Welcome to the newsletter for Spring. A particularly warm welcome to our new members. It is good that the club is continuing to grow in numbers. The enthusiasm for our craft doesn’t diminish that’s for sure. It’s a lovely sunny day as I write this and a harbinger of better weather to come as we move towards the warmer months. One advantage of winter is that it keeps us indoors and gives us the excuse to sew. Not that most of us need an excuse! In this issue you can read about a few of the places and courses some of our members have experienced in the last three months, as well as read about some upcoming commercial and other events. I am grateful to members who have taken the time to write short reviews and articles for the newsletter. Thank you all very much. I am only the editor, so I am relying on you to provide me with anything sewing-related you think might interest members. I am happy to receive book, notions or website reviews too. Perhaps our trip to the Malverns in May might provide inspiration?

Committee Members:

Chairperson: Teresa C

Treasurer: Jane S

Secretary: Linda B

Membership: Ena B

Programme Organiser & Trips: Sally P/Teresa C

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Spring 2025

Number 166

Market Square Quilters Newsletter

Cat N

# Club Meetings

Brief reports of the meetings and photographs of quilts can be found on the website, along with photographs of the quilts shown in Show and Tell.

The Next Workshop

Christine Green’s workshop is taking place at the end of March and a report of this will be included in the next newsletter (as long as someone is kind enough to provide one).

**Coming up on club nights:**

**April’s meeting on the 23rd.** A representative from Region 6 will be giving a talk about the Quilters’ Guild. Also, a lady called Shirley Williamson will be at the meeting to sell off her stash, as she is giving up patchwork and quilting. She will be offering fabric at £3 a metre as well as jelly rolls and other items. Please bring cash to the meeting if you want to take the opportunity to bag some bargains for your own stash.

**May’s meeting on the 28th**. This meeting will be devoted to Modern Quilts. If you have ever wondered what was the difference between Contemporary Quilts and Modern Quilts (two separate categories at the Festival of Quilts) I am sure you will be enlightened, as well as learn some of the ways to make a quilt which can be labelled “Modern”.

**June’s meeting on the 25th.** At this meeting, we will be discussing and hopefully showing some of the methods called “Quilt as you go”. For quilters who do not have a long arm and want to do their own quilting, this technique allows for a large quilt to be quilted in sections and then joined together. As anyone knows who has tried (including me), trying to wrestle a large quilt under a domestic sewing machine is well nigh impossible.

**Workshop coming up this Spring**

On Saturday 28th June we will be running a workshop with Julie from Juberry. Julie used to own the quilting shop in Chievely which was very much missed when she moved to Wales several years ago. What we will be making in this workshop is yet to be finalised, but I am sure it will be good. Look out for Juberry on Hochanda sewing channel as well as at The Malverns. There will be further details of this workshop as well as the opportunity to sign up at a forthcoming meeting.

The Stitch Festival March 2025

Last Saturday I spent a very good day visiting The Stitch Festival, at The Design Centre in Islington.

I have enjoyed seeing Sarah Becvar's free machine work for quite a while. She does do workshops, but in Sussex, so when I saw she was doing a short 2hr workshop at the Stitch Festival, it was an opportunity too good to miss! We were shown how to sew her flower cards, the fabric being sewn freehand onto the card. Sarah provided everything, including excellent tuition, and I think all the ladies left with finished cards and heads full of ideas!!

The Stitch Festival is well worth the trip up to London. The variety of traders is impressive and choices of dressmaking fabric stalls amazing! Only one or two Quilting traders, but a lot of small independent stalls selling things you never knew you wanted!! I did treat myself to a wall hung wooden cotton reel holder, made by a lady from Cornwall, whose workshop is an old barn in the middle of nowhere!

I'm not quite up to going into card production but here are pictures of my efforts, so far!A group of cards with flowers

Description automatically generated

Heather M

**A to Z of Quilting with Bethanne Nemesh**

Although I have been quilting for many years, I only joined the Quilters’ Guild this year. I have been taking advantage of the online talks which the Guild offers which, usually priced at £8, are very good value for money. The talk by Bethanne Nemesh, an American quilter, was a bit more expensive at £20, but worked out as a good deal at over 3 hours. I was away when the talk was broadcast live but the Guild gives access to a recording for 4 weeks afterwards, so I was abler to watch at my leisure.

