

THANET AND DISTRICT QUILTERS

Newsletter No 58 - Spring 2009

www.thanetquilters.org.uk

Chairperson: Kay Horne, "The Old Brew House", 153A Monkton Street, Monkton, Nr Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JJ
(Tel:01843 823849 e-mail: shudy@talk21.com)

Editor: Angela Doughty, 52 Northumberland Ave., Margate, Kent CT9 3BJ
(Tel:01843 224524 e-mail: angela@doughty7996.fsnet.co.uk)

CHARITY BLOCKS

Thank you to all those who have donated blocks for our charity of the year, The Salvation Army. We will be meeting on Saturday 21st March at the St. James Church Hall, Canterbury Road, Garlinge to put the blocks together. All are welcome; just bring your sewing things and a packed lunch, as usual tea and coffee will be available. The Salvation Army have a brand new meeting hall in Minster and have asked that we make up the blocks to provide wall hangings. How many and the exact measurements I will know nearer the time. They have asked if they can add text to the wall hangings which I am sure you will agree is an excellent idea. I will ensure that there is a statement close to the hangings explaining that Thanet Quilters donated and made up the blocks. This is an excellent opportunity for our charity quilt initiative to get recognition in a public place and I am delighted that they wish to use them this way. We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Thank you to all those who came to our market. I am sure you will agree this was a great success both for the visitors and the stallholders. There was a lovely atmosphere – a real Christmassy feel. It was such a success that we are going to run it again this year so put the date in your diary, Tuesday December 8th and think about having a group stall.

OUR SEWING MACHINES – WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT THEM!!!

We take the sewing machines we use today very much for granted but



looking back who would have believed that the early versions would have developed into the computerised machines available today.

The history of the sewing machine is littered with as many inventors who fell by the wayside as those who were successful and are the originators of the machines we use today. It is an interesting story that reveals lost opportunities, lost patents, court cases, manufacturing failures, lost contracts, bankruptcy and even inventors fearing for their lives when hand embroiderers and tailors thought they might lose their jobs as a result of the invention and development of the sewing machine because, until the end of the 18th century, everything was hand sewn.

Very early attempts at inventing the first sewing machine appear from

history to be centred initially in Europe. Here in England in 1790 Thomas Saint, a cabinet maker, patented what is generally accepted as the first sewing machine. It was wooden and worked by means of an awl punching through leather but when attempts were made in 1880 to manufacture one from his drawings it could not be made to work.

In France Bathelemnny Thimomnier attracted the wrath of tailors fearing mass unemployment when he was granted a patent for a machine and a contract to make army uniforms. He had a factory with 80 machines but the tailors attacked the factory and destroyed the machines. Bathelemnny fled for his life, but he did not give up and invented an improved machine but more trouble with disgruntled tailors meant he had to flee to England. Some say he was the inventor of the first commercial sewing machine but his is a tragic story in that he died in poverty in 1857. Read more in your next newsletter.

Kay Horne

PHOENIX QUILTERS

A new quilt group called "Phoenix Quilters" was formed in November last year and meets in The Mulberry Room in the St Peter's Church Hall complex in Hopeville Avenue, Broadstairs. The meetings take place on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 until 9.30. There is a limit of membership to 20 but at the time of writing there are still some places available. The membership fee is £3.00 per session payable monthly in advance.

We are a jolly group of quilters and enjoy our evenings together. We have an ongoing programme of UFO days, outings and workshops. If you are interested and would like further information then do not hesitate in giving one of us a call. Anne Mathews 01304 372708 or Margaret Whittaker 07972153202.

Abbey Patchers Quilt show May 23th – 25th 2009

St Mary's Church, Minster

Saturday 10 am – 5 pm, Sunday 11 am
– 5 pm, Monday 10 am – 4.30 pm

Sales stall, traders, refreshments and a
charity raffle in aid of the Kent Air
Ambulance

For any further information please
contact

Tina parker Tel. 01843 822223

OFF TO THE LAND OF WINE AND CHEESE – Part 2 by Pam Beeston

We have just passed our first anniversary of living in France and have enjoyed every minute of it. It has been quite a busy year with plenty to do in the house and in the garden, but especially in the land of quilting. I arranged to meet the local representative of the French Patchwork Association at a quilting exhibition in a village about 45 minutes drive away. It was held in an ancient chateau, a beautiful setting, and the work was excellent, mainly traditional patchwork and appliqué. I made contact with Pierrette, a lovely lady who gave me all the information needed to make the baby quilt for the premature unit in Angouleme Hospital. She also put me in touch with a local group, which I have since joined. They meet every Thursday afternoon for three hours in Jonzac, which is about 15 minutes drive. All the ladies are lovely, so kind and welcoming and I love going. We have just finished making an eight-inch square each with a Christmas theme, which has been made into a quilt to be raffled to raise funds for the Telethon, which is the equivalent of our Children In Need/Comic Relief.

