

# OAST POST

## OAST QUILTERS' NEWSLETTER

Volume 15

www.oastquilters.co.uk

Number 5 – September 2013

### TODAY'S MEETING ...is our Open Day

The doors open at 10.00am and the first talk will be after the notices at about 10.30am. The afternoon session will start at about 1.00pm – so please make sure you are back from lunch (which should start about 12 noon) in good time!

*Thank you to our hostesses: Bear's Paw and Pumpkin Patchers – and any Independent Members who have volunteered.*

Today's traders are: Karry.com, Maggie Kingston, Puddleducks, the Sewing Shop and Smart Frog.

### Our next meeting is THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING On Saturday 7 December

*Hostesses: Woodland and Pieceful Patchers*

Please note that the Secretary, Michelle Cooper, who has served us so well, is standing down after her three year stint and we need a replacement. If you are interested in volunteering, please ask Michelle about the role and we will then look forward to nominations in time for the AGM.

### Young Oast

#### ***We have excellent news!!***

- Rachel Hawkins, a member of Young Oast – won first prize at Birmingham for her entry in the Young Quilters class entitled 'Transport'. We are so pleased for her and wish her every success with her work in textiles at school.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 23rd November 10.00am -3.00pm at Hythe Bay School. This will be our Christmas meeting and we will be working with Christmas tree designs in all shapes and sizes and marbling fabric. Please let me know if you intend to be there.

Tel: 01303 238 809

Email: barbarathorburn@btinternet.com.

### IMPORTANT!

#### **Annual Subscription Reminder**

All group representatives will shortly be in receipt of the usual forms for renewal of membership. Please ask members of your group if they want to continue membership – and if they do, please request their fee of £15.00. This will ensure membership of Oast Quilters from January 2014 to December 2014 inclusive. If any new members of your group wish to join, please put their details on the form and they will be added to the waiting list. If any members do not wish to renew their membership, then put a line through their details. Please note you cannot substitute a new member for a resigned member.

***The completed form must be returned to the membership Secretary by 31 October 2013.***

It is really helpful if the group representative gathers up all the monies and sends just one cheque to cover all the group's payments.

**Independent members must ensure that they too renew their membership by completing the relevant form and sending their fees by 31 October 2013.**

If you know an independent member who has not attended today's meeting, please remind her about membership renewal.

### UFO/Sewing Days are on

**Saturday 21st September** (Adisham) and

**Saturday 9 November** (Lower Hardres)

(beginners are very welcome as there will be lots of help and support available!)

Each day is from 10.00am to 4.00pm

and the cost is only £5.00.

Please book a place by contacting Ingrid Hudson on 01303 230117 or email

raffles.leoville@btinternet.com

Or speak to Jill Backman (Vice Chairman) at today's meeting

## **January Workshop!**

Bookings are already being taken for Maggie Kingston's workshop, 'Spinning Hexagons' (your Editor has seen the picture illustrating this – and it's brilliant!) which will be on both Sunday 26 January 2014 and Monday 27 January 2014.

Maggie has been a loved and talented member of Oast Quilters for many years. She attended art school in Canterbury and has a degree in Art and Education from Christchurch College.

She went on to become a City & Guilds lecturer on fashion together with teaching various levels of pattern cutting and dressmaking to Further Education students. This she did for many years.

Maggie has been quilting for over 30yrs. From a baby, Maggie was always surrounded by sewing and dressmaking in her London home. One of her earliest memories was crawling around and picking up beads and buttons while her Mum sewed on her Singer sewing machine. Another memory from her childhood was from the age of 9yrs old. Maggie remembers sleeping between lovely, old soft sheets and putting her foot through them. In a panic, she awoke early and repaired them on her Mum's Singer. She placed the sheets back on her bed so that no one would notice. This happened about 4 times!

Maggie's Mum, the late Connie Dennison was also a wonderful quilter and long-standing member of Oast. She was a great influence on Maggie and encouraged her in many things; notwithstanding the purchase of a Gammill Statler™ Long Arm Quilting machine two years ago. Maggie has not looked back and has been running a long arm quilting service from her home; 'Priory Lane Quilting'.

### **The Blossoming of Patchwork**

**Exhibition at the Quilters' Guild  
Headquarters, St Anthony's Hall  
Peasholme Green, York  
17 May to 31 August 2013**

While on a house-sitting week at my brother's house in York in early August I was able to pop into the Quilters' Guild HQ's to view their exhibition of quilts and coverlets from the period 1780 – 1820's. This was a particularly well-curated exhibition and plenty of credit should go

to the guest curator, Bridget Long and the curator Heather Audin.

