

THANET QUILTERS

Newsletter No 67 – Oct 2011

www.thanetquilters.org.uk

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OUT OF THE BLUE

During the summer I had a call from a Mr. Smith of Birchington. He had seen the announcement in the local about our quilts being shown at St. Georges Church in the summer. This prompted him to tell me about a very special quilt he had of his mothers. I arranged to visit Mr. Smith when he proudly showed me the quilt, which considering its age is in fantastic condition. Of course I asked if I could borrow it. The small quilt show at St.Georges was about to take place and I thought it would be a good place to display it.

The story he told about the quilt was so interesting. In the 1920's, when he was a baby, his mother and father had taken him to Atascadero in California where his father had been promised work by an uncle who had an engineering business. While they were there his mother joined a church quilting group. Then in the 1930's the depression hit America and because local workers resented an Englishman having a job they badly needed, and his father had not taken American citizenship, the family had to return to the UK. In 1933, as a leaving gift, the ladies of his mother's quilting group presented her with a signature memory quilt. So the quilt is over 90 years old and in quilting terms makes it an antique!

The butterflies appliquéd on the quilt are made of dress material from each of his mother's quilting friends and they have also signed their name against each butterfly. The middle panel of the quilt says: "Love to Dorothy" then "OAU" (Onward and Upward – a motto of the church) and "Class 1933".

I think it would be wonderful to trace the origins of the "OAU Class" and as a result perhaps some of the descendants of all those ladies who made such a beautiful and long-lasting gift. Mr. Smith would like the quilt to be returned to Atascadero if a quilt group can be found with any link to his mother's time there.To this end I have sent an email to the Atascadero Historical Society and await their reply.....watch this space!

STITCHES AND STEMS EXHIBITION – and even greater success!

What a weekend, visitors didn't stop coming through the door to see the quilts and floral displays. Even the local press turned up, reported the event along with a really good photograph of Rita Rowlett's Sun Sea and Sand Quilt entitled "A Glass of Wine Time" with flowers by Joan Spain of Margate Flower Club. The ladies of the Margate Flower Club were very generous in sharing the profits with us and we sold so many raffle tickets for the donated quilt, that we were able to send a really fat cheque to Margate Hospice. One of the quilt shows contributors, Sue Hankin, picked the winning ticket for the raffle quilt and it couldn't have gone to a nicer person! Jo Thistlewood won "Best in Show" for her Dragon Quilt but Kim Shaw, our Judge from Belstead, commented that it was one of the most difficult shows to judge, the standard being so high!

Grosvenor Exhibitions have asked for the quilts to be exhibited at Ardingley in January and Sandown in June. Then they are off to France to Jan Rollason who is holding an exhibition in July in her village just outside Bordeaux! Thank you again to all the ladies who contributed their quilts to this very successful show!

OUR CURE ALL HOBBY

In June this year the Daily Telegraph printed an article about the benefits of quilting, asking ladies to ditch their knitting needles for scissors and sewing needles because they reckoned the next "Big Thing is Quilting". They claimed in their article that it is "...healthier than a walk in the park, more challenging than a game of Sudoku,...it helps cognitive, creative and emotional well being, especially among older people" (do they mean us???!). The University of Glasgow carried out a study to come to this conclusion – they should have contacted Thanet Quilters and saved themselves a lot of time and trouble!!

SMARTFROG

Alison Smart Textiles
Telephone 01843 601726
Email smartfrog@hotmail.com
www.smartfrogquilting.co.uk

PATCHWORK AND QUILTING

Fabrics :Robert Kauffman; Marcus Brothers;
Michael Oakshott etc

Calico -Hand dyed fabrics
Threads, including King Tut
Waddings - cotton & polyester
Embellishments

Long Arm Quilting Service Now Available

Group Visits by Arrangement

CONGRATULATIONS to Alison Simpson!!....for getting "Best in Show" at Haver no less, for her magnificent wall hanging entitled "Garden Trophy"

HEALING HEARTS

You ladies really come up trumps with comforting quilts when there is a desperate need – such as the earth quake tragedy in New Zealand earlier this year. Your response was immediate. So many families were in need, having lost absolutely everything when their homes were destroyed. Julie Rose who headed up the project in New Zealand wrote in April that"many have lost loved ones, many have been seriously injured, many are homeless, and many have lost their jobs and in particular the elderly and children are very scared....thank you so much for caring about us".

Things are looking brighter now but it must have been a terrible time. Julie wrote in July....."Last week we loaded the car with quilts and took them over to the eastern suburbs of Christchurch which is one of the most affected areas". She went on to say that people were overwhelmed and many tears were shed. Sue Hankin headed up the project to get the healing heart blocks you so kindly contributed made into quilt tops, eight in all, and sent out to New Zealand in June. Thank you Sue for all your hard work in organising the making of the tops, collecting the blocks (which I believe are still coming in) and posting them off! Thank you everyone involved in the healing hearts project.

