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March 2022

# Market Square Quilters

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Refreshments	
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Facebook	Kirsty Gordon
Raffle	Gail Winter Rita Maton
Library	Caroline Ward

**WEBSITE** [www.marketsquarequilters.co.uk](http://www.marketsquarequilters.co.uk)

Also check the Facebook and Instagram sites which are kept updated with interesting snippets...

You will find the email addresses of the compilers in your diary card and they will be very grateful if you send them anything but please remember to acknowledge the work of any designers whose work you may have used to avoid copyright issues.

## News



This is the poster for our exhibition!

The April meeting will be ideas for hand stitching and also a Bring and Buy.

## March Meeting

There was another good turn out of members including some visitors and two returning members.

Julie from Thatcham spoke to us about a Platinum Jubilee project she is involved with to make a mixed media art piece which will include some textile work. There will be 45 scenes each 16" x 16" depicting events during the Queens reign. Anybody interested was asked to get in touch with her (she has joined MSQ but is not in the dairy card yet).

The business quickly moved on to the **exhibition...**

Linda passed around a list which will begin to give an idea of how many quilts members would be likely to hang and what size they would be. We will then be able to assess whether we need to borrow more stands.

Ideas were requested for a personality to open the exhibition: someone who might attract more visitors. Please get in touch with Geraldine if you have any thoughts on this.

Cat passed around a list of suggested contacts for publicity and advertising including where to site posters and flyers. If you are able to put up a poster in your area in a village hall, supermarket, post office etc. please let her know. Some advertising needs to be done six months in advance so that will be in mid-April.

The next exhibition committee meeting will be at Geraldine's house on Monday 11th April.

Sandra has volunteered to oversee the sales table.

There will be four traders: Village Fabrics, Purple Stitches, Running Chicken and Juberry.

## **Malvern Quilt Show**

Geraldine announced that the Club would subsidise the coach to Malvern on Friday May 13th (please note that is a different date to the one in your diary). The plan is for the coach to leave the Wharf at 8.30am and do a pick-up at Chieveley village hall. It will leave Malvern at 4pm.

The outing will be open to family and friends but they would need to pay the full amount of the coach and the entrance ticket. The cost is £7 for members over 60 and £25 for non-members. Teresa is collecting the money which can be paid by bank transfer if you get in touch with her. There are still plenty of seats on the coach.

Our charity raffle quilt will be on display at the show.

## Show and Tell

Gail showed us a quilt with a Willow Pattern theme which she has made as a special present for a friend who collects blue and white china.



Cat showed her latest quilt which has been made using Art Deco fabrics.



Tina had brought two quilted cushions on which she had worked a pattern using trapunto quilting.



Gill, who is new to quilting had completed her first quilt for her baby granddaughter. Congratulations on both fronts! She has been learning about quilting with Geraldine at Highclere.



Mary had completed some of the flower blocks for the BOM quilt (apologies, I did not get a photo of these).

Finally - Elena had made a bag which she was not going to show but I spotted it!



## Monthly meetings



## Hand quilting with Sue

Making a quilt from two layers of fabric with a layer of wadding between (a quilt sandwich) and using hand stitches to hold the layers together is the most traditional form of quilting.

This skill was almost lost in Britain by the end of the nineteenth century but the craft was continued mainly in Wales and in the north of England where distinctive designs became established.

In the late 20's and 30's there was a government backed initiative under the Rural Industries Bureau to revive quilting as a home industry. Whole cloth quilts were produced for the luxury London market but this all ended with the onset of the 2nd World War.

In the 1960's there was a revival of interest in patchwork and quilting influenced by work in America. By the 1970's specialist quilting shops began to open and the majority of work was created using sewing machines to piece fabrics.

Quilting by hand is a mindful activity which can be worked quietly in a social setting or whilst listening to the radio. Many quilters like to have a hand stitched piece of work on the go as well as another being busily pieced on a machine.

Sue has been discovering the tools and methods for hand quilting whilst preparing the demonstration for the group.

We were first shown a quilting hoop which is not essential but does help to keep the stitches even. The hoop differs from one for embroidery in that it has a wider opening to accommodate the thicker fabric. The fabric does not need to be taut—the tension has been described as comfy enough for a cat to sleep on!

The **stitching** is begun by pulling the knot through one layer of fabric so that it is lost between the layers.

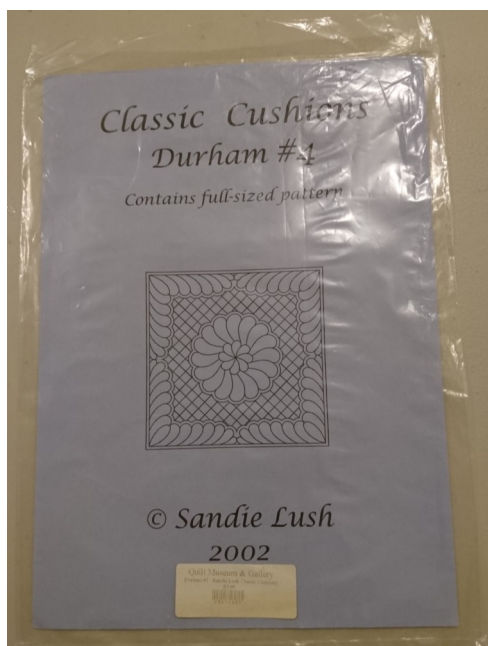
It is more important to keep the stitches an even size than it is to keep them tiny. Stitches can be worked one at a time or in a run of three or four on the needle. This will depend upon the thickness of the sandwich, the length of the needle and the desired effect of the stitches.

