

## SALTASH CHRONICLES EMBROIDERY PROJECT

Report for Saltash Town Council Services Committee on the condition of the embroidery and to seek approval to sew the work back together.

### BACKGROUND

The Saltash Chronicles is a piece of embroidered artwork depicting the history of the town of Saltash. It is constructed of 27 panels where wool is embroidered onto linen. The panels were originally all sewn together to produce a single work approximately 106 feet in length and displayed in the local Baptist church. The work was gifted to the town council on 12/12/2019.

The work is currently displayed in 3 rows in the upper room at the Guildhall. The rows are mounted on poles along one wall, suspended from the picture rail above.

### VISIT TO THE CHRONICLES

The Chronicles were visited and inspected on the 06/04/2023. Present were:

Andrew Tritton - SCEP Project Leader

Yvonne Oake - SCEP Embroidery advisor

Ruth Allen – SCEP Embroiderer

Denise Watkins – SCEP Embroiderer (currently stewarding SCEP viewings at the Guildhall)

Mr & Mrs John and Sue Hooper – Guests

### REPORT

The Chronicles were presented as above.

The work has become quite grubby in places and requires cleaning. It has been divided into sections two-panels in length, (ie a total of 13 sections not including the 'Thank You' panels in row 3). The sections have then been joined together using binder clips which makes the work's appearance rather awkward and unprofessional.

The division of the work was achieved by unpicking the machine sewing between the panels and any embroidered work across the joins was simply cut using scissors.

A light visual inspection with the work in situ showed no damage by carpet moths or any other common infestation.

### REPAIR

The work cannot be repaired in situ and needs to be taken down and removed from site. Before repair, the work needs to be thoroughly cleaned by dry-cleaning (as was done originally with no damage to the material or embroidery). The panels then need to be machine-sewn together and hand hemmed as originally done and any

embroidery across the joins reinstated. Yvonne Oake who undertook this work in the first instance has volunteered to carry out this work at her workshop in Looe. The joining and re-embroidery should take approximately 70-100 hours and would be completed over a period of three months.

In order to fit along the suspension poles (now that 2-3 inches between each panel will not be concealed) the end panel will be removed from row 1 and attached to row 2. The end panels on row 2 will be relocated at the beginning of row 3 which will eventually include the proposed new panel (see below).

The 'Thank You' panels currently in row 3 would need to be re-sited on the wall opposite their current location (below the embroidered Saltash seal).

It has been suggested that a small panel on the achievement of Florence Tout could be made and added between panels 20 & 21 (Saltash WMC and the Scout troop fire) to be in chronological order. Florence Tout (Sue Hooper's mother) won the last ever river Tamar Swim Race run in 1938 at the age of 17 in record time. This is considered a worthy addition to the Chronicles. Sue Hooper has kindly offered to sponsor the panel if the work is agreed. This work would be carried out by Andrew Triton in conjunction with the restoration work.

It has also been suggested that a new panel be added at the end of the work to include the Garden of Remembrance, the restoration of the Railway station and the Coronation of King Charles III. The artwork and embroidery would be conducted by Yvonne and Andrew. This work would take approximately 500 hrs and would be added to the Chronicles at a later date. It is hoped that if approved, the work on the Chronicles can commence at the end of November 2023 with Yvonne Oake and Andrew Triton present when the work is taken down.

## PROTECTION

A full and detailed inspection of the work needs to be carried out to ensure there is no damage or infestation and the work should then be sprayed to prevent such\*. It is recommended that pheromone traps are located at strategic points around the embroidery and these should be checked and replaced on an annual basis (approx. £80 per annum).

There appears to be no degradation due to UV, however fitting UV filters to the windows is advised.

\*Andrew Triton will carry out a full inspection when the panels are taken down and spraying would take place before they are remounted.

## COSTS

The required restoration works for the embroidery will be undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Any materials costs for the restoration would be borne by SCEP. The cost of dry cleaning will be borne by SCEP.

The cost of protecting the work, ie pheromone traps and anti-moth spray (approx. £80 per annum) should be the responsibility of the town council.

### EXTRA BOOKLETS

SCEP has offered to supply 50 booklets free of charge. They are available for collection on request.

Andrew Tritton

SCEP project leader

14 April 2023