

Mead Quilters

Issue 75

March

2020

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Quilters,

I write this after our Tuesday morning meeting when several regular members were absent due to accident or illness, but thankfully not because of the Coronavirus. By the time you read this hopefully all will be restored to health.

Those of us present today were given cake by *Irene Heathcote* (a past Chair) who recently celebrated a big birthday. *Irene* showed us the beautiful quilt made from a heart design, each block having been made by a quilting friend as a surprise. *John Cole-Morgan* put the blocks together; the result is a beautiful machine quilted double bed quilt. *John* mislaid some of the blocks during the making; they turned up eventually and he made them into a second small quilt.

There has been some confusion about the **AGM Challenge** concerning the green strips which are large enough to go the length of the big tables in the **Mead Hall**. The fabric should not be cut but you can decorate it in any way you like **related to the Christmas season**. If you wish to line it, that is your choice. I understand that some do not like the green colour so why not use that as a lining. The Committee plan was to keep the runners to use at **Mead Christmas Party**. Some members feel they cannot bear to part with their runner which is fine. Hopefully others may wish to donate or lend theirs for the party.

In order to display the runners attractively at the **AGM**, could you let me know if you plan to enter, ideally at the **March** evening meeting or by email:

jandv@pollington10.plus.com

The **Newsletter** welcomes contributions from members. *Hilda* gives us some excellent feedback on quilt shows and other events, for example. Other members' photos and comments are also very welcome.

For the **AGM** in **April**, remember that if you have any burning questions, we would like them, in writing, by the March evening meeting. I plan to stand for Chair for one more year, if you will have me, and then hand on to new blood having completed three years.

Meanwhile, keep well and wash your hands!

Valerie Pollington

TEA ROTA _____

17 March: *Mary Spencer, Stasha Martin, Angie Wright.*

21 April: *Janet Goddard, Catherine Hill, Jeanette Bowers.*

MARY MAYNE RAFFLE QUILT _____

The *Mary Mayne* raffle quilt has raised £75.00 so far and the winning ticket will be drawn at the **Easter Meeting**. *Mary* has requested that the money should go to **Cancer Research**.

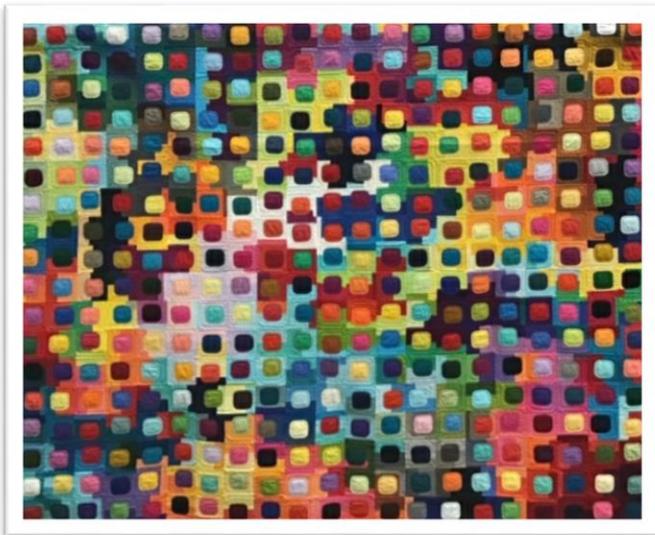
If you haven't bought a ticket yet I will have the quilt at the evening meeting on **17 March** so you can buy tickets from me then.

Linda

QUILTCON 2020

It has long been my ambition to visit a major American quilt show, and in the middle of last year the opportunity arose to book a trip with my friend Sarah to Austin, Texas to participate in QuiltCon. This is the premier show of the Modern Quilt Guild which promotes the modern quilt movement in America.

My first impressions were of slick professionalism. Once registered we had access to an app which updated regularly. It provided a map of the venue, a list of attendees, a list of vendors, a catalogue with photos of every quilt on display, a note taking and drawing facility, direct access to the camera on your phone or iPad and much more. No need for a printed catalogue!



The quilts, about 500 of them, were hung individually with plenty of space around them. The categories were different from those we are used to including such things as **Quilting Excellence**, **Handwork**, **Best Machined Quilting Framed** i.e. done on a long arm machine which is very common, or **Best Machine Quilting Frameless** i.e. done on a domestic machine. I understand that the quilts are chosen from a photograph for impact alone, not workmanship. There were one or two which weren't the best made but overall the standard was very high.

