

# OAST POST

## OAST QUILTERS' NEWSLETTER

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### **TODAY'S MEETING**

***Helen Howse: 'What a Lot of Quilts'***

**Traders:** Fabric Fairy, KarryDot Com, Little Lavender Patch and Rose 'n' Tony

*Thank you to our hostesses:*

**Quay and Brook Quilters – and thank you to the Independent Members who have volunteered to assist**

The Committee would like to apologise for the change to the venue this meeting and hope that you have not been significantly inconvenienced. We're back at the Simon Langton Boys' School in May.

### **Tomorrow's Workshop**

**Sunday 9 March**

**'Fair Copse' – led by Helen Howse**

This is based on Helen's Miniature silk quilt from 2012 Festival of Quilts. It is a beginner-level sewing, advanced-level results class. Start by making Helen's Easy Pieced Trees, then add improvised sashings and borders to make a charming and unique-to-you small quilt or carry on and make a big one... At the time of writing there are one or two places left. If you are interested, please contact the Workshop Organiser, Stephanie Blunt, either at today's meeting or telephone her on 01233 641073. The cost is £20.00.

### **Bursary Winners**

Please look out for the displays of work created by previous winners of the bursary. Judy Clark put her bursary towards a workshop which her quilting group attended, resulting in a quilt being made for donation to a hospice.

*To remind all winners of bursaries....*

You are expected to give a demonstration or a short talk on how you spent the money which you won. This is normally scheduled for the March meeting a year and a quarter after receiving the money.

### **Traders' Pitches, Members' Tables and Charity Quilts**

The Committee confirmed that the cost to Traders for a pitch will continue to be £10.00 plus a donation for the raffle. There will be two 'members' tables' available at each meeting (which must be pre-booked through the committee). The cost is 10% of the takings up to the value of £10.00. Groups which want to sell raffle tickets for a charity quilt are welcome to do so at no cost for a 'pitch' so long as this is also pre-booked through the committee.

### **The Raffle**

At the last committee meeting it was agreed to reinstate 'Trader Vouchers'. There will be three vouchers at £5.00 each available at each meeting.

### **Our Next Meeting – Saturday 10 May**

***When the Speaker is our very own...***

**Tracy Aplin; Re-energised Patchwork**

Tracy started sewing at a young age and by the time she started Secondary school knew that she wanted to study fashion. She attended Canterbury Art College and then went on to study pattern cutting at Jacob Kramer College in Leeds. After leaving college, Tracy worked in the clothing industry both locally and in London. She started her quilting journey making quilts with scraps from work and then sewed them together on the train! Tracy joined Oast about 16 years ago, going on to team up with Sandra James to run 'Young Oast'. They continued this role for nearly 10 years. She now runs a sewing club at the school of her youngest daughter. Tracy started Dragonfly Quilters in Deal, which is 13 years old this year. Her main role is 'mum at home' but she loves to share what she has learnt over the years, doing workshops and talks. Sewing and quilting are a big part of her life; Tracy finds time to sew everyday!

### **The Website**

Louise Jessup continues her sterling work on the website and asks for additional ideas and material for the website, including the contact details for any group that would like to have these published.

### **Next Year's Programme - 2015**

You may find it useful to put the following dates into your diary as these have now been 'set in stone':

24/25 January

14/15 March (Barbara Chainey)

9/10 May (Barbara Barbour)

25/26 July

26/27 September

5 December (AGM)

The question of when to hold the 'Corners' meeting resulted in lively debate at the recent Committee meeting and members will be asked to vote for one of the choices at today's meeting. They are:

- (i) Corners remains in January (in which case both speakers at the September meeting will be invited to give a workshop the following day) **or**
- (ii) Corners moves to the September meeting as a morning activity with a single speaker for the afternoon. As this would be part of the Open Day, Corners would therefore be open to all comers and not restricted to members only.

### **Membership Secretary's Report**

There are now 318 members, including one honorary member. As there is no waiting list currently in operation, if you have a friend who would like to become a member, please ask them to communicate directly with the Membership Secretary, Ann Wood (details on your programme card), providing their full name, address, email, telephone number and name of the Group to which they belong (unless they choose to be an Independent Member). The subscription is £15.00.

