
LONDON QUILTERS

Summer 2009 Newsletter

Chairman's Chat

By Kathy Thiessen

Dear LQ's

Two weeks ago I finally had a chance to visit the Quilt Museum in York. (You may remember last newsletter that I mentioned that we had gone up there on a Monday to discover that is the day it is closed.) I had gone onto the website and saw a 1 and a $\frac{1}{2}$ day workshop with Sandy Lush on Welsh quilts. It looked fascinating and totally something that I would not have a chance to study once I moved back to Canada. The price was £30 less if I was a Quilt Guild member, so I quickly phoned to become a member and then booked on for the course.

It was a delightful two days. I had a chance to visit the galleries of the museum and then sat with 8 women to soak in Sandy's expertise on whole cloth quilts, concentrating on the Welsh tradition. We were invited to choose two of her cushion patterns and got busy tracing them and getting to work hand quilting them. Some of the women had come specifically to design a pattern for a bed quilt, so they used all of her bits of patterns to create a traditional Welsh pattern.

She spent some time teaching us how to hand quilt the way she does. She uses a thimble on both hands to avoid the blood!! I don't seem to have that problem on my lower hand but I did discover that I have been using the wrong thimble for all these years. I need to get one with a lip on it to quilt in a way to get tinier stitches. Fortunately they are only £1.

At one point we went upstairs to visit the whole cloth quilts in the Durham tradition exhibition and then talked about what makes the two traditions different. Of course at some point the patterns did move back and forth across the country so differentiating between the two is not so easy at times.

We were amazed to find out that some coal miner's wives who quilted for extra money were required to quilt a bedcovering in 10 days. Or actually every 14 days as the first 4 days were for getting the top marked and the family's washing done. (Doing the wash by hand removed the calluses on the fingers so it could not be done until the quilt was done.)

Then we discussed the fact that the Amish were probably inspired to start their quilting tradition by both the Welsh and the Durham quilters who both immigrated to Pennsylvania.

I would strongly recommend that you visit the Quilt museum if you are up in York. The museum is lovely and light-filled and the gardens surrounding the building are beautiful. They have regular classes and courses so they are worth a look too.

Kathy Thiessen ❖

Remember you can still get your tickets for the Festival of Quilts.
Quilter's Guild members- £7,
Non members, £8



'PLEASE MISS, WILL YOU THREAD MY NEEDLE'

That was the most heard phrase on 26th June at South Hampstead High School.

The Quilters Guild was asked to help out on a quilting project at South Hampstead High School at the end of June. And despite yet another girl contracting swine flu, the day went ahead.

The project was that each girl would make a foundation-pieced mini-quilt about 4 1/2" square and would sign her name in the centre square. The patchwork was a simple square in a diamond design. Running stitch was used. The fabric choice was from the school colours of dark blue, magenta, yellow, and green. They were used for the triangles and backing fabric. After adding the wadding and backing fabric, the backing was brought over to the front to form the binding and stitched in place. It was intended that they would quilt in the ditch around the triangles in the design. To finish each quilt, hooks and eyes would be stitched to the back of the squares to join them. Then all of the joined individual patches would be hung from a curtain pole in vertical rows of different lengths. The resulting quilt will be permanently on display in the school.

This project involved about 95 12 year olds and about 18 quilting volunteers, four of whom came from London Quilters. Each girl was given a kit comprising of the appropriate materials and tools. They were sat at a table, six at each table and we, the quilting helpers each had responsibility for a 'table'. It was quite illuminating the differing skills and commitment found amongst my table of girls. One could actually sew and only required a little help from me and finished her quilt fairly quickly. Another was new to sewing but worked hard and finally produced, well after everybody else, an excellent quilt. The remaining four, I think I could say, were easily distracted, but nevertheless finished their quilts, even though one kept saying 'please can you finish it for me'. I didn't and she did. Unfortunately, the girls were provided with quilting needles, which VERY frequently became unthreaded, ran out of thread, or even more frequently, got lost. Most of us spent an awful lot of time threading or looking for the needles.

I found the day very enlightening and rewarding. The reward came from seeing definite non-sewers achieve a finished quilt and being pleased with what they had achieved. Will there be a new generation of quilters coming from South Hampstead High School to London Quilters? Well, I do not think we will have to look for new premises from an influx of new members!

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Jane Steward and her team for organising such a successful day. We all deserved and definitely enjoyed our G & Ts at the end of the day!

Judy Roose ❖

A Visit to Peartree Quilters Exhibition in June

"Would you like to look after Thomas (our 3 year old) on Saturday?", I asked my husband. "Yes of course" came his reply. "Whoopee" I thought inside, it's the day for the Peartree Quilters. So off I set that day, arranging to meet up with an old school friend on the way who happened to live within a couple of miles. "Why don't you come with me?" I asked, as we finished our tea and coffee. So off we set, a new quilter and a not-yet quilter, happy to visit the exhibition together.