If you followed the order of the items on show, you learnt a great deal about fabric printing developments during the period. Technological improvements in the textile industry meant that an exciting variety of printed cottons and linens were available to those ladies of leisure who had the time to create some enormously large patchwork quilts. They had the opportunity to 'fussy cut' (with all its associated waste of fabric) so that their patchwork design was enhanced. Careful piecing (which involved mathematical awareness) created some very dramatic and complex designs.

The quilts and coverlets on display were enhanced by explanatory boards including identifiable designs produced at the Bannister Hall printworks and the Jouy factory in France. There were also a couple of beautiful cotton dresses from the period on display which again put the patchworks into context.

I was particularly struck, as mentioned, by the large size of the quilts on display – but of course, they were made for beds which were higher from the ground than our standard beds these days – so the hanging sides were longer. The other thing which I noted was that these were very much 'high end' quilts – which was hardly surprising because the work-a-day quilt would not have survived so well. These quilts were made by ladies with time and money.

Liz Coleman

### **Corners 2014 and Beyond**

Sheila Stojavljevic would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to do a corner at the January meeting. She can be contacted for more information by email: sheila446@btinternet.com. Corners can only be held if members are prepared to volunteer... one or two or more could share the responsibility.

The Committee is considering changing Corners from the January meeting to the morning of the Open Day in September from 2015 onwards and we are keen to hear your views on this. Please speak to your Group Rep or any Committee member and let us know what you think.

## Reports

### **Whitstable Patchwork & Quilting Exhibition**

Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th August 2013

St John's Church, Argyle Rd, Whitstable,  
CT5 1JS

Thank you for supporting the Whitstable Patchwork and Quilting Exhibition. Helped by good weather we welcomed over 700 visitors and our raffle, sales table, tombola and refreshments raised enough to be able to have over £2,000 to be shared between Age Concern Umbrella Group and Young Carers.

The quilts were much admired and showed the wide diversity of the Whitstable groups. There were also some intricate bags, boxes and cushions on show.

Thanks are also due to the traders who supported us with their colourful stalls - so much choice on offer.

## Constitution Review

Jenny Hoyle would like to chat with anyone who has a view on the Constitution. She will be sitting at a table all lunchtime today to take ideas and suggestions before the final draft is prepared.

## Future Events

### **Thanet Quilters Diary of Events 2013:-**

13th-15th September "Doll Making with Ray Slater" weekend at the Holiday Inn Express, Manston (Residential or Non-Residential)

1st October Quarterly Meeting Church House, Birchington ( Doors open 7.00 -7.30pm, £3 entrance) Speaker Chris Porter "Patchwork Pavements - European Style". Workshop with Chris Porter on the following day, 2nd October, "Jigsaw Puzzle Tessellation" £20.

Saturday 30th November "Thanet Quilters Christmas Fair" at Church House, Birchington. Bookings now open for £10 Sales tables or just come along and enjoy the day. Refreshments available.

For further information please see our website ([www.thanetquilters.org.uk](http://www.thanetquilters.org.uk)) or contact Cathy Northcutt 01843 599166 or email [cathyquilt@btinternet.com](mailto:cathyquilt@btinternet.com)

## **St Martin's Cheriton Community Centre** **Quilt and Craft Exhibition** **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September**

Displays \* sales \* workshops

Refreshment \* Tombola

St Martin's Church is at the top of Horn Street,  
not far from Tesco

Saturday: 10.00am – 5.00pm

Sunday: Celebration service 9.45am

Exhibition 11.00am – 4.00pm

*Raising funds for St Martins and the Folkestone  
Rainbow Centre*

Folkestone Rainbow Centre is a charity that exists to support individuals and families through times of crisis - and runs a Drop-in Centre, 'Foodstop', two preschools and a Contact Centre as well as masterminding a Winter Shelter for the homeless through from November to February each year.

During the weekend there will be a continuous workshop to encourage people to help make some blocks for a quilt top - which will then be finished by the Ethelburga Quilters and donated to the Rainbow Centre for a client to receive as a house warming gift when the Winter Shelter has helped them find a place of their own.

