

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

### Dear Quilters

Our November Zoom evening meeting with [Angela Madden](#) was very successful within the limits of the technology. For [Angela](#), there was no feedback which you normally experience as a 'speaker'; a small audience I found it strange to find myself laughing all alone! However, it was an evening of much needed diversion in the second lockdown, and we were very grateful to [Angela](#) for all the preparation and planning. It was great to see more members than usual and we hope to maintain those numbers for our [Zoom Christmas Party](#) on [Tuesday 16 December](#) which will run from [7.30 - 8.30 pm](#).

There had been talk of judging the green table strips that were issued at the [AGM 2019 Challenge](#), but it is difficult with photography to see the embellishment so your Committee has decided that we will have the judging at the [2021 AGM](#).

[Mary Mayne's](#) quilt raffle made £90.00; the winning ticket will be drawn at the [2021 AGM](#) in April. We hope this is the likely date of our return to the [Mead Hall](#) but nothing is certain. Meanwhile, we need a Challenge for judging at the [2022 AGM](#).

[Elizabeth](#) has offered to provide a piece of fabric from her stall with which you could be innovative. Has anyone else got a better idea?? Please let the Committee know. Incidentally, [Elizabeth](#) continues to provide fabric on request.

There are still a few tiny [Flapper Dolls](#) out there somewhere? [Jo Day](#) is collecting them to use next year. Contact her on [01582 715590](#), or at [9a Coleswood Road, Harpenden AL5 1EF \(Southdown\)](#). [Jo](#) has a few remaining kits if you would like to make one.

For the [Christmas Party](#) we suggest a glass of wine or your preferred drink and that we have a 'Show and Tell' of Christmas

decorations you have made over the years. We may have to limit this to one per person depending on how many 'come to the party'. So look out your favourite decoration (ideally a patchwork item) and have it ready. Practice in front of the camera on your device so that the image is clear.

[Between 3 and 15 December](#) all Members should have received a little packet of fabric, from [Rosie Rhodes](#) which [Jennifer Shields](#) has wrapped beautifully. The Committee will deliver or post your 'gift' depending on location. We are aware that we have not had contact with all Members since [February](#) and trust that you are well. We are trying to make phone contact with those who do not join our [Zoom](#) sessions.

Your Committee sends [Seasons Greetings](#) to all and hope, that with vaccination, life in 2021 can return to near normal. [Happy Christmas](#) everyone and 'keeeeeep quilting'!

*Valerie Pollington*

THIS IS . . .



. . . [Mary Mayne's Raffle Quilt](#) . . .

. . . AND THIS IS . . .



. . . *Jo Day's Star Challenge* quilt.

### R U ZOOMing?

We have made changes to the **Members' Zoom meetings**: these are now 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 our **Zoom Christmas Party, Tuesday 15 December 7.30pm until 8.30pm** then **Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 10.00am** and then on **Tuesday 19 January at 7.30pm**.

Join us then on **Zoom** for a **chat, 'Show and Tell'** and exciting ideas from **Heather Hunt**.

Your contact is **Caroline Ellis**,  
[caroline@meadquilters.org](mailto:caroline@meadquilters.org)

The code for Zooming is:  
and the password is:

If anyone would like to lead on a quilt related topic, please offer! It makes the sessions more interesting.

FROM HEATHER HUNT . . .

**Brenda Rowe** will be joining us by Zoom in **January** . . . she is a contemporary textile artist who splits her time between the UK, France and Spain.

Her artistic work has two elements:

- Designing and creating contemporary quilts for exhibitions in the UK and Europe. Travel through diverse landscapes and architecture constantly inspires her to capture the moment in designs which she can stitch using recycled and individually created fabrics.
- Judging and jurying the work of textile artists in the UK and European competitions is one of her passions. She is a trained and accredited judge of the **Quilters' Guild of the British Isles** as well as being tutor to international and UK students of their **Quilt Judging** course. In 2018 she was appointed **QGBI International Officer**, representing the UK at the **European Quilt Association**.

