

Mead Quilters

Issue 77

May

2020

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

This past month for many of you has been concentrating on keeping safe and well. So far I have only heard of one of us contacting Covid 19 and that is [Rebekah Cornford](#). She has recovered but now has Post Viral Fatigue Syndrome which has left her very tired; not easy when you have two energetic young daughters. However she was able to join the [Zoom](#) session on May 5 and we all hope that she will soon be feeling a great deal better. [Janet Thornhill](#) is recovering well from her fractured ankle and [Mary Spencer](#)'s post op treatment is completed and she is getting back to normal.

Much of the past month for some of you has been sewing for the NHS and supporting [Ginny Edwards](#)' efforts to keep [West Herts Hospitals](#) supplied with scrub bags, bandanas, baby quilts and staff comfort quilts. Ginny showed a slide presentation at a Zoom session and she promises to show it to everyone when we reconvene at the Mead Hall, which hopefully won't be too far away. Meanwhile it is lovely to see faces at our weekly Zoom session on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Once it is set up (by a computer friendly helper) it is easy to use and is also possible on a tablet. [Caroline Ellis](#) is your contact.

[Jo Day](#)'s "flapper" doll kits are proving popular; a whole Christmas tree of them will look really good. [Elizabeth Ricardson](#) continues to supply fabric from the 'Sales Table' by post: just send her a snippet of what you wish to match. [Heather Hunt](#) has sufficient red hexagons for a massive quilt which she plans to have professionally quilted. It should be a bumper year for quilts for our [2021 Show](#) with all this time on our hands. [Stasha Martin](#)'s son [Eddie](#) is going to renovate our quilt stands for which we are very grateful. I wonder if the projected building works at [Wheathampstead Memorial Hall](#) will go ahead this year or be

moved to next year?? Could be a problem for us.

[Barbie Edwards](#) has organised a group quilt of squares that make up as a complete unit, batting enclosed and with backing an integral part. Some of you will have received a pack if you requested one. You will have to request a pack from [Barbie](#) by either telephoning on [01582 832001](#) or emailing to:

mail@oldbarb.plus.com

or sending a letter to [9 Garden Court, Wheathampstead, AL4 8RE](#). They are easy to make; return them to [Barbie](#) and she will join the 6 patch squares together and machine quilt them.

Comfort quilts (minimum size 4ft x 4ft) are still needed by [Ginny Edwards](#) but no other items for [West Herts](#) apart from ongoing baby quilts. Some of you may be making [Scrubs](#); I believe there are a number of places organising these.

Hopefully you have all managed to make masks for when you travel by public transport or enter a busy shop.

It will be great to go to [Garden Centres](#) again, although what I most need is a haircut! Not yet I fear. Nor can we meet up for the time being except in ones and twos but that is an improvement, especially for those of you who live alone.

If you can, join us every [Tuesday on Zoom](#); it is not the perfect solution as you cannot "read" people's body language, but it is lovely to see and hear Members and what they are working on.

Do get in touch with me or Editor Linda with your news if you cannot join Zoom.

Keep safe and alert!

[Valerie Pollington](#)

NHS SUPPLIES _____

An urgent call to action at the beginning of the **Covid 19** pandemic was made from the **NHS** and other health and care providers for crafters to get making.

Mead Quilters were amongst a number of wonderful groups that helped to supply over

- 400 uniform bags
- 200 bandana scarves
- 20 comfort quilts (more being done)
- 20 baby quilts

The rainbow sign has been adopted as a sign of hope, and bags and quilts had rainbow ribbons either as drawstrings, or in a pin or as a tie around the quilts.

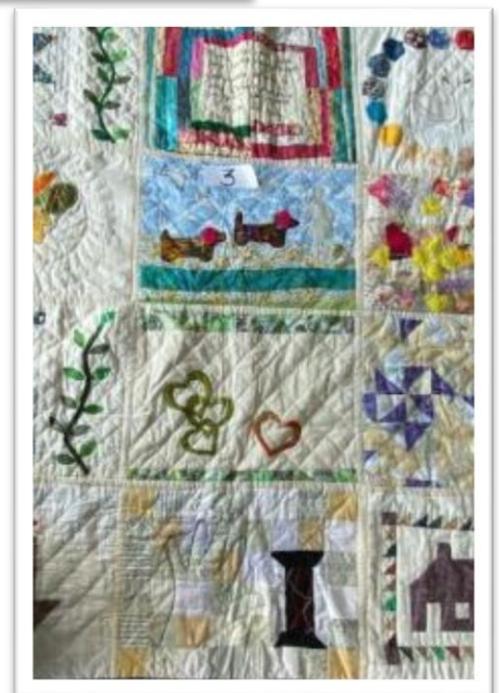
Staff are so grateful for what we have done. I would like to get up to 50 quilts and we will have achieved 30 by the time this **Newsletter** goes out; so if anyone would like to make any more then I am asking for a minimum size of 40 x 40 inches.

