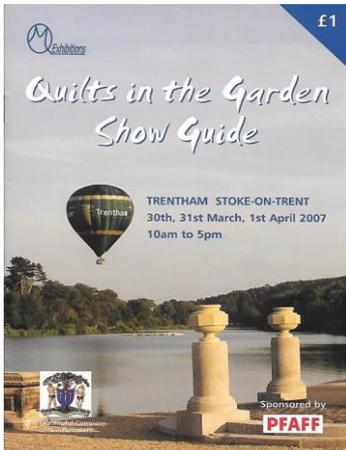


British Quilt & Stitch Village

formally Quilts in the Garden & Embroidery in the Garden



Back in 2006 Sue - my wife studied her City and Guilds in Patchwork and Quilting at Westhope College, Craven Arms, Shropshire. Her tutor was Margaret McQuillen.

In 2007 Margaret set up MQ Exhibitions to run two shows Quilts in the Garden and Embroidery in the Garden. These were to be held in a marquee at Trentham Gardens – Stoke on Trent.



The Charity Committee

agreed that they thought that this was a good way to be associated with the 'Use of Needles'. We gave sponsorship to both of these shows, which were later combined into a single event.



This combined show was an exhibition portico for quilters and sewing crafts.

This ship wreck a full sized quilt, in the first year of sponsorship, photographed with the organiser Margaret. The show was combined with sewing demonstrations and traders.

There is a new theme each year.



One was entitled 'The Italian collection'.

There are different categories, each having prizes first, second and third plus highly commended.



From the start Margaret offered the Needlemakers a special category that of 'Visitors Choice'. Those attending were asked to choose their favourite exhibit and the winner was the recipient of the Needlemakers prize. This was almost always



different from the judge's awards!

I think it was the third show which was held during a stormy April and the marquee was not up to the external forces and leaked, at the same time the number attending had increased. So, it was decided to move the event to a fixed structure and larger venue at Uttoxeter Race Course – a slightly unusual venue, but with size to expand. More sewing workshops were introduced, together with sewing demonstrations and the traders had additional space.



After the fourth year Margaret felt the show had become too large for her and her husband to manage, so a company called 'Traplet', a publishing company, from Malvern Worcestershire took over the event and changed the name to British Quilt and Stitch Village.

A new special category has been added for children sewing, which has produced some beautiful pieces of work.

The new owners have successfully run the show since then until last year 2020 when they had to cancel because of Covid.



The show is now due April this year – hopefully! The Needlemakers have sponsored the show throughout originally with 'PFAFF' sewing machines and now 'brother' sewing machines.

As you see from the photos the quilts are substantive. The show although one of the smaller ones, has become international with quilts from abroad.

The show is held over 3 days, with the 'prize giving' on the last Sunday. Sue and I have been to all the prize giving, except one.

Each year our Our Master has always been invited and often been there to present our prize. The Masters who appear along with the winning creations, in the photographs are

Past Masters Simon Fradd, Roger Staines, Pamela Goldberg and Liz Fradd together with myself Henry Milward.

A presentation plate and ribbon with a tribute to the Needlemakers has been provided by the organisers. There has always been great interest by the Visitors in The Worshipful Company of Needlemakers. The world of City Livery Companies almost unknown to many of those attending, so we try to increase their understanding.



We have had a very close relationship with the organiser and they are very appreciative of our sponsorship.

