

THANET AND DISTRICT QUILTERS

Newsletter No 54 - Autumn 2007

www.thanetquilters.org.uk

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EDITORIAL

It's been a good summer for quilting exhibitions. We had a great kick-start with Abbey Patchers at Minster. I couldn't get to Sandown but heard it was good.

Then I went off to France to a workshop and on the way called in on Alex Le Croix. She lives on the edge of a village in the Neuf Chatel en Bray area. She sent us excellent directions and we knew we were very close when we saw quilts hanging from her front gate, garden hedges and windowsills! A wonderful welcome. We spent a very happy day with her and her husband John and over lunch she told us about an exhibition at a local chateau - not quilts but antique toile de joly - that beautiful fabric depicting French country scenes. The chateau was a lovely venue and the exhibits of the fabric were stunning. I went round twice - I think my husband thought I had got lost.

At the end of July my college friends and I had our own City and Guilds exhibition at the Chapter House Canterbury Cathedral. A big thank you to all those quilting friends who came along. It is so encouraging to see familiar faces when you are standing around not sure if anyone will turn up. Of course they always do and we had a bumper year visitor wise.

A week or so later it was off to Belstead summer school and a happy week spent quilting, transfer printing, fabric painting, felting and trying to resist their luscious puddings!

Later in August several of us went to Maidstone to an excellent exhibition

arranged by Hearty Quilters. They contacted us via the website and we were happy to advertise their event. As a result I hear they had more visitors than they expected - the power of the World Wide Web!! See the website for more info about forthcoming events by this new enthusiastic group.

I was determined to get to the NEC this year. I had heard so much about it and it was well worth the journey. It is such a big exhibition that Jan Solomons and I had to spend two days getting around the many quilt exhibits and traders - fantastic! So much to see - so much to do - there are a huge variety of workshops, demonstrations and famous quilters on hand with quilts we have only seen in their books. We bumped into many friends who had journeyed from Thanet.

Finally there was the exhibition by Dragonfly Quilters in Deal. Always well worth a visit. Tracy and her quilters make a great effort to put on a good show and there is always an interesting variety of quilts, bags and cushions and the quality of the work is constantly good.

I won't be able to get to Hever this year but to be honest I feel a little exhibitioned-out and I really must tackle some housework. Quintin Crisp said once it gets to a certain depth you don't notice the dust. His dust must have been very different to mine! Oh - I forgot I am off to America in October on an Amish Tour - more exhibitions and retail therapy opportunities - can I cope? Just watch me! Happy Quilting!

Kay Horne

LINUS AT THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

Many of you will know that Linus had a stand at the NEC – generously donated by the organisers who suggested that we have a theme, hence the Animal Alphabet blocks. To say that the weekend was exhilarating and rewarding is a huge understatement...at the last count we must have received during the 6 months promotion about 4,000 blocks – these were hastily bundled into bags as they were handed over and quilters took them away to turn into quilts for children throughout the UK.

Thanet was very well represented on the stand – Terrance had volunteered to put together one particular quilt which had been made up from blocks depicting each letter of the alphabet by one person. This quilter actually made the journey to the show specifically to see the quilt as I had told her it would be on display....(thank you Terrance!). Angela had put together a lovely smaller quilt with a cat theme – and there were many oohs and aahs and photos taken. Also the lovely two-by-two animal quilt from Cliftonville Crafters was over the table and draped across the front for everyone to see – and caused quite a stir. Thank you all for your support in making the show such a success for Linus

Ann Fordham

ABBEY PATCHERS QUILT SHOW

Abbey Patchers had a very successful quilt show in May at St Mary's Church at Minster. There were over seventy quilts and wall hangings, plus a quilt which was raffled for Macmillan Nurses and raised £1,600. It was won by Greta of Birchington who bought the ticket at Pegwell Nature reserve. Of the other prizes, 2 went to Ramsgate, 2 to Minster, 1 to Deal, 2 to Chestfield and 3 to the sewing group. The favourite quilt chosen by the visitors was made by Elaine Vickers for which she will receive a subscription to a sewing magazine for a year. It was the blue indigo Baltimore style quilt. The tearoom and donations made £770 for the church fabric fund. Displays down the right

side of the church were things made at workshops, mostly in-house, by Elaine, Alison and Tina. **If you couldn't get to the exhibition, there is DVD available for loan from the library table.**

PROJECT LINUS

Geoff Tubbs and his committee from Diabetes UK have requested Linus quilts to go in a pack given to newly diagnosed children. 20 quilts have already been donated and a further 10 will be sent before Christmas. He will be auctioning the Big Quilt in December at a dinner - after which he intends to get in touch with us to advise how much has been raised.

HELPING HANDS September 20th 2007

On Thursday 20th, the Helping Hands team has a get-together here in Walmer. Before our lunch, we handed over 79 quilts, some to The Maidstone Christian Care and the others to the Fostering Network. We then ate outside and managed to get to our coffee before it began to spit with rain. Some of the quilts given over are the results of the Helping Hands days I've organised here in Walmer. A very big thank you to those who came along and supported my efforts.