I can help with supplying wadding and backing and we have thread donated by **Herts Federation WI**.

We have three dropping off points; **Barbie** in **Wheathampstead**, **Caroline** in **St Albans**, and me in **Bushey** so we can get to you. A huge thank you from me. You have all been amazing and I am so proud to belong to **Mead Quilters** and for your support.

Some photos follow . . .

Ginny Edwards



ZOOM

Zoom Meetings: Tuesdays - 7.30pm

Meeting ID: 736 8900 9906

Password: Mead

Mead Quilters Members have been 'meeting' virtually on **Zoom** each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm. **Caroline Ellis** kindly hosts the **Zoom Meeting** and on 5 May there were 20 members watching a Powerpoint presentation on the project **Ginny Edwards** has wonderfully organised.

What is Zoom and how does it work?

In many respects **Zoom** does nothing new. It is a cloud-based video conferencing tool where you can host calls with others. Users can open chat rooms and can have up to 500 attendees all sharing the feed from their webcams, thus giving the illusion of a typical meeting. Similar to **Skype** or **Facetime** it gives the ability to talk and see faces.

Some of you may be familiar with conference calls. Some years ago this was just using phones and several people could hear the conversation. **Zoom** is the same but you can see those who have joined in.

A Dad who works for a global company, frequently has hour long video conference calls and is in the habit of collecting himself a cup of coffee before the start. His daughter's school hosted a **Zoom** meeting and, familiar with her father's routine, sat quietly waiting by the screen and turned to her Mother and requested a hot chocolate. The young cotton on very quickly!

There are a couple of projects our members are involved in:

Ginny Edwards, with the help of **Mead Quilters**, **Kimpton Stitchers**, **Bricket Wood WI** and **Watford U3A Sew and Stitch Group** have made and donated laundry bags, bandanas, comfort quilts (more in progress), baby quilts, 100 tie purses (purses made from silk ties for families to receive jewellery and such from deceased loved ones). The hospitals are in the **West Herts** area, covering **St. Albans City**, **Watford General** and **Hemel Hempstead**.

Heather Hunt, at the start of lockdown suggested, through Facebook, making red and white hexagon flowers as a group project. Many of our members responded and **Alison Williams** made up a red house which is now being used as a border. **Heather** is receiving these lovely hexagon goodies in the post and will sew them together and have the quilt long arm quilted. What will happen to this quilt made by so many of our members during a period of lockdown? A lockdown quilt. There has been some chat to offer it as a raffle quilt for the **Mead Quilters Exhibition**. Your suggestions and opinions would be welcome.

Caroline Ellis informs us that the **WI Shop** in **Wheathampstead** has closed.

If you wish to make **Jo Day's Flapper Girl** dolls for the **Christmas Tree Exhibition** in Welwyn Garden City, see last month's **Newsletter** for details.

We are so fortunate that we have the knowledge to throw ourselves into sewing or crafting. Getting supplies can be frustrating and online is one way of acquiring them, albeit with a delay in receiving them. Not being able to see what you are buying can be off putting and a recent grocery order attests to this. I ordered tomato sauce. Well, I got tomato sauce but was expecting a bottle of sauce not a handbag sized bottle! Oh well, live and learn.

Fashion 'n' Fabrics is open for business. You can order by phone and collect your order after 11 am. **Simone (Taylor)** comes to the door with your parcel; their telephone number is **01727 865038**.

Stitch & Knit in **Brookmans Park** will also deliver. Their telephone number is **01707 518966**.

What a delightful bunch of people we are, stitching away in isolation, creating beautifully, thinking of others and supporting each other. Please remember we are all in this together and are here for each other; just reach out and know we will respond to your need.

