



Number 140

April 2020

Market Square Quilters

Chairperson	Geraldine Priest
Treasurer	Barbara Lacy-Smith
Secretary	Pauline Byrne
Workshops	Geraldine Priest Gail Winter Rita Maton
Newsletter	Caroline Ward
Refreshments	Pat Blatchford
Web Page	Cat Nichol
Raffle	Gail Winter Rita Maton
Library	Caroline Ward

WEB PAGE www.marketsquarequilters.co.uk

What strange times we find ourselves in. I can't put any upcoming dates as I have no idea when we will be able to meet again.

The only good thing is that we all have a good excuse to do more sewing.

If you would like to email me a picture and details of what you are in the process of making I could include it in the next newsletter for an online Show and Tell.

I hear that the Block of the Month has managed to continue so it would be good to have a report on progress from somebody....

We are still not sure whether our Quilt Exhibition will be able to go ahead—it may become a 21st birthday celebration rather than a 20th at this rate!



'a little ray of sunshine' my Linus quilt

A note from Geraldine

Dear friends,

I do hope you are all keeping well and managing to cope with the short supply of goods in the shops. I'm trying to avoid the supermarkets relying on small local shops and market in Hungerford.

If there is anything good to come out of all this it's the way in which small communities are helping each other and the many volunteers helping elderly and vulnerable people with prescription collections and shopping.

I expect many of you are taking the advantage of being at home and being very creative with your stitching/quilting. I am participating in two of the Block of the Month projects which I'm really enjoying. One with hand stitching Applique and the other by machine. I really want to start doing the blocks for the 365 challenge that I've been downloading each day but time has not allowed yet and there's my old problem of making a decision about the colour scheme! Meanwhile I have made a few straps for the key fobs and mug rugs.

No doubt like me you are missing seeing your family, especially grandchildren. Thank goodness for Skype FaceTime and the like, but there's no compensation for that lovely warm hug!

I missed seeing you all in March and I thank Caroline for taking the time to produce a newsletter for us.

Take care
Geraldine



All of the local quilt shops are trying to keep their businesses open online so I have had a trawl to provide an update. I usually just look at their websites but I have been opening the facebook links for more up to date info. They open with a page asking you to 'create an account' but if you just click on 'not now' you can still see the pages.

www.ladysewandsew.co.uk

They are doing mail order or telephone sales and will do a video call to show you products if wanted.

mailorder@ladysewandsew.co.uk

01491 572528

I see they have a 1,000 piece Festival of Quilts jigsaw for £19.95 if anyone is interested.

www.villagefabrics.co.uk

They have a video demonstration of a sunflower coaster which looks fun.

www.new_Threads.com

They are offering free p&p on orders over £25 or a Click and Collect service from the shop.

01264 771443

www.quiltersdream.co.uk

There are some fun chicken blocks on the site including some using African fabrics.

01264 324420

Email: rickyquiltersdream@outlook.com

Quilters Guild

As far as I am aware the Festival of Quilts has not been cancelled yet

Priority tickets which were to go on sale at the end of March are now planned for the end of April but we will have to wait and see.

The Guild shop is of course still open online and any orders will help their finances.

www.quiltersguild.org.uk

Quilters Guild Region 6

The facebook page has links to all sorts of interesting projects and demonstrations

reg6@quiltersguild.org.uk

Old Chapel Textile Centre

The centre at Greenham is hoping to open again on 2nd May. Their income comes from door entry so they are appealing for people to become Friends at £30pa to help them keep going.

Also, if anybody is having a clear out of books, fabrics etc. they can contact Linda Connell on 01635 38740 to arrange collection.

By the By

Two other things which I have come across which may be of interest.

I picked up a sewing magazine in the supermarket and it had details of a site, **gathered.how** which has free dressmaking patterns to download as well as competitions and ideas.

British Patchwork and Quilting magazine has had to stop production for the foreseeable future. There is a May edition but it will be the last one for a while.

