



Number 163

Summer 2024

Market Square Quilters

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Information: www.marketsquarequilters.com.

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.

Next Meeting

July 24th will include a reminder on how to use the Appliquick method of creating applique which enables fine details to be achieved.

Workshops

The next Saturday workshop is on October 12th and it will introduce the creative methods of Kate Findlay.

Check out her work at— [ww.artsfindlay.co.uk](http://www.artsfindlay.co.uk)

Next year in March there will be a workshop with Christine Green, the quilter who recently talked to us about using recycled materials. There are only 12 places available and a sign up sheet will be going out soon.

NEC trip 2nd August—please confirm with Sue where you would like to be picked up, Newbury or Chieveley.

Sewing Sisters

Thursday July 11th, Aug 8th, Sept 5th at St Mary's Hall Greenham RG19 8RZ

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.

Newsletters

Now that the website is well established, information is being duplicated so in the future the Show and Tell photographs will be found on marketsquarequilters.co.uk.

These newsletters will be a review of past workshops, meetings and a reminder of those coming up.

Also What's On information

April Meeting

Sue read out an email from a very grateful Mum regarding the premie quilt she had been given at N H hospital. There were 13 new quilts donated at the meeting.

Sue also had an email offering a quantity of fabric. This was displayed and donations for charity were asked for. Much of it was large pieces of jersey knit so not suitable for quilting but very good for dressmaking.

There followed a discussion on Gizmos and Gadgets which members found useful, or otherwise. The list was sent out to everybody but it may be of future interest in the newsletter....

- A rotating cutting mat for squaring up blocks but get one that does not come in two pieces.
- A Stripology ruler for squaring up blocks
- A label on your scissors saying 'fabric only'
- A KwikKlip lever to undo safety pins when used for basting.
- A small roller to press seams which saves getting out the iron
- Inkjet fabric sheets for printing labels
- A needle threader
- Forceps for catching and pulling through threads.

- Self threading needles with a gap in the top are useful for pulling through thread ends.
- A wool pressing mat which holds the heat.
- Grips to stick on the back or rulers to stop them slipping.
- A stitch-unpicker with a built in magnifying glass and light.
- Micro serrated scissors to prevent frayed edges, Tonic by Jim Holte.
- Fusible web with printed squares helps with accuracy when cutting small pieces for bonding.
- Pieces of shelf-lining to grip work when quilting rather than quilting gloves.

Not recommended

- Cri-cut or Sissix electric cutting machines. The cutters are expensive and limiting.
- Beware of using the markings on the cutting mat to measure accurately as these distort with time. The plastic cutting rulers remain stable.

Several people had clips and rulers which they had never actually used.....

Malvern Quilt Show

After a delayed start waiting for the bus to arrive in Newbury we arrived at the showground in good time. There was alarm from some not to see the usual coffee stand outside but it was a warm day so there was plenty of outside space at the café at the main building for us all.

For some it was their first major quilt show and for others it was good to find the usual stalls in the usual places but with some changes in stallholders to provide new ideas.

The quilts were displayed in a marquee and our Coronation Quilt was hung in the group section. It did not win any recognition but there was pride in seeing it on display. The group quilt which was first had already won accolades at the Festival of Quilts last year (Sunbonnet Sue) and the one which came second showed a variety of techniques in bright spring greens and yellows. It was by Exe Valley Contemporary Quilt Group



There was so much originality and skill on show but I think quite a few were taken with this achievable paper pieced bed quilt with simple embroidery on it. I'm afraid I did not get the maker.



Having been through the process of submitting a quilt I hope that other members will consider showing theirs in future years. I was wary of posting the Coronation Quilt so I drove to Malvern on the Tuesday to drop it off and was impressed with how smoothly this went but Grosvenor Shows have been doing this a few years now. My sister lives nearby so I met up for lunch with her in the Malvern Hills.

I travelled on the coach on Friday with the group and was able to enjoy the show as it was not too busy and it was a nice enough day to sit outside for lunch.

