

THANET AND DISTRICT QUILTERS

Newsletter No 55 - Spring 2008

www.thanetquilters.org.uk

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FABRICATION PROJECT

You will recall that when Sylvia Critcher came last year she was so impressed with the quality of the quilts at our Show and Tell that she invited members to make quilts to go on tour with Grosvenor Exhibitions this summer and autumn. The themes were Fans and Razzle Dazzle and I am delighted to say that over 20 of our members rose to the challenge and at our Show and Tell this evening you will see the results of their efforts. I am sure you will agree that they have produced some remarkable work. A big thank you to all those who have participated. We will be taking photos of the quilts this evening which will go on the website in the next couple of weeks. But of course you can see them as they tour the country at Sandown, Harrogate, Edinburgh, Malvern and Chilford.

I can hardly believe that our website has been up and running for over a year. Our gratitude goes to Harold Wylde for his invaluable help and hard work in making it such a success and to our webmaster Lew Solomon. It is the envy of many quilt groups and I believe, the only one of its kind in Kent. It was particularly useful during my trip to Pennsylvania and Amish country in October when I was able to say "just contact me via our website...."!!! Its value in aiding communication between quilters has been shown many times over, particularly for quilters new to our area seeking a group to join.

Early in December, we were contacted by Jennifer Smith, a leading light of the Friends of St. Georges,

Ramsgate. She invited us to sponsor a Christmas Tree to decorate the church and help raise much needed restoration funds. Jan Solomon sent urgent requests to all groups asking if we could borrow handmade patchwork tree decorations. I would like to thank Tina Parker, Connie Wall and Dorothy Walters to name a few who came up trumps and helped to make the tree really pretty when we dressed it with the donated decorations and lights. There were at least ten other trees all donated by local businesses and societies. The grand sum of £250 was raised. It was a pity it was just for three days and I have suggested to Jennifer Smith that the display be extended for at least a couple of weeks at Christmas next year. We had a really nice letter from her thanking us for our support but with her agreement I think we should make more of our contribution this year so keep those handmade decorations to hand.

Our thanks go to our retiring librarians, Theresa and Jane, and we welcome Sue Wells who has kindly agreed to take on the role - thank you for helping us out Sue.

.....AND LAST but not LEAST. Late last year I was contacted by Sylvia Keep of the Margate Flower Club. She had found us on the website and has invited us to participate with her club in a Flower/Quilt show in June next year. So all being well you can see the Fabrication Project Quilts, together with themed flower displays, for one last time.

Kay Horne

A QUILT FOR CHRISTMAS

"We/I would love to make a quilt" - a familiar phrase I am sure many of you will have heard from friends or relatives. However, did it follow with the request "Can you teach us/me?" This was a situation I found myself in last summer when I began to attend the small craft group at my local church of St Phillips, Northdown Park, Cliftonville. A small group I say, but **what a group** of very industrious ladies producing many items for both summer and winter fairs. These ladies had been promised quilt lessons twice before but had been let down. They seemed very keen so I said I would have a go.

I put my thinking hat on and consulted my quilting friends at Viking Quilters and took their valued advice. Keep it simple was the main thing. The seeds for "A quilt for Christmas" were sown. I decided not to let them loose with cutters and templates so I prepared each block as a pack per person. The block was to be a very simple eight pointed star made out of 8 appliquéd diamonds placed onto calico squares. I had plenty of Christmas scraps in my stash; more than enough for this project! My plan was to hand out to each lady a bag containing the paper shapes, cut out diamonds and a calico square for the appliqué. Once the squares were made I would machine some Christmas fabric around the edges and this would form the sashing. Each lady would then layer up her square with wadding and backing fabric, tack and then quilt. The whole lot will then be machined together and bound - Timescale ... September - November!

The second week of September I handed out the packs and explained Blue Peter style 'how to' and 'here is one I made earlier' - you know the routine. Excitement went round the table and they began at once. In 3 weeks all the stars were completed and appliquéd ready for the sashing strips. While I was away on the America trip with Kay and Angela I left them with the task of the layering the

blocks, tacking them together and doing some simple quilting. Wow - when I came back they had almost completed this. Now time was running short as the Christmas Fair was looming and they had to start preparing more stock for this. We then had to split the group into one small working party on the quilt and another working party on the Christmas Fair. Everyone was very proud of their efforts. I managed to machine the blocks together and a couple of the ladies stitched the back fabric neatly together. I made the border and quilted it and we joined it all together as a group, all stitching the back. We finished off by stitching some Christmas buttons to the centre of each star.

Hooray! It was finished and hanging in the Church just before Advent Sunday. The ladies were thrilled and terribly proud of their efforts, and so they should be as they not only produced this on time but were able to make and sell nearly £100 of hand made gifts at the Christmas Fair. Well done to them all. What's that I hear what shall we do next Margaret?? Here we go again....

Margaret Whittaker

(See Album 3 on the website for a picture)

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Please don't be afraid to use the **Message Board** on the website. It can be used share ideas, advertise items for sale, request something you want. If you want to know how to do something, someone may be only too willing to help. So use it to communicate with other quilters. Don't forget it's a **World Wide Web**.

LIBRARY NEWS

Hi, my name is Sue Wells and I am the new librarian (for my sins). Let me tell you something about myself, I just love BOOKS. I am fairly new (3years) to P & Q and having a great fun and making lots of mistakes or as I have been told "happy accidents".

