

Blog #110 - Mothers Day, Birthday & More History:
May 2021

Mothers Day & birthday month for me and so a couple of lovely and memorable outings.

One was with some of the girls from one of my stitching groups. We went to Birdwoods - a favourite destination for all of us and which I have written about before.



They gave me the most beautiful pale pink "frilly-edged" potted cyclamen plant and one of the girls had made a card especially for me. Many of the girls in this group are very clever with scrapbooking skills and on various occasions - birthday & Christmas - a different girl has made a card for me. I have kept all these cards.

(As I have procrastinated and not typed up this blog until many months after I penned these lines, I can convey that this gorgeous cyclamen flowered for many months after receiving it).

The other outing was a 'high tea' at Mangapapa with Melissa and granddaughters, Ashleigh & Madison. Just lovely and, oh, so special.



I know I had some pics of our 'goodies' to eat with our glasses of champagne and our cups of tea - all beautifully arranged on three-tiered plate stands - but I cannot find them amongst all my hundreds of photos.



However, do have one of the four of us taken at home before we left.

As for needlework this month, received a phone call from a lady who had recently stitched one of my alphabet letters and wanted to purchase another letter to stitch for a friend. The letter 'Y'.

Oh, dear! I only had this letter hand-charted and so had to quickly create the computer chart, stitch both alphabet panels (Y = youthful : Y = Yolanda), finish the pieces as a hanging ornamental, photograph it, write the instructions and publish it.

All before the end of the month so that the lady would have everything she needed in plenty of time so that she could stitch it before her friend's birthday at the beginning of August. Managed to do so.



BARB 1026Y : The Letter 'Y' : \$ 25.00

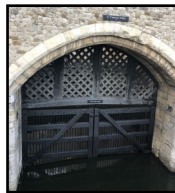
Also this month I finished stitching - but didn't get it made up before the end of the month - the 'over one' version of my 'Be Ye Kind' design. I'm a bit disappointed with it. Don't like my choice of fabric colour with the thread. I think I will stitch it again using a different fabric colour. And then I will show you both versions.

However, did finish stitching and making up the little sampler scissors case that I began last month. That is, the companion piece to 'Sampler Keep'. Will show an image of this next month by which time I will have written the instructions for it and published the design. Am rather pleased with it.

*And now to continue on with Melissa's, Ashleigh's and my UK experiences:
Friday, 4 October 2019*

I was very tired and so it was decided that I would remain at the hotel for this day to rest and stitch whilst Melissa & Ashleigh

went off to explore the sights of London and enjoy some time together on their own. To get around London they hired e-bikes. For the cost of £1 to unlock and 12 pence per minute to drop-off destination, they visited venue after venue, iconic site to iconic site. Below are some of their findings. Westminster Abbey, The Tower Of London, Traitor's Gate, Tower Bridge, London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, The National Art Gallery to name a few -



I think their highlight was at Kensington Palace where there was a Queen Victoria exhibition commemorating 200 years.



When Keith & I were in London, we could not get close to these gates as so many bouquets of flowers, gifts of cuddly teddy bears & other furry toys, cards,

hand-written notes, candles etc. as it was just a week after Princess Diana's funeral. I slipped whilst walking past. Discovered the reason - beeswax on the pavement.



As I was not able to be there, Melissa was thoughtful and recorded for me some of the displays and these I am sharing with you



The signage beside this display read ...

Victoria's earliest memory was crawling on a yellow carpet at Kensington Palace and being worried that if she cried, her neighbouring uncle, the Duke of Sussex, would punish her.

With no brothers or sisters of her own age, Victoria was given plenty of toys, dolls, paints, books and attention. Her mother watched her every move and the servants adored her - Victoria was the pet of the family.

The sign continued

VICTORIA'S DOLLS HOUSE : 1825 - 1835

This miniature London townhouse was well-used by Victoria and shown off to visiting children.

Quite ordinary for a princess, the house was probably made by palace staff using household odds and ends: the wall panelling upstairs is a piece of skirting board, the pretty pink paper upstairs and leaf-pattern on the doors are scraps of long-lost palace wallpaper.

Lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

TEN WOODEN PEG DOLLS : 1831 - 1833

Made & dressed by Governess Lehzen, Victoria and others.

Victoria started collecting small wooden dolls when she was 11. After two years she had 132, each one named and with their own background story.

The Princess spent hours with Governess Lehzen sewing their costumes. Lehzen's stitching is always particularly neat.

