

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

WORLD PREMIERE

'The Embroidery Suite'
composed by Tony Kinsey
17th JUNE 2006
St Mary's Church

COMING EVENTS

EMBROIDERY GALLERY
FORMAL OPENING
21st JUNE 2006
gallery open to the visitors
from **Tuesday 11th JULY**

Open Gardens Day
2nd July
Picnic in the Park
2nd September

The Sunbury Embroidery Gallery open to visitors from 11th July

Embroidery Gallery to formally open on 21st June

The arrangements are all in place to formally open the new Gallery on Wednesday 21st June at 3pm. Since our Spring Newsletter in March we have had a hectic couple of months whilst we chewed our fingernails wondering whether we would be able to carry out the formal opening ceremony on that day. Unfortunately we had great difficulty getting British Gas to connect us to the mains. Without gas we could not dry out the concrete screeds, and until they were dry we could not lay the floor finishes, finally fix skirtings or complete the decorations. Luckily our MP David Wilshire and his partner Ann Palmer came to our rescue and intervened with British Gas, and though it's going to be a tight run thing, our builder Broadway Construction is content that all will be ready on the big day.

This of course has left us little time to train our volunteers to make them familiar with the building and the way it is going to operate, or to complete all the fitting out we had planned. Enough time is essential to allow for these activities, so we have reluctantly decided to gain a little more time after the formal opening by delaying the date when the building will be open to the visitors until Tuesday 11th July.

Throughout the project we have endeavoured to reach the highest standard of excellence in everything we have achieved, and believe this reluctant decision will provide us with the space and time we need to maintain that standard. During that period however you are wel-

come to come to the building to observe the fitting out works taking place, but refreshments will not be available until 11th July.

On the 21st June the ceremony will start at 3.00pm, but our guests will be arriving from 2.30pm onwards, and to ensure that they are close to the action, part of The Walled Garden will be cordoned off for them, but lots of vantage points will be available outside of that area and we hope that many of our community will come and support the occasion.

The event will begin with a speech of welcome and thanks

by our Chairman David Brown, after which the Leader of Council Gerry Ceaser will respond. Our Deputy Chairman Robert Shaw will then introduce Della Pascoe who will unveil a sculpture created and donated by John Stamp entitled 'The French Knot'. This sculpture is destined to be displayed in the main Gallery after the ceremony, but for the opening it will be temporarily mounted outside where everyone can witness its unveiling. Following this the Deputy Mayor will cut a cake of celebration made by Miriam Marks before we move on to the actual opening.

To reflect the central importance to the project of our embroiderers who stitched the embroidery, and to maintain the community nature of the project, the actual opening of the building will be carried out jointly by our most senior embroiderer Eve Jackson and by our youngest embroiderer Jolande Sharp.

Once the door is open the ceremonial party will then tour the building after which all our other guests can take turns at visiting the building themselves, and enjoying while they wait, a glass of wine and a piece of celebration cake.



World Premiere of the 'Embroidery Suite' - Saturday 17th June

Prior to the opening of the Embroidery Gallery our celebrations begin on the Saturday 17th June at St. Mary's Church, Sunbury-on-Thames, when Tony Kinsey with an internationally acclaimed group of jazz musicians will perform the World Premiere of his Embroidery Suite which he has specially written to

celebrate the dedicated efforts of the many people involved in the project.

Please come and support us at this very special event. We need to sell 300 tickets to ensure the project is not burdened with a loss - besides which it is not often that such a distinguished group of jazz musicians can have

performed together in Spelthorne, let alone in our village of Lower Sunbury. Tickets cost £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for those 14 and under and can be booked by telephoning 01932 788101, or purchased from Albert Skinner's newsagents in the Avenue Parade.

The design of the new gallery

In designing the Gallery the Architects were acutely aware of the sensitive nature of the site within The Walled Garden and appreciated the public's deep affection for its quiet and tranquil atmosphere. They wished not to detract from these qualities, and strove to minimise the building's impact on the garden by placing much of it either outside the Walled Garden in Sunbury Park or within parts of the existing Depot, leaving only a light and elegant highly glazed structure within the garden itself.

