

Be part of the longest Button-Up Quilt in the World

The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles invites all groups, world-wide, to take part in an exciting project for the Festival of Quilts 2008; to be held at the NEC Birmingham on 21 – 24 August 2008.

We are asking Groups to make a small quilt on the theme '**From Dark to Light**' which can be interpreted in any way – traditional through to innovative – depending on the interests of the members of your group. The quilts will be joined

together by a system of buttons and loops and our intention is to make

'The longest buttoned-up quilt' in the world.

The quilts will be separated and returned to you after the FOQ.

As you can see from the logo above, you can decide on the exact size of your quilt, within certain limits. The quilts will be hung with all the tops in a straight line but they will be different widths and lengths, giving an interesting asymmetrical appearance. Why not make a feature of the bottom by making it fringed, curved, scalloped, tasselled....?

Perhaps your group could start with a brainstorming session on the theme and then, either have a challenge for interested members to decide on the design of the quilt or find a member who is willing to design it. As you can see from the dimensions on the following page this isn't a large quilt, but it would be great if as many members of your group as possible could work on it.

See Criteria and Chairman's Challenge on pages 2 and 3

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“From Dark to Light” – Festival of Quilts 2008

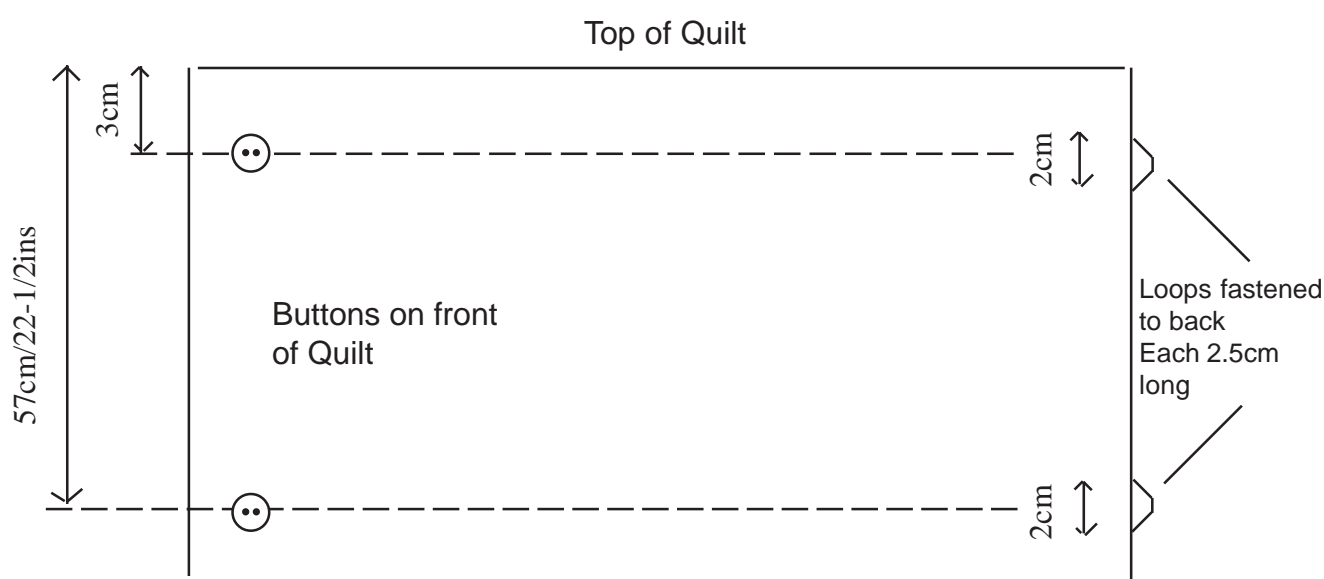
CRITERIA

1. Size: Minimum Width – 70cm (27”) Maximum Width – 100cm (39”)
Minimum Length – 60cm (24”) Overall Maximum Length - 100cm (39”)
Dimensions to include all fringes, tassels, frayed edges, beads etc.

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO AVOID MAKING SQUARE QUILTS

2. All quilts must be available to your Guild Region should they opt to show your quilt at their next Regional Day.
3. Buttons and Loops: You will need two, 2 cm diameter buttons and two loops to match your quilt. You should sew them onto your quilt as shown in the diagram below. Loops can be made using cord, ribbon, rouleau strips, button-hole stitch etc. and stitched onto the back of the quilt with 2.5cm showing from the edge of your quilt (you will need to make them longer to allow for stitching). You should position the loops so that they fasten snugly to your own buttons with quilt edges butted up.