What a delight! All kinds of quilts, small and large. Applique and traditional, friendship quilts and individual. Highlights were the small quilts by Carmen Redler - miniatures were a perfect way for her to enjoy her hobby while she toured the world with her husband who was in the armed services. There were raffle bags on offer, all kinds of quilting goodies and wonderful cushions and quilts on sale. My friend was amazed at this new world she had entered and found a beautiful quilt with a boat and seaside theme for her not-yet-born nephew.... And I bought fat quarters in a sale.

What fun to introduce my friend to the world of quilting..... you never know what happens when you take a friend with you....perhaps a new quilter was just born!

C Lindsay ❖



Would you like to contribute to the newsletter?

Email your articles/information to the editor at:
alice.godridge@gmail.com

Events & Exhibitions

Until Sunday 23rd August

Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Jodhpur: British Museum

This exhibition features more than 50 paintings specific to the Jodhpur region dating from the 17th to the 19th Centuries. The paintings have been loaned by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust. None of the paintings have been seen in Europe until now.

Garden and Cosmos looks at the two separate types of painting popular in the Jodhpur region between 1725 and 1843. The paintings, which were created for the personal pleasure of the rulers of Jodhpur, represent the spiritual, political and aesthetic preferences of three generations of the Jodhpur court.

Went to this last week and thought the paintings were amazing. Made me want to start a pictorial quilt right away!
Alice Godridge



Festival Of Quilts 20th to 23rd August Birmingham NEC

If you are heading there have a look online for available places for the workshops they run. There are still places going on many of them at about £3 to £8 a session you can get an introduction to a new technique. There are also tickets left for various social events including the Gala Dinner on the 20th at £37 each.

www.twistedthread.com

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A HOT DAY'S QUILTING AT SOUTH HAMPSTEAD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

LONDON, 2nd JUNE 2009

The hundred girls trooped into the school hall at 10.00am looking bemused and quiet. They quickly settled in groups of six at pre-arranged work tables. As one of 17 volunteer instructors involved in this project by Jane Steward of Quilters Guild Region One, I introduced myself to the girls, aged 12 or 13, at table number 14.

Each girl was provided with a small pack of fabric with pins and a needle, and a booklet showing how to complete their task for the day - a four-inch square foundation block. There was a pencil for each girl but only two rather blunt pairs of scissors for each table - fortunately I had brought some sharper ones of my own.

Gill Burgess of the Quilters Guild gave a short introduction illustrated with a large diagram of a foundation block. Each block, bearing the girl's signature, would form part of a large hanging incorporating the school's new logo to be displayed in the school's entrance hall. The individual blocks would be linked together with hooks and eyes.

Because of the very hot weather we were grateful for the steady supply of water and soft drinks provided by the school. After a morning session and lunch break between 12.00 and 12.30, efforts were redoubled to meet the 3pm completion deadline. At table 14, all the girls tried hard to complete their work. One girl successfully finished her block, complete with its hooks and eyes. The others were equally keen to be seen their signed work as part of the finished hanging.

For those unable to finish on time, Sally Fanning, head of year 7 who had initiated the event, offered a further lunchtime quilting session later in the week.

Those on table 14 all proved able to thread a needle, sew a running stitch, make a knot, sew a back stitch, and even do some hesitant hemming. One girl asked to take the unused trimmings from the blocks for use in another piece of work at home.

All six showed good humored enjoyment, even though two felt briefly unwell. One had to leave the hall for a short while because of the heat. Another lost a loose tooth, but maintained a stiff upper lip!

Shirley Samuelson ❖

Events & Exhibitions cont...



22nd August Noon - 8pm

Following the success of the Christmas event, the BUST Magazine Summer Craftacular will be bringing together the best alternative crafters selling their wares, with live demonstrations, DJs and drinks, it's the ultimate summer shopping, crafting, music and dancing extravaganza!

Shop for the best in handmade gifts and crafts. BUST Magazine will be hand-picking over 55 of the most unique and talented crafters from across the UK to attend.

York Hall, 5-15 Old Ford Rd, Bethnal Green E2 9PJ

Bethnal Green tube 1 min walk, £2 Entry

Saturday 17th October 2009: 10.00am-4.00pm

THE COMMUNITY DUMP QUILTERS GROUP

Are holding a Quilt Exhibition entitled 'The Pleasure of your Company.....', Sales table and Open Mini Quilt Competition Entrance £1 including refreshments

We are a group of twelve experienced lady, patch workers, needlewomen and craft enthusiasts whose special interest is in quilting. We have been together at various venues for over five years and would now like to extend a welcome to one and all to come and view our diverse work at our current home. Come and spend some time with us as we sew on the 17th. Stay a few minutes wandering around looking at the diverse range of tastes, styles, designs and colours exhibited there. Or even sit down, chat and spend a minute or an hour or SEW during the day stitching at our friendly welcoming venue and group.

