

Penge Calling

When local textile artist, Teri Berkengoff, heard that friends Conrad and Ken were planning to open a vinyl record shop in Penge in which they would be displaying art, she jokingly said that perhaps they should consider having one of her quilts in the window.

Teri says, "The very next week, Conrad asked me if I could make a piece that would be ready for the launch of the shop. I was over the moon and immediately said yes." That was back in November 2021 and for the following five months, Teri worked on creating a colourful quilt that celebrates the musical heritage of the local area for the newly-opened Revolution Records in Penge High Street where it is on display in the window. Teri says she is thrilled to have her work shown in an "art gallery accessible to all".

Penge and the surrounding area has a rich history of musical creativity and Teri's work pays tribute to their genius. Using only upcycled fabrics, sustainability is at the heart of her work, not only in terms of the medium used but also in acknowledgement of the musical legacy that all these amazing musicians have left us with.



Teri began by researching musical artists who had a connection with the area, before putting them into categories, so her quilt takes us on a tour of those who 'Lived in Penge' (Bill Wyman in Kenilworth Court and Sid Vicious in Maple Road), those 'Born in Beckenham' (Peter Dinklage, David Sylvian and Nick Heyward), a Reggae Sunsplash section commemorating the two concerts that took place in 1984 and 1985 in Selhurst Park, a Crystal Palace Bowl section showing the many artists who played there over the years, plus lyrics mentioning Penge and Beckenham from David Bowie and The Streets. In total, Teri embroidered the names of 50 musicians onto her piece.

The quilt, or fabric collage, as Teri calls it, is about the size of a single duvet cover - "Yes, it's big!", she laughs. "I have a policy of only using fabrics that have sustainable credentials such as charity shop finds or kind donations from friends, family and neighbours. I can't bear buying new materials when I can upcycle pre-loved ones into something new."

"Penge Calling" is on display at Revolution Records, 1 Central Parade, Penge SE20 7TN
You can find more of Teri's art on Instagram @cant_stop_quilting



Teri Berkengoff