You can make your quilt using Imperial – but please use metric for the placement of the buttons and loops.



4. The quilt should be of 3 layers and no glass fronted or mounted exhibits will be accepted.

5. All quilts must have a 10cm (4in) hanging sleeve sewn 1cm (1/2 in) below the top of the quilt and stopping 1.5 cm (3/4 in) from each side.
6. Entry fee is £5.00 with a voluntary £2.00 (or more) towards the St Anthony's Project.
7. The quilts are not for sale.
8. The registration form should reach Fay Allwood by 1st November 2007.

Completed quilts should reach Fay Allwood between 1st April and 1st May 2008
9. Any quilts which do not comply with the criteria, particularly in terms of size or hanging sleeve, can be rejected on submission.
10. Photographs of the quilts may be used for publicity purposes.
11. Each group may only submit 1 quilt, though individuals can take part in more than one.

**Progress of the Button-Up Quilt
can be seen at www.quiltersguild.org.uk**



Chairman's Challenge

The details on page one are the initial proposal from The Quilters Guild. I am proposing that either sub groups in London Quilters or even individuals create their own quilt. The theme, as well as **'From Dark to Light'** will be **'London'**. London can be interpreted anyway. We will then choose the best quilt to represent London Quilters, but all other quilts can be included in the **'longest buttoned-up quilt'**. Registration fee for the non London Quilters quilts will be £5.

Quilts must be completed for our October meeting when we will choose our favourite. Please could you let me know beforehand if you wish to take part.

Thank you

Judy.

Make a "House Block Project" 2007

Do you have an hour on your hands and want to be creative for a good cause?



Mennonites and Amish in North America are well known for their quilts. One cause that many of them support is the annual Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) quilt auctions. These raise thousands of dollars every year for world wide development and relief. One way they helped was that last year they asked people to make heart squares. Almost 1,000 heart blocks were received in the United States and Canada to create quilts, wall hangings and comforters to raise funds for Mennonite Central Committee in their efforts to help the less fortunate! As of this date, nearly \$50,000 has been raised. Heart block quilts will continue to raise funds in 2007. Blocks have arrived from all over the world.

This year they are asking for house blocks.

Purpose: To improve the quality of life of those around the world.

When people join together, we can build a firmer foundation. Use your talents in piecing quilt blocks to be incorporated into quilts, wall hangings and comforters to raise funds to help MCC meet basic needs. (<http://www.mcc.org/reliefsales/quiltprojects>). We can't help all of the people in the world, but we can help some of the people!

Size: 8" or 10" finished (8 ½" or 10 ½" unfinished)

Time Period: We will be gathering blocks through 2007. It would be good to have to me by end of November.

Fabric & Design: Use your imagination! Each block should contain a house of any type. We are encouraging house designs from around the world. If the house is representative of a specific country, please mark it on the block.

If you make a block, give it to Kathy Thiessen (Kathy@menno.org.uk) who will send it on to the representative in Canada.

Don't Forget

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.



LQ Committee Members

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Chairman's Chat

I experienced an interesting incident the other day, which got me thinking...

I work one day a week at the Handel House Museum. As I was about to leave, a foreign lady approached me and asked me are there any good fabric shops in this locality, we were in Brook Street. I looked at her quizzically thinking, how clever you are to ask somebody who could actually answer her question. The lady had not even come in to look at the museum, only to get her question answered. She had a notebook with many familiar 'fabric shops' and she clearly was a quilter. So I added some more to her list and berated the fact that London was very badly off for quilt shops. It transpired that she was Danish, from Copenhagen and that city was even worse for quilt shops. She had come to London primarily for fabric shopping, what a sensible lady. Fortunately, she had found Berwick Street and loved the variety there. We exchanged email addresses and left firm friends. However, I was still contemplating how she knew I was a quilter. Then, silly me, I 'twigged', I was wearing one of my patchwork waistcoats! Obvious.