Bethanne’s demonstration was about how to free motion quilt using erasable guidelines. She usually draws her guidelines using a white chalk Bohin pencil (refillable). She showed us 26 designs, each inspired by a letter of the alphabet. For example, her first design was A for accordion. She drew radiating lines from a corner and used them as guide for curved lines of quilting giving a hills and valleys effect. The red lines would be erased in the quilt, leaving just the stitching.

A drawing of a rainbow

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Another example was E for eye. Here, Bethanne drew 2 lines crossing and filled in an eye shape. She also showed us how to vary the inside of the ovals to make the design our own. Like all her designs, she quilts a continuous line, travelling up the sides of a shape where necessary.

A drawing of a circle

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Bethanne uses Procreate on her IPad, which reminded me that many years ago I bought this program. I thought it might be good for drawing out designs rather than using paper and pen so I taught myself the basics using Youtube videos. I think this is something I will find useful in the future and I would not have discovered it /remembered that I had it without Bethanne’s presentation. Here is a screenshot of D for daisy drawn out on the IPad.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Bethanne’s website is <https://whitearborquilting.com/>. She has a gallery of quilts as well as various quilting demos. Worth a look.

Cat N

March 2025

**The Longest Yarn**

This touring exhibition of knitting and crochet was made to commemorate the D-Day landings of 6th June 2024. It was inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry and by the yarn bombing and toppers which the creator had seen in the UK. It was adopted as an official 80th anniversary event and was first seen at Notre Dame. It is 80m long and shown 80 years after the 80 day battle which led to the liberation of Paris in 1944.

Tansy Forster lives in Houesville in France and when she appealed for people to help her create it she had responses from all over the world.

A glass case with a toy

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Description automatically generated

It comprises 80 dioramas each 1m long and 50cm wide. These are historically accurate and based upon real events from photographs and film, including the stories of some of the veterans. Each is in a transparent Plexiglass case and has a metal travelling trunk which also acts as a stand. This keeps the work clean, stable and easily transportable.

The details achieved through the use of varied stitches and colours of yarn are very clever – the sand in France is different to the pebbles on the English beach: the sea conditions are achieved with colour and scale, the bricks and roof tiles are distinctive; there are apples on trees and vegetables growing in gardens; dead cows; ambulances and tanks and landing craft and guns and bombed buildings……

A knitted toy in a glass case

Description automatically generatedA hat on a rug

Description automatically generated

I heard about the exhibition from MSQ member Sue Lasslett who had seen it in Stoke. It is currently at Peterborough cathedral until the end of the month and then going to New Jersey USA. However, The Longest Yarn 2 which covers just Britain at War is in development and touring the UK. The nearest venue will be Gosport Museum and Art Gallery in May but the aim is to have the full 80 stories completed to show at Southwell Minster at the end of the year. So, if you are out and about over the summer it is worth checking to see where it is showing. It is free to enter and donations are requested.

Caroline

**To whet your appetite here is some information about Vendulka Battais, who will be running a workshop for us in 2026.**