I then drove back to my sister's on Saturday and stayed overnight ready to pick up the quilt after the show on Sunday. I had been given a ticket when I submitted the quilt so I was able to look round once again on Sunday afternoon when it was even more quiet and the stallholders were having to be reminded not to pack away until all the paying visitors had gone. I may have purchased one or two bits which I had resisted on Friday!

The only hiccup came when collecting as they could not start taking down until 4pm. Two men with stepladders began at one end of the marquee but unfortunately our quilt was right at the other end so I had to wait a good hour until I could get on the road home. I would say that about half of the quilts were collected by their makers.

The quilt will now go to West Berkshire Museum as a commemorative and community project along with a history of our group.



May Meeting

This was an informal evening with time to socialise.

Cat gave us a re-cap on the Block of the Month project and helped anybody who was struggling.

Two members showed us completed long term projects—Pat B had hand quilted a blue and white pieced millennium quilt which included some fabric with 2000 printed on it.

Linda showed a quilt which she made for her husbands birthday which had appliques of garden birds which she had designed herself. (photos on website)

Julia Gahagan Workshop

Some of the completed miniature quilts



In June this very enjoyable and well organised workshop was held at Chieveley .

Julia specialises in landscape miniature quilts and she has developed a technique where she secures the applique pieces with a layer of fine net before quilting to hold them in place. She calls this Shadow Applique.

She began by talking us through the process and sending us off to make a practice piece. We could then choose one of her many designs and use our own choice of fabrics. Most people made good progress and had a picture well on the way to completion by the end of the day.

Use an ultra thin wadding—Hobbs Thermore

Use a polyester tulle or wedding net

Use a glue pen sparingly—Sewline

Free motion quilt through the layers (a walking foot is not needed) or stitch in wavy lines from side to side.

Use an open toed foot so you can see where to stitch.

Use a 70/80 needle.

Use a smaller stitch to keep it miniature.

Use a finer thread—Aurifil 80

Use a pigma pen to put in details such as windows but trial it first to make sure it does not run on the fabric.

If the work needs pressing do this from the back or the net will melt!

Bind with a single layer of fabric in four pieces cut 1 1/4" wide.

Demonstrations and supplies can be found online

www.juliagahagan.co.uk

www.etsy.com/shop/juliagahagan

The Antique Textiles Company

There was a pop-up shop at Malverleys at East End recently where Christopher Wilson-Tate brought a large collection of good quality antique quilts for sale.

He has a shop
in Abbey Road,
London and advertises
on Instagram
and Facebook



June Meeting

We had a visit from Yvonne from Village Fabrics. She spent 22 years at the shop in Wallingford but she has now moved the business to a new shop at Inkberrow in Worcestershire where her daughter has joined her in the business.

She gave us a talk about needles, threads and waddings. She reinforced basic information but also gave tips which were new to me at least.

Some of her recommendations were:-

Change the needle after 8hrs of sewing whether hand or machine.

Stitching through wadding blunts needles so it is a good idea to have a separate rotary blade or scissors for wadding.

Buy good quality thread. Cheaper thread creates dust and fluff which blocks up the machine. Also old threads dry out and become brittle.

Sashiko should be done with speciality thread such as Clover and a needle designed for handstitching.

Red work is best worked with cotton a broder as it is twisted so stays together better than stranded embroidery thread.

Use a natural thread to stitch a natural fabric.

Standard weight thread is 50

When quilting you want your stitches to show so a 40 or 30 weight is better. She recommends a 40 weight on top and a 50 weight in the bobbin when machine quilting.

King Tut threads are round in cross section and sit better on the surface of the work than others which are flat.

Hand quilting thread is stronger and it is easier to pull through the layers of the quilt.

Spools of thread can be wound in different ways, some are stacked and others cross wound. A stacked bobbin should be placed on an upright spindle on top of the machine or else it will twist and break more easily. A cross wound should be placed horizontally.

Variegated threads can differ i.e. King Tut which changes every inch and YLI in which the colour meanders about every four inches.

Different machines work best with different threads. Hard to say why.

Metallic threads are hard to work with as they tend to break easily. Use a Mictotex needle which has a Teflon coated eye, stitch slowly and hope for the best! Try using rayon threads instead which have a natural sheen but use a cotton thread in the bobbin.

