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# I.Q. QUARTERLY

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June 2006- August 2006

## JUNE MEETING

On what must have been the hottest day this year practically all members and a good number of visitors turned up to enjoy the evening. It was unfortunate that one set of doors had to be closed but the speaker was having to compete with the sound of the frenetic tapping of the tap dancing class next door.

The show and tell was earlier than usual as there was a really special viewing. Alison proudly presented her third son, 5 week old Bailey who was delightful. I'm sure that his brothers will introduce him to the world of patchwork and quilting when he is a little older! We also saw the results of the Christmas Folk Art Wallhangings made at the Janet Goddard's Workshop on the previous Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June, another blistering hot day. Still working on snowmen and other winter delights must have cooled them down!!!!

Our speaker this evening was Margaret Johnson. Her subject was 'Quilts Ancient and Modern' which was very informative and interesting. Margaret was a 'Services' wife married to a RAF officer and consequently moved home 32 times! Prior to a posting to USA, her daughter handed her some Laura Ashley fabric remnants and asked her to 'find out about that patchwork stuff'. It was on this posting that Margaret saw her first quilts and she got the collecting bug. One of the first quilts she acquired was a crazy patch, although not an impressive one rather one made by a woman who was recycling fabrics out of sheer need. Margaret empathised with this and although the quilt was 'ugly' she treasures it. She talked us through the history of quiltmaking from before medieval times to present day. Her talk this evening was part 1 of 3 as the subject matter is vast. One of the quilts shown was estimated to have been made in the 1870s. Another small quilt of Suffolk Puffs was used in the production of Oliver. Margaret's favourite quilts are those made by the Amish and she deeply regretted not purchasing one. However a member of her quilt group had made her a miniature one which was a splendid example of an Amish design. I really enjoyed Margaret's talk which included many interesting anecdotes, one of which was a Red Cross quilt made in Canada and shipped over to Britain during WW2 to help those who had suffered during the blitz. Margaret also brought along a box full of geranium plants which she was selling in aid of her local church fund. Margaret was very pleased that she was sold out.

Teresa.

## **JULY MEETING**

On the calendar this evening was designated a Sewing Evening and whilst members are encouraged to bring along their current project to work on, we have started to add demonstrations and taster sessions organised, from the many areas of expertise we have within Icknield Quilters.

Our evening started as usual with notices from Anita keeping us up to date on all the trips, workshops and business of the group. Dorian had brought in a lovely quilt all done with stencilled designs. This showed us that the method that she demonstrated for us has much wider use than just card making.

The evening proceeded with three demos on offer all related to card making. There were fabrics and card available for members to have a go at one or more of the techniques and we settled down for an hour of fun. Fabric stencilling from Dorian, folded ribbon roses from Jacqui and I showed methods for using frayed fabric and punched shapes in all sorts of guises. The hour whizzed past and soon there were examples of all the methods emerging. A good time was had by all and members expressed their thanks to the demonstrators.

It is hoped that in future most of our sewing evenings will have some form of demo/workshops element. If anyone among our members would be prepared to demo a skill please get in touch with me so that we can build it into the programme.

Janet Simpson

## **AUGUST MEETING**

We welcomed Ineke Berlyn to our meeting. With her, we travelled a fascinating journey from her upbringing in Holland when she first used a sewing machine as a child to make clothes, via her first quilt inevitably made with Laura Ashley material, to her present role as a textile artist. Unlike many professional patchworkers who have degrees in textile and design, Ineke studied French at university and had worked as an air hostess and also completed a secretarial course. Marriage brought her to England and initially she ran a business selling clothes and knitted jumpers before embarking on a City and Guilds Patchwork Course. While showing us her work, she also dressed herself in two Dutch costumes, explaining each piece as she put it on and finally stepping into a pair of clogs. I am sure that I was not the only one in the hall who had not realised how much the national costume can vary from area to area.

Once Ineke progressed to the second part of the C&G qualification, her work became more 'arty'. Some of her landscape wallhangings are based on the work of the Dutch

artist, Ton Schulten. These hangings are worked in strips and make much use of dyed fabrics. Ineke also likes to work in indigo materials. She said travel provides further inspiration for her work but if in doubt she reverts to tulips!

Ineke has just had her first book published and we were the first group to see 'Landscape in Contemporary Quilting'.

