

THANET AND DISTRICT QUILTERS

Newsletter No 59 - Summer 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)

!! Please note !!

For safety reasons, it is important that we know who is in the hall, and in the past, the "early birds" sometimes forgot to go back to the door and sign in. Therefore, from October, no one will be admitted until **7.00pm**. If any of you can arrange to car-share, it would help reduce the car parking problems (and save you some money!)

CHARITY QUILTS – Anthony Nolan Trust

The following letter was received from the Regional Fundraising Manager of the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Dear Kay,

The large quilt has raised just short of £200 for the charity so thank you so much for this.

The smaller quilts: one was donated to a young male patient and his family who were incredibly grateful and he sleeps with it every night. Another was raffled off and generated another £40 for the charity. We have a couple left that we are holding onto for another event.

We really are extremely grateful for your support of The Anthony Nolan Trust. Please pass on my sincere thanks to the rest of the group for their contribution and support.

Kind regards,

Anna Spencer

CHARITY QUILTS – Bushfire Project

A massive 97 Wonky Star blocks were sent to Australia in support of this worthwhile cause, making quilts for people

who had lost everything in the terrible bush fires earlier this year. Thanks to all those who contributed. Feedback tells us that you found the blocks quick and easy to make so we are thinking of repeating the pattern for our next year's charity quilt.

As of April 4th, they had received 1764 blocks (which made 70 quilts) 39 quilt tops and 12 finished quilts making a total of 121 quilts. There are some lovely examples on <http://campfollowerbags.blogspot.com/>

The organiser, Tia, sent us the following e-mail:

Yes, your guild's stars arrived safe and sound! There were some of the most wonderful stars in the entire project in that lot. My older quilters in the guild here came over, and didn't want one of the packs that my friends and I put together, they wanted to sort through the "English" stars. They especially fought over the hand-pieced stars. The work your ladies put into the project is so very appreciated here.

LINUS UPDATE

Firstly – a big thank you to those who took part in the recent 'Linus Day' at Old Schools. There will be potentially some 19 quilts generated from the day, all of which are destined for "By the Bridge" – the therapeutic fostering organisation – placing children who have suffered neglect and abuse with very special foster parents.

Secondly – thank you to all who stopped by my Linus stand at the Abbey Patchers Quilt show – it is so good to put names to faces and the feedback from people is so heart-warming. It was also a good introduction to non-quilters of what the organisation is about – one teacher

already has the idea of planning a group quilt to be made by her teenage year group. A fine example of our teenagers helping those of similar age who have not had such a good start in their young lives, perhaps?

Finally – a date for your diaries! Saturday October 17th will be the second Linus Day. Again in Old Schools as this is my home territory and it is a lovely large, light hall with good facilities (i.e. I know where the tea and coffee are!). As with this last time I would hope to have ready-made packs, quilts ready for hand stitching etc. but this largely depends on what demand I have for quilts before this date other than on the list I already have to hand!

Do remember, please, that I always have fabric and wadding available for anybody who wants to make a quilt but who doesn't want to use their own. Do please ask!

Ann Fordham 01304 619519

VILLAGE TEXTILES

C&G APPROVED INDEPENDENT
CENTRE
THANET, KENT

New Courses starting September 2009

C&G Level 2 Certificate in Design & Craft
- EMBROIDERY 7822-05
- MACHINE EMBROIDERY 7822-18

Each course extends over 120 hours and is held on alternate Fridays for 20 weeks.

Non-Accredited courses on Alternate Wednesdays

- Autumn Term – Bags & Purses
- Spring Term – Books
- Summer Term – Boxes

Please contact BARBARA INCHLEY for more information.

Tel.: 01843 847705

e-Mail: inchley@btinternet.com

website: www.barbarainchley.co.uk

OUR LOVE AFFAIR WITH SEWING MACHINES

You will recall that the last episode of this saga we left Barthelemy, the inventor of the very first sewing machine fleeing France. His life had been threatened by French tailors who believed they would lose their livelihood because at the time all sewing was done by hand.

The focus now turns to America and the mid 1800's saw the drive to invent and produce a viable sewing machine. Things were getting very competitive when Quaker Walter Hunt invented a fairly successful machine using two spools and an eyed needle producing a chain stitch that could sew straight seams! Being a Quaker he lost interest when he realised that its development would result in hardship and unemployment. But Hunts invention was about to be hijacked by Elias Howe who produced the first lock stitch machine, a refined version of Hunt's machine. Elias Howe didn't worry about unemployment – he was about to make a swift buck!

An Englishman, John Fisher now enters the race. He patented what is believed to be the first working sewing machine here in Britain but would you believe it, the patent office lost the paperwork!

Elias Howe back in America was not aware of Fisher's patent and was busy trying to interest tailors in his 250 stitches a minute machine. In a competition his machine won against the best and fastest hand sewers. It is difficult to understand why this machine did not catch on but probably, once again because of the threat of mass unemployment. Howe was left heavily in debt as a result and he came to England and sold the rights of his machine to William Thomas for £250. Thomas promised Howe he would get royalties for the machines that were sold but he didn't keep his promise.

