

Editor's Letter

Dear Members

What a busy month it has been, a Regional Day with the Quilters Guild, Icknield Quilters Exhibition, the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace not to mention The Great British Sewing Bee at the Excel Centre with more still to come at Duxford and including our own Exhibition. Are you ready for it?

Hilda

TEA ROTA

November 21st: Viv Seal, Mary Rawlings and Stasha Martin

December 19th: Christmas evening, Refreshments from the Committee

16th January 2018: Sally Simpson, Ros Grace and Teresa Dunn

THE MEAD A.G.M. CHALLENGE

The Challenge for next year with the title 'Flights of fancy' should only be one metre square at the maximum.

This can be in any technique, traditional, art quilt, modern style or applique, the choice is yours so let your creativity have full rein.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

There seemed to be quite a few Babouska dolls handed at Tuesday evening meeting. Remember the deadline is the November meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mead Quilters have a collection of printing blocks for foundation piecing. They are kept in the Library cupboard and if you would like to borrow them please see Linda Cosgrove.

MEAD SHOW

Don't forget that we will need your entries not only for the Star Challenge, but also for the Triangles Challenge from last year. We need these to make a good display of Members Work.

MORE INFORMATION FOR THE SHOW

Rota for Stewards still time slots to fill in. If possible please volunteer to cover two consecutive hours.

Refreshments. We'll need lots of Homemade Cakes/biscuits for the refreshments counter. Complete the relevant form with the intended cake/s? It will allow the committee to judge if enough will be available on the day or if they need to bake overnight (only joking, I hope).

Joan's Sales Table. If you want Joan Douglas and her team to sell any 'quilty' items you have made, pick up a form and complete in duplicate, one to give to Joan with the relevant items individually listed and priced and the other for your own record. Don't forget that a commission of the selling price will be withheld for Mead funds.

Trader's Stall. Elizabeth is happy to accept anything to do with sewing/knitting that you have no more use for to sell on her stall for Mead funds. Speak to her at one of our meetings if unsure of the suitability of an item.

Christmas Stockings Tombola. We need lots of Christmas Stockings to be able to run a successful Tombola all day by keeping it well stocked up.

Raffle Tickets. Please don't forget to sell the book of tickets you have all been given, many more books available to pick up at meetings. Return stubs and money in a sealed envelope with your name on to Emily Marshall or Barbara Sachak.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of the committee members or myself if you have a query.

Stasha

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE FINAL DATE FOR REGISTRATION
OF YOUR QUILT, WALLHANGING ETC. IS 7th NOVEMBER.

KAFFE FASSETT EXHIBITION _____ Mottisfont Abbey near Romsey

This exhibition is on from September 16th to January 14th 2018. Open 11am till 4pm during the winter months

We were fortunate to have a dry day, the car park was full but many of the visitors had come to see the wonderful gardens and the historic 800 year old abbey.

The exhibition was on the top two floors of the house and rooms had been redecorated in bright colours to perfectly enhance the colours of the quilts but also the cushions, wallhangings, knitwear and painted ceramics.

There were five rooms in all showing a variety of snowball quilts in different colourways, rooms being red, yellow, green and blue. There were quite a few petit point cushions, knitted quilts, knitwear of all kinds, both adult and childrens, and also painted pottery. As one would expect, the whole exhibition was a riot of colour.

There was a lot of descriptive literature but unfortunately only a few knitting and quilt books in the National Trust shop. One book which could prove useful in our own library was the '20 small projects to make'. The shop had quite a few Erhman tapestry kits but otherwise only commercially made small items.



CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS _____

If you are in the middle of making or have made a stocking for the tombola, can you please bring them in to the next meeting. At the time of this newsletter, we do not have enough stockings for the tombola but of course, we do not know how many are in production which makes life quite complicated for the organiser of the tombola.