Sheila Hirst
01727 872728

Val Pollington suggested we print this poem, thought by many to be from the pen of the wonderful Pam Ayres MBE . . . but, before you pass it on, please note that, as Pam Ayres herself says: "I did not write this poem, it is by Jan Beaumont who lives in New Zealand. She and her family are understandably upset that this popular piece keeps being attributed to me." Go to https://startsats60.com/author/jan_beaumont for proof!!

TIME FOR US GIRLS

*I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates*

*You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died*

*They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told*

*We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s
If you only knew the truth!*

*There was sex and drugs and rock'n roll
The pill and mini skirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts*

*Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's Mum
Somebody's wife, then Nana
Who on earth did we become?*

*We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full*

*But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!*

*So here you find me stuck inside
For 8 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!*

*It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!*

*Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.*

*At least I have a stash of booze
For while I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!*

*So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.*

*We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!*

NEWS FROM CAROL WORT

Hello Ladies

I hope you have all kept well since the last [Newsletter](#). I miss seeing all you lovely ladies and the help you give me when I am trying new things. I have made good progress with applique and putting a quilt together and being sensible with the quilting of it.

I have got the book out for my machine and looked at all the feet in the drawer. I have tried some of them and am amazed at what

they do. It is quite an experience if you want to give it a go.

I know we are all fed up but we are lucky really. We have good food to eat and, a warm and cosy home and a comfy bed to sleep in. We are not sending our boys and men to war, spending endless nights in an air raid shelter and cutting newspaper into squares for the loo!

We can do this. It will end, and boy, won't we all enjoy meeting up again when we can.

I am sure, at some stage all of you have gone through your stash of fabric and found UFOs and lots of lovely fabric you did not know you had. But, of course, you always have one thing that wants backing. Having searched your stash countless times you still will have to go and buy some to finish it. Oh what a shame, will we walk out of the shop with only one thing? I doubt it. I feel sure we will see some other must haves that we need while we are there and our stash will soon be replenished.

Take care, all of you.

Carol Wort

Here's an example of **Carol's** appliqué . . .



. . . and, above right, the lovely quilt **Carol** made with blocks she won.

NEWS FROM HEATHER

In an effort to fill my days since becoming an empty nester I have volunteered for the **Quilters Guild of the British Isles**. I'm the kind of person who isn't afraid to get involved and believe you get more out of a project when you throw yourself wholeheartedly into it. When I received an email looking for volunteer Officers I applied for a role.

Following an online application process and two telephone interviews, I have been



appointed as **Digital Officer**. I am responsible for maintaining and developing the **Guild's** social media on **Facebook** and **Instagram**.

I've found the **Quilters Guild** to be friendly and welcoming and I'm already learning about what it has to offer its members. Being a national charity it is an enormous undertaking, a lot different to running my own Instagram page or **Mead Quilters** social media. One of the benefits is that I will now have information on forthcoming events and opportunities and look forward to sharing these with you all.

Rebekah Cornford and I will continue to develop the **Mead Quilters** social media pages. If you have anything you would like to share on our **Facebook** (not the members group) or **Instagram**, then do email us at: socialmedia@meadquilters.org

Heather Hunt

I am sure you would all like to join me in congratulating **Heather** on her new appointment.

Linda

AND . . . _____

We have continued to supply **St Albans Breast Clinic** with heart shaped cushions and drainage bags for the ladies who have had breast cancer surgery; **Alison King** dropped some off at my house, and these

combined with the ones I had made I took to the clinic last week. I received the lovely card below from one of the breast care nurses.

Linda



AND FINALLY . . . _____

Pam Ayres DID write the following ditty on 25 April . . .

*At last, we have a cure for all!
Ailments large and ailments small,
Good health is not beyond my reach,
If I inject myself with bleach.*

*Radiant, I'll prance along,
Every trace of limescale gone,
With disinfectant as my friend,
Like him, I'm clean around the bend.*

. . . one wonders if the 'him' referred to is a certain **Mr Trump**?

Please also note that these Newsletters don't include blank pages; the problem usually arises because your **Word** and/or your printer is/are set-up for (eg) Letter size paper, not A4, or with overlarge margins?

The **PDF** available at

meadquilters.org/news.html

is your best bet to print successfully.

RW