

2017

Forge Mill Needle Museum

Exhibition

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Exhibitions



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Exhibition - Terrys Springs
2nd February to 5th March 2017



The first exhibition of 2017 looked at the story of Terry's springs and was told through a wealth of photographs and press clippings, covering topics from the origins of the company; the rich social scene, sports, the famous dinner dances, long service presentations, photos of the workers and the factory from the 1940s to 1960s.

Memorabilia included a look at many of the products that made Terry's famous.

Anyone who worked at Terry's or was interested in the history of that iconic business will find a wealth of fascinating information. Henry, the cat, wasn't part of the exhibition but was prepared to be friendly with anyone who might lead him to his next, frequent, meal.

Each Wednesday of the exhibition, Dave King (an ex-employee of Terrys) was available in the gallery from 12.30 to 3.30pm to talk and share his memories about this famous Redditch company.

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Exhibition - 'Stitch Magic'
9th March to 2nd April 2017



The 'Stitch Magic' exhibition in March in the Forge Mill Gallery was by the Forge Mill Embroidery and Textile Group.

Running until Sunday 2nd April, this talented textile group looked at the diversity, difficulty and interpretation of circles. In the exhibition, the group used a variety of traditional and modern textile techniques to explore their favourite scenes from around the world including some unusual places.

Exhibition - 'Retro Kids Cartoons' by Marvel Artist, Lee Bradley.
Saturday 8th April to Sunday 14th May 2017.



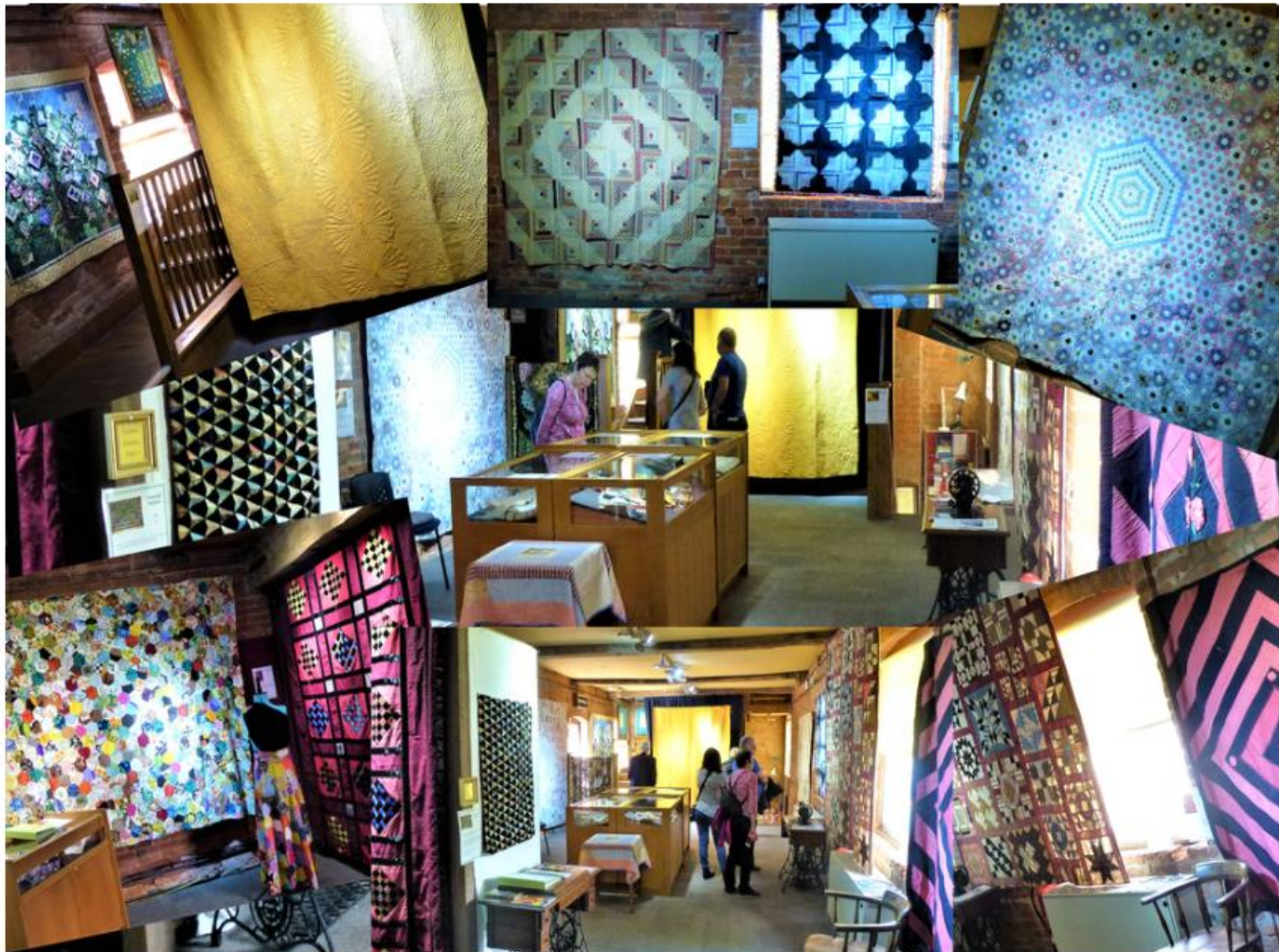
Well worth a visit for kids of all ages was 'Retro Kids Cartoons' by Marvel Artist, Lee Bradley, which ran from Saturday 8th April to Sunday 14th May 2017.

