

Playing with Threads



At Festival of Quilts you might have seen the Threadplay booth, with 12 women at 12 machines intent on their sewing. I took part in one of these sessions. The idea was to get people trying out different types of thread, and buying more thread no doubt. Whatever the motive, it was fun.

The 12 machines were set up with different types of thread at the correct tension and with the appropriate foot. We had three minutes at each, and at a signal, all moved on to the next. We wrote the number of the machine on our cloth sandwich, and at the end of the session were given a paper with the details of each on it, so that we could refer back to our sampler.

Several of the threads were metallic, and fortunately they behaved themselves, even in various fancy stitches. But for me the useful bits were the couching.

For the “braid” made up of several strands of metallic yarn, there were special feet, and one machine (Bernina) had a large plastic foot for feeding in thick yarn from the side. Of course it’s also possible to put thick threads in the bobbin, and a couple of the machines were set up for trying variations on that method. Simply using a long, wide zigzag stitch, with 6-strand embroidery floss in the bobbin, is very effective!

At the end of the hour we were given several spools of thread to use at home, and one person’s

name was drawn to receive a tacking machine - which I saw elsewhere being sold for £24.99. Clever marketing — word of mouth and newsletter write-ups will probably get lots of attendees at this session next year.

I also attended one of “Dr Bob’s” lectures - as he says, all the information in the handout is in the Education section on the Superior Threads website (www.superiorthreads.com), but he put it all together in a handout, as well as delivering a very entertaining talk about types of thread - including the old cotton versus polyester debate - and graphically illustrating how the tension on sewing machines works.

He encouraged us to over-ride the “automatic tension” setting, and gave us permission to adjust the tension on the bobbin — draw on a bit of paper where the line across the screw was, move it bit by bit, and you can always take it back to how it was originally.

Margaret Cooter

Talks and Workshops

Just back from the Festival of Quilts. I am pleased to say that two of our speakers for this next year were prizewinners there - Pat Deacon and Brenda Boardman, both of whose quilts I really enjoyed. Also the three very different quilts that won prizes for the young quilter Ferret. What an achievement - I'm sure we'll have her on the programme before long!

Having taken over the role of arranging speakers for talks and workshops for us, I can say I have very much enjoyed contacting these quilters on behalf of our group, and feel we have a very varied programme to look forward to.

I have planned for three workshops next year

- ◆ 17 March
- ◆ 16 June
- ◆ 20 October

so please keep these in mind.

I hope that by offering three, it will give more members the chance to participate and for us to spend the day together. It makes sense to run a workshop on the Tuesday following our Monday evening meetings, this way we save on their travel costs and they are only away from their home for the one night. Compared to the workshops offered by the quiltshops and exhibitions, ours are certainly good value at £30 for the day.

There is a need for hospitality, either for an overnight stay, or occasionally to meet for a light meal before the meeting. It would be a great help to me to have a list of those who would enjoy having more time with one of our speakers and would like to offer, either generally or for a specific date.

Returning to Festival of Quilts (FOQ), as it has become such a large show it really is ideal to have two days there, to have a chance of seeing most of it. Staying at one of the hotels nearby makes for a much more relaxing experience! My husband and I managed to get one of the last rooms at the Hilton, where we stayed two years

ago. This year the room rate was cheaper - because FOQ has the hotel fully occupied - so at £67 per night B&B it was better value than the B&B we had in Northumberland in June!! They have an excellent chef and the dinner buffet is first quality and great choice, again at a special rate for quilters. There was a large group of quilter's guild members from Denmark staying at the hotel and they were very pleased to hear that they would be welcome at any of our meetings, so will be planning any future visits to London to coincide with the third Monday in the month.

I hope you all enjoy perusing the programme for next year, and would be glad to hear any comments and suggestions for future events/subjects.

Fran Katkar

Don't Forget

September Membership Renewal

£24 per annum

It will be necessary to hold current membership to borrow books from the Library.



A comprehensive list of LQ library books is available online at: www.londonquilters.org.uk. Keep in mind about one third of the books are on loan at any given time.



Chairman's Chat

I think it was when I blinked that I missed summer this year. And as I am writing this, the heavens have opened again with the accompaniment of thunder and lightening! But enough about that misery

Last time I wrote the Chairman's Chat, we were in the throws of our Exhibition. It once again has turned out as a great success. Thank you all for your wonderful contributions. I really do think that we are putting patchwork and quilting on the map in London, especially in the Swiss Cottage area. I believe this is confirmed by the enthusiasm of Camden Council and the library wanting us back for another exhibition in the very near future. Once again, I would like to express my thanks to Kathy Thiessen and her committee for organising the exhibition. Their hard work made it run smoothly and the success that it was.