Linford Methodist Church, East Tilbury Road, Linford, Essex SS17 0QQ

LQ Committee Members

Chairman

Kathy Thiessen Kathy@menno.org.uk

Vice Chairman

Fran Katker frkatkar@homechoice.co.uk

Treasurer

Janne Bell jannebell@hotmail.com

Minute Sec

Tricia Dickson shipwreckbt@hotmail.com

Membership

Lucy Poloniecka lucy@poloniecka

Librarians

Marlene Kleven kleven@btopenworld.com

Maureen Turner maureenoxford@mac-daddy.co.uk

Yana Krizka yana.krizka@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

Alice Godridge alice.godridge@gmail.com

Raffle

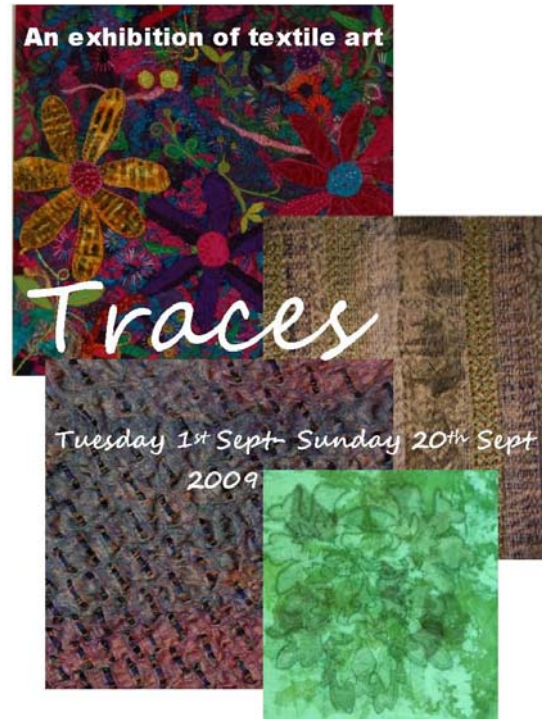
Sheila McQuaid mcquaid@waitrose.com

Handy Hints

Marking a quilt can sometimes be bewildering. What pencil/ pen/marker/ etc do you use? I recently heard that some people are using watercolour pencils. This makes total sense. They are watercolour so will wash out. I marked a light coloured cushion two weeks ago and have not been gentle with it. The marks are still very clear. The teacher suggested matching the pencil colour to your quilting thread colour, but one of the students in the class was quilting on a deep purple. She used a gold watercolour pencil and it worked just fine. "Aquarelle" pencils work but are softer so the marks can disappear faster. However, you can buy them individually so can get the colours that you want. "Derwent" ones are cheaper and slightly harder so last longer. Of course you need to keep the point sharp to provide a fine line and always test it on a bit of fabric before doing your whole quilt. It's worth a try.

Kathy Thiessen ❖

Events & Exhibitions cont...



**Open 2pm-10pm (Tuesday-Friday)
10am-10pm (Saturday-Sunday)
Closed Monday
Admission free**

**Norden Farm, Altwood Road
Maidenhead SL6 4PF
01628 682555**

www.odysseytextileart.co.uk



If you have information on any events please send me the details: alice.godridge@gmail.com

Your Quilt Club Needs You

When we have speakers there is often 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.

WORKSHOPS

September 21 - Tuesday JUDI MENDELSSOHN: New York Beauty

Deputy editor of "British Patchwork and Quilting", Judi is an enthusiastic teacher of many of the essential traditional and contemporary quilting techniques. For those relatively new to quilting, this will be a great introduction to the recent technique of Foundation Piecing. This has proved to be a great technique for achieving sharp precise points and junctions with the more intricate piecing patterns, as in the New York Beauty block. Our more experienced members will enjoy exploring the fascinating possibilities of this stunning pattern! Some excellent examples have appeared recently in quilting magazines. This will be a relaxed and enjoyable day with an experienced teacher, suitable for different skill levels.

October - Tuesday 20th OR Friday 23rd FERRET: Art Quilts Technique

Our British quilter Ferret is becoming known for her interest in exploring different quilting techniques, and achieving consistently good results at major shows in the UK and America. She is currently hard at work on her individual quilter's display in the main gallery at the NEC this August. Her workshop there sold out within 3 hours of the booking being opened! There is also an interview with her in the August issue of "British P&Q", out soon!

In the Art Quilt workshop we will work through her technique of using small pieces of fabric to interpret the colouring of a picture, using photos that Ferret will provide, to give the effect of a painting. The technique can also be used to give a number of different effects, with larger pieces of fabric, shading, etc, as in her "Cows" wallhanging that won a first at NEC last year. Kits will be available for those who prefer.

During the day Ferret will discuss with each of us how we might interpret any of our own photos, and free software that is suitable for this technique. We could bring images to this class on our own laptop.

VENUE FOR BOTH: St. Paul's Annexe Hall, Long Lane, Finchley N3 2PU

TIMES: 10 am - 4 pm, with 15 mins. to set-up and clear away.

COST: Each workshop 30 pounds, cheques payable to "London Quilters".

www.londonquilters.org.uk

Don't forget! A comprehensive list of LQ library books is available online at: www.londonquilters.org.uk