

# London



# Quilters

January 2011

## Chairman's Chat by Linda Seward

### Chair Chat

Dear London Quilters:

Looking out at a dreary January morning, it's hard to believe that another Christmas and New Year have come and gone. I hope yours was excellent—mine was spent very quietly with four-fifths of the family in Oxfordshire—my daughter Alysson was there in spirit and on Skype as often as she could take time away from her duties as a hotel manager in a Japanese ski resort. We actually opened stockings on our bed as usual with Alysson on the computer opening hers at the same time. Thank goodness for modern technology!

LQ had a very enjoyable Christmas party after our AGM in December. The updated Constitution was approved, and we now have a new Treasurer, Ann Ryan, who is taking over from Janne Bell. Janne is going to take over running the LQ website from Patricia Revest who has been managing it for many years, and who, in fact, got the website all set up in the first place! We are very grateful to Tricia for all her help on this, and she can now take a well earned break from LQ duties. She was thanked with a box of chocolates and free membership for this year. I'm delighted to report that we raised £120 for Miguel's Christmas gift, matched by some LQ funds to take the total to £145. I am sure he was absolutely shocked and delighted; he does so much for our group and makes the Committee's job much easier every month. We enjoyed a delicious pot-luck meal and played some games as well—thanks to Maureen Turner for being in charge of the party and for making the room look so beautiful.

#### LQ Committee Members

Chairman	Linda Seward
Vice Chairman	Lucy Poloniecka
Membership	Natalie Teich
Treasurer	Ann Ryan
Minute Sec	Sabi Westoby
Library	Yana Krizka
Raffle	Sheila McQuaid
Workshops	Fran Katkar Mary Speake
Website	Janne Bell
Newsletter	Alice Godridge

London Quilters now has full third party insurance for all our meetings and workshops. While we've been very fortunate not to have had any need for this in the past, we really should have taken out insurance a long time ago, so we can now rest easy. Sarah Hibbert has volunteered to look over our Accounts, and once she has inspected them, we will forward a copy of last year's accounts to every member.

Lucy Poloniecka and I have been busy designing our new group quilt. It will, we hope, be simple yet very effective and give members a chance to be creative (within limits!). We will be going to the sale in Farnham on January 16th to buy fabrics for the quilt as well as some new raffle prizes for LQ. We are hoping that one or two members will volunteer to be in charge of the next group quilt. If you think you might be able to do this, please talk to Lucy or Judy Roose who organised the last group quilt. It's a great way to meet fellow LQ members and is a very rewarding job in every way.

That just leaves me to wish you a very happy 2011!

Happy quilting!

Linda Seward



## 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.



I just wanted to thank the London Quilters for their kind thoughts and good wishes for my birthday and when I fell ill. Many thanks for my wonderful cards. Here is a photo of them all in my sitting room.

Greetings and best wishes, Monica



Hello London Quilters,

It has just been over a year since I returned to Canada. I must say that my emotional state is much better coming into this Christmas season.

I have joined two smaller quilting groups. Both are mostly made up of Mennonite women. Most are doing quite traditional quilting but there are one or two who are doing innovative pieces. At the end of January we will have a weekend retreat where we go out of the city for 2 1/2 days and spend it sewing and eating and talking. I am looking forward to that!

I have just acquired a Singer Featherweight machine from Vic's aunt who was the original owner. It is in immaculate condition but I am struggling to thread it properly. Fortunately there is a dealer/sewing machine fixer who works with them quite frequently that I can take it to who will hopefully put me straight.

I don't know if I sent you the picture from my summer wall hanging, but here it is. I did this for a course I took and now have it entered into an exhibition at the Mennonite Heritage Center.

Looks like I may be spending some time in either Palestine or Northern Iraq in 2011. May involve a stop over in London!!

Kathy Thiessen

## Ruth McDowell Workshop in Western Massachusetts

By Lyn Fry

In fear and trembling I turned up for the first day of Ruth's "Designing from Nature" 5-day workshop in Historic Deerfield. I had worries about my ability to do the art work; the subject I had chosen (my son diving with sharks); even my ability to sew as well as the other (undoubtedly professional) quilters who would be co-pupils. I had signed up and paid for the workshop (\$US500) before discovering it was "advanced". I needn't have bothered. From the very beginning Ruth was friendly, knowledgeable, fun, professional and reassuring. "I know some of you haven't drawn since kindergarten" she said (to my immense relief).



