

OAST POST

OAST QUILTERS' NEWSLETTER

Volume 11

Number 2 March 2009

TODAY'S MEETING:
PATRICIA ARCHIBALD
MEANINGFUL COLOUR

Thanks to our hostesses
Barn Owls & Chatterpatch

NEXT MEETING OF OAST QUILTERS
Saturday 6th June 2009
LYNNE EDWARDS
STORIES ROUND MY QUILTS
Doors open at 2.00pm
Hostesses: Jo Blox & Minnis

Lynne is an internationally-known quilt designer, teacher and author. She has presented exhibits, classes and lectures in numerous locations in the USA, Canada, Spain, France, Dubai, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa as well as through the UK.

Lynne is author of The Sampler Quilt Book, which many of us will have worked their way through when first introduced to patchwork and quilting.

Lynne has exhibited many of her own works in galleries and museums throughout Britain, including the National Crafts Council Gallery in London and the Suffolk Craft Society Gallery in East Anglia, a highly prestigious society of accomplished artists. Her quilts have also been exhibited at the International Quilt Association Festivals in Houston, Chicago, The Netherlands, Germany and Austria. She was also included in the Nihon Vogue book "88 Quilt Leaders of the World".

Lynne has published numerous books and articles and has co-edited the magazine "The Quilters Review", published by The Quilters Guild of the British Isles.

Lynne is the acknowledged authority on Cathedral Windows quilts, having introduced many to the design possibilities using this age-old technique. Her book Through the Windows and Beyond was published in 1995. It is now

BURSARY REPORTS

After the initial euphoria felt on winning one of the coveted bursaries I began to panic. Being a

relative newcomer to quilting my first thought was, what on earth will I do? After much consideration I decided that 'free motion quilting' was something I would really like to tackle. I

out of print and commands high prices when sold second-hand, Happily, Lynne has now published a revised and expanded version. In 1992, Lynne won the International Quilt Association's Jewel Pearce Patterson Scholarship, which is awarded in recognition of outstanding qualities as a teacher.

In 2000 she was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award by The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles and, in 2002, was awarded the prestigious Amy Emms Memorial Trophy at the Annual British National Quilt Show, "Quilts UK".

She has been an active participant in the organization of quilt shows in Britain and served as the Senior Judge at the South African National Quilt Show in 1998. Recently in 2008 she judged and taught at the International Quilt Show in Dubai. She was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List in 2008 for services to Arts and Crafts.

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

If you haven't yet replied to Liz Coleman's questionnaire, it's not too late.

Please send them to Liz, who will respond when she returns home.

If you are an independent member but haven't received a questionnaire please contact Liz to let her know. She can be reached on 01303 863197 or email liz.coleman@virgin.net

INCREASED CHARGE FOR WORKSHOPS

It was decided at the recent committee meeting that from June the cost of Oast workshops will £20, .

This is the first increase in many years and still represents amazing value.

relative newcomer to quilting my first thought was, what on earth will I do? After much consideration I decided that 'free motion quilting' was something I would really like to tackle. I

looked through numerous magazines and books and eventually found what I considered a straightforward quilt that lent the opportunity for some adaptation to include free motion quilting. As is my usual habit the project was much too complicated for a first effort and not really possible in the small amount of spare time that I have available to finish in a year. However I boldly set off and purchased the necessary foot attachments for my sewing machine, some special machine quilting threads and books on techniques and tips.

I spent hours practising on various fabric combinations trying to perfect my movements and make curves without points. Finally I began the real thing. After many hours and un-pickings my quilt is half finished and I hope by next year I will be able to show it together with a smaller project that will not have so many errors. It has been a frustrating but nevertheless rewarding and enjoyable project. I would like to thank you for not only the generosity but also the challenge of a bursary - it certainly lifts one out of the complacency of a rut that we sometimes drift into.