The range of crafts include wooden spoons and other carved goods, "Christmas is Coming" gifts, unique customised bracelets and homemade cupcakes. There will be demonstrations of fabric dyeing (by The Fabric Fairy), 'extreme' knitting and bobbin lacemaking.

## **The Quilters' Guild Region 2**

The Quilters' Guild Region 2 is holding its annual Birthday Party on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October in Aldington Village Hall from 10am – 4pm.

There will be a hand sewing workshop, speaker, raffle and 'show and tell' with tea, coffee, biscuits and birthday cake all available.

Entrance £5.00 for Guild members and £7.50 for non-members, all are welcome.

Further details and booking application form from Pam Paine (email: [pampp25@hotmail.com](mailto:pampp25@hotmail.com) or telephone 01304 207955) or Sally Hearn (email: [sallyanhearn@gmail.com](mailto:sallyanhearn@gmail.com) or telephone 01303 772582).

### A Reminder

Members are invited to submit copy for the Newsletter, which should be provided to the Editor at, or before, the Committee meeting prior to the relevant Oast Meeting (this is held on the Monday two weeks before the Oast meeting). As a member you can advertise one-off items for sale free of charge. There is a charge to traders for advertising in Oast Post. Please let us have details of any local patchwork and quilting exhibitions or events which may interest members. For further information, please contact the Editor, Liz Coleman on 01303 863197 or by email at [lyminge.liz@live.co.uk](mailto:lyminge.liz@live.co.uk)

### Charity

As members will be aware, for a number of years your donations for refreshments have supported Macmillan Nurses. To date over £800 has been raised in this way.

It has been suggested that members might wish to nominate other charities to benefit from this giving. Please talk about this in your groups and let your reps (or a Committee member) know what you think so that it can be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Reminder.... Whenever your group is part of the hostessing team please make sure the catering boxes and the tombola are collected. Hostesses need to check that they have cars available large enough to accommodate the items. Hostesses should always come to the school by 1.00pm in order to help set up. Don't forget to get the money for the raffle prizes!

### VACANCY

The position of Secretary to the Oast Committee becomes vacant in December. We are looking for someone willing to undertake this role for a three year period. The role involves preparing and distributing agenda and minutes of the Committee Meetings and the AGM, preparing other documents such as entry forms and the occasional letter or email.

A proper handover will be carried out to ensure the new secretary is happy in the role.

### News from *The Fabric Fairy*...

Instead of our usual advert we thought we would bring you up to date with our summer. We now stock a small range of Nutex fabrics; established in Australasia for years, they are new(ish) to the UK and keen to set some good roots here. They have a good range of fabrics which we have decided to test in addition to the Timeless Treasures stock we already carry. The first batch arrived in August and some are pictured on our website [www.thefabricfairy.co.uk](http://www.thefabricfairy.co.uk) and Facebook page.

Our 'Remnant Rail' is always worth a look. We buy mixed bundles of American fabrics which we sell at £5 per metre. Some of the fabrics are extra wide at 58-60" and make excellent backing fabrics. We are happy to cut remnants if they are longer than our customers need. A new pack arrived with us in mid-August and was instantly pounced upon by the ladies attending a workshop!

Finding a new haberdashery supplier has encouraged us to dip our toes into new waters by offering a small stock of ribbons and Gutermann thread at prices significantly cheaper than the shops. If this proves popular we'll keep it as a regular product line. We also have a new stock of buttons and we would welcome our customers' feedback on these ranges.

Our dyeing workshops are proving popular. Participants seem to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and word is beginning to spread. Some ladies are now on their second time round! Sally Hearn and Michelle Cooper's workshops are also taking shape quite nicely; our 2014 workshops brochure will be out in time for the December Oast meeting. We have decided to limit the number of people on sewing workshops to a maximum of three people per day, and on dyeing workshops to a maximum of four due to space constraints.

Sally and Michelle are also running a six-session lace-making course for beginners from October to December evenings to a maximum of 6 people; there are currently a few spaces left at the remarkable price of just £35 for the entire course (2 hours per session). If this course is successful we will repeat it in 2014.

Thank you to all our customers for your valued support; needless to say, we hope to welcome you back to our stall at the various events at which we trade. Better still, why not treat yourself with a group of friends to a dyeing day in our Dover studio? They really are fun-filled days - you'll come away with 1½ metres of fabric dyed to your own choice of colours and no clearing up to do!

01304 – 202270 [www.thefabricfairy.co.uk](http://www.thefabricfairy.co.uk)