In this amazingly vibrant exhibition, Lee gave his own unique take on those lovable cartoon characters from the 1980s. Characters such as Spiderwoman, Spiderman and his Amazing Friends, Thundercats, He-Man, Transformers, Galaxy Rangers, Centurions, and Inspector Gadget to name but a few features in this art exhibition along with videos and computer games that will bring back childhood memories.

He recreated these iconic characters using original artwork and using various cartoon styles. This exhibition celebrated his great affection for these characters and creations from the popular TV and films from these years.

The exhibition also provided a unique opportunity to purchase Lee's original artwork.

Exhibition - 'A Celebration of 150 Years of Patchwork'
Thursday 18th May to Sunday 25th June



The exhibition in the Forge Mill Museum Gallery, which began on Thursday 18th May and ran until Sunday 25th June, was 'A Celebration of 150 Years of Patchwork' by Jane and Peterson Cobbett.

This exciting exhibition looked at how quilters from the 1840s through to the 1990s have been influenced by print and fabric design and have cleverly and subtly incorporated it into their designs.

We also saw how ideas and approaches to patchwork and quilting have evolved from necessity to fashion items.

There were a series of three Heritage workshops to accompany this exhibition on Sunday 28th May, Saturday 17th June and Saturday 24th June.

Exhibition - PIRATES! FACT OR FICTION
Saturday 22nd July to Sunday 3rd September 2017



Running from Saturday 22nd July until Sunday 3rd September 2017 Forge Mill Needle Museum have their 'School Holidays' exhibition: PIRATES! FACT OR FICTION

This colourful and fascinating exhibition takes the visitor on a journey through the Golden Age of Pirates from Cilician pirates from the Roman Mediterranean to famed pirates of the Caribbean, including, on the way, some fearsome Vikings, Barbary Corsairs and Chinese pirates.

There are many fascinating facts about their ships, tactics and usually short lives including how pirates are represented in history, film and literature was also featured.

The exhibition also includes spectacular costumes from Peter Pan and Spartacus (TV series) as well as a range of period objects including weapons, ships models, and treasure and there are various fun interactives for you to try. Pirates was a family friendly fun experience.

The exhibition was linked to the range of 'pirates' themed events over the summer including PIRATES' WEEKEND on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th July 2017: 11.00am to 4.00pm

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Exhibition - INSPIRED BY MACHINERY

Friday 8 September to Sunday 22 October 2017



This exhibition at Forge Mill Needle Museum was entitled 'Inspired by Machinery' by the Westhope Group and ran from Friday 8th September to Sun 22nd October 2017.

The Westhope group is a group of textile artists from across the UK who primarily work with lace techniques meet once a year at Westhope College to share their knowledge and expertise.

Their work is grounded in centuries old techniques but their aim is to challenge the traditional views of lace. Members worked on this challenging theme for over two years and were inspired by everything from lighthouses to sewing machines, from boat lifts to turbines.

It was a truly fascinating exhibition which shows a high level of creativity and expertise and illustrates what traditional lace techniques can achieve.

There were lace demonstrations and a chance to meet the artists on Sunday 22nd October from 1.00 to 3.30pm. Their website and details of the group can be found at <https://www.westhopegroup.org.uk/>

Exhibition - HISTORICAL ARTEFACTS OF THE REDDITCH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
Wednesday 25 October to Sunday 26 November 2017



In the eight years since the Redditch Local History Society was formed, they have collected a wide range of artefacts related to the history of the town, including an extensive collection of photographs, original ledgers and journals, mounted paintings and prints, service awards and many physical artefacts.

As they do not have a heritage centre or an archive depository, these are safely stored by Society members at their homes. All the archives are catalogued in an on-line database and their location identified.

Although safely stored for the future the archives are rarely seen as a collection but this year Forge Mill Needle Museum has given the Society the opportunity to display a wide selection of these artefacts in their exhibition gallery.

On each Wednesday of the exhibition there were "Drop In" days when members of the Society were present to discuss the exhibition, and, on these days, there will also be a touch screen computer which has all the artefacts in digital form plus much more.

In particular, Wednesday 15th November was designated as "Drop-in & Donate Day" at the exhibition. This was an opportunity for visitors to dig out artefacts that they have and bring them along to the society, either to donate them to its archives, or to let it copy them to include in its records. The society welcomes photographs, newspaper cuttings, booklets and documents about Redditch history as well as physical items such as badges, souvenirs and typical items manufactured in the town.

This was a well attended and well received local history exhibition.

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