Bernice Robbins

~~~~~

I was lucky to win a Bursary a year ago, and would like to thank the Committee and members of Oast Quilters for that. With the money, I bought a lightweight sewing machine to take to workshops, etc. which is proving useful as my usual machine is quite heavy. I hope to display a quilt made with my new machine at a later Show & Tell.

I also bought a Micro Stitch which I thought members of my group could use when putting their quilts together, and a book on bag making. Thank you all once again, and happy quilting.

Rosemary Jordan

### **YES, WE MADE A DIFFERENCE**

February 14<sup>th</sup> wasn't just a day for hearts on Valentine cards, it was also the day that members of Oast Quilters (plus Carolyn's "helper" in the shop) got together to make heart-shaped cushions for mastectomy patients.

Oast covered the cost of the hall and stuffing for the cushions; most people brought along their own fabric to make the cushions, but we were grateful for the donations of fabric from

both the Fabric Fairy and Karry.com. Fuelled by delicious home-made biscuits (courtesy of Liz Coleman) everyone set to work. By lunchtime we already had quite a pile of cushions, swelled by some made ahead of time by Anne Mole and Monica Beale. It was clear that we were going to make more than I anticipated so a frantic phone call was made to my husband to buy us additional pillows to use as stuffing.

My home-made cakes appeared in the afternoon and the mound of cushions grew higher and higher. By the end of the afternoon we had made over 100 cushions, each with a little pink ribbon and a note to say they had been made by Oast Quilters. I included an email address and will let you know if I receive any responses, although we must bear in mind that people will receive these cushions at a very difficult time.

Ann Abrams took the cushions to the local breast care unit the next day, following which the unit emailed me:-

*"Thank you and your fellow Oast Quilters for your hard work and generosity. The cushions make such a difference to postoperative comfort when resting in a chair or bed and even as protection under a seat belt.*

*The fact that they are so pretty and we now have such a choice is wonderful. We will share the cushions out amongst our patients across East Kent. Many many thanks.*

*Penny, Suzannah, Nessie, Nikki and Jane  
Macmillan Breast Care Nurse Specialists  
East Kent Hospitals University Trust"*

Well done, those members who gave up their time (and fabric) to make these little gifts for others. We even made it into the local paper!

Judi Kirk

### **ABBEY PATCHERS BIENNIAL QUILT SHOW**

*Saturday 23rd May - Monday 25th May 2009  
St Mary's Church Hall, Minster, Thanet.*

*Opening times:*

*Sat. 10-5 Sun. 11-5 Mon. 10-4.30*

*Sales stall, traders, refreshments and a charity raffle in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance.*

For any further information please contact  
Tina Parker Tel. 01843-822223

## **A BIT ABOUT ME – YOUR NEW CHAIRPERSON**

It was suggested to me that I might like to write a bit for Oast Post, telling you all a bit about my background.

Well here I am, your new Chairperson. Who am I and where have I appeared from? What do I know about quilting?

Well let's start at the beginning. Although I was born in Norwich, I was raised in Canterbury and the surrounding area. Dad worked at his business nearly every waking hour, in car sales and petrol stations, and Mum took care of myself and my two sisters at home. She was a local girl, daughter of a Canterbury dentist and had been to Art College back in the 1940's, so she taught us to sew and encouraged us to paint and draw.

We went to primary school in Blean and then I went on to the Simon Langton, where needlework and art were part of the curriculum but were not encouraged. However, much to everyone's disapproval, other than Mum, I decided that my love of sewing was important to me so I took both subjects at O-level, and passed, and decided that I would like to follow in Mum's footsteps and go to Art College.

I left school at 16, and moved to Canterbury Art College, where I studied dressmaking, wholesale dress making (which is construction of clothes as they do in factories and sweat shops), pattern cutting, tailoring, clothing design, history of costume, textiles, art and drawing. The idea was that at the end of the course, I was going to go and work in theatre, designing and making the costumes. I had a whale of a time! This was the early seventies! I used to go home covered in paint, usually in my hair, or bits of thread stuck to my clothes, making all sorts of outlandish outfits to go out in at the weekends. I managed to take and pass a City and Guilds in Fashion.

I loved my life at college, but there was a downside. Dad decided that if he was going to have to let me take this course, then there would be a compromise. Much to my disgust at the time, he insisted that I went to evening classes to learn about being a secretary, this probably sounds like a familiar story to others of you. So I ended up having qualifications to type as well as designing clothes.