KENT LIFE

A journalist from Kent Life magazine called this month to ask if he could interview me about quilting and crafts generally in Thanet. I did the interview a couple of weeks ago and told him all about Thanet Quilters, as well as introducing him to other regular classes and workshops related to sewing and other crafts in the area. Once I had started I surprised myself at how much was going on in and around Thanet. Ladies who say to me there is nothing to do in Thanet I look at with amazement!! I think the journalist may have been freelance, so I am not sure whether the article will be published but it was an interesting experience going over all the things we have done over the years, especially in relation to our charity work! And of course, it confirmed to me that patchwork and quilting is alive and well in Thanet!

TRACEY ALPIN and her Dragonfly patch workers staged a wonderful exhibition in Deal on the bank holiday weekend. This exhibition is always interesting; with some really unusual quilts and this year was no exception. I think these exhibitions are great meeting place, you always see someone you know and can catch up over a cup of tea and in this instance the best carrot cake I have tasted in ages! Well done Tracey!!

HOSPICE QUILTS

We hear from the Hospice, that the quilts we presented to them last year have been greatly appreciated. It seems they have been asked by relatives of patients if there are any for sale. As this could be another fund raising option for them, we are hoping to make some with this in mind. If any groups or individuals would like to help with this, we suggest they be of similar size to the ones already made (approximately 60inches x 40inches) allowing any that are not sold, to be used within the hospice.

Please contact Lindsay for more information, or to donate a quilt.

Telephone 01843 821759 email lindsayhf@yahoo.co.uk

CHRISTMAS REQUEST

My groups at The Salvation Army Hall, Minster, are giving up a day on Saturday 5th November to make Christmas items for the Thanet Hospice Christmas Sale. If anyone has any Christmas fabric, notions, threads etc. to donate they would be gratefully received.

Many thanks,
Cathy Northcutt

USEFUL SOFTWARE

I have just discovered and downloaded this excellent program for \$29.95. Not only can it be used as a store for quilt photos and information, quilts can be stored in categories and it can also be used for making quilt labels, greeting cards and business cards. Please visit www.quiltalbum.com for more information. It is made by Coachella software.
Cathy Northcutt

DONATED FROM ACROSS THE SEA!

The Pilgrims Hospice in Thanet were so thrilled to receive this year, a quilt to raffle on the Ward stall at their Summer Fair on 16th July 2011. Thank you so much.

This quilt is very special because it was made by a quilter who lives in France. Her name is Elaine Milligan and she wanted to donate it to a charity and chose the Pilgrims Hospice in Thanet. Some staff at the hospice attend a patchwork group and their teacher is Cathy Northcutt, a great friend of Elaine's, and a quilter for many years. Both Cathy's quilting groups donated the extra fabric to line and back the quilt – so many thanks to you all. Elaine sent some information about herself to share with us.

"I moved to France after my husband retired having lived in Kent for many years. Living in Kent gave me my introduction to quilting, and as a lifelong hobby dressmaker I had large amounts of left over fabric – a useful start!

Quilting was an absorbing new interest through which I made many new wonderful friends and contacts in both the UK and world-wide, and it's thanks to Cathy Nortcutt that "Paint Ball" became a finished quilt.

I hope it will generate much needed funds for the hospice. As a very private person, I do not usually show my quilts outside my circle of friends, so I hope this very public outing goes down well!

After eight long years in France, house renovations are beginning to pall and I am looking forward to returning to England where I hope I can get back to where I left off with my various hobbies and groups. What is on offer here in central France is not very inspirational, so a return to the UK will give me the companionship and interaction I have sadly missed.

Good luck with fundraising

Regards

Elaine Milligan"

ADVICE FROM A SINGER SEWING MANUAL FROM 1949:

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do ... never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference predominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so your mind is free to enjoy your sewing... When you sew, make yourself as attractive as you possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick on...[If] you are constantly fearful that a visitor will drop in or your husband will come home and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing as you should.

Editor: We all do this, don't we, ladies!

DIARY OF EVENTS

- 4th October 2011 **Thanet & District Quilters**
Quarterly Meeting Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30 start
Speaker – Helen Howes “From the Magic Suitcase”
Hostess – Quex Quilters
Trader – Karrydotcom
- 6th – 9th October **Quilt Festival**
Alexandra Palace
- 28th – 30th October **Quilt Festival**
Malvern
- 12th Nov **Abbey Patchers Christmas Craft Fair**
Old Schools,
Minster
9am – 1 pm
- 3rd December **Oast Quilters**
Simon Langton Boys School, Canterbury
AGM
- 6th December **Thanet & District Quilters**
Christmas Fair **FREE**
Church House, Kent Close, Birchington
Doors open 7.00pm
Stalls, traders, raffle, mince pies and a good gossip!
- 6th March 2012 **Thanet & District Quilters**
Quarterly Meeting Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30 start
“Corners”
Hostess – TBA
Trader – Smartfrog

Editor’s Note: Please let me have any items for the next Newsletter by 1st March 2012