

OAST POST

OAST QUILTERS' NEWSLETTER

Volume 13

www.oastquilters.co.uk

Number 2 – March 2011

TODAY'S MEETING EDWINA MACKINNON "THE STORY SO FAR"

Thank you to our hostesses:
Bear's Paw and Hop Pockets

Today's Traders: Clover Crafts & Curios,
Crossed Threads, Karry Dot Com, Maggie
Kingston and the Sewing Centre

The next meeting will be on:
Saturday 7th May 2010
Carolyn Forster will be giving a talk entitled:
"How I got here today"
Doors open at 2.00pm
Hostesses:

Over the years Carolyn's work has been featured in various British magazines including Popular Patchwork, Fabrications and Patchwork & Quilting Magazine. Quilts have appeared on the television; both here and in the US, and she has contributed to books published by New Holland and That Patchwork Place. She has had a quilt hung for the Clothworks display at Quilt Market in the US and recently designed projects for Makower fabrics. Her most recent endeavour has been to write the book, "Quilting-on-the-Go", based on one of her most popular classes. She lives in Tunbridge Wells, Kent with her husband Craig and their son, who is not short of quilts on a chill winter's night!

Reminder to Hostesses

The Hostesses for the next meeting must always remember to collect the catering box AND the tombola (there isn't the room at the school to store it). Hints for hostesses will be found in the Membership Pack of which all Group Representatives have a copy.

Current Finance

There is £4150 in the deposit account, £4889 in the current account and £121 cash in hand. The current account looks healthy because the membership fees have just been paid, but this gets whittled down during the year after we have paid the various expenses. We maintain monies in the deposit account to underwrite the Oast Showcase and offset unforeseen problems.

Apology

The Committee is very sorry indeed about the lack of a microphone at the AGM. This problem has been alerted to the school, and we sincerely hope this will not happen again. We know that this meant that some members could neither easily hear the AGM nor the explanations behind the "show and tell" – we are truly sorry, but hope you realise that this was beyond our control.

We did look (again) into the purchase of an amplification system of our own, but the sort of system which would be adequate for such a large hall would be too physically large and heavy to manage and store. On top of that, if it broke down, then we would have to arrange to have it mended. What we will look into purchasing, is a megaphone! This has the advantage of being light-weight and useful in case of an emergency (especially if the electricity wasn't working).

A New Secretary

The Oast Quilters' Committee is sad to say "goodbye" to Sheila Stojavljevic, the retiring Secretary to the committee – but bids a very warm welcome to Michelle Cooper, who replaces her. Michelle is a member of Ethelburga Quilters. You may also know her from behind the stall of the Fabric Fairy.

Independent Members + Information on email

Independent members of Oast Quilters (Oast Indies) get a copy of the minutes of Oast Quilters' Committee minutes by email – if they're on email! Liz Coleman (tries to!) look after the independent members – but lost her "group" email during a computer problem. If you're an independent member who uses email – and you didn't have an email from Liz in January – please email her at liz.coleman@virgin.net

If you're member affiliated to a group – but you'd like to be emailed with the information Liz sends to the independent members, please send Liz an email – it won't be a problem to add you to the list!

Bursary Winners

The lucky winners of the £100 bursary this year were; Cathy Northcutt,

They will be spending their money on something to extend their skills – and will be reporting back to Oast Quilters to tell us what they spent their money on. This is our opportunity to learn from their research and practice. We all gain something when a bursary is given to a member.

A Note from a Previous Bursary Winner

Brenda Williams, an independent member of Oast Quilters won a bursary – and she should have been letting us know what she spent it on today BUT – she's at the Eisteddfod performing Drama and can't be with us! She apologises for not being here in person and also for the delay (which has been due to personal problems) in informing us as to how much she has benefited from the bursary. She says;

"...Because I am an independent member of Oast Quilters I have purchased several books. They are as follows:

"Cut and Fold Quilting", "Making Scrap Quilts To Use It Up", "Layer Cake Jelly Roll and Charm Quilts", "Not your Grandmother's Log Cabin", "Japanese Folded Patchwork", "Machine Quilting" and "The Quilters' Ultimate Visual Guide". I have taken photos of items I have made. I borrowed a book from the local library which showed me how to make a small wall hanging entitled "Secret Garden Square". The method is SCHEREN-SCHNITTE (scissors cutting). I do use my sewing machine, but I do prefer to hand quilt – such great therapy. My next project is to teach myself "Cut and Fold Quilting". At the moment I am making a needle-case for the Eisteddfod on the 5th March. Once again, thank you." Brenda Williams.