ICKNIELD QUILTERS SHOW _____

We went to this show on a Sunday morning, it was held in a school hall. My biggest problem was that being such a prolific group at making large quilts, it was difficult to stand back and see the beauty of every one.

As a group they seem able to put on quite a number of workshops with lots of pieces finished. Jan Hassard seems to have been a popular tutor. Colorwise there was a lot of taupe and blue, but mauve and turquoise seemed to run it a close second. There was a lot to see and discuss and also a lot to admire.

I rather liked the winning quilt which was a change from the usual redwork, being in shades of blue, quite restful on the eye. Choosing Visitors Choice was difficult, was it the Japanese folded patchwork, the Liberty with entwined flowers or this New York Beauty in shades of cream and blue?



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REGIONAL DAY AT COSGROVE _____

The morning speaker was Lesley Brankin and many of you will know her work as she publishes regularly in patchwork magazines. She also works for Janome, so in addition to a very comprehensive slide show there were many samples on display; she worked through the colour wheel showing her work which was quite inspirational. She also showed the benefits of making Journal quilts as you really do get to practice techniques with these little pieces.

The afternoon speaker was Pauline Barnes and if you ever fancied making a whole cloth quilt this would have set your creative juices going. There were only a few quilts but gave a slide show of a holiday in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico and it was from the ancient Mayan buildings she had taken her inspiration.

The colour was monochrome, the fabric a type of calico, which she free machined in coloured threads which according to the density of the stitching gave a very different look to the whole cloth quilt - they were exquisite. She also explained her work, gave access to her sketch books and City and Guilds work generally - fabulous afternoon.

GROSVENOR SHOW _____ Duxford Air Museum

I have not been a fan of this show mainly because it is always so cold, the wind seems to sweep in from Siberia across the airfield but with family all away for the weekend and not a lot to do, the offer of a lift was very tempting, so I wrapped up warmly and was pleasantly surprised when we got there. First of all the aeroplane had been moved from the Conservation Hall and in its place was a lot more seating which by lunchtime was full in spite of having to queue for 20 minutes for a tea bag in a cup. Will they ever get the catering right.

But to get to the reason for going. I love Sew and Sews of Bungay and proudly showed them my bag from a pattern purchased when last up in Suffolk. I purchased the clam shell paper pieces to make something I had seen on TV but was too mean to purchase the kit. I had a good browse round all the stalls and decided on making another Luna rabbit so found some

lovely vintage wool felt, and whilst looking round Lady Sew and Sew found the kit for a mini tuffet, which I couldn't resist.

So by the time we decided to return home, I had had a really good afternoon of browsing and buying and generally looking around, there were many of the old favourites in stall holders missing, but I suppose that is the nature of quilt shows, there were quite a few new ones as well.

21st NOVEMBER MEETING _____

This is your chance to shine, it is a whole evening of **SHOW AND TELL**

It might be the first quilt you made or one you are most proud of. It does not have to be a large quilt but can be any size and any stitched item made at any time in your quilting career.

Please notify Carole Wort of your intention to participate with details of the item you wish to show.

FASHION AND FABRICS _____ Beech road, St Albans

Some of you will have heard of the sad demise of Chris Campbell who ran Fashion and Fabrics in Beech Road, St. Albans. At the time of writing the shop is to continue opening with the current staff. I will keep you updated if I hear anything further.

OPEN DOOR TEXTILE DYING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2017

Thursday 9 Nov 10am-1pm Tuesday 5 Dec
1pm-4pm at Open Door, 360-364 High Street
Berkhamsted, HP4 1HU

NOVEMBER - Use of Dyes to create space dyed pieces, plus continuing to explore Tie Dye and Stitch Resist.

DECEMBER - Use of dyes with Screen Printing, exploring on paper prior to using on fabric. Printing on the space dyed fabric from the November workshop if available.

Contact opendoorberko@gmail.com for more information and requirements, before you book. The cost of each workshop is £20 per person per session.