Lady S&S gave a link to a book supplier **www.searchpress.com** who are offering 20% off and free P&P if you use the code **DD01** when checking out.

I know that there are thousands of sites out there but if you come across any which you think are particularly good then please email the details and I can pass them on.

The **Royal School of Needlework** has launched an international hand embroidered **Postcard from Home challenge**.

#rsnpostcardfromhome

Have a look and see if you would like to take part.

www.royal-needlework.org.uk



David Hockney has been creating on his iPad. Maybe you could have a go if you have the facility...

Facemasks

I know that there is a great debate about whether home made facemasks do more harm than good but as long as you understand that they will not prevent you from catching Coronavirus then they could have a place....

Hayfever season is almost here so that means runny noses and sneezing for some. A facemask would prevent spraying droplets, which may unknowingly spread the virus, into the atmosphere. Children have ordinary colds, I sneeze whenever I go in to bright sunshine....

A google search will take you to various sites on how to make one but the one I used was

<http://bit.ly/2UiMkTk>

You need three layers of cotton fabric, a decorative one for the front, a different one so that you know which is the inside and a closely woven fabric for the centre. I used a piece of high thread count cotton sheeting but flannel will also do.

Large 7" x 10"

Med 6" x 9"

Small 5" x 7"

The adult ones can have a piece of elastic which hooks over the ears. I made mine 7" which was a little bit big for me but everyone has a different sized head so they may need a tuck in them to make them snug. For a small child you can make four ties from strips 1 1/2" wide.

I also inserted a piece of plastic coated garden wire (with the ends turned over with pliers) across the top of the adult sized ones which can be squeezed to go over the nose. This is trapped in place by the top-stitching on the edges. (a pipecleaner might do the same job). I don't know how this will wash and maybe I should have made a slot so that it could be removed for washing. However....

These can only be worn once and should then be treated as if they are contaminated—as soon as you get home they should be immersed in boiling water and your hands thoroughly washed before touching anything else. Take them off your face by taking hold of one piece of elastic and easing them off.

If you want to take them off as you come out of the supermarket, for instance, they can be carefully dropped into a plastic bag which can then be sealed until you get home.

- Stich right sides together leaving a gap to turn through and trapping the elastic or ties into the sides.



- Turn through, close the gap and top stitch all the way round enclosing the wire if using.
- Make two pleats on each side and top stitch in place.

I found that the thickness of the layers was difficult for the machine to get through during the making of the pleats and had to stitch them by hand. This will depend upon your machine and the fabric used.

If you use a steam iron during the making up process this will sterilise the fabric to a certain degree.

Anyway, make of this what you will. I have made them for my grandchildren and have said that if nothing else they can be used for role-playing doctors and nurses!

This is what I have been up to lately -

This quilt was made for a little boy who was born in mid December (spot the Christmas tree) who loves animals.





A Double T block from the quilt I am working on now using Voysey fabrics from the V&A.



An amazing willow sculpture seen at Hilliers Gardens—it is about 10 feet tall.



My hand quilting project is nearly complete—a strippy quilt which is a traditional North Country design for a baby in Cumbria.

Yes, I should have taken Pat’s advice and used a frame!

Now send me some images of what you have been up to.....

Some reading recommendations -

I have just re-read **The Keeper of Lost Things** by Ruth Hogan.

Sunshine will bring a little bit of joy and the lovely cup of tea to cheer you up.

You always learn something when you read a Tracey Chevalier book—**A Single Thread** deals with 1930’s spinsterhood but also bellringing and needlepoint at Winchester cathedral.

Her classic book for quilters though is **The Last Runaway** which deals with American Slavery. I also enjoyed **At the Edge of the Orchard** which deals with plant hunting, trees and apple trees in particular.

Two of my other favourite authors are Kate Morton and Sarah Maine.....

Then of course there is Bev Allen.....

Have you been reading anything good??



Finally, a bit of Sprintime joy from my garden.

Take care everybody and I hope to see you all again soon.

Caroline