Hand applique should be stitched with a 100wt silk thread or a fine cotton e.g. 60w Mettler.

EPP—use a 60 or 100wt thread to give a flatter seam.

Before beginning to machine quilt ...

- Put in a new needle
- Try out the thread
- Use a walking foot
- Loosen the foot pressure if necessary
- Increase the stitch length slightly
- Take the weight of the quilt on a table or ironing board next to the machine.

Needles

- Machine needles—the higher the number the thicker the needle.
- Hand needles—the higher the number the finer the needle!!
- Size 90 is recommended for machine quilting—there is a groove down the front of the needle which the thread lays in and this protects the thread as it goes through the layers.
- Embroidery machine needles have a teardrop shaped eye and rayon threads are recommended.
- A top-stitch needle should be used for stitching canvas i.e. when used as a base for creative stitching.
- A ball point needle should be used for jersey as the blunt end parts the threads rather than piercing them.
- A black-gold needle by Clover is good for hand applique.

At the end of the day Yvonne advised that you do what works for you. She gave the example of hand quilting needles which are very short and many people cannot get on with them. She uses an embroidery needle.

She is happy to advise if you contact her. The phone number for Village Fabrics has remained the same.

01491 204100

www.villagefabrics.co.uk

She has a weekly Facebook Live on a Tuesday morning at 11am.

Village Fabrics, Stockwood Business Park, Inkberrow B96 6SX

MSQ business

Members of the group have made 43 premmie quilts and 17 Linus quilts since January. Well done!

Next year will be 25 years since the group was formed. It was suggested that we have a celebration at the Summer Social and invite past members to come along. If you have any other ideas please let us know.

Committee/AGM

There will be positions available on the committee at the next AGM in October. Please consider whether you could take on a role.

Sue needs to stand down as Chair and Teresa did state that she would be standing down as Treasurer at the last AGM.

If other members came forward before the AGM then there could be a handover period to ease the transition.

Please get in touch with Sue or Teresa.

I would also be very pleased if somebody would take over the newsletter. If it is felt that it is no longer needed then all the information could be sent out via the website and WhatsApp instead....

Forthcoming Events

Region 6

13th July Regional Day in Abingdon 10.30—15.45

Talk by Deb Mc Guire from the QG—'What Old Quilts Can Tell Us'

19th October Regional Day.

A talk by the Contemporary Quilt Group

There is a Linus challenge to produce a 40x40" or 45x60" quilt with a sapphire theme. The last date for submissions is at this event. Look online for an entry form if you would like to take part. (I have 3 spares)

A programme of cocktail and coffee online social chats and zoom talks.

Quilters Guild

The International Festival of Quilts is from 1st—4th August at the NEC.

The Guild was formed 45 years ago so there is a Sapphire theme.

National Needlework Archive

There is an exhibition of the work of well known quilter Kate Dowty

The Base Greenham

A tapestry exhibition by innovative textile artist Alastair Duncan.

Some of the work makes noises i.e. birdsong as you touch the work.

Shaw House

Summer Fair July 21st has a range of craft stalls

West Berkshire Museum

Exhibitions by past local artists Marjorie Heather and Christopher Hall show many local scenes.

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Weavers of Whitchurch exhibition to Sept 1st.

Weftival July 5th and 6th

Fashion and Textile Museum London

Now—8th September The Biba Story 1964—1975

Royal School of Needlework

It is worth checking this programme of events and workshops if you enjoy other forms of needlecraft.

Local Suppliers

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

Andover — www.newthreads.com

Basingstoke — www.purple-stitches.com

- www.villagefabrics.co.uk

Now at Stockwood Business Park, Inkberrow, Worcs.

Henley - www.ladysewandsew.com

Summer Sale starts 29th June

Great Shefford—lornehillquilts@yahoo.co.uk

Long arm quilting -www.nicoleroquoilting.co.uk

- New Threads, Andover.

Textile courses and workshops

Many of the above shops also do courses. Lady Sew and Sew has just advertised some new ones.

These are some other ones I saw in the Reg 3 magazine

InStitches—Wokingham

www.InStitchestextileCourses.co.uk

Sewcreative—Petersfield

www.sewcreative.org.uk