But then I got to thinking, what other tell tale signs are there that say 'I am a quilter'. There is always the obvious one, the little bits of thread on your clothes, along with, of course, the little bits of thread on the carpet, which are so difficult to get out. (I have found that a pet's plastic brush is best). I accept bits of thread on my carpet, but it was most annoying when I bought a house, from a quilter, to find I had also bought her bits of thread on the carpet they had left in the sitting room! Then there are the hands, or rather the ends of the fingers which are rough. Oh why don't we wear thimbles? Another giveaway can be found in the bag where you will find scraps of fabric. They are there to match up with cotton/complimentary fabric/fabric that we have run out of/backing fabric and so on. I am sure you can add many more features that give us away, we are a predictable lot.

On another subject... the Festival of Quilts will soon be with us. When I went there last year, it was always so nice to see a quilt from a London Quilter.

But I am sure I also missed some that had been made by other LQers. So please, so that we can all admire your work, let me know if you have quilts at the FOQ and then I can email it to all so that none will be missed.

I hope that these longer, lighter evenings are giving us more time to quilt. And now we have the strawberries and raspberries to look forward to while sewing and watching Wimbledon. Enjoy summer.

Exhibitions

22 - 24 June 2007

National Quilt Championships, Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey. Theme Log Cabin Frenzy. Closing date for entries 1 May 2007. Details from Grosvenor Exhibitions 01775 712100/01775 722900 email emma.cooling@btconnect.com

23 - 24 June 2007

Quilts and Roses. Thameside Quilters Annual Exhibition, Squires Garden Centre, Shepperton, Middx. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4

12 July 2007

Christies Auction House in London
Textiles Sale - Details from www.christies.com

Saturday 28 July 2007

Quilt Quest, Wickham Market, Suffolk - just over an hour from the M25

This exciting new event this year was inspired by the amazing quilt show which Karin visited at Sisters in Oregon last year. The quilts will be hung in many of the village shops, the Village Hall and Quilters Haven. Your quest is to wander around looking for them! There will be a fun competition as part of "Quest" with lots of prizes to be won. All profits will go towards the development of sports facilities for the village of Wickham Market.

Do make a date in your diary now for this unique event held for the first time in the UK! For further details please contact us on 01728 746275
www.quilters-haven.co.uk

16 - 19 August 2007

Festival of Quilts, NEC Birmingham. Details from www.twistedthread.com

13 - 16 September 2007

Knitting and Stitching Show, NEC Birmingham. Details from www.twistedthread.com

2007 Calendar of Events

18 June - Clare Benn

“Cloth as a catalyst

16 July - Sewing Evening

August - No meeting

17 September - Sandra Grusd - ‘Me and My Quilts’

15 October - Sandra Meech

“Journeys”

19 November - AGM with trader

17 December - Christmas Party

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 Belzise Road.

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

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

A Memory from Childhood

My grandfather was a quilter. He made them from pieces of Irish woollen cloth from my father's garment factory in Dublin. They had a medallion design at the centre surrounded by smaller rows of multi-coloured fabrics with broad borders. They were backed with two or three wide pieces, and needed no wadding as the fabric was so heavy and warm. They also had very little quilting to hold the layers together but there was some anchoring between these two pieces.

The quilts had colourful and pleasant designs and lay as toppers to the Irish woollen blankets on my bed.

These memories came to me only about a year ago, some time after I had started my own quilting activities. My grandfather died in 1943 when I was seven years old. He lived in the house where I lived with my parents and my seven sisters and brothers.

As the second youngest of the family I spent many quiet hours with him in his small room. His sewing machine stood beside the bedroom window and on the wall was a map of Europe on which he traced the first stages of the Second World War with red pins. He lived until he was 83 so at that time he must have been in his late 70s.

My communication with him was limited as he spoke only Yiddish, the language of East European Jews. In retrospect, I think I saw a lot of him because I had to bring him his regular cups of tea from the kitchen so that my mother could get on with her many other jobs including looking after my younger brother.

A sister 10 years my senior has told me that our Grandfather did not only sew at home but also had another machine in a corner of our father's factory. That is where he obtained the fabrics that he sewed at home. They were off-cuts, scraps and remnants from the factory which had a large output.

He made the quilts for the family's numerous beds. When no more were needed, he made others for religious seminaries in Jerusalem, where winters are often bitterly cold and where they would have been well appreciated.

Now that I am also busy making quilts, it is pleasant and comforting to be reconnected with these memories of this quiet and gentle man and the satisfaction that he derived from a similar activity all those years ago.

by
Shirley Samuelson