



Number 164

Autumn 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

October 23rd will be the AGM. Most of the committee is staying the same but Teresa is standing down as Treasurer and Sue will no longer be organising the programme.

Sue has compiled and emailed a questionnaire to gather thoughts and opinions about the future of the group. Please send this back to her before the 7th October when the next committee meeting will be held. The results will be discussed at the AGM. A form has also been sent out to update personal details. Please complete asap, even if nothing has changed!

Sewing Sisters

Thursday Oct 10th, Nov 14th, Dec 12th 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.

Workshops

The next Saturday workshop is on October 12th. Kate Findlay has unfortunately cancelled but she has been rebooked for November next year.

Consequently this will be a day for catching up on your own work and for any guidance needed with the Block of the Month. There is plenty of space at Chieveley Village Hall and room for bringing your machine. Just bring some lunch—and a mug if you want anything bigger than a teacup! Please let Sue or Teresa know you are coming if you have not already put your name on the list.

Newsletters

This will be the final newsletter in this format. All the news will now be on the website as Cat has volunteered to take on this role.



Signing off (I am standing by a quilt at The American Museum in Bath which has a large collection if you have never been)



July Meeting

Unfortunately I missed this meeting but Gail and Rita gave a skilful demonstration of the Appliquick method of folded edge applique. They had some very impressive examples of things which they had made using this method.

August Meeting

This was our Summer Social but before we got started on the delicious variety of foods which members had contributed we had an interesting talk on African fabrics.

Shweshwe

Trish Grammer sells her fabric through Fabrica Trading Station based near Elstead in Surrey. She is from South Africa and she markets a type of fabric from the Eastern Cape which is called shweshwe. The fabric producers are the biggest employers in the area.

This cotton printed fabric has small designs on brightly coloured backgrounds and is suitable for dressmaking and for quilted projects. The designs are copyrighted. It has a stiff glazed finish but this is just to protect the fabric during transit. This is made of potato/wheat starch which has to be washed out before use.

Trish had a stall of fabrics for sale, both fat quarters, skirt panels and metre lengths. She was also selling ceramic buttons made by hand in Africa.

To find out more go to

www.fabricatradingstation.com



Jan H bought a length of fabric and made this very neat blouse.

Anthea modelled an asymmetric jacket she had made which included a panel of Seminole piecing.

Very clever....



September Meeting

After the business and notices we were given an interesting talk by local crafter Jenny Curry. She is starting a business teaching sewing skills and how to use a sewing machine along with her friend Clare (whose day job is an archaeologist)

She had set up a display of haberdashery which she was selling off at bargain prices. She had a dream plan to open a haberdashery shop and workshop but this was all scuppered by Covid.

Never one to be defeated she has embarked on the next scheme which is teaching crafting skills. She told us a little of her journey...

After school she did a two year Art and Design course at Newbury College; a HND craft course in South Devon; a BA Designer/ Maker course at Exeter—then set about earning some money. She found a job at the Albert Museum in Exeter leading play activities but then decided to move back to Newbury.

She got an admin job at St Bartholemew's School where she met Clare; she got a Museum Assistant job at West Berkshire Museum leading play activities but then the museum closed for redevelopment. Having bills to pay she took an admin job at Thatcham Town Council where she worked for nine years. Meanwhile she was a Brownie Leader, she made re-enactment costumes for the Sealed Knot Civil War group, she joined a lace-making group.....

The plan of opening a shop now began to make progress and she found premises in Thatcham. Helped by her Mum who was a keen knitter and with her own interest in crochet she built up stock. Unfortunately this was in 2019 shortly before Covid struck.

Once life had returned to 'normal' she found she was unable to take on another lease and consequently she was now selling off her stock.

Undaunted, she took on work as an independent parish clerk to pay the bills and she is now embarking on teaching from home.

She has also organised some De-Stash Fairs for general craft and the next one will be at St Nicholas Hall in Newbury on the 12th October.



Christmas Challenge

Although it seems far too early to be thinking about Christmas, there is a reason....

The challenge was to make a premmie quilt which could be given to the babies at North Hampshire Hospital who are to be born over the Christmas period. As it takes a while for these to be washed and delivered to the maternity unit, they were requested early. Any more quilts can be brought to the next meeting as there will still be time.

Amazingly 27 quilts were handed in! Well done to the makers.



The pile of quilts



and one which is perfect for the baby unit!

Competition

RSPB Pagham harbour are holding a mini quilt competition. Money is raised by paying an entry fee and entries can be made up to March next year (I think).

To find out more go to

rspb.org.uk/paghamharbour

Festival of Quilts

Many thanks to the committee for organising another coach trip to the NEC. There is never enough time to see everything in a day but a coach does make it easy to get there and back. Some members were there for two or even three days so that they could do talks and workshops too.

One of the special displays was by the Modern Group of the QG. This was celebrating its tenth anniversary and they had been given a challenge Tin for Ten to make a small quilt with their interpretation of the theme. There was a huge variety and some of our members contributed.



We were asked to choose our favourite and I was surprised that the one I chose was the overall favourite...



Amongst the beautiful quilts I was most surprised by the section called StitchPunkthis mannequin includes many



items of sewing equipment including lace bobbins and crochet hooks.

Region 6 Summer Gathering

This was held on 13th July at The Barn, Abingdon.

The venue was a very comfortable and modern barn conversion on the outskirts of Abingdon (found with the aid of a satnav). Although primarily for Quilters Guild members others can attend and there will be another one on 19th October.

There was a talk by historian Deborah McGuire who writes articles for the QG magazine. She studies the stories of old quilts—trying to find the emotional stories behind them and their makers. She has also made modern versions of some of the old quilts, applique, hand quilting, strippys etc. She is trying to encourage the use of a large quilting frame for hand quilting and also to bring back the quilting bee where friends get together to help each other do the stitching.



After lunch there was a chance to examine old quilts from a QG suitcase collection. It happened to be the same selection which we saw last year i.e. some hexies with the ancient papers still inside, some made from silk dressmaking scraps etc.



Samples of hand quilting where the stitched patterns overlap the panels. This is not uncommon and sometimes it is because the quilt has a best and an everyday side.

Forthcoming Events

De-Stash Market at St Nicholas Church hall, Newbury
10am—3pm Sat 12th October

Crafting supply bargains from those wanting to reduce their stash. If you are tempted to take part contact www.brownpaperloves.co.uk

Region 6 Quilters Guild

19th October Regional Day in Abingdon.

A talk about the Contemporary Quilt Group by Sarah Hibbert with a workshop on concertina scrap books.

24th October in Lower Earley—workshop for making Linus quilts

Henley Old Fire Station

24th—29th October exhibition by InStitches textiles.

Creative Journeys

Didcot Cornerstone Centre

4th Nov—3rd Jan

Advanced Textiles exhibition

National Needlework Archive Greenham

Now—21st Nov Nations of the World in Stitch

Exhibition of stitched postcards from the 2012 Olympics

The Base Greenham

10th October—talk by Amanda Hislop, textile artist

26th October—workshop with Amanda Hislop

Winter Craft Fair 23/24th November

Shaw House

Christmas Fair Sunday 1st December

Newbury Library

Nov 7—12th **Newbury Bobtails** Lace and Craft exhibition in the Carnegie Room. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary

Pitt Rivers Museum Oxford

Quilting the Hawaiian Landscape—an exhibition about Hawaiian quilts. On until next Spring

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

Great Shefford—lornehillquilts@yahoo.co.uk

Long arm quilting -www.nicolerolloquilting.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