

## A Steward's Tale

This came from Margaret E, one of our lovely Stewards with a tale from FOQ 2017

Why would you want to steward?

1. It's fun
2. You make some great friends
3. You get to talk about your favourite hobby
4. You can get in early before the show starts so that you can see the Quilts without the crowds
5. You get to touch the Quilts (with your white gloves on, of course)
6. You don't have to queue for the loo (stewards have their own 'executive' loo)
7. You get to talk to the quilt makers
8. You get a free entrance ticket
9. You get to eat some wonderful cakes (and are welcome to bring your own in to share as well)
10. You don't have to know all the techniques; you just need to be enthusiastic

Shall I go on? I've been stewarding for a number of years. Not just at the Festival of Quilts but at other small local shows as well. As I've said, it is fun

Last year I had the best time yet. I was looking after the section that had clothing, a large elephant, a violin, and a galleon. As I was wandering around the exhibits I noticed two ladies, arm in arm, walking around the clothing. As I got closer I overheard one of the ladies describing the colours in "over the rainbow" by Marijike van Welzen. I realised that one of the ladies was blind. I started to talk to her and she told me that she'd gone blind a few years before and knew what colours were like but didn't know what shape the coat was. So I gave her my white gloves and she felt the coat and she really appreciated that. Then I thought, what else can I show her. We were by the elephant, (made by Pam Morris) so again with the gloves on, I asked her what it was. Her face was a picture as she realised it was an elephant.

It made my day but I wasn't finished yet. She told me that she had a connection with Cambridge and I'd seen a quilt that had been done in small squares, by the students of Cambridge University. I let her touch each square and again, her face lit up as she "saw" books, sewing, knitting, and games to name but a few.

If you've never done stewarding before and are a little wary, then I would say, Just do it. I love it and last year was my best year yet and as a bonus, I also got to look after Phillipa Naylor's prize winning miniature.

*Margaret  
Festival of Quilts Steward 2017*