



North Kent Embroiderers

Hello everyone, we had two mini workshops on offer at our last meeting. The first one was to learn about Hardanger embroidery with Veronica and the second one was trying the art of beading with Sue D.

Hardanger embroidery is a style that is traditionally used in Norway



(although it is said to originate in Asia). It is worked on an evenweave cotton or linen fabric, usually using white thread. The technique involves counting the threads and stitching to form a pattern as well as cutting some of the threads away as you can see in this example. Cutting the threads requires bravery and concentration is required to ensure that the pattern works successfully!

Those doing beading were taught by Sue how to make an 'amulet purse'. This is a small intricately patterned purse, traditionally worn round the neck and used to carry small personal items such as charms or herbs. These purses are believed to give spiritual protection to the wearer. The



members doing this class needed to be very dextrous as the purses and the beads are very tiny, however the developing beadwork looked beautiful.

Our mini workshops last all day but those not taking part joined us at our usual time in the afternoon to 'stitch and chat' bringing their own projects along to work on or to ask for advice with. It was lovely to have new visitors joining us. In early February seven members of our group visited Scotney Castle. They went to meet a lady called Ellen Askey James who works there and is currently involved in a project to conserve embroideries in The Red Room. Our ladies had a fascinating time helping Ellen with her research and learning how restoration and conservation is done in historic houses. The theme for our postcard challenge this month was 'monochrome' and you can see one of the examples here. It

was interesting to see how many ways the term 'monochrome' could be interpreted from simple black and white to a range of shades of a single colour.

If you would maybe like to start a new hobby and to join our group or would just like to find out a bit more about us then please pay us a visit - look at our website <https://northkentembroiders.co.uk/> or email us at:

info@northkentembroiders.co.uk

or contact our Chairman, Eileen on 01474 324734

Happy stitching, Karen

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