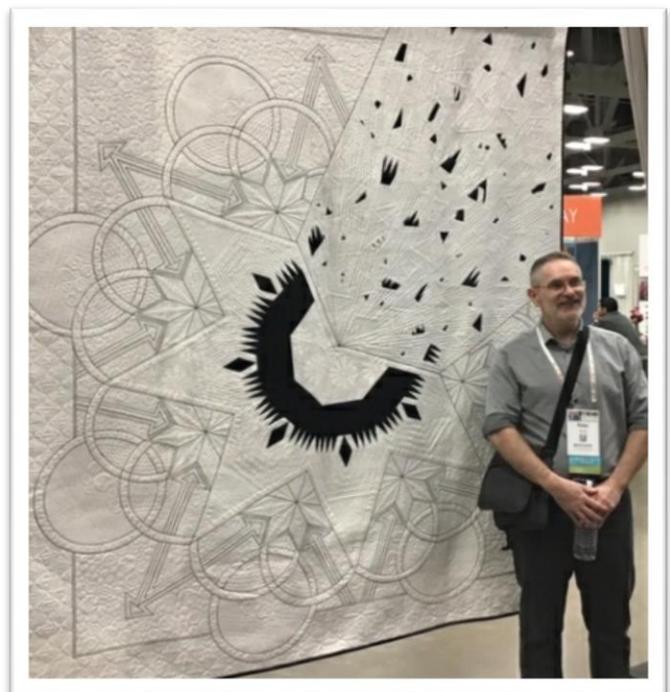
There were a large band of volunteers who were all friendly and cheerful and there was a full schedule of lectures and workshops; I was lucky enough to attend several. We were entertained by **Mary Fons** talking

about myths in American quilt making. **Victoria Findlay Wolfe** described her life and how she started her business, and **Mary Fons** again, this time in conversation with her mother **Marianne**, in discussion about the revival and development of art over the



last 50 years.

Two more impressions remain with me: that quilt making as an art form is taken very seriously in the States. These were not quilts to be put on beds but to be hung on walls in public spaces and in galleries or in private collections, many commanding high prices. The **Best in Show** was won by a



man, [Peter Byrne](#) from [Canada](#), and there were many other entries by men.

Secondly it was encouraging to see how many young women were exhibiting quilts or running businesses or both. For instance, [Alison Glass](#) the fabric designer is only around 30 and a delightful English girl, [Leisa White](#), now living in [Austin](#), has set up her own business, [Morris Textiles](#), to import British fabrics such as [Liberty](#) and [William Morris](#) designs and is doing very well.

Would I go again? Certainly if the opportunity were to arise. [Atlanta](#) is the destination next year and the year after it's in [Phoenix](#), not too far from our American family, so who knows!

Alison King

BLOCK OF THE MONTH _____

Please could you bring both your [February](#) and [March](#) blocks to the [March](#) meeting as the April meeting will be the [AGM](#).

HERTS SPRING AREA DAY _____

Saturday 16 May 2020 10am-4pm

Flaunden Village Hall,
Birch lane, Flaunden, HP3 0PP

Speakers

[Sheena Roberts](#) 'Challenge and Extend'
[Kate Findlay](#) 'Working in Series'

Advance booking for Area and Regional Days via Regional Treasurer . . .

t: [07751 196078](tel:07751196078)

e: treasurer_reg7@quiltersguild.org.uk
Members £12.00, Non - Members £18.00, On the Day: £14.00 and £20.00

In addition to the Speakers there are trade stalls, bring and buy and wonderful cakes!

GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM

Gunnersbury Park House
Popes Lane, London W5 4NH

www.visitgunnersbury.org

We are celebrating [International Women's Day](#) by looking at the stories of some of the incredible women who have lived or worked in our local area.

[Marion Wallace Dunlop](#) lived in [Ealing](#) and was a writer, artist and the first [Suffragette](#) to go on hunger strike in 1909. Her protest raised considerable interest in the press and quickly became standard Suffragette practice.

In our [People and Places Gallery](#) we look at [Pocahontas](#), famed 17C resident of [Brentford](#) and daughter of [Wahunsenacawh](#), an indigenous North American tribal chief. She moved to England in 1616 with her tobacco farmer husband John Rolfe and their infant son Thomas.

Also celebrated are [Emily Taylor](#) and [Lily McKee](#). This exhibition is on until [25 May](#).

[Although not strictly anything to do with quilting, (although they do have textile exhibitions on every so often) this is a really interesting place to visit with lovely gardens and a nice café.

If you would prefer not to see this in the [Newsletter](#) then let me know.

Linda]

THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

have sent us a poster of thanks for the fantastic contribution from our [Quilt Exhibition](#) and raffle, etc. I think we should be very proud of ourselves for our efforts, [£1,700](#) is a really good contribution.

I will bring the original to the Tuesday evening meeting as it would not scan very well for here.

Linda

. . . and finally, Mead Quilters is now a known 'place' on Google Maps!
Our meeting place at Mead Hall is marked and Google Maps recognises an enquiry as to where Mead Quilters is/are/live?
It happens because our Webmaster told Google where Mead Quilters meet, and they were happy to oblige! Maybe you could do this for your other Clubs or Groups!