

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Quilters

This is my last Newsletter contribution as I will stand down from the Committee at the **AGM** on **April 20**, when I hope as many as possible will join us by **Zoom**. This last year has been very strange as all communications have been by telephone or computerised links. I have missed seeing everyone face - to - face but I have been amazed at how well everyone has adapted to the new lifestyle.

The **Festival of Quilts** at **The NEC** in Birmingham is **July 29 - August 1**; I am told that **Richmond Coaches** of Stevenage is advertising a trip . . . could be an easy way of getting there!

Before that we have the **Hatfield Craft Fair** . . . it's **Thursday 17 June** to **Sunday 20 June**. Please offer to do a session on **Mead's** stall. I plan to be on the rota so hope I shall see some of you there.

So thank you for the support of all Members and the Committee during my term of office. It has been a privilege and a pleasure and I look forward to more time with **Mead Quilters**.

Valerie Pollington

WADDING . . .

Alison King reports that all the wadding has been sold now, but the shops are open!

INCUBATOR QUILTS . . .

Ginny Edwards took another 26 incubator quilts to **Watford General Hospital**. Thank you to all that contributed.

AND ALONGSIDE . . .

I wanted to make something quick and easy whilst my Bernina machine was being mended, so I made these little birds to hang on the back of a door. The pattern is from **Helen Philipps** and is available in her **Etsy** shop.

Linda Cosgrove

R U ZOOMing?

Members' Zoom meetings are on the **first Tuesday** of each month **in the morning** and the **third Tuesday** of the month **in the evening** in line with our normal meeting arrangements.

The next dates will be:

Tuesday 20 April which is our **AGM** at **7.30pm**.

Tuesday 4 May 2021 at **10.00am**

Join us then on **Zoom** for a **chat**, '**Show and Tell**'

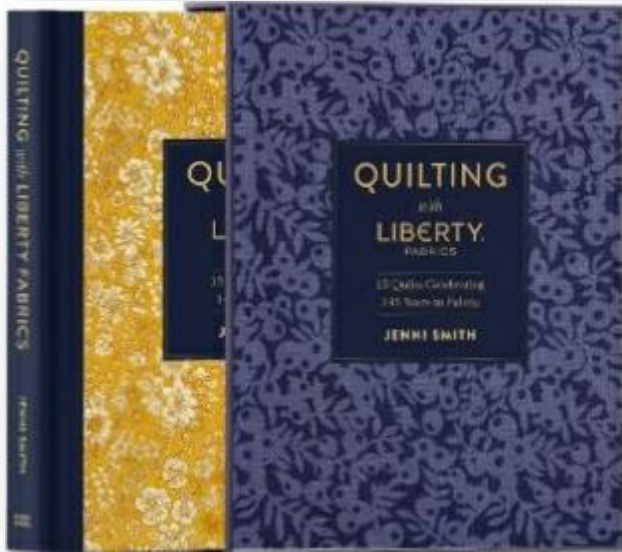
Your contact is **Caroline Ellis**,
caroline@meadquilters.org

The code for Zooming is:
and the password is:



BOOK REVIEWS by JANET GODDARD

'Quilting with Liberty Fabrics'



'Quilting with Liberty Fabrics' by *Jenni Smith* is a hardback book with 224 pages of content. The book comes in a gorgeous textured linen slipcase in beautiful Liberty fabric. This is the first quilting book to be an official partnership with *Liberty*.

The book contains a little history about *Liberty* and then the history of the fabrics. The book moves through each decade detailing fabrics with an accompanying quilt project; there are patterns for 15 quilts in total.

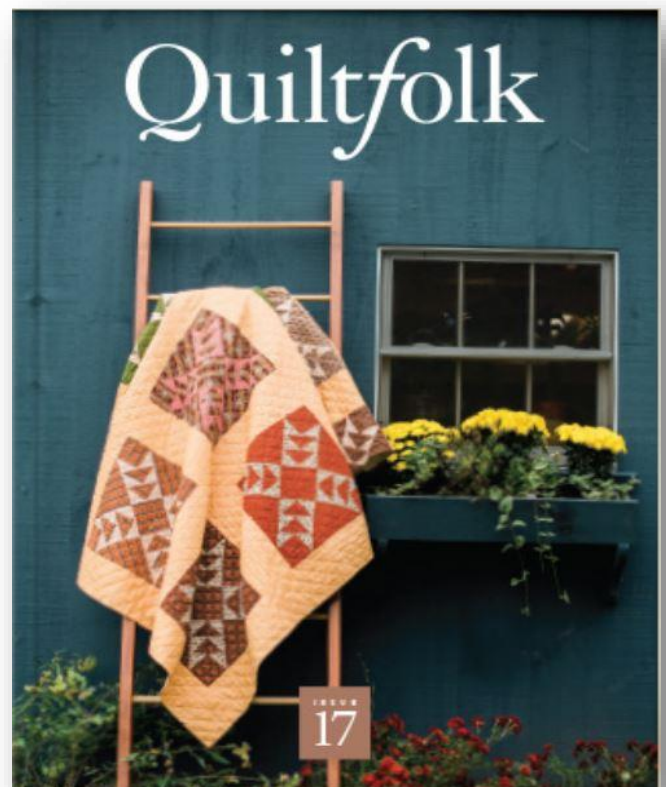
The photography is spectacular and the book is simply beautiful . . . I think that it is a book for dipping in and out of.

'QUILTFOLK'

. . . is not actually a book but a magazine published quarterly in the USA. It is a community supported magazine that celebrates the people and the stories behind the stitches. It is advertisement free and has 160 pages of content.

Issue 17 focusses on *Connecticut*, one of the oldest states in America. Not only do you see photos of Connecticut but you get to meet a number of quilters and quilt groups and see their work in detail.