If any of you would like to come to future Helping Hands days, please get in touch with me (01304 367220). I'm planning a Helping hands day here in Walmer for March 15th 2008 – see Diary for details. Again, many thanks to those who came and helped, and also for the donations of fabric.

Terrance Gilbert

BABIES IN PRISON

The organiser of quilts for babies in prison has asked if quilters might like to make wall hangings (perhaps 20ins x 30ins suggested size). Ideal topics would be animals but anything bright and cheerful would be good with a hanging sleeve on the back for a rod, which the prison will fix and supply. The contact is Margaret Packer at the Canterbury and Herne Bay Volunteer Centre in Canterbury.(01227 452278)

A REPORT FROM YOUR OWN QUILTING CORRESPONDENT IN FRANCE

I can hardly believe that a year has gone by since I reported on The Festival du Lin in Normandy on your website. I visited it again this year but was rather disappointed with the lack of patchwork exhibitions. In fact I only found one! Perhaps last year was a special one.

However I did take the plunge and join a patchwork group in Aumale about 10kms from where I live. In spite of my very bad French they welcomed me with open arms and I have enjoyed the meetings more and more. There are about 24 women, including another English lady. I didn't meet her for some time as she had broken her foot, but it is nice to have someone else to talk to in your native language. She is really more into embroidery and textiles. The group is an industrious one and someone always turns up with something fabulous to show. As well as this, there always seems to be an excuse for some celebration and we often end the meeting with a glass of champagne and some brioche! It's a hard life. At Christmas they showed me how to make some little fabric baskets - just enough to hold a few sweets. I reciprocated and explained (mainly by gestures and showing) how to make a Christmas tree out of folded triangles. Some may remember that we made this once at Dandelyon Patchers. This was quite a success and several brought in their completed trees to show me. I shall have to think of something else this year.

In April we had a "Friendship Day" when we joined with the group from Neufchatel-en-Bray. We had been asked to make a block of a vegetable, taken from Ruth McDowell's book "Pieced Vegetables". It was very intriguing. There was a raffle and I was delighted to win one of the sets of four blocks. I may well buy the book and make the rest of them. The task for the day was a Crazy Patchwork block. Then in May came the annual exhibition in the

Town Hall. There were a good number of quilts, cushions, bags etc. to show but the room was fairly small and couldn't really show the quilts off to their advantage. However it was a very nice exhibition.

The group has an extensive library with books and magazines to borrow - some in English! They also have a couple of workshops during the year. The first one was on the theme of American Beauties - pointy stars such as in Mariners Compass. Our tutor, Nadia Stumpf, is a well-known quilter in France and lives in Alsace, which is quite a way from here. However we had a great day with her, although I must admit I am still in the throes of making the blocks. The second workshop was on Mesh Work. I decided not to attend but wished I had! This consisted of small squares (about 6") that had been made out of woven bias strips into various patterns. The strips were about 1/4" wide and there were just two or three different materials in each block. I hadn't really understood what it was all about, hence my decision not to attend - I'll know better next time! Our AGM in June took place in a very nice hotel in Aumale. We started off with lunch (of course) and the AGM itself seemed to take a minor part! It was a 4-course menu including aperitifs, coffee and a glass of champagne to finish, all for 6 euros - the group had funded the rest.

Well, that's my patchwork year at my new group. In September we have a free coach trip to Rouen to a sewing extravaganza - similar to the Knitting and Stitching I think.

Alex La Croix

Sewing Machine for sale

Good as new A Riccar complete with walking foot and manual, it has been regularly serviced and in excellent condition. Monica Beale is selling this machine for £100. If you are interested please call her on 01304 363201

TRIBUTE TO GWEN WOODLAND BY HER FRIENDS AT QUEx QUILTERS

We are very saddened by the sudden death of Gwen Woodland, our very good friend and one of Quex Quilters' founder members. Gwen was active in many local societies – she was a W.I. trained judge who always took an active interest in the Birchington Horticultural Society. She was a stalwart in her Church and her faith, known to many over the years, always ready and willing to help others. We enjoyed her lively sense of humour and quick wit. She loved going on our quilting outings, both to Hever and to Chilford. She was always in the forefront of every charitable project we have undertaken, including the well known colourwash quilt that hangs in the Church House hall. She was loved by us all and will be very sadly missed at our meetings.

Quex Quilters

ANYONE INTERESTED?

Sadly we now have to consider the fact that we have two empty places at our meetings in the Church House small room every Tuesday evening. We would welcome anyone who would like to join us. We are a small friendly group who enjoy each other's company as well as joining in with group projects. Currently we are producing quilts for each one of us to have one by means of a raffle when each are finished. Please contact Connie Wall on 01843 834393 if you would like more details.

Quex Quilters

NATIONAL QUILTING DAY...will be on Saturday 15th March at St James Church Hall, Garlinge. On this day we will be putting together our chosen Charity Quilt (or quilts!) for 2008. Please note that we are planning a separate quilting day for other charities, i.e. prison babies, Linus etc sometime in the summer so don't throw any unwanted fabric!

