

BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS TAPESTRY

A QUICK GUIDE to the Tapestry

Who made the Tapestry?

The Tapestry was commissioned by the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust, designed by Cockenzie-based artist Andrew Crummy, and stitched by over 200 volunteers. Some were experienced stitchers, but some had never sewn before!

How long did it take?

The project lasted about 18 months; the stitching just nine. The rest was research and design time. The average time taken for each panel seems to have been about 300 hours!

Is it actually a Tapestry?

Technically, a tapestry is woven. This is stitched, so it is an embroidery. The name *tapestry* is used as an artistic convention, just as with the famous Bayeux Tapestry.

Where did the stitchers come from?

Many were based in East Lothian, but people right along the route of Prince Charlie's march were involved. This included people from the Western Isles, Arisaig, Lochaber, Pitlochry, Dunblane, and Edinburgh. Some came from even further afield: France, America, and Australia each provided a panel!

Were all the stitchers female?

Almost, but the artist's father-in-law stitched a panel in Dublin, and some other men made supporting contributions!

What is the square in the bottom right corner of the panels?

Identification tags to mark who stitched each panel. Many are simple initials, others include pets and symbols. Some people did more than one panel, so look out for any tag which occur more than once!

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How was the Tapestry made?

Each individual or group of volunteers was sent a one metre panel, with a full sized paper illustration by the artist as a guide. The linen panel had the basic outlines pencilled in, and they stitched from that guide. They added embellishments if they wished, but all stayed true to the designer's vision and used only the 21 colours of wool provided by the Trust.

The completed panels were returned to the artist's studio, where further volunteers stretch and backed the linen, before joining them together in sequence. The artist's studio was opened each week for advice and stitching sessions, and the website helped keep everyone up to date. Ideas and skills were shared across a wide area, as the stitches competed in their portrayals of tartans and wigs!

What happens now the Tapestry is finished?

The Tapestry was designed to be mobile, so that it can tour. This is why it was only joined into 5m sections. Within days of completion in 2010, it began touring Scotland from Eriskay to Prestonpans. It will continue to tour regularly until a permanent home has been created for it. The Trust is fundraising actively for the creation of such a home in Prestonpans. By leaving a donation or buying our merchandise, you can help us achieve that goal.

What should I look out for?

There are some surprises to watch out for. Look out for ice-cream cones, a bride, and a pig! There's even a plumber in there somewhere! Explanations can usually be found in the official *Prestonpans Tapestry* book.

Thank you for visiting

The Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust

By buying our books, CDs, DVDs, and other merchandise, or by leaving a donation at this exhibition, you are helping us keep the Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry available for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you.

