

# Mead Quilter

Issue 73

January

2020

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

### Dear Members

You will be sorry to hear that former member **Joan Draper** has died peacefully, in Wiltshire, and that her cremation will take place on **22 January**. **Linda Noon** has full details for anyone considering attending. **Joan** had been progressively failing over the last few months and was well into her nineties. Her daughter **Wendy** has been in touch and I have sent a Sympathy card on behalf of all members. Joan requested her sewing machine and other items be sold for **Macmillan Cancer Care** and **Elizabeth** will deal with that on our behalf.

On a lighter note, did any of you who watched **Gareth Malone's Christmas Choir** programme spot the patchwork item on an incubator at **West Herts neo natal unit**? This is the unit we are supporting now and **Ginny Edwards** is purchasing fabric for us to make the special covers they have requested. If you would like to help, then contact Ginny or myself. The usual **16" x 22" quilts** are also very acceptable; see the recent letter from them below.

The January evening meeting will be on "**Landscape**" by **Moira Neale** who will run a workshop at **W1 County House** committee room in Wheathampstead the following day, (Wednesday 22 January). There are still some spaces left, so get in touch with **Carol Wort** on **01582 766355** if you would like to attend.

In February, we have **Janet Woodall** from the **British Heart Foundation** coming at the beginning of the meeting to accept the substantial amount we raised from the Show. We will then concentrate on our **2019 Quilt Show**. **Stasha's** granddaughter will be showing the photos she took at the Show and we would like members to bring quilts they exhibited, especially those where there is a '**story to tell**'. We can't promise that

everyone will get their moment in the spotlight as we do not know exactly how the presentation of photos will pan out. Bear with us and we hope we will have an excellent meeting.

Before that, at the end of January, a number of us are off to **Denham Grove** to sew, chat and have fun with **Elizabeth** back at the helm. Don't forget your **home made peg bag**, your **fat quarter** and a **sewing item** costing less than £5.00, all to be beautifully wrapped. In addition, a **6½" patchwork block** with cream background and shades of green in the design.

For the energetic bring swimsuit and gym kit!

Meanwhile, **Happy New Year**

**Valerie**

PS Did you realise that 20/20 is perfect vision? Would that we had it!

**Here is the lovely letter we had from Watford General Hospital**\_\_\_\_\_

**West Hertfordshire Hospitals  
NHS Trust**

**Watford General Hospital**  
Trust Offices  
Vicarage Road  
Watford  
Hertfordshire

*Valerie Pollington  
Mead Quilters Committee*

*13 December 2019*

*Dear Valerie,*

*I wanted to write and personally thank you for your donation of the baby blankets. When I am in the Unit talking to parents they really appreciate this personal touch as they may not have had time to bring anything with them, also for some families they have very little to bring. Those gifts make all the difference and enable a more personal stay, we are very grateful to you and your colleagues.*

*They were very well received as well by the staff who were delighted. Many thanks for thinking of us and our children and their families as we promote a 'Think Family' approach.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Tracey Carter  
Chief Nurse & Director of Infection,  
Prevention Control*

## THE STITCH FESTIVAL \_\_\_\_\_

**27 February - 1 March**  
**Business Design Centre**  
**Islington N1 0QH**

View the outfits from [Bridget Jones and Trainspotting](#).

This year [The Stitch Festival](#) are showcasing a unique exhibition of [Esme Young's](#) costumes.

[Esme](#) is best known as a TV judge on the [Great British Sewing Bee](#), but she has also designed costumes for some of the UK's best known films.

A collection of [Esme's](#) work is to be shown in a bespoke exhibition, including pyjamas from [Bridget Jones](#), the luxe suit that [Dale Winton](#) wore in 'Train Spotting 2', the padlock dress that was worn by [Grace Jones](#) and many more delights!

To book tickets call 0844 854 1349

The [BDC](#) is at [52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH](#), but put N1 0PH in your sat-nav to find the Car Park. Find other travel information here:

[www.thestitchfestival.co.uk/travel-venue-information/](http://www.thestitchfestival.co.uk/travel-venue-information/)

## VISIT TO FARNHAM MALTINGS \_\_\_\_\_

One of my favourite little sayings to new quilters is 'Go to an exhibition, see what other people do and you will always learn something new to help you in your quilting'. Well, this was certainly true of my visit to [Farnham Maltings](#) this year.