FABRICATION MAGAZINE

Don't forget to get the November issue of this **magazine** (out on the 20th October). There is an excellent article about Terrance Gilbert and his charity quilts – well deserved recognition at last for Terrance who has put a great deal of time and energy into donating quilts through his Help Hands project.

FANS AND RAZZLE DAZZLE

A reminder to all those involved in the **Fabrication Project** that the first drop-in meeting to review progress is in Acol Village Hall on Wednesday 24th October between 7.30 and 8.30pm. Don't worry if you have not even started – you are not alone! However, I hear on the grape vine that some have actually finished! Please come along no matter what progress you have made and collect a copy of a letter from Emma Cooling (Fabrication/Grosvenor Exhibition Director) together with a form to be completed when Sylvia Critcher comes to collect the quilts. If you can't come please email me or call to let me know how you are getting on!

Kay Horne.

THE COMMITTEE would like to welcome Anne Fordham who has joined our ranks and to thank Lindsay Thacker for taking over the role of Treasurer. Thank you so much ladies!

REINTRODUCTION OF OUR 4TH MEETING

You will no doubt be pleased to hear that next year we are going to have a 4th meeting. It will be on Tuesday 2nd December 2008. Please put this date in your diary! We will not be having a speaker but it will be a bumper sales/social evening and we will arrange for several traders to come along with emphasis on Christmas goodies. And any group or individual can book their own sales table. More news at the October 2008 meeting but this would be a good opportunity for groups to sell unwanted items to top up their coffers or for good causes. If you have any ideas of your own to include in this special meeting please ring me.

Instructions And Template For Charity Quilt

Cut one 3in square in a plain material (1)

Cut two 3in squares in pattern material (2)

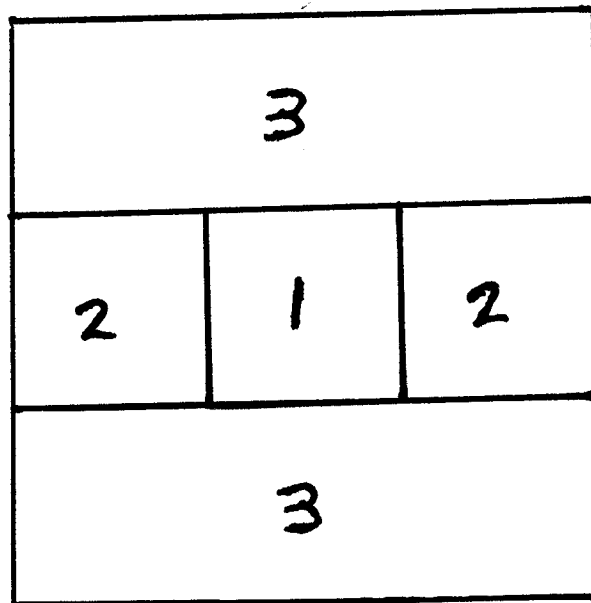
Cut two 3in x 8in rectangles in same pattern material (3)

Join a pattern square to opposite sides of plain square

Join rectangles either side of strip

A quarter of an inch seam allowance is used throughout

Finished square 8in



Not To Scale

DIARY OF EVENTS

- 9th-11th Nov 2007 **Chilford** Autumn Quilt Festival Linton, Cambridge.
- 10th Nov **Abbey Patchers Craft Fair** Old Schools, Minster. Free admission.
9am-1pm Tombola in aid of Kent Air Ambulance
- 24th Nov **Doughty`s**, Hereford at St Nicholas Church hall, Poplar Grove, Maidstone.
Extra special stash builder fabric sale. Raffle and refreshments.
Entry fee £1.00. All proceeds will be donated to the Heart of Kent Hospice.
- 8th Dec **Oast Quilters**
St Anslems School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury.
A.G.M.
Doors open 2pm
- 26th Jan 2008 **Oast Quilters**
St Anslems School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury.
Meeting - Corners
- 27th Jan Workshop – "Mixed Media" Cathy Northcutt 10am – 4 pm
- 6th Feb **Thanet & District Quilters**
Committee Meeting
2 Cross Road, Birchington 7.30pm
Anyone is welcome to attend.
- 4th March **Thanet & District Quilters**
Quarterly Meeting
Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.
"Corners"
Door prize – sewing thread
Hostess – **Needles & Pins**
Trader – Janine – Loving Fabrics
- 8th March **Oast Quilters**
St Anslems School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury.
Meeting "25yrs of Quilting"
- 9th March Workshop "Cutting Loose" Lorna Dakin 10am – 4 pm
- 15th March **National Quilting Day**
St James Church Hall, Garlinge
10am – 4 pm
- 15th March **Helping Hands** Quilt day
The Parish Hall, Dover Road, Walmer
10 am to 4 pm Cost: £3
Please call Terrance Gilbert on 01304 367220 to book a place.

Editor's Note: Please let me have any items for the next Newsletter by **Feb 19th 2008**