Despite producing such wonderful work, she mentioned that she still attends classes! All in all a fascinating evening and a number of us had the chance to chat to her again at the Festival of Quilts just a few days. She exhibited 2 pieces and like Dorian, she won one category. Congratulations to them both!

Anita Johnson

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### **Sunflower Fabrics Visit**

7<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Depart Baldock 9am - return approx 4.15pm

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

(Just one place left!)

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.

## NEW BEAD SHOP

A new shop called Homebeads has opened on the main street in Knebworth in the last couple of weeks. They sell beads of every colour and description plus jewellery making tools and findings and lots of embellishments useful for quilts and cards. Their prices are very good and they're well worth a look, especially if you're going to Art van Go; they're on the same side, near to the zebra crossing on London Road.

## LOOKING FORWARD

7 October: Sunflower Fabrics Trip - one place is still available.

9 October : Dawn Cameron-Dick -'One Woman's Quilts'.

28 October: UFO day at Studio 39 - 4 places still available.

13 November: Quilters Guild Slide Show - Amish Quilts

The **Christmas** party date is 11<sup>th</sup> **December** (not the 12<sup>th</sup> as printed in the diary!). For the benefit of our new friends (and those of us with rusty memories!) we normally bring the following on the day

- . Secret Santa pressie (value about £5.00)
- . 2 x fat eighths (for the fabric bingo game)
- . a small candle for the table
- . a plate of food (a list will go round nearer to the time)
- . this year's Christmas challenge - a Christmas table mat (for those of you who already have made one, it would be a good idea to make a new one this year!)

We would also like to take a group photograph of this years Mystery Quilt Challenge. So if everyone could finish theirs and bring it along, Janet can take a photograph for prosperity!

Dorien would also like to photograph the Christmas wallhangings made at the June workshop to send to Janet Goddard.

## **FORTHCOMING LOCAL EVENTS**

1. Autumn Regional Day - 10am Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust, 17 Stukeley Street, London WC2B 5LT

In the morning Anne Brock from the Miniature Quilt Group will talk about her collection of over 30 miniature quilts and textile postcards and in the afternoon Linda Seward will speak about her experiences on the Guild's first Judges Course and the quilt judging she has done since completing the course in 2004.

The day will also include a display of miniature quilts, raffle, tombola and a stall by Sewfine of Watford. There is also a challenge for visitors to make a patched and/or quilted teacosy to bring along.

Entrance fees:       Members £15 on the door and £12 in advance  
                          Non-members £20 on the door and £16 in advance

2. The Knitting & Stitchcraft Show - 12/15 October 2006, Alexander Palace.

3. Chilford Autumn Quilt Festival - 10/12 November

Please note that unfortunately the Mimram exhibition due to be held at the end of September has had to be cancelled.

## **BITS AND PIECES**

1. Please find attached the membership renewal forms. Please complete and return to Teresa Webster as soon as possible so that we can establish whether there are any available membership places. (Cheques can be post dated)
2. If anyone needs any help in tacking up a quilt please bring it along one sewing evening - many hands do make light work! Please just mention it beforehand to a committee member.

3. Christine Bull has done what many quilters have also done in the past (myself included!) - on going to NEC in August she bought herself a new book, however on browsing through it on the way home realised she already had it on her bookshelf at home!

The book concerned is 'Contemporary Quilts, Design, Surface and Stitch' by Sandra Meech.

Christine paid £15.00 for the book and wondered if anyone would be interested in buying it off her for £10.00.

4. We've all seen those lovely memory quilts using family photos or craft items made with copyright free images from just about anywhere, so for those of you who've progressed to printing your own fabric with a computer and inkjet printer, Jacqui Wilson has a catalogue from a very reasonably priced supplier of fabric sheets. There's a really good range of washable fabrics - cotton (sew- and iron-on), linen, voile and silk - and if we all got together a bulk buy of 50 A4 ready-backed cotton sheets would work out at just £1.20 per sheet, and no messy soaking and drying processes involved! If you're interested, please see Jacqui.

Last but not least congratulations go once again to Dorian for being awarded Gold for her entry in the Miniature section of the National Quilt Championships held at the NEC this summer! We have some fantastically talented members within our group - perhaps we should think about a group entry for next year!!!!