This an annual [Quilters Fair](#) which showcases the work of at least five different quilt groups and is coupled with two floors of fabric sales. The Maltings itself runs as an arts centre and exhibition space, it is adjacent to [Farnham](#) station, but no trains on a Sunday, so it is an hour's drive from Welwyn Garden City. I am always lucky that a friend's husband will drive us there, he is happy to look at the top floor exhibition but not so keen on the fabric areas. This leaves us free to spend, spend, spend, if we so wish and with fabric at £4.00 per metre, there is always something to appeal.

My something new was the demonstration of layering a quilt using pipe lagging. It could be done on our long tables by placing each layer on a separate roller and then placing the three rolls on the table and lining up the base, pin as you go and move the rollers back when each table piece is pinned. Difficult to describe, but I found a photo on my camera for you . . .

. . . there is a YouTube video called something like 'Quilt layer with pool noodles'. Since I didn't know what a pool noodle was,



this fooled me for a bit but substitute polystyrene pipe lagging which comes in shorter lengths and joined with a piece of dowel and you have what you need which is easily dismantled and stored in the garage.

The groups which exhibited were [Farnham Quilters](#), a really big demonstration from [Heather Quilters](#), [Castle Quilters](#), [United Quilters P and Q Quilters](#), [Village Green Quilters](#), [In Stitches](#) (Creative Textile Courses), [The Japanese Embroidery Guild](#), [Creative Cloth Doll Makers](#), [The Quilters](#)

[Guild](#), [Young Quilters](#) and [Julia Gahagan](#). So you can see there is more than enough to keep you busy for a whole day, plenty of tea, coffee and bars and plenty of seating on each floor.

I nearly forgot to include that I met [Jenny](#) and [Doug](#) from [Patchwork Corner](#), now firmly established in their new bungalow and very happy in their new area. Jenny has joined [Bexhill Quilters](#) and is considering running a weekend away in a local Conference Centre. I spent so long chatting and then the crowds arrived, and I forgot to buy the quilt which I so liked the look of, very different for me as it is an applique on a pieced background. A very good day out.



*Hilda*

## NEWS FROM FnF

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Around Christmas, some of us had an informative letter from [Fashion'n'Fabrics](#), an edited version of which we reproduce below.

Did you know that they will send off your sewing machine to [Steve](#) at [Sewfine](#) for repairs and/or servicing? So much easier than trying to find somewhere to park in Watford!

*Linda*

 *Fashion'n'Fabrics*

FABRIC, WOOL AND HABERDASHERY TO INSPIRE YOUR CREATIVITY

24 Beech Road St Albans 01727 865038  
AL3 5AS shop@fashion-n-fabrics.com

Dear Customers,

I wanted to thank you for all of your support this year and to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Incredibly, I am now moving into my second year at FnF and am still enjoying buying in lots of lovely new fabric ranges which have, I think, been well received. This year we added two of the beautiful Liberty Fabric ranges to our selection and a few new blender ranges to our plain's: Spraytime, Linea, Linen Texture and Grunge fabrics. We also now have a comprehensive range of stripes, which really make a difference when binding a quilt!

We have revitalised our children's fabric selection and have a nice range for girls and boys - our newest addition is 'Viking Adventure' from Lewis and Irene. This year I look forward to adding a Space "glow in the dark" range, along with some other exciting designers new to FnF. We now have a UV torch in our existing glow in the dark section to help visualise what your project would look like in the dark.

Our dressmaking fabrics have changed a little as I have understood more of what you, the customers, would like. We have a large selection of cotton jersey, cotton sweat, and brushed cottons as well as some scuba, spandex and a larger range of chiffon. We also have a wider range of reasonably priced silky satins, which are versatile for a variety of projects and some carefully selected variety of non-"floral" fabrics too. During 2019 I have been lucky enough to meet a variety of new suppliers.