The group also has two other English members who provide some relief from the concentration required to understand and speak French for three

hours but I am sure that from these meetings my French has improved. One of the English members, Jane Rollason, is a quilting judge at the big English exhibitions and does quite a lot of work for Fabrications magazine so no chance of slack standards in this group then.

In October the group had their AGM and guess what – much to my amazement I have been voted onto the committee despite telling everyone that my French wasn't up to it and also despite telling myself I would never be on another committee after having left the Embroiderers' Guild Maidstone Branch committee a few years ago. They wouldn't take no for an answer (they even suggested I should be President, but I put my foot down at that!)

Some of the members, including me, are working a whole day once a fortnight working on pieced curves. I have based mine on the Rhapsody type of design invented by Ricky Tims and this has necessitated dyeing some of the vast quantity of white cotton fabric I brought with me. It is the first time I have done any dyeing since I have been here and I was quite pleased with the results.

I recently received an email from Eileen Radnor to ask if I was interested in joining with her and Alex La Croix in a round robin quilt. I have never participated in one before and thought it would be a lovely idea, so this is another project for the New Year, which I am looking forward to. I have almost finished the baby quilt, just got to quilt it now and bind it.

I have to say I am so happy here, everyone in our village is so kind and helpful and I have made so many friends in such a short time, which I never thought would be possible.

COACH TRIP TO MALVERN

Friday 15th May 2009

Cost £99 to include coach, dinner + B&B and entry to Show on the 16th, returning early evening on that day. Please contact Shirley Gibbons to book your place. Telephone 01843 843344

Project Linus UK

February 2009 East Kent Update

Since Spring 2007 over 150 quilts have been distributed in the East Kent area. A HUGE thank you to everybody for their ongoing support.

So far quilts have gone to:-

- Many individual children on the Children's Disability Register
- Social Services - for very young children being fostered/adopted.
- Kent Association for the Blind – children respond to the textures of the patchwork & quilting
- Redwalls and Footprints – residential and respite home for children and young adults with disabilities.
- Young Carers
- Children newly diagnosed with diabetes in Thanet
- Martha Trust
- *Please note that all siblings are offered a quilt as well.....*

"By The Bridge" – is a very special therapeutic fostering organisation for children suffering neglect and abuse. 20 quilts have already been handed over and **a further 100** are required over the coming months for the children in the area.

SPRING CLEAN YOUR BOOK SHELF

We want to raise funds for new books for our library and are having a grand book sale. If you have any quilting books you want to donate to the sale please bring them along to the June meeting. After that meeting any books that we can't sell will be given to charity shops – so this is an excellent opportunity for you to review your bookshelf!

!!!! STOP PRESS !!!

Smartfrog Patchwork and Quilting now has a Web address. Do check it out at smartfrogquilting.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

- 3 March 2009 **Thanet & District Quilters Quarterly Meeting**
Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.
"Corners" Hostess – Quex Quilters
Trader – Lavender Patch
- 7th March **Oast Quilters**
Simon Langton Boys School, Canterbury.
Speaker – Patricia Archibald "Meaningful colour"
- 8th March Workshop – Travellers' Tales" –little landscapes
- 21st March **National Quilting Day**
St James's Church Hall,
Canterbury Road, Garlinge
10 – 4 Bring lunch your own lunch
- 18th April **Linus Day**
Old Schools, Minster
10 – 4pm Coffee/tea available Raffle
- 15th - 16th May **Malvern Quilt Show**
Coach trip organised by Shirley Gibbons
01843 843344
- 23rd - 25th May **Abbey Patchers Quilt Show**
St. Mary's Church, Minster, Ramsgate
Sat. 10 – 5, Sun. 11 – 5, Mon 10 – 4.30
- 2nd June **Thanet & District Quilters**
Quarterly Meeting
Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.
Speaker TBA Hostess – Dandelyon
Trader – TBA
- 6th June **Oast Quilters**
Simon Langton Boys School, Canterbury.
Speaker – Lynne Edwards "Stories Round My Quilts"
- 7th June Workshop – Through the Window and Beyond
- 12th 14th June **Margate Floral Society**
Birchington Village Hall
Display of Fabrication Quilts in conjunction with MFS

Editor's Note: Please let me have any items for the next Newsletter by 25th May