

THANET AND DISTRICT QUILTERS

Newsletter No 50 - Summer 2006

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)

Editorial – Charity Quilt News

I am sure you will agree that the charity quilts we have made from your donated red blocks are stunning. Although we will be presenting Maureen with the quilts this evening, she will be returning one for the Viking Quilters Summer Exhibition, so if you don't get a good look this evening you have another opportunity on the weekend of the 10th/11th June at Manston Village Hall. Terrance Gilbert has already thought up a block for our next charity quilt challenge. Details of this block will be available, as usual, at our October Meeting when we will be choosing our charity for 2007. My heartfelt thanks to all those ladies who turned up on National Quilting Day. The thought of a slice of one of Terrance's fantastic cakes for tea encouraged us! Thank you too, to those ladies who turned up at Manston Village Hall the following week to help finish the quilts. In fact to all those who found the time to help create the two and a half masterpieces for the Cancer Care Appeal you could not have spent your time on a more worthwhile cause.

I am off to Normandy again this year for another workshop, so will tell you all about it in the winter newsletter. Have a good summer and happy quilting!!

Kay Horne

National Quilting Day

As you all know we celebrated a week early on the 11th March.

Our day at St James was fun – 17 brave souls came along to work on the quilts for the Cancer Care Unit at the QEQM hospital. Some on the top which I had put together – others on the remaining blocks.

Altogether there were 168 blocks - I used 72 to make the first quilt - and the rest were made into two more quilts, one large and one small. By the end of the afternoon the first quilt was almost finished. Viking Quilters hemmed the edge and the other is now finished.

St James is a very nice venue to use, the room is light and comfortable – the kitchen well equipped and everywhere is clean. (The loo was as cold as the crypt – unless I opened the wrong door?)

We enjoyed our soup for lunch and cakes with our tea – I hope this will be the first of many such happy days with you Thanet Girls – and I'm sure I also speak for Kay and Jan when I say a big thank you to everyone who came along. Bon Chance.

Terrance Gilbert

Barn Owl Quilters will be holding their Biannual Quilt Exhibition at the Horsebridge Centre, Whitstable from Friday 28th July until Monday 7th August 2006, opening daily from 10am to 4pm, including weekends. This is being held during the Oyster Festival, so there will be lots going on for everyone.

Report on the great money give-away!

Reading in the newsletter that volunteers were wanted to receive some money to attend a course, I phoned Kay to say I was interested, fully expecting to be last in a long, long queue... To my delight she said she would be happy to fund me and asked me to choose a workshop.

Now choosing was hard ! Sooo many courses, sooo much fun ! I considered several given by JEMs in Canterbury and was drawn by workshops like "mariners compass" and

"slash and sew" or even "landscapes in textile" which sounded tremendous fun. I had however already discovered that starting a quilt is a wild exciting thing (choosing your pattern, choosing the colours and fabrics) but that even before the quilt is finished, this next exciting pattern comes along that you simply *must* try, after which there is this fabulous workshop, a great opportunity that you don't want to miss..... To cut a long story short.... now working simultaneously on my first five quilts..... (yes, I am a beginner, still very much so!). Realizing that it might be nice to finish something in the near future, I thought the best workshop to take was the "Cushion" course with Janice Croft. The idea was to make an array of different cushions with different techniques. This approach could be more versatile, give them as presents, keep some and try a lot of different techniques whilst actually finishing my first piece !

I am aware that many of you are accomplished sewing women and all that I have learned will be very familiar to you. On the other hand, there must be one or two (or maybe more?) who, like me, have not done any sewing before and who might be interested in the different techniques I was taught. I was expecting to show you some of the samples from the day at our next meeting, but Kay phoned me up to say it would be a very busy meeting and could I write a piece for the newsletter instead. So here goes !!

Arriving at JEMs I met Janice Croft, a lively bubbly lady with a myriad of interests and a wealth of sewing experience and who teaches many workshops at JEMs. To my surprise and delight I seemed to be the only pupil ! Janice explained she had done the workshop a fair few times already and by now most regulars had done this one. I was lucky and boy did I need it ! It is one thing to see Janice do some gathering and sew the strip neatly in place, another is to copy that in equally neat sewing by myself ! I now have this lovely little cushion with two lovely sewn sides, and two extremely wonky ones... No prizes for guessing

who did which ! We started by making a simple box cushion. The theory is indeed simple, you cut a square of fabric, then a long strip and sew the strip to the square. The tricky bit is on the corners, where the technique of stopping the machine and snipping a small cut before easing the fabric around the corner helps. I already mentioned gathering fabric and sewing it between the two layers. Looks easy but to get it even and not moving (not to speak of then also sewing straight !) is really hard !

Lunch was also enjoyable. Normally Janice stays behind to help those who want some more pointers but as there was no-one but me (and I needed a break from the pointers...) I persuaded her to join me in a wonderful vegetarian cafe I normally go to.

Rushing back, we got on with the rest of the things she wanted to show me. These included piping, closing the cushion like an envelope, putting a visible zip in and a hidden zip, attaching rope to a flange (for those who, like me at the time, don't know what it is, this is a small strip of material used to sew between the two pieces of the cushion and to which the rope gets attached) and finishing cushions with a "band" all around. We also looked at bolster cushions and how to embellish finished edges with machine stitching.

It was a lot to take in and of course you can't do it all in one go, but it was good to see someone actually do it and have your samples and notes at home to support future attempts. Now it is back to ideas for cushion panels rather than quilts, but often blocks in sampler quilts will do very nicely for a cushion.

