
CURIOUS MUM

An Arty Escape



THURSDAY 07 MARCH 2013

Last week we met up with a good friend of Curious Mum, the lovely artist Stephanie Wilkinson, who we first met after we'd been introduced to her fabulous range, Create a Stir.

Her cheerful art — often inspired by domestic life and everyday objects — is truly delightful, and is just what one needs on a rainy day. She has a fantastic way of working with patterns and bold colours that is vibrant, rich and playful (so much so that we've taken to wandering around the house looking for an empty wall).

Stephanie has just finished an exhibition at the Sunbury Embroidery Gallery which in itself was an amazing find. How have we not visited before? This is a little-known gem located just outside London in Surrey, in the quaint town of Sunbury-on-Thames.

The gallery, an award winning building designed by Robert Shaw and David Brown, was purpose built to house the Sunbury Millennium Embroidery which was designed to commemorate the ancient village of Sunbury and its community in the year 2000. It is definitely one of the most incredible pieces of embroidery we have come across as not only does it feature a vast range of local buildings, houses, schools, local parks, community life and riverside activities — but also because it was made by over 140 local volunteer embroiders — all of different skill levels and ages.

It is the quirky details, that only the locals would be able to depict, that makes the piece so special — like the presence of a rat next to The Magpie pub, or a teddy outside an old beautiful house. With this in mind, it is certainly worth asking one of the many volunteers at the gallery to guide you through the secrets of Sunbury's fascinating history.

Each month, in addition to the permanent Millennium Embroidery display, the Sunbury Gallery exhibits a different artist and hosts a series of talks and workshops inside the premises. Entry is free and the local volunteers are just the friendliest people you could hope to meet, embracing and welcoming every visitor who walks in, be it a regular or somebody visiting for the first time.

On your visit, don't miss out on the café which serves delicious freshly baked cakes and is a favourite meeting point for locals, not least for its beautiful view into the stunning Walled Garden which must be a real oasis on a warm, sunny day.

So, next time you are planning a day out of London, head down to Sunbury-on Thames not only for the amazing Embroidery Gallery but also for its beautiful riverside and Kempton Park.

*Love,
Curious Mum*