Worth A Look

A City in Tapestry

by David Bower

Kate Russell, the originator and artistic director of the *Leeds Tapestry 2000* project, was inspired by a similar project completed in 1990 during Glasgow's year as *European City Of Culture*. The Leeds Tapestry was completed in 2002 and consists of 15 panels, each measuring 8ft x 3ft 6in (2.4 x 1.5 m) and is on permanent display in the Leeds Central Library.

The patrons of the Tapestry were The Countess of Harewood, Kay Mellor and Dame Diana Rigg. Each panel was made by a different group of people, was sponsored by a different set of organisations, and illustrates a different aspect of the City's life, past, present and future. A great variety of techniques was used in producing the individual panels, and on some several different ones are used. The whole tapestry can be viewed at www.leedstapestry.org.uk.

The panel illustrated is entitled *Environment City* and is very closely based on part of the bird's-eye view map of the river Aire by Tom Bradley described in my article in the *IMCoS Journal* Summer N°128 (2012). The panel is made from discarded clothing, recycled, cut into strips and hooked into a canvas background by the West Riding Ruggers. Three of the other panels are based on maps or are map-like.

The small panels superimposed on the map are emblems of the sponsors.

Photo by Martin Banks