

AN INTRODUCTION TO STEWARDING AT THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

Are you interested in volunteering to Steward for the Festival of Quilts at the NEC, Birmingham?

Stewards are needed to ensure the quilts on display remain in good condition and assist with any queries visitors may have

Bearing the official Steward sash, a pair of our white gloves (you are welcome to bring your own **white** gloves) and a copy of the Show Guide and the Competition Catalogue, our Stewards are enabled to help with most visitor queries, and our Stewards **are the only ones allowed to touch the quilts** (for minor adjustments or to display the reverse of a quilt for visitors). They watch for situations such as pens or food and drink near the quilts, and occasionally help with advice for anyone bearing a large backpack. Friendly conversation with visitors is encouraged, and our Stewards often meet some of the competition quilt-maker(s) and get to hear their stories first-hand!

Our Stewards complete 2 x 2-hour 'shifts' on the day (or days) they are available. Volunteer Stewards are required to agree to these shifts in order to qualify for **free entry** to the show on the day(s) they are Stewarding. All Stewards also get a **free (to keep)** copy of the Show Guide and the Competition Catalogue, **all-day use of** the Stewards' Room – a continually manned, secure room where bags (and shopping!) can be left safely and is a place to relax and share tales and bargains with your fellow Stewards. **You also get** use of both the private kitchen, and toilet facilities. One other thing – once you've picked up your badge – no queuing! You can come in to the Stewards Room anytime from 9.00am onwards, even if you're on a later shift

NOTE: The Steward's Room and facilities are for the Stewards on duty that day and occasional Official/Guild Staff working at the show only. Please refrain from inviting show visitors/non-stewarding friends/traders to share our resources, as it can get quite busy at times and we need to maintain a secure facility. It will also save the embarrassment of asking non-authorised persons to go elsewhere

Shifts are as follows:

Shift pattern A

9.30am – 11.30am, and 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Shift pattern B

11.30am – 1.30pm, and 3.30pm – 5.30pm (5.00pm on Sunday)

- You can volunteer to Steward on any day (or days)
- We will assign shifts as soon as applications are received
- Spaces are limited, so early booking is recommended
- Please use the **Stewards Form** to show your choice of shift pattern
- You need to complete 2 x 2 hour shifts to qualify for **free entry**.

Finally, you'll find the camaraderie is great among the Stewards – especially when you bring cakes or biscuits!

Latest updates can be found on the QGBI website page especially for Stewards:

www.quiltersguild.org.uk/about/stewarding-at-festival-of-quilts/

THANK YOU for your enquiry and I look forward to hearing from you soon. Please add our official email address to your 'safe' or 'trusted' list as we will send out occasional updates:

Steward_FOQ@quiltersguild.org.uk

Best regards

Gavin Ketchen
Steward Organiser
Festival of Quilts 2019