On his return he must have been astounded to find that the sewing machine was gaining in popularity. It is at this time that a name we all know as well connected with sewing machines that is Singer, entered into the skirmish and what a skirmish it turned out to be!! Singer was busy making and selling machines that contravened Howe's patent. It was also suggested that he patented the foot pedal (or treadle) used to power some of his machines but it had been in use far too long for a patent to be issued. Howe sued Singer for infringement of his patent and

won and Singer had to pay him a royalty on every machine sold in America! Evidence of the popularity and demand of the machine is demonstrated by the fact that between 1854 and 1867 Howe earned two million dollars in royalties!

See the next chapter in this saga in the autumn newsletter when a machine producing 500 stitches a minute was shown at the Crystal Palace exhibition in 1851. But we are still a long way from the all singing all dancing machines we know and love today!

Kay Horne

ALL STITCHED OUT

An Exhibition of Embroidery by City and Guild Students including Diploma Level

At

The Old Schools, Minster

Sat 15th and Sun 16th August 10 – 5
Admission £1

Trader and refreshments available

MARGATE FLOWER CLUB

Together with
THANET QUILTERS

Present an exhibition/show of

“STICHES AND STEMS”

Sat 13th and Sun 14th June 10-4

BIRCHINGTON VILLAGE CENTRE

Refreshments available including
Ploughmans Lunches

Sales tables Tombola
Trader: KarryDotCom

Admission £2

COACH TRIP TO CHILFORD

Shirley Gibbons is hoping to organise a coach trip to Chilford in November, probably the 8th. Please contact her on 01843 843344 if you are interested.

FORCES SWEETHEARTS

Like our heroine Anne Shelton – with the smokey voice and fuller figure – we at Phoenix quilters are providing comfort and support for our boys i.e. our wounded troops coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Under the kindly guidance of our Chairlady, Anne Matthews, we have been making quilts for our injured troops. So far we have sent two batches for distribution, and are working on more. “Although the group has limited funds, this is just the first of many such projects we have planned for various charities” said a spokesperson for the group. “Our next project is a quilt for the Hospice”.

Various group members have family links with service personnel and we all feel it important to show what support and gratitude we can for the dedication and service our front line troops give.

Terrance Gilbert

TRIP TO MALVERN QUILT SHOW

A trip to the Malvern Quilt Show was organised in May 2009 by Shirley Gibbons in conjunction with Carol Peters Travel. We were fortunate enough to visit the show on Friday afternoon for a preview and a full day at the show Saturday. A wonderful show where there were many traditional quilts as well as contemporary. The hotel we stayed in was first class and I am sure I can speak for the all the whole trip was excellent and a big ‘thank you’ to Shirley for arranging such a wonderful couple of days.

Jan Solomon

DIARY OF EVENTS

- 2nd June **Thanet & District Quilters**
Quarterly Meeting Church House, Kent Close, Birchington.
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.
Speaker Tina Parker
Hostess – Dandelyon
Trader – Loving fabrics
- 6th June **Oast Quilters**
Simon Langton Boys School, Canterbury.
Speaker – Lynne Edwards “Stories Round My Quilts”
- 7th June Workshop – Through the Window and Beyond
- 13th - 14th June **Margate Flower Club and Thanet Quilters**
“Stitches and Stems”
Display of Fabrication Quilts in conjunction with MFC

Birchington Village Centre 10 am – 4 pm
Refreshments/ Ploughman’s Lunches/Sales Table/Tombola
Trader: KarryDotCom
Admission £2
- 11th July **Oast Quilters**
Simon Langton Boys School, Canterbury.
Speaker – Katharine Guerrier “A Quilter’s Journey”
- 12th July Workshop – Stars and Scraps Quilt
- 15th – 16th August **City and Guilds Exhibition**
“All Stitched Out”
Old Schools, Minster
10 am – 5 pm Admission £1
Trader and refreshments
- 2nd September **Thanet & District Quilters** – Committee meeting
2 Cross Road, Birchington 7.30 pm
Anyone is welcome to attend
- 26th September **Oast Quilters Open Day**
a.m. Jean Littlejohn and Jan Beaney
Talk: Seeing Double
p.m. Janet Bolton
Talk: Making pictures with fabric, a personal approach
- 27th September Workshop – Making pictures with Fabric
- 6th October **Thanet & District Quilters**
Quarterly Meeting
Church House, Kent Gardens, Birchington.
Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.
Speaker – Dawn Cameron-Dick
Hostess – Phoenix
Trader – TBA
- 8th November
(Provisional) **Chilford**
Coach trip organised by Shirley Gibbons
01843 843344

Editor’s Note: Please let me have any items for the next Newsletter by 28th September