
I.Q. QUARTERLY

ISSUE 44

April 2006- June 2006

MARCH MEETING

I had been looking forward to this evening for quite some time as Janet had told us quite a lot about Jean and Gerald McConkey as she has met them before.

I wasn't sure what to expect as I couldn't believe that both husband and wife were quilters. I thought perhaps that Jean was the quilter and Gerald just assisted with her talks (carrying and fetching!) How wrong I was.

Gerald had learnt to sew in the Army and he encouraged Jean to try quilting after visiting a pen friend in America about 25 years ago. She borrowed an Avril Colby book from the library and made her first quilt with hexagons using polyester sheets. They have gone on from there! I lost count of the number of quilts they brought with them that evening, but they insist that they use all the quilts they make, using some as wall hangings all over their house, changing them frequently. They prefer traditional quilts having tried most methods, seminole, appliqué, log cabin, whole cloth quilts, trapunto, foundation piecing, Amish, compass, over papers, to name a few! Some of Gerald's quilts were more intricately made than Jean's, one having 3,000 squares forming a mosaic. They are both members of Mead and Bedfordshire Quilters and regularly enter competitions, Gerald winning more first prizes than Jean. One particular king size quilt, Storm at Sea, they made together. Gerald cut the pieces, Jean pieced it, Gerald quilted and Jean added the border, in total it took them 298 hours.

It was a very entertaining talk, with lots to see, I do not know how they get time for anything else in their lives let alone time to eat. Perhaps if we all had partners like Gerald it would stop the comments we get whilst sat at our machines "What time are we eating?" "What's for dinner?" "Fancy a coffee?" (in my house this means can I make it because apparently my coffee tastes better than his!)

Christine Bull

APRIL MEETING

This evening started with Janet standing in for Anita and having to cope with a mammoth list of announcements - but she managed very well!

Tonight we hired a presentation of miniature Post Card Quilts from the Miniature Quilt Group of the Quilters Guild Collection.

These little quilts are fascinating and beautiful in their design, scale and workmanship. I am full of admiration for the patience (not to mention eyesight!) needed to work on such small projects which included a range of skills such as machine and hand quilting, appliqué, embroidery and piecing on incredibly small scales.

And of course one of our favourite exhibits was from Dorian, called ' Tulips in Amsterdam'. Dorian was awarded 2nd place (but we think she should have won!)

If anyone is interested in joining the Miniature Quilt Group, the cost is £10 pa (available to existing Quilters Guild members only), which includes three issues per year of 'Small Talk' full of articles, tips and events on Miniature Quilts.

We had an exceptionally large selection of 'show 'n' tells' this month, including bags, table runners, wall hangings and quilts. The standard is consistently very high.

Anne Francis

May Meeting

A group project was planned for this meeting so we had been asked to bring a 9" square of blue fabric, pencil, marking pencil, tracing paper and sewing kit. People helped those missing the odd item and the cupboard was raided for additional backing fabric for the block. Steph North issued everyone with four designs for a snowflake block on which to practise the needle turning method of appliqué. Soon we were busy tracing and snipping then gossiping as we stitched. Steph went from group to group to deal with any problems.

When the completed blocks are returned to Steph she has offered to make them up into a quilt.

We were issued with part 4 of the instructions for the mystery quilt.

The excellent range of 'show 'n' tells' began in an unusual way with June Crumholt showing a photograph of her newest grandson.

Congratulations to Alison on the safe arrival of her little boy! (as yet unnamed!)

Members are reminded that if they withdraw from a workshop/trip for which they have booked a place with a £5 deposit that the deposit will not be returned unless the place can be filled.

**Know your sewing machine
Free machine quilting & embroidery**

Jenny Dukes

9th September 2006

Baldock Community Centre

10 am to 4 pm

Cost £20/£21 members/non-members

Sunflower Fabrics Visit

7th October 2006

Depart Baldock 9am - return approx 4.15pm

Cost 14/£15 members/non-members (including cost of travel)

BRAMBLE PATCH VISIT

On a cold Saturday morning in early March a group of IQ members met up in Baldock High Street and drove north to the village of Weedon, to the west of Northampton. We were joined by 5 members of Log Cabin Quilters in Langford. After the customary warm welcome from the Bramble Patch staff and a very much appreciated cup of coffee, Jane demonstrated the foundation method of patchwork. We had to sew 4 small squares which were then joined together to make a finished 10 inch block. For some, the next hour or so of sewing was a steep learning curve with cries of 'oh, that piece is too small' or simply 'that's wrong' etc but I am sure even those very familiar with foundation piecing picked up the odd hint too. Jane provided us all with some very comprehensive instructions for making a bag incorporating the finished block. The pattern also included a few other ideas for using the 10 inch foundation pieced block. After lunch Jane talked us through how to complete the bag before demonstrating various methods of appliqué.

An added bonus to our visit was that Dilys Fronks spent the morning in the shop promoting her latest book. Several people were pleased to chat to her about her method of appliqué.

If anyone has not visited the Bramble Patch, I would certainly recommend calling in if you are in the Northampton area or are heading north on the M1. The shop has a huge range of material as well as books, threads, notions etc and the staff are very friendly and helpful. They offer free tea/coffee in the gallery so husbands/partners can always be despatched up there with a newspaper for half an hour or more!

We have seen several finished bags at show 'n' tell sessions since our visit - are there any more out there?

Anita Johnson

ARTICLES FOR SALE/WANTED

ITEMS FOR SALE

1. The group has several 16 inch cushion pads for sale at £2 each (they are a little on the small side). Please speak to Steph North if you are interested in buying any.
2. We have enamel Icknield Quilters badges for sale at £4 each - available each month on the desk.
3. Our cupboard in the hall is to be relocated, due to alterations being made to the community centre, and we wondered if anyone had any strong views on us selling the sewing machine that currently lives there? Would anyone be interested in making us an offer?

FORTHCOMING LOCAL EVENTS -

The Log Cabin Quilters are holding their exhibition on June 24th and 25th in the Church, Langford.

If anyone comes across any good shops on their holidays and travels please let us know so that details can be included in our newsletters.

LOOKING FORWARD

10 July: Sewing evening. As well as a relaxed sewing evening we are planning some card making demonstrations. There will be several techniques demonstrated including stencilling. Bring along some fabric scraps and we will provide the fabric paint needed. Cards with a circle aperture will be available at 25p each. (of course you may well have your own already)

14 August: We welcome Ineke Berlyn who will be giving a talk called 'Talking Double Dutch'

19 August: NEC trip to the Festival of Quilts (Letchworth settlement are running a coach)

9 September: Know Your Sewing Machine - places still available

11 September; Members sale

7 October: Sunflower Fabrics Trip - places still available.

28 October: UFO day at Studio 39 - bookings to start at the July meeting