The Corners meeting was attended by 205 people. The combined handout proved popular with members. However, there was, yet again, a bottleneck at the ticket desk – and if anyone has a good idea as to how this can be improved then all suggestions will be considered!

### **Book Sale**

The Library Coordinators have audited the library and will have a book sale at this meeting. All funds raised will go towards buying more new books!

### **Changes to the Committee**

The Membership Secretary, the Programme Secretary and the Workshop Organiser are all planning to step down this year. While there are already some willing volunteers, if you would like to help, please let Jenny Hoyle (Chairman) know.

### **'In-house' Workshops**

Sharyn Hutchings is organising a couple of member-led workshops this year; one in June and the other in October. Carolyn Johnson will be giving one of the workshops which will be on making a posh bag! The other is still to be confirmed. There should be more information on the members' notice board.

### **Young Oast**

The usual venue in Hythe has been booked for 29 March, 5 July and 22 November. During 2014 the focus will be on blocks at all sizes and looking at different techniques each time. For more information please contact Barbara Thorburn on 01303 238809 or by email on: [barbarathorburn@btinternet.com](mailto:barbarathorburn@btinternet.com)

### **Tea Money**

Pots are put out at every meeting for members to put in loose change as they collect refreshments at the break. It has been decided that every time £100 has been reached, then that sum will be given to a selected (probably local) charity. All groups are invited to nominate a charity. Given that we now have over 30 groups registered with Oast Quilters, 30 + nominations will keep us going for some time! So far six charities have been nominated. Please submit your group's suggestion to Jenny Hoyle.

### **Incorrect Telephone Number**

Please note that the telephone number for Ingrid Hudson, who organises the Members' Days, is yet again incorrect on our Programme Card. It should read **01303** 230117. Apologies to all, but especially, to Ingrid. The next Members' Day will be on 8 November 2014. Please see your membership card for more information.



### DOUGHTY'S ROADSHOW

Thanet Quilters have invited Doughty's Patchwork & Quilting Shop for a Sales Day of their fabulous range of fabrics and relevant quilting supplies. Please note this date in your diary

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

10.30am - 2.30pm

at

Church House, Kent Gardens, Birchington, CT7 9RS

Doughty's of Hereford are renowned for their quality, value-for-money fabrics, which offer the quilter a fantastic wealth of colours and cut-options and are suppliers of some of the best-priced, quality cotton fabrics online.

### Thanet Quilters Program 2014

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 7.00pm, Speaker Gail Lawther

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am-4.00pm,

Workshop with Gail Lawther "Enchanted Forest"

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 7.00pm, Speaker Joan Weston

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00am-4.00pm,

Workshop with Joan Weston

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October, Doughty's Road Show

(See separate advert)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, Christmas Fair.

Please contact Cathy Northcutt for further information and venue details on 01843 599166 ([cathyquilt@btinternet.com](mailto:cathyquilt@btinternet.com)) or visit our website [www.thanetpatchwork.org.uk](http://www.thanetpatchwork.org.uk)

## *The Fabric Fairy*

Castle View Suite, 3-5 Frith Road, Dover CT16 2PT

Tel: 01304 202270 email [Fabric@thefabricfairy.co.uk](mailto:Fabric@thefabricfairy.co.uk)

web: [www.thefabricfairy.co.uk](http://www.thefabricfairy.co.uk)

### **Announcing a new fabric range!**

At Fabric Fairy we know how important good quality fabric and wadding at affordable prices is to the quilter - so we are delighted to announce that we will be ordering our fabrics from a new supplier in Tyne and Wear, **Nutex Fabrics**. Their keen pricing means that we can offer discounted prices to our customers.

We know how popular our range of fabric remnants from the wholesaler in Wrexham is with quilters and we now have **even more** of these interesting and varied American fabrics - **still** at the incredible price of £5.00 per metre.