I know some of you are terrified of numbers" (others looked relieved). She asked us to say a little about ourselves. Along with other first-timers I became a "virgin". Ruth explained that most of the virgins go home after Day 1 thinking "My God! What have I got myself into?" Those who were back for second, third or fourth workshops were the "remedials". I had brought three of Ruth's books for security. I thought they would be my guilty secret but most people had their own pile and she had more for sale.

The others were amazed that I had come from London just for the workshop and would go home straight afterwards. "But how did you bring your stash?" they asked. I told them I hadn't brought clothes (just a couple of pairs of jeans, a few shirts and some knickers). They all had enormous quantities of stash - often running to several huge boxes (all beautifully arranged!!). I had brought one suitcase full of shark-like fabrics, lots of blues, greys, greens and blacks. In fact, the other women were amazingly generous with their fabrics "I have just the thing for that shark" they would say as they handed over the most beautiful piece of mottled

grey/lilac fabric. Ruth also had fat quarters for sale and a woman came from the local fabric shop with more.

The first day was spent learning basic techniques and looking at everyone's photos or drawings. Most had brought flowers or trees. Two had brought birds. I was the only one with sharks. Ruth was excited about the sharks and made me feel I had made the right choice (perhaps she was just tired of trees and flowers) "Yummy! Yummy! This is going to be fun." I learned a lot about dividing up pictures into straight lines so they would have flow. I was the only one who had to design with curved seams. This made the designing easier but the sewing more difficult. It was interesting for me because I got to see how everyone else had to cope with the difficulties of designing nature in straight lines while I got to practice with curves.

From the second day, it was down to business. Ruth explained that "Quilters are quilters because they like to pat fabric" so if we felt nervous about the drawing for that day we should bring a nice piece of fabric with us. I took my son out of the shark picture (he had been luke warm about the quilt) and put two better-looking sharks in. I traced the final A4 picture then off to Staples 4 miles away in Greenfield (lovely little town with fabulous deli) to have it blown up 200%. Now I was ready to put in all the fabric seam lines and when Ruth was satisfied, back to Staples to have it increased to the size of the final quilt. I had decided on a double bed size so blithely said "Four foot six by six feet".

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## Ruth McDowell cont...

I was appalled as the paper poured from the printer - yards of it - an enormous looking quilt!! HUGE sharks everywhere!! Back to the white church (a wonderful airy, spacious venue) to transfer the whole thing onto freezer paper and put in the tick marks to show where the seams joined.

Ruth went home at 5.00pm each day and Paul Bombardier, friend of Ruth, local spinner, musician and Catholic priest arrived to look after us. He was great fun, enormously interested in our endeavours, encouraging and sympathetic. He stayed till 9.00pm chatting and spinning if enthusiasts wanted to stay that late to sew. On the last night he brought two pecan pies he had made for us to have for our lunch the following day - delicious!

As we progressed we began "auditioning" fabric. Each piece was cut to size and put in place on the full-size copy which was pinned to a notice board before deciding whether it could stay. "Are you happy it arrived?/ Would you miss it if it went?" Some surprising fabric appeared. According to Ruth "People will bring fabric you can't believe they spent good money on?" Even these do find their way into quilts.

On the last morning we had "Show and Tell". We circulated among the notice boards while the quilter described how she was achieving her aims and Ruth made helpful comments about where she might go from there. It was amazing to see what had been achieved in 5 hectic days. The last afternoon felt like the end of a long exam where you have so much to say and no time to get it all down. There was that feeling of panic needing to accomplish as much as possible and wondering whether I could carry on at home without Ruth's oversight.

I had to repack all my luggage with clothes into the overhead locker bag (I didn't really take my sewing machine, Ruth lent me hers) and my suitcase was jammed full of fabric (I did buy a lot more - well who wouldn't??) freezer paper, sewing tools, pictures of sharks and even a couple of sharks sewn into a quilt.



## Quilt Shows for 2011

### JANUARY

28 Jan - 30 Jan

Spring Quilt Festival (Ardingly)

### FEBRUARY

25 Feb - 27 Feb

Spring Quilt Festival (Edinburgh)

### MARCH

11 Mar - 13 Mar

Spring Quilt Festival (Chilford)

### MARCH

17 Mar - 20 Mar

Stitch & Craft 2011 (Olympia London)

### MARCH

25 Mar - 27 Mar

Spring Quilt Festival (Exeter)

### MAY

19 May - 22 May

Quilts UK (Malvern)

### JUNE

17 Jun - 19 Jun

National Quilt Championships (Sandown)

### AUGUST

11 Aug - 14 Aug

Festival of Quilts 2011 (NEC, Birmingham)

## 2011 Workshops

Looking at the Programme for the year ahead, we clearly have a varied and stimulating line-up of speakers and teachers! Our Workshops have been carefully chosen to reflect the skills and techniques we are interested in acquiring, and to suit different levels of skill and experience. We have a very pleasant and accessible venue, with generous workspace for each person, and nearby park and shops for a refreshing lunchtime break.