The length of the thread should be about 15" and can be finished with either a backstitch or a knot which is pulled between the layers as before.

The pattern to be stitched is **marked** on the top surface of the fabric. There are many ways of doing this...

Using a paper pattern and a lightbox (which is not expensive and very useful), or a window, the pattern is traced on the top layer before the sandwich is made. This would be the method to use for a wholecloth cushion or a smaller piece.

A **wholecloth** quilt is where the top layer is one piece of fabric and the quilted design creates the pattern as in Durham quilting.



A larger quilt would be marked using stencils either before or after making the sandwich. These can be purchased plastic sheets with perforated lines through which to draw the design or can be objects found round the home such as pastry cutters. Traditionally coins and fingers were used.

Of course any design can be stitched and Sue suggested taking bold designs from children's colouring books or finding images online which can then be enlarged or reduced to fit the work.

The marks can be made in various ways. A fine hard pencil is the most traditional with any lines which still remain after working being washed off. A sliver of soap has a fine edge which can also be used.

A FriXion pen which can be removed by ironing is a modern method but should be used with caution. If used on a dark fabric then a 'ghost' can be left on the fabric. To avoid this be careful about only drawing the actual line that you will be stitching and then it will not be seen.

Also be careful not to pick up an ordinary biro by mistake!!



**Needles** should be 'betweens' or quilting needles. Some needles sold for quilting are very short and fine so it is a matter of preference which you use. The ones you can work with most evenly.

There are quilting **thimbles** to protect your fingers. One method is to have a thimble with a rim on it underneath the work to help to push the needle back through and an ordinary thimble on top.

I use an adhesive Thimble Dot on the end of my finger.



There are hand quilting threads on sale which use a long staple yarn so are stronger than ordinary sewing threads. When doing a wholecloth design it is effective to use a thread which is a tone darker than the fabric so that it shows up or to use a variegated thread.



However, many other threads can be used depending upon the desired effect. Three strands of embroidery thread, perle or a thick silk can all be used. Some people run their thread over a pad of beeswax to make it easier to pull through the fabric but this is not generally necessary.

So, there are no hard and fast rules, it is all down to personal preference and experimentation.



*The quilt above was first machine quilted in the ditch. Different sizes of embroidery hoops were used to mark the circles which are stitched with a thick yellow embroidery thread by hand. The borders were marked using a plastic stencil and a Frixion pen before stitching.*

Traditionally a group of women, men and even children would set up a large frame with the quilt stretched on it and work together to complete a quilt. Communities would get together to help each other—in America this became known as a Quilting Bee. This could be a way of supporting a poor widow to finish a quilt which she could then sell to support her family.



Hand quilting using a hoop. There are floor standing hoops, table top hoops etc. If you really get the bug and want to invest.....

There are many resources available about the history of quilting through the Quilters Guild, museum collections at York, Beamish and the American Museum in Bath etc. There are also books in our library if anybody would like me to bring them to a meeting.



### **By-the-By**

My five year old grandson came out of school with this cushion last week —I am very proud of him....

but also very pleased with the school for teaching sewing to such a young age group.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Wantage Museum**

Apr 4th—9th

King Alfred's Quilters exhibition

### **Abingdon Quilt Exhibition**

Apr 9th—10th

The Manor Prep School Shippon

### **Whitchurch Needlework Sale**

Apr 9th 10am—4pm entry free

All Hallows Church RG28 7AS

A Bring and Buy Sale of all sewing, knitting, embroidery, patchwork etc. items.

Janet's fabrics for all things sewing will also be there.

### **Fashion and Textile Museum London**

Apr 1st—Sept 4th

150 years of the Royal School of Needlework

### **Welsh Quilt Centre Lampeter**

Re-opening 19th March with a new exhibition

### **Contemporary Quilters Group**

May 24th—June 7th

Willesden Gallery London NW10 2SF

20th Anniversary exhibition

## **Local Suppliers**

Please check our local suppliers for any sales and workshops coming up

Andover —[www.quiltersdream.co.uk](http://www.quiltersdream.co.uk)

- [www.newthreads.com](http://www.newthreads.com)

Basingstoke —[www.purple-stitches.com](http://www.purple-stitches.com)

Wallingford - [www.villagefabrics.co.uk](http://www.villagefabrics.co.uk)

Henley - [www.ladysewandsew.com](http://www.ladysewandsew.com)

Great Shefford—[lornehillquilts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lornehillquilts@yahoo.co.uk)

### **MSQ website**

Cat will be keeping our website updated. There will be a link to the newsletter (which is why I am not including surnames or contact details within it but you have them in your club diary) If you would like her to post anything else of interest please send her a photo and some details by email.

### **Facebook**

Kirsty has taken over the role of updating our Facebook page from Sue D. Please send her items which can be included.

If you have not already found this then you need to sign up to Facebook and then do a search for market square quilters. You can request to join the group and Kirsty will let you in.

She is also going to update Instagram for us.

### **Long Arm Quilting**

One of our new members, Nicole, has a long arm quilter and she is willing to finish quilts for other people.

She has asked me to include her contact details if you are interested

[www.nicolerolloquilting.co.uk](http://www.nicolerolloquilting.co.uk)

### **Sewing Sisters**

This is a group of MSQ member who meet on the second Thursday of each month at St. Mary's church hall in Greenham from 10am — 3pm. You are welcome to join them, bring some sewing and some lunch and have a chat with fellow quilters. Drinks and biscuits are provided.

### **The Castle School**

This group which met on the first Monday evening of each month has now ceased. The library is still there at the moment so please ask me if there is any subject you are interested in. I will bring a list of books to each meeting.