**Brenda's Talk** is titled: **What Do Judges Look For?** It will last approximately 50 minutes, with 10 minutes Q&A and 15 minutes to talk through a live judging of a 'mystery quilt'.

The talk will aim to dispel myths of judging and will cover and explain about: why enter a quilt exhibition?; choosing which category; what happens at FOQ; how winning quilts are chosen; and very briefly outline the Guild's judging.

No recordings or screenshots can be taken during the talk as some of the images shown are subject to copyright restrictions.

Join us for an enlightening evening with **Brenda** who is very down to earth and will help give us all the confidence to submit entries to some of the big competitions whilst addressing the quandary of 'which category does my quilt fall into'.

Full details of the work the **Quilters' Guild** do including training future judges can be found on the **QG** website:

<https://quiltersguild.org.uk/learning-with-the-quilters-guild/quilt-judging-courses>

## A PATCHWORK CHRISTMAS TREE . . .



*Janet Goddard* has made this one up in a Scandi type fabric but it would well in any Christmas Print.

Machine stitch the triangles and then add the stuffing and embellishments whilst watching TV!

The pattern is free to download at:

[www.patchworkpatterns.co.uk](http://www.patchworkpatterns.co.uk)

and then click on the free pattern tab.

## INCUBATOR QUILTS

Here are 3 of the Incubator Quilts *Valerie* has been busy making for the West Herts Neo-Natal Unit . . .



## MARY RICH . . .

We have sent a donation from [Mead Quilters](#) in memory of [Mary](#) but if anyone would like to send their own donation, the details are here from the (Herts Advertiser) [Notice of Mary's funeral](#), right.

[Sarah Dixon](#) kindly sent a copy of this lovely poem below, which was read at [Mary Rich's funeral](#) . . .

## Mary Edith Rich (née Dunscombe)

Died peacefully after a short illness on 29th October 2020. Beloved widow of Derek. Mary will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. The funeral will take place on Monday 23rd November at Garston Crematorium. Due to current restrictions, please only attend if invited by the family to do so. Donations in lieu of flowers in her memory, if desired, to Assistance Dogs UK or Centrepoint. Enquiries to Phillips 01582 461100

### *A Legacy of Stitches*

*by Helen Steiner Rice\**

*A Legacy of Stitches is what we leave behind;  
the imprint of our very soul that lasts beyond our time.  
The heart that quilts knows, oh, so well the peace that can be found,  
as needle meets with fabric, for there is no sweeter sound.  
Whether quiet piecing done by hand or on our sewing machine,  
there's rhythm to our stitches as we sew along each seam.  
Those stitches tell the story of our lives as they unfold  
as we think of quilts that Grandma made with stories left untold.  
The humdrum of our daily lives grows elegant and grand,  
when we start to cut the pieces, then stitch the fabric in our hands.  
And whatever is the reason for the quilts we piece and sew,  
and whoever is the maker, there is one thing that we know.  
Each quilt is full of memories, and is a treasured thing.  
If quilts could talk, imagine how some quilts would surely sing!  
For some quilts are sewn in happy times and others when we're sad,  
and some are sewn in laughter and others when we're mad.  
Some are sewn to warm us, and some sewn just for fun,  
and some are "works in progress" that never quite get done!  
Some quilts are sewn for beauty, a quilt made just for "show",  
but the heart of the true quilter is the one who really knows~  
That no matter how the quilt is stitched, we leave our mark in time.  
This Legacy of Stitches is what we leave behind.*

\* This poem was credited to a Sandra E. Andersen, but investigation of its copyright situation reveals that she blogged it several years ago. Her blog correction reads: "I didn't write this poem, it was posted on a bulletin board where I worked years ago and said 'author unknown'. I recently learned the poem is by Helen Steiner Rice."