The form of the building directly responds to the existing heights of the garden walls and their layout, particularly in

the design of the actual Gallery. Its boat shaped plan acknowledges and maintains the existing curved garden wall, and this defines one side of the Gallery. The other side takes up the same shape as the garden wall but reverses its plan form. Together the two walls create an unusual room ideal for displaying the embroidery.

A simple range of materials have been employed including bricks reclaimed from the existing walls, new brickwork, copper roofing elements, a sophisticated glazing systems, and with ceramic tiles and oak boards to the floors. Barton Engineers designed a minimal structural system and the slen-

der columns supporting the roofs do little to detract from the internal spaces, all the surfaces of which are simply designed

Broadway Construction have taken great pains to realise the designers' hopes and have made huge efforts to reach the standards expected. The Architects hope our community will like the simplicity of the new building and appreciate the efforts put in to ensure that it sits naturally in this magnificent garden environment.

THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TEAM
ARCHITECTS: Robert Shaw in association with David Brown and Partners
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Barton Engineers
CONTRACTOR: The Broadway Group



COMING EVENTS

Open Gardens Day Sunday 2nd July

The third annual Open Gardens Day is to be held jointly by St. Mary's Church and the Embroidery and teas will be available.

This has proved to be a most interesting day which allows one to peek into other peoples' gardens, pinch their planting ideas and generally have a pleasant and relaxed walk around Sunbury from garden to garden. Tickets will be on sale at the opening of the Gallery.

Picnic in the Walled Garden Saturday 2nd September

We are again holding our now annual evening concert in The Walled Garden on the 2nd September, and tickets will be available from late July onwards.

FRIENDS OF THE EMBROIDERY

The 'Friends' membership now stands at well over 160 - so thanks to all who shown your support in this way. If you would like to become a 'Friend' please call 01932 788101 for a form. Membership is £10 annually and £15 for family membership.

Community involvement at the heart of the project

The creation of the Sunbury Millennium Embroidery and the new building in which to house the work has been a wonderful team effort which could not have been achieved at all without the support of a very wide cross-section of Sunbury residents as well as embroiderers and supporters from outside of Spelthorne.

The Steering Committee and Trustees are aware of how eagerly the building has been awaited,

and hope it will be obvious that only a very small part of it intrudes into The Walled Garden, and that its wonderfully restful atmosphere will not be diminished. Indeed we hope the vast majority will like and enjoy the new Gallery.

The opening of course is just the beginning. In order to survive and flourish we need to ensure that the Gallery does not become a stale museum, but is vibrant and alive with many

things going on and lots of people involved. We therefore plan for a constant and changing range of exhibitions and an interesting teaching programme. As has always been the case we do not intend charging admission to view the embroidery, but we will be selling our merchandise and our refreshments from the 11th July, the proceeds of which will go towards helping with running costs.

Having reached this point we

still need to raise money to correctly mount and conserve the embroidery and the bas reliefs created for the visually impaired. The building will be fully accessible for those who need to use a wheelchair, and a sound induction loop has been fitted for those who have hearing difficulties. The community is at the heart of the project and we will strive to continue the project's ethos of being open to, and enjoyed by all.

The Café

Would you like to help with the café and work in a beautiful environment? We are still looking for an Assistant Catering Manager to work alongside Pat Crisp in the café. This is a paid position offering

24 hours per week with some weekend work. If you are interested please write giving your details to Riverbank, Thames Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 5QP or phone Pat on 01932 231432.

The fitting out of the new building

We are very grateful for the generous help we have received with the fitting out of the new building following our appeal in the last newsletter. The tables and chairs are now pretty well covered (so to speak) although we

are still in need of some crockery and a number of items for the kitchen, and also the display systems as mentioned above. If you feel you would like to help with any of these please call 01932 788101 for details.