Victoria had few playmates so the dolls, named after her favourite dancers, actors or imaginary aristocratic ladies, became her first court in miniature.

Lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

VICTORIA'S OWN TOY HOUSES, DOLLS' CARRIAGE, SOLITAIRE GAME AND CHINESE MECHANICAL TOY : 1800 - 1850's

Victoria's toys were typical of wealthy children at that time.

Her dolls survive because Victoria packed them carefully away and took them with her to Buckingham Palace when she became Queen.

But these toys were left behind and rediscovered at Kensington Palace decades later.

Lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

On the next page is some exquisite embroidery - created for Queen Victoria's coronation.

"I shall ever remember this day as the proudest of my life."

Queen Victoria in her journal, 28 June 1838

Victoria's coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on 28 June 1838.

It was carefully stage-managed to signify a new type of reign.

The vast extravagance of George IV's coronation had not been forgotten.

A crowd-pleasing procession from Buckingham Palace

replaced the traditional private banquet.

400,000 people gathered from across the country to catch a glimpse of their new queen.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S CORONATION DALMATICA : by robemaker, John Hunter, 1838

"[Melbourne] thought the robes, and particularly the 'Dalmatica', "looked remarkably well".

"And you did it all so well, excellent!" said he with the tears in his eyes."

Queen Victoria in her journal, 28 June 1838

The ancient ritual lasted almost five hours and involved two costume changes.

Victoria entered the abbey wearing velvet and ermine parliamentary robes and left in an extraordinary cloth of gold robe called a Dalmatica, woven with national emblems of Great Britain.

Afterwards, Victoria's robes were carefully packed away with a growing collection of objects associated with her life.

Lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

CORONATION MORSE :

by robemaker, John Hunter, 1838

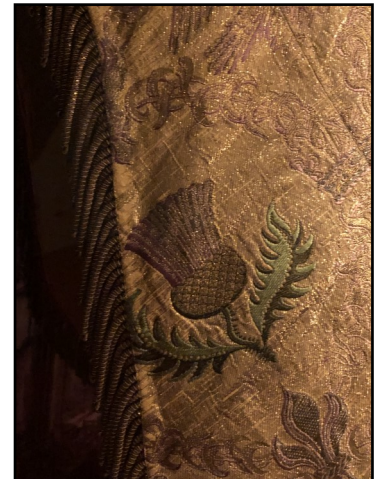
& adapted by Queen Alexandra

(Note: not shown)

The Dalmatica was originally fastened across the chest where the imperial eagle sat over the Queen's heart.

It was used by Victoria's daughter-in-law as a belt.

Other displays were one of Victoria's petticoats, her widow's outfit and a travelling outfit.



In the image to the right is one of Queen Victoria's hats. She often wore a hat outdoors with her widow's cap underneath.

Her hats were always made from the finest straw & often trimmed with the most expensive & rarest of feathers.



Victoria's Parasol : 1880-90. The lace was made especially for the Queen. It is decorated with flowers, crowns and the letter 'V' for Victoria.

Diamond Jubilee Fan : Was presented to the Queen by the Royal Company of Fan Makers.



And the final photo from the Queen Victoria exhibition is of the beautiful gown that she wore to The Great Exhibition.



The signage beside this display read ...

QUEEN VICTORIA'S DRESS : 1851

Albert controlled every aspect of the Great exhibition, including what Victoria wore. The dress, which was originally bright pink, was an unusually fashionable look for the Queen.

The colour helped Victoria stand out amongst the crowds, creating a striking image of a young, progressive queen.

Lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

BONNET

Victoria did not want to upstage Albert who had no right to wear a crown.

She chose to wear a bonnet in public.

Some people thought that it made her look like 'an old woman of 70', but many liked the fact that together they looked like an ordinary couple.

Lent by the Museum of London

CIRCLET, EARRINGS AND BROOCHES

Albert liked to design and give Victoria jewellery. He gave her an orange blossom brooch shortly after their engagement.

Over the next five years, he gave her earrings, a circlet and another brooch. The four green oranges on the circlet represent their four children. Victoria wore it every year on the day of their wedding anniversary.

Designed by Prince Albert : 1839 - 1846

Lent by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Thank you, Melissa. Sincerely appreciated all the photos and information you gathered for me due to my not being able to experience the exhibition for myself and with you & Ashleigh and I am sure that the readers of this blog will enjoy them too.

And so another day came to close.

This is what Melissa & Ashleigh arrived back at the hotel with -

Pizza & Wine for dinner.

Until next time, enjoy a glass of wine while you stitch.