We are now opening bookings for our next workshop on Tuesday 22 March with Lesley Coles, and later will be booking for Philippa Naylor on Tues 21 and Wed 22 June. Please pencil in these dates in your new diaries. Places are likely to go very quickly! See Autumn Newsletter for details.

22 March, Lesley Coles will be visiting from St. Austell, Cornwall, to speak at our Monday evening meeting, then to teach the following day. Lesley has been teaching Patchwork, Quilting and Applique for many years at her local adult education college. She also responded to the appeal in 2003 to teach quilting to women at the new Womens' Centre in Ulaanbataar, which Judy and Lucy visited last summer, and spoke about at our Dec meeting.

The subject is "Wearable Art" - make a toile to fit before you make a waistcoat, using patchwork, quilting or applique. You may prefer to make a simple jacket or child's waistcoat. Lesley was wearing a stunning example when she came to our Preview evening of our exhibition at Swiss Cottage Library Gallery.

The venue will be as usual, at the Annexe Hall, St.Paul's, Long Lane/Dukes Ave, Finchley N3 2PU.

From 10 am to 4 pm, with 15 minutes before and after to help set up/ clear away.

Cost is £30.00 to LQ members, and £35.00 for friends/non-members.

Suitable for Intermediate skills, and quilting beginners with experience of sewing/machining.

**BOOKING IS NOW OPEN** so email Fran Katkar: [frkatkar@homechoice.co.uk](mailto:frkatkar@homechoice.co.uk)

Looking forward to your enthusiastic support for another enjoyable one-day workshop together!

## Quilt Shows for 2011

### SEPTEMBER

2 Sep - 4 Sep

Great Northern Quilt & Needlecraft Show  
(Harrogate)

### SEPTEMBER

23 Sep - 25 Sep

Scottish Quilt Championships (Edinburgh)

### OCTOBER

6 Oct - 9 Oct

The Knitting and Stitching Show 2011  
(Alexandra Palace, London)

### OCTOBER

28 Oct - 30 Oct

Autumn Quilt Festival (Malvern)

### NOVEMBER

4 Nov - 6 Nov

Autumn Quilt Festival (Chilford)

10 Nov - 13 Nov

The Knitting and Stitching Show 2011 (RDS, Dublin)

24 Nov - 27 Nov

The Knitting and Stitching Show 2011 (Harrogate  
International Centre)

## 2011 Calendar

- Jan 17** **Marlene Cohen "Is this Quilt, Art?"** An opportunity to view and discuss some of Marlene's recent work.
- Feb 21** **Valerie Nesbitt and Isabelle Saulet** A chance to hear all about "Just Hands-On TV" and to see and purchase some of the latest products from **Creative Quilting**
- Mar 21** **Lesley Coles "My Life in Pieces"** An illustrated talk about Lesley's patchwork journey with pieces of her work from the early 1980s up till the very latest projects.
- Mar 22** **Lesley Coles Workshop "Wearable Art"**
- Apr 18** **Ron Simpson "Patchwork Quilts - the Great 19th Century Art Form"** Ron's collection of antique quilts is world-renowned. This is a rare opportunity to hear about them first hand from this leading quilt historian.
- May 16** **Colouricious** A talk and demonstration by Jamie Malden from this exciting team of textile artists with an opportunity to buy some of their extensive range of craft products
- Jun 20** **Philippa Naylor** A talk from this very entertaining and popular quilter and speaker
- Jun 20/21** **Philippa Naylor Workshop**
- Jul 18** **Summer Sewing Evening**

Meetings are held at 7.30 for 8 pm

Crossfield Centre Halls, 8 Fairhazel Gardens, NW6 3SG

(located between Fairfax Place and Goldhurst Terrace just west of Swiss Cottage)

Members attend meetings free (membership £28 p.a. due each September, 1/2 year £15 from March, students and under-18's free).

Visitors welcome: £5 per meeting. Additional charges may apply for workshops and visits.

For further details please contact Linda Seward Tel: 020 7586 3382 or email: [info@londonquilters.org.uk](mailto:info@londonquilters.org.uk)

## Library is now Online!!!

If you are online then you can follow this link to the library, browse the collection of books we have available, we have a massive collection of useful books, so make use of them.

<http://www.londonquilters.org.uk/LQ%20Library%20-%20by%20subject.pdf>

