

CRANFORD QUILTERS

November 2008

Tonight's meeting: AGM, Presentation of Linus Quilts and Party

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to our Christmas party. We'll make the AGM as brief as possible so we can get on with the presentation of the quilts and the party. Thank you to all who have made quilts for Linus over the year.

I have a few other "thank yous" to mention: to all who made work for the exhibition and who worked hard on the Friday night and the Saturday. I have received many compliments on it. Thank you also to Katy and Joyce for their contributions to this month's newsletter. I haven't managed to get to Manchester yet. More thanks below.

By the time we come back in January I hope to have a design for the Knutsford Methodist Church banner ready for working on. Please help with this – I do not intend to make it complicated.

Our computer having died last week I am having to rush this in the library – please excuse any errors.

Have a good time over Christmas and New Year.

Diana

COMMITTEE

My thanks go to Wendy, Veronica, Joyce and Pip for their excellent support over my time as chairman and also for the work they have done for the group over the past few years. Also thanks for the work of the continuing members, Tricia, Sue and Sue. I hope in the rush I have forgotten no-one. Ann Brimelow, Barbara Malam and Shirley Curran have agreed to join the committee. If anyone else is prepared to help please let me know. We could do with one more member as four have left.

WHAT'S ON

Up to 14 December Cloth and Culture Now exhibition at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester
10-5 Monday – Saturday, 12-4 Sunday

Up to 11 January "Quilting Across the Globe" - The Quilt Museum and Gallery, St Anthony's Hall, Peaseholme, York

6 December Ribbon Sale, Beresford's, Congleton 9 am – 12 noon

18 December Quilters and Fabrics January Sale, Nantwich Civic Hall, Cheshire, CW5 5DG

For further details see noticeboard

Also see noticeboard for other programmes.

Congratulations!

Cranford Quilters have done it again.

“Absolutely beautiful”

“Simply superb”

“Excellent work”

“Thank you for brightening up my day”

“Fired with enthusiasm”

“Well worth a visit”

“Very good workshops, I felt I had learned something”

These are just a few of the comments written in the visitor's book.

I would like to say a big “thank you” to everyone who took part and contributed to the exhibition this year. It is quite a daunting prospect to prepare and present an exhibition like this but true to form you rose to the occasion.

It was no easy task – collecting quilt stands, carrying them from car to church, up and down stairs, hanging quilts [a life threatening experience standing on the pews in the gallery], setting up displays, setting up tables and chairs, getting the kitchen ready and providing refreshments for the 'troops'.

And that was only the beginning. Arriving early on Saturday, stewarding or manning a stall, helping where needed.

Then at the end of the day taking it all down and carrying and putting things away – much quicker than setting up but more tiring.

And you did it all with such good hearts, enthusiasm and passion [well maybe not on Saturday evening]. There is a saying - “If you want something done – ask a busy person” and never was this more appropriate. You put all other commitments to one side and put Cranford Quilters first. The atmosphere throughout was wonderful. Lots of chatter and banter and I think that this good feeling came across to the visitors. They started arriving en masse at ten o'clock and seemed reluctant to leave – well not until they had tried a workshop. I had to keep getting more chairs out but eventually people were queuing up or coming back later to take part. I don't think Joanne or Katy managed to look up until about 2 pm.

The refreshments did a roaring trade – not surprising due to the variety of cakes on offer. As soon as a chair or table became empty it was taken again. There were a couple of trips to the Co-op to replenish stocks. Thank you to everyone who baked, there were lots of compliments about the cakes. Maybe we could compile a Cranford Quilters cake recipe book!

It was lovely to have the mayor of Macclesfield visit and to say a few words. She is an embroiderer and her mother was a quilter so she really appreciated all our work. She had her consort well trained too – he was showing an interest and asking lots of questions.

It was good to see so much of your work at the exhibition and it is great that you are not so 'precious' about it. To be able to see a piece of work close up or better still to be able to chat to the person who made it is exciting. This is what motivates and inspires us. Thank you to everyone who exhibited, for caring and sharing and for passing your ideas and knowledge to

others so freely. When somebody enjoys your work it makes you feel good and this came across more than anything.

It was great to be a part of this exhibition – I feel lucky to have shared the experience with you. It was a fantastic achievement. You should be really proud of yourselves and give yourselves a large pat on the back because you make Cranford Quilters what it is – a wonderful group.

Thank yourselves Joyce

CLOTH AND CULTURE NOW EXHIBITION

There is a brilliant textile exhibition at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester at the moment. Cloth and Culture NOW is an international exhibition, featuring exciting and unusual textile art from Estonia, Finland, Japan, Latvia and beyond. If a trip to Manchester is out of the question before 14th December, you can see snapshots of the work and read the Artists' Statements at www.clothandculturenow.com. I visited the exhibition at half term, and was really impressed by the variety of work on show. It is quite experimental, this is true textile art, rather than traditional work, but it is very interesting to see these international pieces together. There is one pieced patchwork with an unusual theme, a stunning shibori display, and some beautiful tapestry and embroidery featuring some very unexpected materials. I particularly enjoyed Sue Lawty's Slate and Solder wall hangings, and the amazing cross-stitched tin buckets by Severija Incirauskaite from Lithuania. There were also beautiful light installations from Finland. Helena Hietanen works with knitted Fibre Optics; she calls her pieces, "Angel Hairs in The Architecture", which I thought was wonderful! I really would recommend a visit; this is an excellent exhibition, the likes of which are few and far between. - Katy

AUTUMN QUILT FAIR, MALVERN

Time on the computer is slowly running out, so just a brief report on this. I enjoyed the exhibition, especially the A4 Journal Quilts made by members of the Contemporary Quilt Group. These were interesting in the variety of techniques used, and seeing how some people tend to use the same techniques while others' work is more experimental. It is a smaller exhibition than the spring one, not using the marquee as they do in May. - Diana