When I left college, it became apparent to me that there were few jobs and many applicants, so I ended up going to work in an office. This didn't last long and the next few years were spent jumping from job to job, not really settling. Eventually it dawned on me that the problem lay with working for other people, it wasn't for me.

I was going to open a boutique! Dad stepped in again suggesting that it might be a good idea to go and run one of his businesses first, as a manager to get some business experience. I ran a petrol station for him in Ramsgate for 18 months, eventually buying his interest in it and taking it over as my own. A far cry from my original ambitions. I had found a business that kept me interested, hiring and firing, stock control, retailing and dealing with customers. Over the years I expanded my empire, and changed my allegiances between oil companies. Whilst all this was going on I continued to make a lot of my own clothes, and some of my husband's too.

The one thing that has stuck with me throughout this is my love of bright colours. More recently I started to take trips to the US, to stay with an Aunt who has lived there for more than 50 years. We have been to many seminars together, doing all things sewing. Her love is wearable art, made to a very high standard. This got me interested in the quilting cottons, which I bought lots of, not really sure what I was going to do with them. Every trip to the States, I would come back with a suitcase full of fabric, my stash got bigger.

Also during this period, my interest in my business started to wane, the income was still very good, but it didn't hold my attention any more. By this time I was using computers a lot in my day to day business. I had by now bought my first top of the range Husqvarna machine and the software to go with it, encouraged by my Aunt. A friend of mine introduced me to Husqvarna, the company. She worked for them as a "freelancer" teaching different courses with their machines or courses of her own for dressmaking. Husqvarna were looking for a "freelancer" to teach their software, was I interested? I could carry on with the petrol stations, but every now and then take a few days off and travel to other areas to take a class or teach an individual. I took up the offer, and trained to teach the embroidery software. I did this for a couple of years, and enjoyed it, but as time went on I found it more difficult to take time off to teach, so I had to give it up.

About 5 years ago I decided enough was enough, nearly 25 years of running petrol stations was taking its toll. It wasn't the same business any more, with the oil companies taking a bigger and bigger part in telling me how to run them, and so I "retired".

6 weeks later I decided I was too young to retire, I was bored. So I started to buy and sell fabric on the internet. I started to learn to make quilts, bags and wall hangings, and am still learning. I still like to make clothes when I have time, but my days are just not long enough.

The rest is history!  
Carolyn Johnson

### **TRIP TO BIRMINGHAM**

Sharyn Hutchings is organising a trip to Birmingham for the Festival of Quilts.

Dates:

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August: Travel to Birmingham

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Return to Kent

Included:

Accommodation at the Ramada Jarvis, Solihull

Evening meal on Friday

Breakfast and evening meal on Saturday

Breakfast on Sunday

Cost:

£135 per person for a double or twin room, £175 per person for a single room

Sharyn has available 8 double rooms, 10 twin rooms and 5 singles. All rooms will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

A deposit of £30 per person is required on booking.

Sharyn can be contacted in the evenings on 01227 791856 or email her on

[sharyn.hutchings@virgin.net](mailto:sharyn.hutchings@virgin.net)

### **SEWING MACHINE WANTED**

Wanted a Bernina 1008 sewing machine in good working order for a colleague. Please contact Cathy Northcutt on 01843-599166

### **PATCHWORK CAN DELAY DEMENTIA**

A US study suggests that engaging in a hobby like reading a book, making a patchwork quilt or even playing computer games can delay the onset of dementia, although watching TV doesn't count.

The study concluded that people who read, played games, made quilts or did other craft work were likely to have a 40% reduced risk of memory impairment.

So next time you feel guilty about the time you spend sewing, don't - you are "maintaining your mental health".

### **MAY SALE**

Friday 8th and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 11am – 4pm  
The Oast House, Lacton Oast, Willesborough,  
Ashford TN24 0JF

Gifts, small quilts, felted bags, tea towels, limited edition cufflinks, wall pieces and cards.

A chance to pick up fabric, threads, second hand patchwork magazines and books.

Email: [mandy.munroe@btopenworld.com](mailto:mandy.munroe@btopenworld.com)

# *The Fabric Fairy*



New Website now Open at [www.thefabricfairy.co.uk](http://www.thefabricfairy.co.uk)

For full details contact Andy & Michelle Cooper

Email: [Cooperandy31@aol.com](mailto:Cooperandy31@aol.com)

Tel: 01304 830474

or check out *The Fabric Fairy* shop on **ebay**.co.uk