Lets talk about BOOKS. We have purchased 2 lovely books from Gail Lawther; her "A Trip Around the World" with quilting and appliqué projects

inspired by her travels, and "Showpiece", a gallery of quilts and stories behind their creation. The third book is by Susan Briscoe "21 designs for bag making"; lots of lovely new ideas. We also had several books from Jean Barns' collection, so many thanks.

There are 28 books on loan. So if you have not finished with a book please could you bring it (them) to the next meeting? If you are unable to attend could you please give me a ring on 07961121743

Seen any good books? If so maybe you could let us know and maybe we can purchase them and broaden our library. **Sue Wells**



SMARTFROG TEXTILES

We are pleased to announce the arrival of our new Nolting Long Arm Quilting machine. This has been shipped from Hiawatha, Iowa in the States. The machine has a 24" reach and an inside height of 10". It also benefits from a stitch regulator and sits on a sturdy steel table which is 12' long. (All this came flat packed! We were told it was no harder than putting together IKEA furniture!)

The idea of a beautiful hand made quilt inspires many to start piecing together wonderful fabrics to make beautiful designs – but at the end, the quilt still has to be put together and depending on size that can be daunting. Sometimes it is set aside for another day Yet another UFO! Maybe we can help.

After sewing together those beautiful blocks let us help by **basting** the quilt for you. The whole quilt can be basted in less time than it would take you to do it by hand and without the stress.

We can offer an **allover quilting service**. This is when one continuous design is stitched on allover your quilt. This provides an even coverage of quilting, suitable for quilts that receive

a lot of use. We have an extensive range of patterns, which will complement your top and enhance your piecing. **Allover with borders** This looks fabulous on the body of the quilt with the borders stitched in a complementary design.

We are looking forward to offering this service as from May. If you would like more information, please call Alison, at Smartfrog Textiles 01843-601726

QUILTS FOR BABIES IN PRISON

We received the following letter after our last meeting:

Dear Kay,

Thank you for inviting me on Tuesday and for the beautiful quilts you presented me with.

They really are lovely, so bright and colourful and so interesting too. They are really well made, as your quilts always are – just the type of quilts that will make such a difference to these baby's lives. They've been 'oohed' and 'aahed' over by everyone in the office and they will certainly brighten up our lives until they go in November.

I was amazed to receive the amount of quilts too – you certainly are a busy group! Best wishes, Margaret Packer

Thanks to all who contributed quilts to this worthwhile project. If you are in the mood to make more please feel free and I will get them to Margaret. Thanks again. **Kay Horne**.

PROJECT LINUS IN EAST KENT

Well over 60 quilts have been distributed locally since November 06.

30 plus to children newly diagnosed with diabetes in the Thanet area.

4 to Young Carers Project in Herne Bay.

24 to Kent Kids 'Miles for Smiles'

10 to individual children I have identified in the Thanet area as needing a "Big Hug"...

None of these quilts would have been available without YOUR support. A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

For Sale

Singer 4 Thread Overlocker Built in cloth cutter. Including some coned thread. £100 (no offers) Call Edna Simmons 01843 833530

“All That Jazz” !

You are invited to make a patchwork block 9.5 inches (24 cms) square (including seam allowance) on the theme of ‘All That Jazz’. **This may be as simple as donating a FQ of appropriate cotton fabric (musical instruments/jazzy colours and/or design) OR a block made up using any technique** – let your imagination run riot with stripes/spots/psychedelic 60’s designs! Use up those odd FQs you thought were a good idea at the time!!

(Bear in mind we cannot accept buttons/embellishments which may be swallowed or caught in medical equipment.)

The deadline is mid-August for the Festival of Quilts in Birmingham –any blocks should be passed to :-

Ann Fordham, 19 Boystown Place, Eastry, Sandwich CT13 0DS

Tel: 01304 619519 Email: annfordham@hotmail.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

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| 8 th March 2008 | Oast Quilters
St Anslems School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury.
Meeting: Lorna Dakin "25yrs of Quilting"
Workshop: "Cutting Loose" |
| 9 th March | |
| 14 th – 16 th March | The Spring Quilt Festival , Chilford Hall Vineyard, Cambridge |
| 15 th March | National Quilting Day
St James Church Hall, Garlinge 10 – 4 Bring your own lunch |
| 10 th May | Oast Quilters
St Anslems School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury.
Meeting: Helen Deighan "Going Potty"
Workshop: Fabric coil basket |
| 11 th May | |
| 3 rd June | Thanet & District Quilters - Quarterly Meeting
Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.
Jean Ball –Traditional Quilts
Door prize – 12" square of calico
Hostess – Abbey Patchers
Trader – Quilters Grotto |
| 14 th June | LINUS Day St James Church, Garlinge 10 am – 4pm £1 admission |
| 20 th – 22 nd June | National Quilt Championships – Sandown |
| 14 th – 17 th August | Festival of Quilts – NEC Birmingham |
| 7 th October | Thanet & District Quilters - Quarterly Meeting
Church House, Kent Close, Birchington. |
| 2 nd December | Thanet & District Quilters - Quarterly Meeting
Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
This is our 'extra' meeting, when there will be several traders, and the opportunity for members to sell their wares, so get sewing ladies! |

Editor's Note: Please let me have any items for the next Newsletter by **May 26th 2008**