

# Mead Quilters

Issue 85

February

2021

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

### Dear Quilters

Hopefully more of you have been vaccinated in this last month, and all of us, whatever our age, are looking forward to all the social pleasures we have missed, not least the contact with our families. Like me you have probably lapped up TV programmes on the countryside, art events and music as well as taking solace in sewing, knitting and patchwork.

On behalf of the Committee, [Alison King](#) has purchased some good quality [cotton/polyester batting](#) which she is selling by the metre. This is a great boon to those of us who prefer not to buy online while retail shops are closed – more details below.

You will be pleased to know that [Treasurer Alison Williams](#) has recently arranged with Mead Quilters' bankers for online payments; [Alison](#) is also happy to accept cheques.

This last year you will have realised that you have not been required to pay the usual [Membership Fee](#). However normal fees will apply from [May 2021](#) as we are provisionally booking online speakers for alternate months and hope to resume our meetings at the [Mead Hall](#) as soon as it is considered safe to do so. Ways of including those members without online technology are being considered.

Our most senior member, [Gerry McConkey](#), died peacefully in hospice care this month after a short illness. The Committee members have offered their condolences to [Jean](#). [Gerry](#) came to quilting many years ago when [Jean](#) was having difficulties with a quilt pattern. His background in draughtsmanship meant he had all the skills to make excellent diagrams for the many challenging quilts both he and [Jean](#) went on to make. Not least, [Gerry](#) specialised in making miniature quilts; both have awards from the [Quilters' Guild](#) for their work.

I don't like to end on a sad note. Many of you will have experienced loss this year and we certainly need the freshness and renewal that Spring brings. While writing this, I received the good news that [Rebekah Cornford](#) has agreed to join the committee and will take on the Membership Secretary role from [Karen Benge](#), because [Karen](#) plans to move north this year to be nearer her family. [Karen](#) has done an amazing job and deserves our sincere thanks.

Keep safe and well.

*Valerie Pollington*

### 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 meeting on Tuesday 16 February at 7.30pm](#) then [Tuesday 2 March 2021 at 10.00am](#)

Join us then on [Zoom](#) for a [chat](#), 'Show and Tell'

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.

### WADDING from ALISON KING . . .

I now have a roll of wadding from [Fashion 'n' Fabrics](#) (I hate writing that 'n'!)

It is 80/20 cotton/polyester, 90" wide and works out at £11.70 a metre.

I am happy to deliver locally if Members do not wish to go out. **Tel:**

## IN MEMORY OF Gerry McConkey

In view of the sad news about **Gerry**, I thought it would be nice to just gather together a few comments from some **Members**:

“Very sad news. Such a quiet, supportive man whose work was amazing.”

“Oh dear, what a loss. Such a gentleman, he will be missed.”

“Indeed sad news. So lovely to have had a man in our group. He brought a different dimension to quilting and his quilts were fabulous. He was always happy to share his experience. **Jean** will miss him dreadfully.”

“Oh what a shame! I remember he shared birthday cake with **Mary Rich** a year or so ago! Such a great loss to **Jean** and family and many others from **Mead**. He was very focussed on his creative skills!”

“I remember his miniature quilts, all with perfect points, and his and **Jean**’s beautiful quilts and amazing handbags that we would sell at **Village Day** and at our **Quilt Shows**.”

*Linda*

# Stitch & Knit

haberdashery, fabric and wool

You may not know that **Julia** from **Stitch and Knit** in **Brookman’s Park** is happy to deliver items if you are not able to get to the shop.

Not everything in stock is on her website, so you are welcome to give her a ring if there is something in particular you want.

**01707 518966**

**[www.stitchandknit.co.uk](http://www.stitchandknit.co.uk)**



## NEWS FROM . . . *Linda Cosgrove* . . .

Please send me photos of the beautiful items you have been quilting – not everyone is online and I know other **Members** love to see what has been achieved.

Sometimes it's nice to just sit and do a bit of slow hand stitching, very relaxing! I hadn't stitched any embroidery for many years but I really enjoyed doing these – the top little picture in a hoop – and the heart one to cover a little notebook for a friend.

This is a cushion I made for my eldest son to go on his new sofa . . .



. . . and this is the back. He likes it so much he would like a quilt to match by his birthday at the beginning of March!



### NEWS FROM . . . Jeanette Bowers . . .



. . . a bright and colourful quilt for the [Linus Project](#) . . .

### NEWS FROM . . . Hilda Goddard . . .

. . . *You CAN teach an old dog new tricks!*

Waking in the middle of the night, I thought I would share with you some meanderings which I had.

When, at the turn of the century I was doing my [City and Guilds in Patchwork and Quilting](#), I was aware that I was making an awful lot of samples of different techniques and making very little in the way of quilts. The aim of the course was design rather than making and every time I handed in my samples, I would say to my Tutor: 'Well, that is as good as it gets' – mainly because of my failing eyesight. But I persevered and, at the third attempt I managed to finish the course.

Now 20 years later I realise that perhaps I could do better and so, emboldened by an advert on [Facebook](#), I have enlisted on a [Philippa Naylor](#) course.

The first lesson is on [Piping and Binding](#) and having received a quilt back from [Bramble Patch](#) – which gave me a bit of extra wadding and backing – and together with some fabric passed to me by a [Mead Member](#), I decided to have a go at making some small quilts for the hospital using [Philippa's](#) tried and trusted methods.