True to form...I have several on the go, it's going nicely and I will finish one soon!

All in all it was an enjoyable day ! The workshop itself cost £60 thereby adding the petrol and lunch money. Having the £50 bursary towards this has been a great help. I would like to thank Kay and the committee for making this available to me. I really enjoyed the workshop and learned a

tremendous amount. Thank you very, very much.

Marguerite Wiewel

The Haberdashery Shop - Ramsgate

A friend at college showed me some really smashing batik fabric she had bought at "Duggies" for £3.99 a metre. I beat a path to his door last week to find that he had sold out, buying only a small quantity in case it didn't sell!! He has promised to get some more post haste, so if you go in there please pester Corrie (he is the young chap working downstairs) to put some more on the shelves. Tell him Kay from Thanet and District Quilters sent you. I am trying to encourage him to get more quality patchwork fabric and some decent wadding. But this batik was the best I've seen for a long time at the price!

Kay Horne

TEACHING CLASSES - Weds 10-12
Swalecliffe area. Contact Sandy
Rogers on 01227 274759

Charity Quilting days

Terrance Gilbert has suggested we organise charity quilting days, at the church hall in Garlinge, if we can book it. We are thinking about early September for the first meeting, when we have all had our holidays etc. Maybe working in teams of six to put together quilts for children, with the idea that we could give them to say the Oasis project in time for Christmas. Here's a chance to get rid of your "bits bag" to a good cause. Terrance has already got a block design in mind which could be cut and pieced really quickly. (*Don't get this day mixed up with our yearly charity quilt project, details of which will be announced as usual at our October meeting.*) This is a get together day to sew and no doubt have some of Terrance's excellent soup and delicious cake for afternoon tea!! If you attended our National Quilting day this alone should tempt you to come along. We will be contacting groups later in the summer

with a proposed date for the first sewing day. Hope to see you there!

An Amish Experience

A few years ago Jan Jefferson gave a lecture on the Amish people at a Thanet and District Quilters meeting and promoted Amish Country Tours. Since her talk I promised myself a visit to America to see how the Amish community lived, well at long last I have taken the plunge. In April this year myself, Jan Jefferson and several other ladies from all over the UK set off from Heathrow to Philadelphia.

We stayed in a very comfortable hotel in Lancaster County with food to match. Just part of our itinerary were visits by coach to fabric shops, the Old County Store, Zooks Store and many more Amish quilt shops. We also visited the "Quilters Heritage Celebration" quilt show in Lancaster, this dwarfed the Birmingham quilt show and took two days to visit. We went to several quilt museums, to Strasburg where we had an excursion on a steam train which took us through the Amish farmlands. We toured "Wheatland" the home of James Buchanan (The 15th president of the USA 1857-1861)

The highlight of my holiday was dinner with an Amish family, Emma and Ben Fisher who have eight children and twenty eight grandchildren. The meal was served by Emma and her daughters and after the delicious meal Emma's grandchildren sang to us (In German their native tongue)

A wonderful holiday which was well organized and left many lovely memories of the Amish people who live so simply, no electricity, no cars and no mobiles.

Jan Solomon

National Quilting Exhibition at **Sandown Park** on Saturday 1st July 2006. There are still a few seats available at £17.50. Picking up at Birchington Square, Sainsburys (Thanet Way) and Faversham Railway Station. Contact Joan Hinns on 01227 793926

DIARY OF EVENTS

- 20th May **Oast Quilters**
St Anselm`s School, Old Dover Road, Canterbury. Doors open 2pm
Speaker - Janet Cook - "What mosaics have taught me"
Traders, refreshments, show and tell
Entrance: £2 visitors
- 6th June **Thanet & District Quilters**
Church House, Birchington 7.30pm Doors open 7pm
Presentation of charity quilts - QEQM Hospital Cancer Appeal
Speakers - Margaret Packer - Canterbury Volunteer Bureau
Jan Williams - "You don`t have to be an expert quilter to belong..."
Door prize - 9" square of red fabric, plain or patterned
Hostesses - **Abbey Patchers**
- 10/11 June **Viking Quilters Summer Exhibition**
Manston Village Hall, Preston Road, Manston, Nr Ramsgate
Sat 10 - 5 - Sun 11 - 4
Admission £1 Children 50p
- 1st July **Abbey Patchers Summer Craft Fair**
Old Schools Hall, Church Street, Minster, Nr. Ramsgate
10am - 4pm
- 22nd July **Oast Quilters**
St. Anselm`s, Old Dover Road, Canterbury. Doors open 2pm
Speaker - Ineke Bertyn - "Talking Double Dutch"
Traders, refreshments, show and tell
Entrance: £2 visitors
- 23rd Sept **Oast Quilters**
St. Anselm`s, Old Dover Road, Canterbury. Doors open 2pm
Open Day
Speakers - Morning - Jean Ball - "Why make a quilt? 10 Good Reasons"
Afternoon - Clarissa Cochran - Indigo Dyeing
Traders, refreshments, show and tell
Entrance: £5 visitors
- 28th Sept **Thanet & District Quilters** Committee Meeting
2 Cross Road, Birchington - 7.30pm
Anyone is welcome to attend
- 24th Oct **Thanet & District Quilters**
Church House, Birchington - 7.30pm - Doors open 7pm
Speaker - Sylvia Critcher - "A finger in many pies"
Door prize - A skein of embroidery thread
Hostesses - **Quex Quilters**

Editor`s Note: Please let me have any items for the next Newsletter by **Sept 28th**