class was Alison Cole's beautiful goldwork piece that she had designed - her inspiration being from a needlework piece at Hardwick Hall. Our destination the following day.



Alison is SO clever. A very gifted needlewoman. I especially loved it as it was worked on the most glorious, luxurious, velvet. This made a stunning background for the various gold and silver threads that were used to create the design.

As mentioned in many previous blogs, this type of work is not my forte, as I am a counted thread girl, but I can and do appreciate the skill of those ladies who are able to do this delicate handwork.

Pictured to the right is Alison's finished piece and below is a close-up of part of the piece.



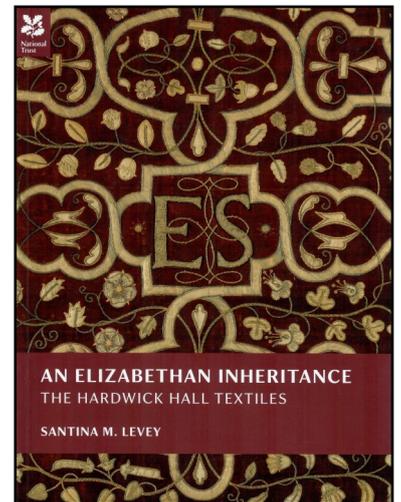
I have given my kit to my friend, Linda, who lives in Christchurch as she is a very accomplished needlewoman and I know she will enjoy stitching this piece.

After class we again had some free time before dinner to further explore Stamford and so this time I ventured in another direction and found a wonderful antique shop. For those of you who know me - I love antique furniture! This shop was SO full of wonderful old pieces, many of which I would loved to have been able to take home. But, of course, that was not possible!!



On the way to the hotel restaurant for dinner, came across the hotel cat sitting on one of the many window sills which I just had to pet as there is 'something' about black cats.

That evening we were treated to Phillipa, Meredith and Alison being interviewed about the inspiration for their class designs by Phillipa's husband, Professor Richard McGregor.



And so, another day came to a close.

Rest up, as off to Hardwick Hall the next day. Another much anticipated experience as had had a brochure for this wonderful place in a drawer for many years and a copy of the book, "An Elizabethan Inheritance. The Hardwick Hall Textiles" on my library shelf for some years.

Till next time, bye for now.