Rotary Cutter Blades

During her very well attended "corner" in January Tracey Aplin recommended a rotary blade sharpening and replacement service; Sheba Blades. Your editor echoes Tracey's recommendation – Lawrence Dawe (aka "the Man from Rio") who is the person behind Sheba Blades is BRILLIANT. Sheba Blades advertise in the UK patchwork magazines and their website is: <http://www.riodesigns.co.uk/shebadetails.html>
Telephone: 01763 288234.

For the uninitiated, Sheba and Rio were Dawe-family cats. They're quite cat-conscious – you may be aware that the main part of the business is called The Contented Cat!

"In-house" Workshop, Saturday 24 March at Lower Hardres Village Hall, 10.00am – 4.00pm

This month's workshop where the tutor is one of our own members is "Patchwork Slippers", led by Liz Coleman. There's lots of information on the website, or pick up a leaflet from the members' notice board (which is in the right hand corner near the stage).

Oast Quilters' Challenge

We hope you will enjoy looking at the quilted items in the 2010 Challenge on display today. As you know, these should have been shown at the AGM in December – but with the weather being what it was, it was postponed until today. Don't forget to vote for your favourite. The theme for this year is "**Weddings**" (I wonder why?!).

The Library

We are glad that so many members make full use of the library. It is a marvellous free resource for members and our Librarians do an excellent job of keeping it up-to-date with all the best and latest titles.

Some of the newly published books come with patterns, but it has been reported that the patterns are becoming detached from the books and not returned when the books are. Without the relevant patterns the books themselves become pretty useless for others. If you have borrowed this sort of book recently, please will you check your shelves and sewing room to see if a pattern has slipped under something or fallen behind the shelf? We have asked for a list of books that this applies to so that we can jog memories.

Oast Membership

Membership of Oast Quilters is as popular as ever this year! We currently have a full list of 300 and a waiting list of about 6. Don't forget that THIS year, we are asking for membership fees by 1 November 2011 so that we can avoid the busy Christmas/New Year period when people might forget.

Have you a spare 6 minutes and 37 seconds?

Pay Hume has kindly recommended the following website:

www.nfb.ca/film/quilt/?ec=en20110209

Your Editor was positively mesmerised! It's a good stress buster after a long day. You'll need to have the sound on!

Charity Donations

In the last Oast Post we advised that the cheques to the five nominated charities had been sent to the charities by post since we were unable to present them in person at the AGM. We know that each cheque will make a welcome contribution to each charity's funds. It is with pleasure that the following "thank you notes" are reproduced:

Portage

Many thanks to you and all the Oast Quilters for your generous donation. The money will be spent on buying new toys and equipment for all the children visited in Kent Portage East service. This is much appreciated by all the Portage team. Best Wishes, Sue Lappage, Kent Portage East

East Kent Unit for Breast Screening (EKUBS)

On behalf of everyone at EKUBS may I thank each and every one of you for your truly wonderful donation. We hope that you will understand how important it is for our community that all women can reap the rewards of digital mammography. We hope that some of your ladies may like to use our service, thus helping themselves to prevent breast cancer. Best wishes to you all Penny Dyball for Rose Cunningham (Chairman).

EllenorLions Hospices

Once again on behalf of the EllenorLions Hospices I am writing to thank you so very much for the £1,000 donated by the Oast Quilter.

As always we thank you for your support and such a thoughtful act is of great benefit to our care and we would like to extend our warmest gratitude to all who supported you in your efforts.

Behind each referral is an individual story and we aim to tailor our care to best meet the needs of each patient. EllenorLions Hospices can only continue to provide this care due to donations such as yours.

Once again our sincere thanks to you all for helping us to achieve so much and please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if you require any further assistance.

Yours sincerely, Pete Tarrant, Community Fundraising Team

Exhibitions

5th and 6th March

Puddleducks and Quercus Quilters Quilt Show at Walthamstow Hall School, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 3UL.

Open Saturday 1-5.00pm, Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm Admission £4.00.

Refreshments and Raffle in aid of Hospice in the Weald.