Then there was the Festival of Quilts. What a feast. It has always been nice to see quilts made by many individuals from London Quilters, but this year we were treated to more. How wonderful it was to have the group, ColourFX, from London Quilters with their own exhibition area. There were always plenty of people in their area admiring their wonderful quilts.

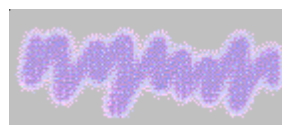
As you know, we were trying to promote more interest in quilting at our exhibition by putting on a very beginners class on quilting; 'It is much Easier than I Thought'. We have had a good response to the class and have just held our first one. At the end, one of the participants, without thinking what she was saying, said 'It is much easier than I thought'. I think we achieved our objective! It would also be nice if we get some more recruits to London Quilters from it. If anybody is interested in running a similar course, they are welcome to our 'package' and tweak it where necessary. No point in reinventing the wheel.

I am looking forward to a new 'London Quilters year' and all of the interesting events that have been organised and I look forward to seeing you all.

Judy Roose

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Exhibitions



LQ Committee Members

Chairman

Judy Roose jroose.highgate@virgin.net

Vice Chairman

Fran Katkar frkatkar@homechoice.co.uk

Treasurer

Janne Bell jannebell@hotmail.com

Minute Secretary

Margaret Mavay
margaretmavay@blueyonder.co.uk

Membership Secretary

Lucy Poloniecka lucy@poloniecka.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

Tricia Dickson shipwreckbt@hotmail.com

Librarians

Marlene Kleven kleven@btopenworld.com

Hospitality

Kathy Thiessen kathy@menno.org.uk

Raffle

Sheila McQuaid mcquaid@waitrose.com

2008-2009 Workshops

Tuesday 9 September - Lisa Walton Workshop “Breaking the Drought”

Make your own version of this Houston finalist quilt and learn a variety of machine techniques, such as machine embroidery, couching and other decorative stitches. Simple piecing required after embellishing fabrics.

Tuesday 17 March - Pat Deacon Workshop “Perfect Piecing of points and circles”

Forget cutting mats and rotary equipment. Learn how shapes other than squares and triangles can be perfectly pieced by hand or machine. Techniques as used on ‘Split Infinity’ and ‘Fantasy Quilt’ - Winner of 2002 National Quilt Championships.

Tuesday 16 June - Brenda Boardman “Photo Transfer Printing onto Fabrics”

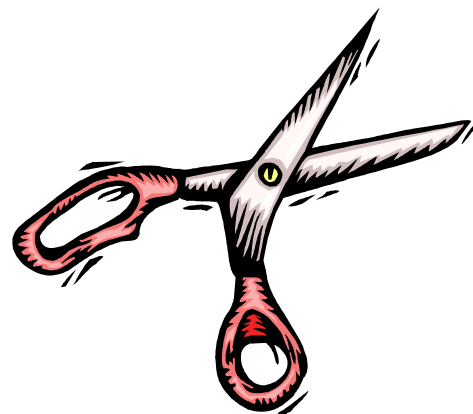
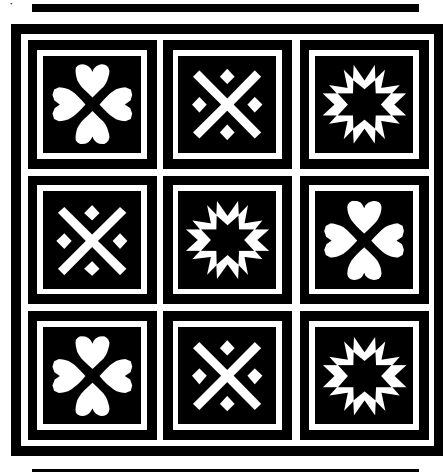
Learn how to print photos, drawings and other images onto fabrics and create your own personalised gifts. Exploring photographic transfer techniques, you will learn how to design, create and embellish your own unique bag using computer transfer imagery on fabric, adding quilting, machine embroidery and your own original designs at this fun workshop.

Meetings are held at 7.30 for 8pm in
Crossfield Centre Halls
8 Fairhazel Gardens, London NW6 3SG

 0207 625 4815

The hall is located between Fairfax Place and
Goldhurst Terrace.