**Finally, here is some information and some flyers about forthcoming exhibitions and events related to sewing:**

|  |
| --- |
| **A poster for a fiesta  Description automatically generated** |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Fashion and Textile Museum, 83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF**  **New Exhibition Opens Friday!** | | |  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | a close up of a garment with buttons, tassels, shells and embroidery | | |  | | --- | | Copyright ©2005-2012 The Regents of the University of California, Davis campus. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. | | | |  | | --- | | Through the beauty of textiles, you will encounter human ingenuity that can be traced from pre-history to our digital age.  Textiles reveal the human desire to engage with texture and colour, record histories, thoughts and feelings, and preserve skills to hand down generations. Across the globe, they carry sacred significance, express our cultural regard for animals, while other’s symbolise life’s mysteries.  This exhibition brings together a vibrant collection of exquisite and unexpected objects from around the world that tell stories, communicate human individuality, celebrate collaboration and explore ideas of sustainability. With many works drawn from the Jo Ann C. Stabb Design Collection, from the University of California Davis, this is a unique opportunity to see a stunning range of items never before exhibited in the UK.  Exploring how craft and creativity connects society, Textiles: The Art of Mankind shows us that textiles are fundamentally intertwined with the story of humanity and continue to remain relevant today.  **Textiles: The Art of Mankind opens Friday 28 March 2025.** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | --- | | **Curator Tour** | | | embroidery of colourful birds | | |  | | --- | | Copyright ©2005-2012 The Regents of the University of California, Davis campus. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission. | | | |  | | --- | | Enjoy a private tour of Textiles: The Art of Mankind with exhibition curator and textile expert Mary Schoeser. Mary will be joined by Adele Zhang, Collection Manager of the Jo Ann C. Stabb Design Collection at the Department of Design at University of California Davis, where many of the objects on display have travelled from.  This new exhibition celebrates the ancient and deep entanglement between textiles, people and our world. See the exhibition before anyone else and learn more about the stunning textiles on display on this exclusive tour!  **Friday 28 March 2025, 10.00** | | | |  | | --- | | **Workshops** | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | silk painting of rooftops in Antigua, trees and mountains can be seen in the distance | | |  | | --- | | **Silk Painting**  An introduction to the techniques of painting on silk and a master class in how to apply colour and create stunning designs.  **Tues 1 April, 10.45 - 16.30** | | |  | | |  | | --- | | hand-painted floral repeat pattern using watercolour | | |  | | --- | | **Hand-Painted Floral Repeat Patterns**  Learn to design stunning floral patterns using watercolours and seasonal blooms, from initial brushstrokes to mastering seamless repeats.  **Thur 3 April, 10.45 - 16.30** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | a painting on fabric of flowers in a vase | | |  | | --- | | **Fabric Painting - Introduction**  Spend a day learning how to hand paint on fabric, under the guidance and expertise of acclaimed textile designer Sarah Campbell.  **Fri 4 April, 10.45 - 16.30** | | | **The Quilters’ Guild** | | |  | | --- | | three dresses on mannequins in a display | | |  | | --- | | **Copy Your Clothes**  Learn the skills used by couture fashion houses to copy elements of historical garments without the need to pull them apart.  **Sat 5 April, 10.45 - 16.30** | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | |
| The Quilters' Guild has long been a source of education and friendship across the British Isles. We are an organisation powered by volunteers and loved by thousands.We come together as a diverse group of individuals where abilities and differences are celebrated, the one thing that unites us all is our devotion to stitched textiles and of course, our quilting community! |

The Guild is open to everyone with an interest in patchwork and quilting regardless of experience and skill, area of interest. Whether you are a beginner, an experienced quilter, textile artist, tutor or someone interested in the history and development of patchwork and quilting you are welcome to join us.

The Guild is a voluntary organisation with a small staff team. We are dependent on a host of volunteers to maintain and develop our activities both nationally and regionally. You can find out more about what is happening near you by visiting our regional pages or [searching for an event based on your location](https://www.quiltersguild.org.uk/events/whats-on-near-me).

The Quilters' Guild is the only UK charity dedicated to ensuring a vibrant quilting future. As an educational charity our aim is to enable members to develop their skills and explore new techniques and areas of interest. Our Special Interest Groups (SiGs) focus on contemporary, miniature, modern, and traditional techniques and are open to all members to join. The SiGs hold a mix of workshops and retreats with opportunities for members to exhibit. Join the Guild and join a group that specializes in your favourite style of quilting - or try something new. We have the resources that will help you broaden your interest and develop your skills.

The British Quilt Study Group researches all aspects of quilt making, historical and contemporary running seminars and study days. If you have wondered when fabrics became available or techniques fashionable or just the story behind a fabulous quilt this is the group for you.

We have a fantastic collection of quilted textiles both historic and modern that are exhibited, where opportunities allow, across the country. You can borrow a book from our extensive library or check out quilting stories in the Talking Quilts project.

Our shop reflects the items in our collection and features products like the Pattern Box series. This has been developed to provide an opportunity to learn a new technique set in a modern way based on a historic textile piece.

Whatever your interest you are most welcome to join us and join in our many activities.

Joining costs £57 per year.