

Mead Quilters

Issue 89

June

2021

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

What a lovely time we had on 1st June!

The weather couldn't have been kinder to us. About 15 of us met in **Greenwood Park** in **Chiswell Green, St Albans**, and quickly bagged a space under the shade of a large tree, pitched our chairs and opened picnic lunch boxes and conversation was non-stop!

The ice cream man saw us all sitting there and came and parked right next to us! Needless to say he did a very good trade with us and the children in the play area. Well, it would have been rude not to have bought one, wouldn't it?

It was just so nice to be able to meet with each other in person again. We hope to be able to repeat this before the summer is over.

Linda

AND WORDS FROM YOUR 'NOW-RETIRED-CHAIRMAN'

On June 1st **Mead Quilters** had their first face to face meeting since the Covid pandemic began. We met on a lovely sunny day in the park at Chiswell Green for a picnic lunch in the shade of a tree. It was great to be with 'real' people after so many **Zoom** sessions.

After lunch I was given an exciting selection of 51 beautiful leaf blocks which Members had made for me to celebrate my 3 years in the Chair. The blocks are superb and demonstrate so many different techniques



that when complete they will be like a giant sampler. There were some lovely touches: wooden acorns on oak leaves; a beaded bee about to land on a leaf; an incredible autumn leaf and so many more I could mention. My thanks to all of you. I will treasure them and

my challenge will be to present them in the best possible way. My initial thought had been a tablecloth, but the embellishments should not be laundered. I imagine a wall hanging will be the answer.

With all the skills Members have demonstrated, I think the next **AGM Challenge** to make a small quilt to celebrate the **Queens Diamond Jubilee** will be a triumph!

My grateful thanks to everyone for my gift and I look forward to the time when **Mead Quilters** can meet again in safety and comfort in the **Mead Hall**.

Valerie

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 15 June at 7.30pm, with Mary Fons . . . we were so lucky to be able to book her!

Tuesday 6 July at 10.00 am
Join us then on Zoom for a chat and 'Show and Tell'.

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

The code for Zooming is:
and the password is:

MODERN BLOCK OF THE MONTH . . .

Modern Quilts are growing in popularity, the **Quilters' Guild** have a series of **Tutor Boxes** designed to help introduce some of the blocks and techniques to quilters.

In our **Block of the Month** 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 will also show some information during the evening meetings.

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



We started off in **April** with a simple block called 'Garden in the Rain' inspired by Japanese wood block prints which depict rain as a series of diagonal lines.

Pictures of the block can be found at <http://mqgb.org.uk/tutorboxes/tbox8.html>

and for the benefit of new Members, we repeat some simplified instructions below; see also the **April Newsletter!** Use $\frac{1}{4}$ inch seams throughout.

Take a square or rectangular piece of background fabric (it can be any size you want).

Place your ruler on the fabric at an angle and cut the fabric in two.



Make sure the cut is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the corner else you will find it tricky when you come to sew your blocks together.

Now take a strip of fabric roughly 1 inch wide and sew first to angled cut of one background piece and then sew to another piece.

Press then trim your block to the size you want!

Easy, right! Now why not try one of the following changes to make your block more interesting:



❖ Layer 2 or 3 background pieces before cutting. You can swap the background pieces for a different look. (As we've shown in these pictures)



You don't have to insert a strip in all the cuts which can be useful if your block is too big!

❖ Make the strip you insert by sewing together two or more strips. This is really good for using up small scraps.



❖ Why not make more than one cut in the background fabric? (as we've shown in the pictures above)

❖ Striped fabric can make a very effective insert strip. You could make an entire quilt using just this block or mix it in with other 'improv' [ised] blocks, as shown below.

If you have any problems do contact me!

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 the same size as your initial 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 finished block.

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

Another block that uses the same technique is the 'Straight Cross' block. It starts in the same way as the 'Garden in the Rain' blocks but you then turn the block through 90 degrees before repeating the cutting and inserting.

Pictures can be found at

<http://mqgb.org.uk/tutorboxes/tbox10.html>

from where you can download instructions; alternatively see the [April Newsletter!](#)



Above is a [Straight Crosses](#) quilt.

SO NOW FOR JUNE'S BOM . . .

. . . the Pick Up Sticks Block

This is another block that uses the same techniques; however, in this case you make your block with several narrow inset strips, give it a quarter turn and cut it again.

Continued . . .

Instructions for the block can be found at
<https://paulsblockparty.blogspot.com/2011/04/pickup-sticks-quilt-tutorial.html>



The designer of this quilt was [Weeks Ringle](#), and it was published and copyrighted in 2002 in 'Color Harmony for Quilts' by [Weeks Ringle](#) and (her husband) [Bill Kerr](#) of the [Modern Quilt Studio](#) (USA).

