

2015

Forge Mill Needle Museum

Exhibition

# Forge Mill Needle Museum

## Exhibitions



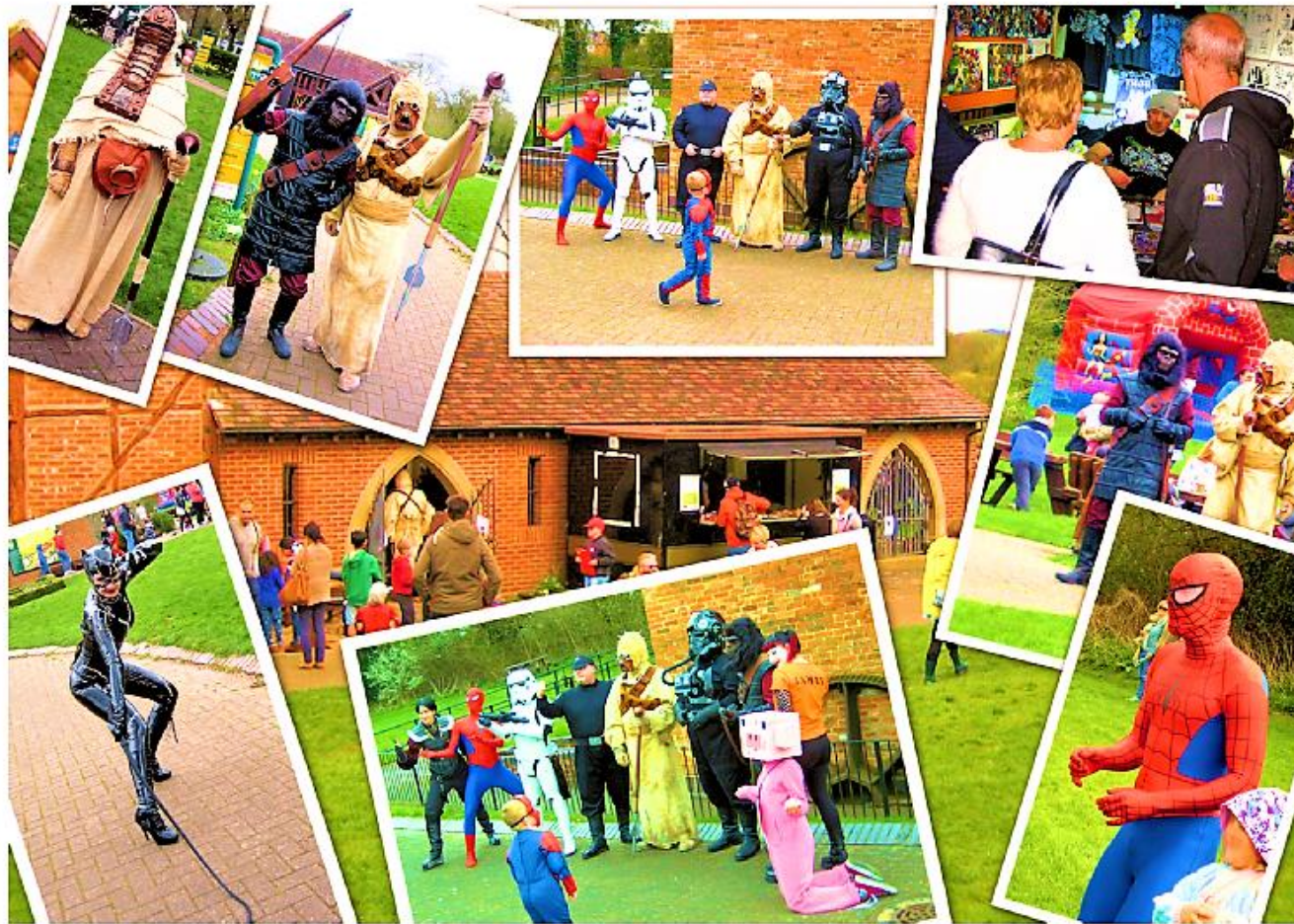


**Exhibition - Redditch Needle Companies**  
**3rd February to 1st March 2015**



The exhibition looked at some of the famous and not so famous Redditch and other needle making companies through the items that they produced, including some of the beautiful needle cases and the records, photos and ephemera they left behind. There was also on display some unusual items not normally associated with the needle companies. Amongst the rarely seen exhibits was a 'Drunkard's Chair', original portraits of needle makers, some fantastic needle cases, sewing machines (of course!), historic pictures, maps, drawings, Worshipful Company of Needle makers memorabilia and much more.



