
LONDON QUILTERS

January 2009 Newsletter

Chairman's Chat

By Kathy Thiessen

Dear LQ's

Greetings from your new chairperson, writing from snowy, cold Winnipeg. I have only been your new chairman since the November meeting, but I have been away from London since the beginning of October. The rental cars gained many kilometers in our travels to Alberta, Ontario and Indiana (USA). I have tried to squeeze some quilt activities in some of the places we have been to and my wonderful husband has cooperated. Ontario saw a trip to St. Jacobs. This is the home of a whirlwind of quilt activities every May when a huge Mennonite Central Committee auction takes place. We were there in November but did see a great solo exhibition of local resident Marilyn Farquhar at St Jacobs Quilt Museum. Even Vic was impressed with her fine appliqué and hand quilting.

In Indiana (home of many Mennonites and Amish) we enjoyed at great meal at Das Dutchman Essenhaus and then I peeked into The Quilt Shop.

Quilts are accepted on a consignment basis and the work was incredible. I compared the tiny even hand quilting stitches to the quilt I was working on. No comparison... But then they would all use a frame and I was lap quilting. I guess that explains it!!

In Manitoba I attended a meeting of the Manitoba Prairie Quilters. They have a membership of around 400 but the meeting held about 150. We heard a great lecture from a woman from the Manitoba Costume Museum. She spoke of the Paisley shawls made in Kashmir and later in Paisley Scotland during 17-1800s. I intend to make a trip to the museum before I return. I also saw a small solo exhibition by quilter Heather Lair at the Millennium Library in downtown Winnipeg. It wasn't as impressive a gallery as ours, but did not require constant invigilators as all the quilts were behind glass.

Finally, during all my travels I did manage to finish quilting the lap quilt I was making for our nephew and wife. I had to track down a quilting friend to borrow her cutting board and rotary cutter as well as her machine to put on the binding. However, we just found out that the young couple are expecting. But I bought a book on making fabric books. I think that is what the little one will get in March.

Although you are not facing the snow and blow of Manitoba I hope you use the grey and damp of London's winter to get your fingers and machines moving so we can see some great Show and Tells this year. Also be prepared for a Chairman's Challenge.

Kathy Thiessen ❖

Contents

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Chairman's Chat |
| 2 | Events, Fairs & Exhibitions |
| 3 | Workshop information |
| 4 | Tips and Requests |
| 5 | LQ's Information |



Chairman's Challenge

Coming Soon

Events, Fairs and Exhibitions

By Alice Godridge

I have found that by scouring listing magazines or craft blog websites you can find many interesting events going on in and round London any month of the year, you get to see all sorts of areas you would not have been too, the joys of the public transport system, armed with a travel card you can get just about anywhere, even if it is not quite on time.

Many are free and, as you may have found out if you have stewarded any events, you can meet some lovely and 'interesting' people.

I attended one such event in December, BUST's Christmas Craftacular, an event previously only held in NY, USA which came to London for the first time.

It was bursting at the seams with young people, talent and most importantly **ideas!** It was quite an eye opener that so many young people were re-discovering knitting, cross stitch, sewing, and yes, some quilting too. It was not only a hobby for many there but the first steps into small business.

Through attending these events I have been invited to attend the NorthWest London WI group, which meets upstairs in a pub on the Kilburn High Road, it consists of around 40 members, all in their 20' & 30's many of whom are avid crafters. I am hoping to persuade them to come along to LQ's to discover more...

Here are some details for a number of interesting events, taking place in and around London over the next few months.



Would you like to contribute to the newsletter?

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

8th Feb

Lauderdale House Arts and Crafts Fair

Discover a fantastic selection of local, national and international arts and crafts. Lauderdale House is an arts and education centre based in the beautiful Waterlow Park. We run an extensive programme of performances, workshops, outreach projects, classes and exhibitions.

Voluntary Admission Charge

Opening times Sun - 11:00 - 18:00

Lauderdale House

Highgate Hill, Waterlow Park, London N6 5HG

Tel: 020 8348 8716

Until 20th Feb

Winter's Breath and Summer's Season

A display of embroidery from the Embroiderers' Guild Museum Collection evoking the winter and summer seasons.

10-4.30 Mon - Fri (excluding bank holidays).

Details from 020 8943 1229.