If you are travelling from Swiss Cottage
station, there is an exit that will take you
down steps onto Belsize Road.



The London Quilters web site address is:
www.londonquilters.org.uk

It is run and maintained by Tricia Revest
Email: p.a.revest@qmul.ac.uk

2008-2009 Calendar of Events

15 September - Lisa Walton

“Australian Quilting Journey”

Lisa is an award-winning Australian Quilter who will bring a selection of her quilts and talk about the influences and development of her quilting journey from the traditional to contemporary style.

20 October - Janet Cook

“Mosaics and Me”

One of Janet’s earliest memories is making patterns with stones in the vegetable patch. When she discovered that people had made patterns and pictures with coloured stones it seemed natural that she study them and then translate the ideas into fabric, her medium. Share Janet’s quilts and more recent memories.

17 November - AGM no speaker

15 December - Social Evening

19 January - Margaret Cooter

Margaret is one of our most productive members, who enjoys exploring and always has something to bring to Show and Tell!!

16 February - Elizabeth Brimelow

Award winning British quilter, who has specialised in contemporary landscape quilts. Elizabeth talks about her own particular quilting journey.

16 March - Pat Deacon

“Quilts or Sculptures?”

A consideration of how quilts have moved on from being traditionally made for practical purposes to being items of art, and how the boundaries are constantly being pushed so that the divisions between quilts, embroideries and even sculptures are becoming blurred.

20 April Rosemary Allan

“North Country Quilters”

Talk about the social history and background of this important collection of quilts, most of which Rosemary has collected during her 38 years as Senior Keeper at Beamish Museum and Regional Resource Centre, Co Durham. The Museum and quilt collection started in 1970, and now has international status.

18 May Jan Hassard

“Quilts Old and New”

An exciting lecture featuring Jan’s large, eclectic collection of heritage and art quilts, plus her own more recent work. Jan’s work has been exhibited widely and won many prizes, including the Quilter’s Guild Award for Colour.

15 June Brenda Boardman

“How to develop your own collection of work”

Learn how to become disciplined in developing your own collection of work, including taking an idea from concept through to an outcome, so when you next get a great idea you can be confident that your result will be successful! Practical examples based on computer photo transfer and other techniques. Brenda teaches a monthly class for quilters wishing to explore their creative potential and learn skills, techniques and design basics, without the stress of having to achieve a qualification.

20 July Social Evening

August Summer Break - no meeting

PEARTREE REVISITED

The Peartree Quilters, from Region 7, are planning one more Potten End Exhibition, the first for a number of years. We want to remember our approximately 25 years of history, the special quilts we have made together and individually and the members we have lost in recent years. So please mark Saturday 13th June 2009, from 10:30-16:00, on your calendars! The exhibition will be in the Potten End, Hertfordshire (near Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead) Village & Church Halls (HP4 2QG is the post code to assist those with satnavs).

In addition to the regular features (quilts, stalls and delicious food) we are having a display of small quilts in memory of Carmen Redler – our most recent loss. We would be delighted to hang any small quilt (max 15 inches square) or photograph that has memories of Carmen (perhaps from a workshop with her, one of her quilt groups or a class) or even a new small quilt made for the display. For further details please contact one of us:

Email: alimarking@hotmail.com (Alison)
Phone: (01727) 839482 (Chris)
Post: Dorothy Holman, 54 High Rd, Leavesden, Watford WD25 7AQ

The entry fee will be £3.00, but all proceeds from the show will be shared by the charities chosen by the families of Carmen Redler and Diana Howes – the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and Ovarian Cancer Research charities, respectively.

Exhibitions

19 - 21 September 2008

The Stitch & Creative Crafts Show

Sandown Park Exhibition Centre, Esher, Surrey

9 - 12 October 2008

The Knitting and Stitching Show

Open 1000 to 1730 hours

Alexandra Palace, London

See our 'Dear Jane Quilt'. The draw for the quilt will be held on the Sunday afternoon.

19 - 22 March 2009

Stitch and Craft 2009

Olympia II, London

Saturday 13 June 2009 (1030 - 1600)

Quilt Exhibition in Region 7

by the Peartree Quilts

Potten End, Herts Village & Church Halls, HP4 2QG

Features quilts, stalls and displays of small quilts (max 15" square)/photos in memory of Carmen Redler, for which entries are invited. Contact Alison (alimarking@hotmail.com) or Chris (01727 839482. Exhibition entry £3 with all proceeds in aid of charity. Refreshments available.