**Exhibition - 'Retro Marvel Now - the art of Lee Bradley'****5 March to 12 April 2015****and****Event - Comic Book Heroes and Villains - 12 April 2015: 11.00am to 4.00pm**

Lee is one of the top comic book artists in this country and has worked on many of the iconic superheroes and characters of our generation like Spider-Man, Transformers, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Star Wars, and Mars Attack.

Throughout the time of the exhibition there will also be demonstrations and workshops, and it finishes with a fun day on Sunday 12 April 2015 from 11.00am to 4.00pm entitled 'Comic Book Heroes and Villains'.

It was a fantastic start to our activity season with the Comic Book Heroes and Villains event. The comic characters were amazing and many visitors, not only the children, arrived in costume. Lee Bradley's exhibition in the Gallery was, as always, very popular and he kindly donated a signed print as a prize in our raffle. Despite the cold wind we had over 750 visitors split roughly between adults and children and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Forge Mill staff should be very proud of such a well organised opening event.



**Exhibition - The 98 Lace Group - Sat 2 May to Tue 2 June 2015**

In the gallery at Forge Mill Needle Museum was a fascinating exhibition from The 98 Lace Group, a fellowship of lace makers who are united by a common goal - giving lace a modern, livelier public profile. <http://www.98lacegroup.org.uk/>

The exhibition theme was 'gateway' and the group members had interpreted this in a variety of ways – from the spiritual influence of the landscape to the physical deep earth mineral riches we discover, or how the Gateway is a portal to the mind and how we negotiate life's rocky path. The display also had workbooks and details for most of the exhibits.

On Saturday the 30th May visitors could meet the makers and see lacemaking demonstrations at the museum.



**Exhibition - Decorative Quilts from the Victorian era to today - 6th June to 12th July**

A really superb exhibition in the Forge Mill Gallery showcased a rare and beautiful collection of quilts dating from the Victorian period to the modern day.

The exhibition which was entitled 'Decorative Quilts from the Victorian era to today' displayed English and American quilts and show fabrics from everyday cottons to luxury velvet and silks.

Each quilt had its own unique story to share, and was painstakingly collected, researched and restored by Jane and Peterson Cobbett.

p.s the cat in the picture is not a quilt - it's Henry the resident mill cat!



## Exhibition - Alien Invasion - 18th July to 6th September



The summer exhibition in the gallery for this year was 'Alien Invasion'.

In the exhibition visitors were able to see how scary Ridley Scott's original Alien creature and the Alien Queen are close up... as well as others from the Alien franchise.

They could meet the iconic life size characters from Star Wars: Chewbacca, Yoda and not forgetting the Dark Lord, himself, Darth Vader.

Also movie props from the Chronicles of Riddick and Star Trek with costumes from the Planet of the Apes, Stargate Atlantis, Thunderbirds and many more. This was a great exhibition for all the family as well as all film fans.



## Exhibition - The Shape of Nature - 12<sup>th</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> October



Getting back to normality after the hectic summer events, the current exhibition in the museum gallery was very restful.

This was called 'The Shape of Nature' and was a decorative art quilt exhibition by two of the country's leading exponents of textile art - Hillary Beattie and Jenny Rolf.

It was an exhibition well worth seeing.



## Exhibition - Redditch People - 29<sup>th</sup> October to 22<sup>nd</sup> November



There was an interesting local exhibition in the Forge Mill Gallery by the Redditch Local History Society. It was entitled 'Redditch People' The exhibition shows the impact of people in the town on activities which have stimulated the local community and those who have promoted the town both nationally and internationally.

This was well worth a visit particularly for Redditch people who would like to know more about those who made the town famous.

Wednesdays were 'drop in days' when RLHS members attended to talk with visitors and additional material was on display including Audio-visual features about some exhibition subjects and additional display material.

The 11th November Drop-in session was designated a John Bonham Day and members of the John Bonham memorial group, raising fund for a permanent memorial to him, were in attendance.



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