The Embroiderers' Guild, Apartment 41, Hampton Court Palace KT8 9AU

26th - 28th Feb

The London Stitch & Creative Crafts Show ExCel London

This show covers all aspects of quality stitchcraft including cross stitch, sewing, card making, embroidery, knitting, patchwork, quilting, scrapbooking, ribboncraft, papercraft, stamping, beading, painting, dressmaking, tapestry, decoupage, crochet and many more popular stitch and creative crafts.

Adults £9.50 - Concessions £8.50

Opening times - Thurs 10.00am - 7.30pm

Fri 10.00am - 5.00pm Sat 10.00am - 5.00pm

Continued on page 3

2009 Workshops

Bookings being made NOW!!!

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.

LQ Committee Members

Chairman

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Continued from page 2

Until 15th March

Hidden treasures - Sacred Textiles

Bevis Marks Synagogue, 2 Heneage Lane, London EC3A 5DQ

Rare and beautiful textiles from the collections of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation and the Montefiore Endowment. The sumptuous Torah mantles of Bevis Marks Synagogue, founded in 1701, will be displayed for the first time in a joint venture and comprises magnificent examples of silks, brocades and goldwork embroidery donated to the synagogue over time. The textiles, rarely glimpsed and many too delicate for regular use, tell the stories of the individuals and families of this historic community. Several mantles are embroidered with personal inscriptions and many are made from recycled English and French dress fabrics.

Times: Mon-Fri 11am-1pm, Sun 10.30am-12.30pm

Price: £3 Contact: 020 7626 1274

Travel: Aldgate/Liverpool Street 🚶

17th - 28th March

Marlene Cohen - Solo Show

Koukan gallery, "Art for Architecture"
106a Alexandra Park Road, London N10 2AE. Tel: 020-8444-7121.

Opening hours are Tues - Friday 12-18, Saturday 11-15 hours.

24th - 26th April

British Contemporary Crafts London

British Crafts exhibitions showcase the work of many of Britain's finest designer makers featuring both well-established artists and new talent of selected makers from previous British Crafts events.

Chiswick Town Hall, Heathfield Terrace, London W4 4JN

Friday 3-7pm, Saturday 11am-6pm and Sunday 11am-5pm

Entrance £3, Over 65s and Students £1

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.

You Know you are a Quilter If.....

- Your ironing board is always set up but you never iron clothes
- You think of your job as an interruption of your quilting time
- You pet fabric
- People are always picking threads off you
- You can measure a scant $\frac{1}{4}$ " by eye
- Your "UFO's" are not from outer space
- You clean up your sewing machine more often than your oven

Festival of Quilts 2009 – Top Tips

20th – 23rd August
Birmingham NEC

Going into it's 7th year The Festival of Quilts boasts a host a gallery exhibitions from leading international artists and groups; those for 2009 will be announced in the next few weeks, it also has over 250 companies will be selling all those hard-to-find patchwork and quilting supplies.

If you are thinking of attending this year it would be useful to be aware of all the experience of others who have attended either as a day visitor or having stayed over in Birmingham.

If you have attended and have any comments, hints or advise for visiting, hotels, transport links, places to eat, comfortable shoes or ways not to spend so much money please let me know so I can pop these in the next newsletter.

Thanks, Alice

FoQ Tip 1:

Take two pairs of shoes, even you most comfortable pair can become painful on your 10th walk around the stands. A change can be as good as a rest.

Q.

How can I tell if a fabric is cotton?

You have found some material with no labels on and you can't tell if it is cotton or not.

A.

Burn It!

Take a very small piece or even just a few threads and burn it. Polyester or nylon will burn very quickly, leaving a plastic-like residue behind. Silk or rayon will burn very quickly, if it burns more slowly and smells bad, it's wool, If it burns very slowly and steadily like a wick, it's most likely cotton.

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

2009 Calendar of Events

19th January - Margaret Cooter Margaret is one of our most productive members, who enjoys exploring and always has something to bring to Show and Tell!!

16th February - Elizabeth Brimelow Award winning British quilter, who has specialised in contemporary landscape quilts. Elizabeth talks about her own particular quilting journey.

16th 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.

20th 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.

18th 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.

16th June - Brenda Boardman - How to develop your own collection of workposition of the Quilt 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.

20th July - Sewing evening

August - no meeting

**Meetings are held at 7:30 for 8pm at Crossfield Centre Hall
8 Fairhazel Gardens
London NW6 3SG**

Contact: 020 7625 4815

The hall is located between Fairfax Place and Goldhurst Terrace

**If you are travelling from Swiss Cottage station (Jubilee Line), there is an exit onto
Belsize Road**

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