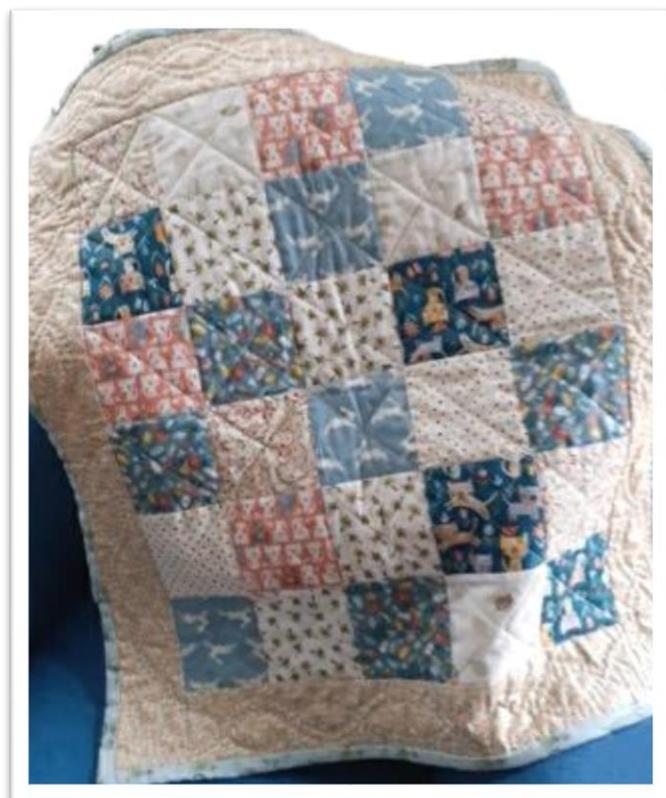
I have always gone at everything as though there's no tomorrow, but I have to say it was a revelation at the first lesson to sit at my computer for a period just taking notes, and then to spend a pleasant afternoon with no pressure on me just going through the notes, cutting some squares and putting them together, finding a piece of fabric to make a border, trying to co-ordinate my colours rather than the pattern on them and following [Philippa's](#) method of squaring up my quilt, making some binding 3.5 inches wide and then attaching it using her method, which was quite different to the one I had always used.

I then had to turn it over and [ladder stitch](#) it down, again, not the way I had always done it. Using her method to sew the corners, I then realised that having quilted the centre, the border needed some hand quilting on it to finish it. I am so pleased to have taken the extra time to slow myself

right down and to unpick when things were not 100% right – my usual 'Oh that'll be OK' was not uttered once.

I then went on to the second part of the lesson which was adding a **piping cord** and putting it onto the quilt in four pieces with a special way of attaching the corners which gives a much crisper finish. I have really enjoyed the first two weeks of this course and had to wait until **9 February** for the next instalment.

It has been really exciting to see the improvement in my quilting in spite of my still poor eyesight and the rheumatoid arthritis which every now and then prevents me from hand sewing. I hope these two photos of my quilts will inspire others in **Mead . . .**



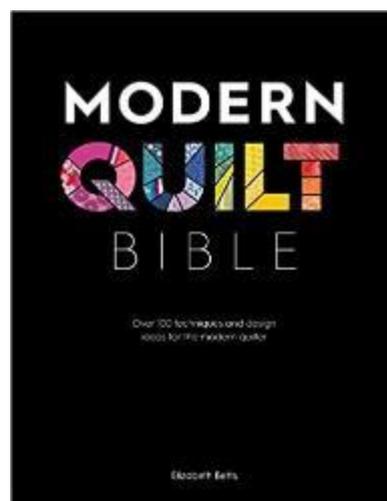
The **Knitting and Stitching Shows** are still hoping to go ahead in the Autumn

The dates are as follows:  
**7 -10 October**  
at **Alexandra Palace in London**

**18 -21 November**  
at **HCC in Harrogate**

They have also extended their  
**On Demand Workshops**  
until **28 May 2021**

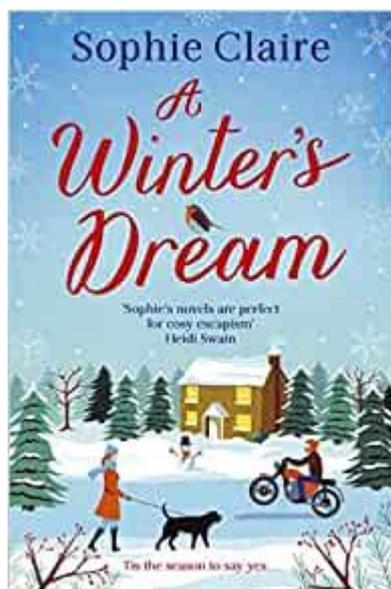
## BOOK REVIEWS . . . by *Janet Goddard*



**MODERN QUILT BIBLE** by *Elizabeth Betts* contains a combination of design techniques, projects and quilt basics. It takes a number of design concepts and for each concept it takes you through a design exercise; it then looks at work featuring the concept and finishes with a project to stitch. Concepts covered include colour, negative space, optical effects, shapes, grids etc. There is also a very extensive section on piecing techniques, applique and finishing. There are ten projects in total in the book.

I see it as a book to dip in and out of for ideas.

A WINTER'S DREAM by *Sophie Clare*



A heart-warming story about *Liberty* who has never been a risk taker but decides for a whole month that she will be brave and take on a daily challenge. *Liberty* works in a patchwork and quilting shop in a sleepy village, so as the story unfolds there are plenty of quilting and patchwork references along the way. A lovely gentle read for pure escapism.

*Janet Goddard*

NEWS FROM . . . Alison King . . .

. . . she made these 3 – no, it's 4! – pretty scrap incubator quilts . . .