10th -12th March

The Stitch and Creative Craft Show, Malvern

17th – 20th March

Stitch and Craft Show, Olympia 11, London

8th – 10th April

Quilters' Guild AGM, Exeter University

Saturday 16 April

Patchwork and quilting show in aid of Kent Air Ambulance, Hosted by **Trianon Quilters**

All Saints Church Centre, Ash Road, Hartley, Near Longfield, Kent. DA3 8EL

Open 10am to 5pm

Adults £3. Concessions £2

Handmade gifts - Cushion Raffle - Bookstall -

Trade Stalls – Demonstrations - Refreshments

Further details from 01474 706612

27th - 29 August

Dragonfly Quilters of Deal will be holding their

5th Exhibition of Quilts and Wallhangings at St George's Church Hall, High Street, Deal.

Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 5pm,

Monday 10am - 4pm.

Easy access for the disabled.

For further details please contact Tracy Aplin on 01304 363401

Free knitting machine

...for anyone interested enough to collect it – near Westerham.

Passap Electronic 6000 Electra 4000 autocolor 6000. Automatic, Computerized Knitting Machine on a stand. Surplus to requirements, complete with all manuals and instructions. Approximately 5' x 3' x 15"

Free but must be collected. 01959 564370

Ethelburga Quilters are making Quilts for Valour this year and thought that other groups may like information about how to make quilts to honour British soldiers:

There is now the opportunity for UK quilters to make their own Quilts of Valour and for these to be given to honour British soldiers injured in the conflict in Afghanistan and also those from Iraq. The first UK QOVs were presented in January 2009. By May 2010 over 300 have been given to those touched by this conflict.

The television and press announce the grim statistics of death and each fatality will get an announcement on the primary news programmes. The injury statistics do not get such attention and it is a sad fact that for every service member killed in the line of duty several others are wounded. For some the injury may quickly heal and they may be able to return to their service role. Others may find that their lives are changed or they may suffer flashbacks and nightmares. Giving them a well-made quilt is an act of sharing some comfort as they readjust to their lives ahead.

You choose the design, you choose the fabrics. A popular choice is Red, White and Blue but otherwise masculine colours are best. BUT...be advised that not all recipients want Red, White, Blue or explicitly military themes. What NONE of the recipients want are fabrics which are inappropriate...such as juvenile fabrics intended for children or be excessively flowery with pink hearts etc. What will happen if you choose to go this way is that your quilt may sit on a shelf gathering dust.

Your QOV is not being made for a charity case. It is for a soldier who serves to protect our country and our freedom. For any quilt, it all starts with the fabric. Our soldiers deserve good quality fabric. If the fabric is not good quality, no matter how attractive it is, how well you piece it, or how well it is quilted, it will not last through the years or survive multiple washings. Not only does your QOV provide comfort today - it should be made to last for many years in the future.

Fabrics for tops and backings should be 100% cotton, not fleece or polyester cotton. Minimum sizes are 54" x 72" or 60" x 60" for square designs. Lap quilts and wall hangings are not required. Quilting may be by hand, machine or by longarm machine. Each quilt should have its own presentation case, no loose quilts please. The case can be either pillow case style or drawstring design but should hold the quilt folded and flat.

QOVF-UK has the following policies in place. Anyone can nominate an injured soldier to be awarded a Quilt of Valour. However, the quilt will only be presented via the regiment that the soldier belongs to. Names of soldiers are not released to the quilters by QOV-UK.

Quilts can be sent to Quilts of Valour UK, 1 Chaucer Way, Osbaston, Monmouth, NP25 3NR. Quilts of Valour will then allocate the quilts, attach a QOV-UK label and despatch the quilts to the regiments concerned.

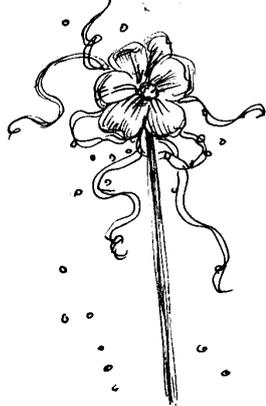
Completed quilts can be sent to the address below. Remember to include your name and contact details, a presentation bag for the quilt (pillow case or drawstring styles are fine), a letter, photograph or journal to be sent onto the soldier (optional).

Quilts of Valour Foundation—UK

Quilts of Valour - UK 1 Chaucer Way Osbaston Monmouth NP25 3NR

e-mail: jean@qovf.org Website: <http://www.qovf.org/content/uk-qovf.html>

The Fabric Fairy



New Website now open! www.thefabricfairy.co.uk

For full details contact: Andy & Michelle Cooper

Email: Cooperandy31@aol.com

Tel: 01304 830474

or check out *The Fabric Fairy* shop on