The quilt was shown at the ICFF international design show in New York and featured that same year in various publications.

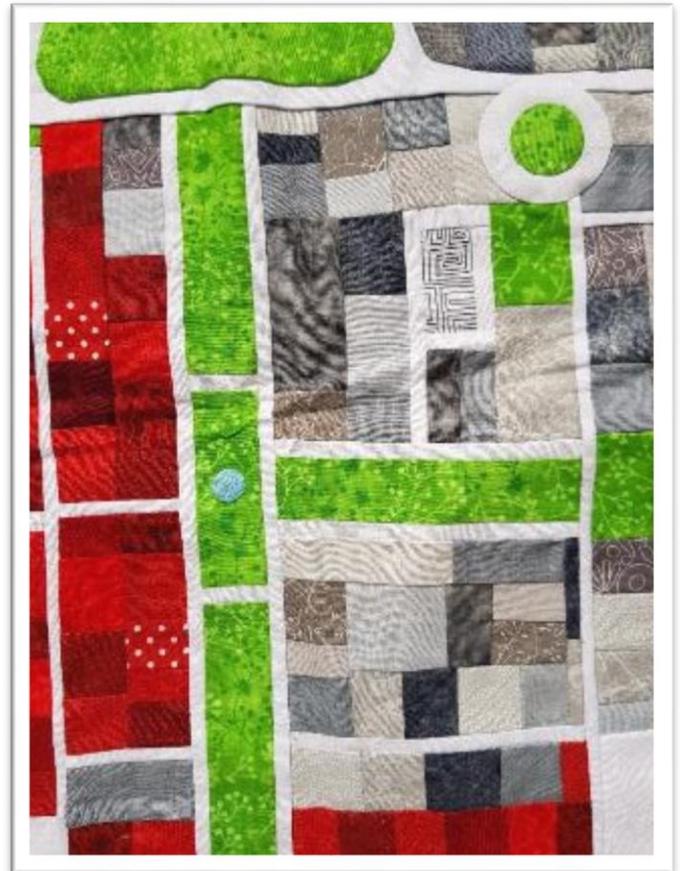
If you like [Pickup Sticks](#), have a look at their hundreds of other patterns in their books and magazines at www.ModernQuiltStudio.com

If you like the look of super skinny insert strips then have a look at

<http://andthenwesetitonfire.blogspot.com/2012/06/piecing-very-fine-lines.html>

for a tutorial.

I used this technique when making the ¼ inch roads in my map quilt shown above.



I look forward to seeing what you make!
Sarah Dixon

STEWARDSHIP AT THE FESTIVAL OF QUILTS 2021

This year the FOQ runs from **Thursday 29 July until Sunday 1 August**.

The opening hours are a little longer, opening at **9.30am until 6.00pm (Sunday 5.00pm)**

The Organisers are taking steps to ensure the event is as safe as possible given the ongoing situation with the pandemic and the show will be spread across four halls instead of three to ensure wide aisles and plenty of space to move around. All the competition quilts will be in Hall 6, the largest of the halls.

If you are interested in spending some quality time with the quilts, both admiring and protecting them, Stewarding might just be for you. In return for agreeing to do two shifts of 2¼ hours each on the days of your choice, you will get:

- free entry to the show
- a free catalogue and show guide

- use of the Steward's room which is a secure place to relax and store all that shopping
- free use of the kitchenette for teas, coffees and CAKE (plus other goodies no doubt)
- and a great bunch of friends you have yet to meet and more besides.

If you would like to know more, please contact [Gavin](#) , via email:

Steward_FOQ@quiltersguild.org.uk

or phone me [Heather Hunt](#) on (evenings preferred). You do not have to be a member of the [Quilters' Guild](#) to volunteer to be a Steward.

To see what [Hannah Thompson](#) of the [Stitching Kitchen](#) based in [Brackley, Northamptonshire](#) said about her experience stewarding in 2019, read her blog here:

www.stitchingkitchen.co.uk/index.php/blog/83-steward-at-foq

Just a thought, but be quick!

[Heather Hunt](#)

FROM SARAH DIXON . . .

One of the things I have really missed over lockdown is seeing all the different items that people brought to meetings for [Show and Tell](#).

The [Committee](#) thought it might be nice to be able to show items using [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and our [Website](#), showing them not just to Members but to anyone interested in quilting.

In order to do that we need you to send me your photos of what you have made; you can add any information that you want about the patterns used, inspiration, the designer, why the quilt was made etc. If you prefer I can make sure that your name is not attached to the quilt.

Pease send any photos to me at

quilts@meadquilters.org

[Sarah Dixon](#)

. . . AND FINALLY . . .

. . . I have finally finished my 'Harmony' quilt top! I really don't know how I am going to quilt it though! Suggestions please?



[Linda Cosgrove](#)