We will not be replacing our current stock of Timeless Treasures fabrics on the bolt since their wholesale prices have increased significantly - but if you have any specific fabrics in their range that you trying to get hold of - just let us know.

Andy and Michelle Cooper



Ethelburga Quilters have just bought some woven labels for sewing on the back of quilts. Individual members can use them for their own quilts, but they have been especially useful for sewing on the backs of a number of Linus Quilts we made in January. They cost about 20p each and if you are interested in getting some of your own please see: <http://www.wovenlabelsuk.com>  
Designing your label and ordering is really easy!

An issue of Oast Post is published at each of the six meetings of Oast Quilters. 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)

**Frayed: Textiles on the Edge**  
**Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth**

Diana Baldwin and I had the opportunity to visit this small exhibition just before it closed and were intrigued by its theme of stitching as therapy. The items on display ranged from embroideries to appliqué and patchwork, but all items had a story to tell about the state of mind of the maker.

The 'highlight' of the display, and one which caused the curator, Ruth Battersby Tooke, a great deal of excitement, was a reuniting of the 'letters' of Lorina Bulwer. One of the 'letters' was already known to Ruth, but she was thrilled to be notified of another in the possession of the Thackray's Medical Museum in Leeds which she was able to borrow for the exhibition. The 'letters' comprise long strips of patched fabric on which Lorina had stitched long angry rants about her family, the workhouse and people in her acquaintance. One strip is 12 feet by one foot and the other is 14 feet by one foot.

The letters are not just objects that speak to you – they most emphatically shout at you! Lorina was born in 1841 in Beccles and after a fairly uneventful early life she ended up in the Great Yarmouth Workhouse after the death of both of her parents, her married sister being unwilling to take her into her own household. It is clear that Lorina felt that she should not have been incarcerated – but the words she stitched (all in capital letters, with some of the words underlined) were not those of a sound mind either. She also included some appliqué of human figures.

By experiment it is said that she could have stitched three lines a day and could have done two of these long letters a year. Indeed, it is thought that more of Lorina's work may yet turn up.

In a similar vein was a 'sampler', amounting to a 'confession relating to her suicidal thoughts' made by Elizabeth Parker, and on loan from the V&A. The work was done in miniscule red cross-stitch and was never completed. Happily we learnt that she went on to have long and fulfilling life.

Another incomplete work was that made by a Sherringham man, John Craske, who created 'The Evacuation of Dunkirk' in wools on a piece of fabric which had been intended for the wrapping of steamed puddings!

John had been diagnosed with a brain tumour and did most of the stitching in bed, but it gave him a purpose.

A small Tracy Emmin piece called 'Haunted' was described as a study of melancholy and loneliness and was typical of her stitched work.

On the patchwork front, there was an Elizabeth Fry motivated coverlet made by a number of women in Newgate Prison – and the differences in their sewing techniques was remarkable. The coverlet had pieces of hexagon patchwork appliquéd onto it.

The largest (and to my mind, the most spectacular) items were a coverlet and four-poster bed hangings and canopy made by Anna Margareta Lloyd (1756-1819) which was executed in cotton and linen fabrics. The patchwork included a variety of geometric shapes, pieced blocks and appliqué. It is thought that Anna Margareta had help in her work and that some of it may have been completed after her death, but it seems that Anna Margareta worked on this mammoth task for over four years in response to the death of a much-beloved son.

Other works on display included items from the prison organisation 'Fine Cell', in which volunteers provide current-day prisoners (the vast majority being men) with skills to create stitched works which they can then sell in order to provide themselves with a fund of money on release from prison.

There were a lot of sad stories told concerning every displayed item, but each one of the makers had support around them – someone was giving them materials to get over their particular moment of grief or illness. For some people it is a chronic condition which won't go away, but others got better and were able to resume their ordinary tasks. I am sure that we can all relate to the 'escapism' of stitching which can help us through a crisis.

By the way, Time and Tide is an excellent museum and if you are ever in Great Yarmouth you can easily spend a good two hours looking round it. There's also an excellent café!

**Liz Coleman**