Each quilt that is shared has a story and each quilt maker shares their inspiration for stitching and a little part of their life. It is a fascinating read and Connecticut is now on my bucket list of travel destinations when I am allowed out!



Janet Goddard

MODERN BLOCK OF THE MONTH

by *Sarah Dixon*

Modern quilts are growing in popularity . . . the **Quilters' Guild** has a series of **Tutor Boxes** designed to introduce you to the blocks and techniques.

In this **BOM** programme information for a technique will be included with the **Newsletter** every **OTHER** month (they will also be on the **Mead Quilters Facebook page**). I may also show some information at our evening meetings.

I would suggest making a **sample block** to see if you enjoy the technique, you can then make an entire quilt using just the one block or you may decide to make a sampler quilt similar to this '**Modern Jazz**' quilt by *Helen Howes*.



We are going to start off with a simple block called '**GARDEN IN THE RAIN**' . . .

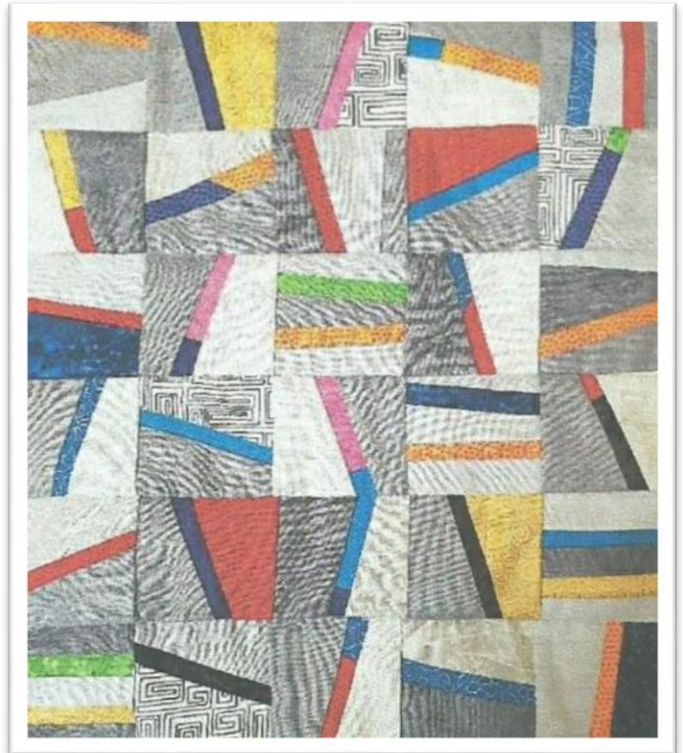
Pictures of the block can be found at <http://mqgb.org.uk/tutorboxes/tbox8.html> where a pdf of instructions is available to download.

Although this is a simple block, there are ideas shown in the pdf file of how you can make it more interesting or more complicated by making more than one inset strip or by piecing your inset strip. Make as many or as few as you like – below is a whole quilt made from the block and its variants that I made. If you have any problems do contact me!

Your Editor and Mrs Webmaster both found the **Tutor Box pdf** somewhat confusing and the sizing somewhat suspect. It is also refers to and is based on **Oakshott** fabric packs which are no longer available!

Any interesting fabrics can be used, so we have prepared a simple set of instructions for you, on the **Mead website** at:

<http://www.meadquilters.org/modern.html>



Things to bear in mind . . .

The steeper the angle you cut at, the more you will need to trim your block to shape

In order to keep your block roughly square, your inset strips need to be 1 inch wide. If you want to alter the width of the inset strip then be aware that it will alter the size of your block.

Bias edges can be a pain! I am going to try starching my block next time.

I look forward to seeing what you make!

The same technique is used for the '**Straight Cross**' block; they start in the same way but you then turn the block through 90 degrees and repeat the cutting and inserting.

Pictures can be found in <http://mqgb.org.uk/tutorboxes/tbox10.html> and some instructions follow.

'STRAIGHT CROSSES' . . .



These are fun, very quick, and rather addictive.

And, because they are trimmed to size, very good for multi-maker quilts and for those of us who are not good at precise seam allowances.

For 4 inch finished blocks cut a 5 inch square. Cut two strips at least 1 inch by 5½ inches, maybe 1½ inches by 5½ inches if you want fatter crosses.

Cut the square, with a ruler, from one side to the opposite side, a little wonky. Sew the first strip in the gap and press (towards a darker colour, or one way, or as you please).

Turn the square a quarter turn and cut again, also a little wonky. Set the second strip as the first, and press again.

Lay the squares (when all are made) on your mat and trim to 4½ inches. (If they come out too small, trim smaller, or start with a slightly bigger square at the beginning.)

Nice in patterned, plain, batik, woven and hand dyes, of course. Make some with lots of contrast and some with little, for a more interesting quilt. Make the crosses with a strip cut sideways?

For bigger blocks - start with a 6 inch square and trim to 5½ inches for 5 inch finished blocks

. . .

. . . or start with a 7 inch square and trim to 6½ inches for 6 inch finished blocks . . .

. . . and of course you can make rectangles too

. . . mix the sizes in your quilt?

And so on . . .

Sarah Dixon



I took two large bags of [breast care cushions](#) and drainage bags to [St Albans City Hospital Breast Clinic](#) last week. The nurse who received them asked me to tell all who made them how grateful they were for the continued supply.

As she said, it is devastating enough to be told you have breast cancer in normal times but in these difficult Covid times it seems even worse. The comfort that the cushions and bags bring, and the fact someone has sat down and made them, cannot be emphasised enough. She said to [bless you all!](#)

Linda