For those of you who follow the shop on Facebook you will have seen that I went to Premier Vision in Paris in September. We now receive haberdashery from Italy and Turkey as well as France. I have been keen to keep up our fantastic selection of buttons, but many of the ranges are seasonal, which means once they are finished we can't reorder. This presents the opportunity to introduce new selections.

Our classes this year have been well attended, with some one-off classes and a lot of repeat classes. Our Dressmaking, Overlocker, Embroidery and Crochet classes are running on a

regular basis. We are aiming to go ahead with our Learn to Knit a Hat course and Easy Modern Fair Isle in the New Year, along with a few other new workshops. These can be seen on our Facebook page or shop window. We will continue to receive machines for collection and repair by Steve at Sewfine in Watford. He will be back for collections later in January.

I am pleased to say that we will be online by the end of January 2020!! It has taken us a long time to get to this point, as there is understandably a lot of preparation. You may have noticed that some of the fabrics have bar code stickers on their brown price tag indicating the price of a 10cm length. This will be the unit of measure for the website for the moment. Unfortunately, not all the fabrics will go online so you will have to keep coming in store 😊.

I have set up a clearance rack near the entrance where currently there is 70% off the marked price. This area will remain in place for the foreseeable future. It is a great place for me to put fabrics that

need to 'move out' to make way for the new and give you a bargain at the same time! At the end of January, this will go back to 50%. In the middle of January, we will be sad to say farewell to our oldest staff member, Shirley, who has been at FnF for 21 of the 48 years the shop has been open! We really appreciate what her wealth of knowledge and experience brought to the shop, and wish her all the very best in her retirement. You may be lucky enough to see Shirley on the odd day, if retirement proves to be 'too' relaxing!

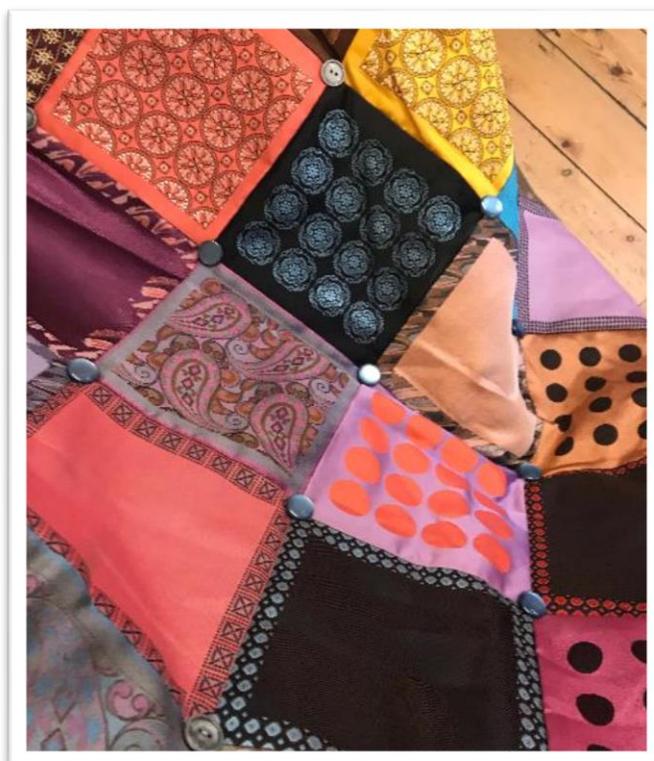
I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year and hearing about some of your wonderful and inspirational projects. As always, if you need anything please ask one of our amazing team members – Andy, Aalize, Carol, Chloe, Doris, Frances, Jenny, Marilyn, Marsela, Suzanne or Maggie – and we will do our best to help.

**Simone Taylor**

Open Monday-Saturday 9.00 am – 5.30pm  
excl Bank Holidays

## TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS . . . some photos from *Heather Hunt*.

What a talented lot we have in Mead Quilters!



Send your News, Views and Reviews for the Newsletter  
to *Linda Cosgrove* . . . [serendipity13@hotmail.com](mailto:serendipity13@hotmail.com)  
by the second Tuesday of the month, please!

It would help Linda and her editorial staff if, when you send photos to her,  
you also copy them to the [webmaster@meadquilters.org](mailto:webmaster@meadquilters.org)