



Cranford Quilters

www.cranfordquilters.org.uk

October 2011

TONIGHT'S MEETING: Christmas Make with Wendy Parker

Refreshments: Pamela Duxbury and Veronica Walton

Vote of thanks: Diana Judd

Hello everyone

Last month we had a good evening with Jenni Dobson "In Praise of Scraps" when she showed us a variety of quilts made from leftover pieces of fabric, not always tiny pieces, and left us with several ideas to use.

I enjoyed my visit to Wales for the Sandra Meech workshop (see Ellie's report). My accommodation plans were changed a week before and I ended up staying in a B&B run by Jackie and Stuart Jones. It transpired that Stuart retired recently from a bookbinding business so was most interested to see what I had been doing and was full of praise for what Sandra had been teaching us.

I went straight from Ruthin to Frodsham for the Regional Day the following day. Now life is back to normal and I hope to get all these blocks done which are on my conscience – blue and white churn dash; black, white and a touch of red, any design; house blocks; challenge and postcards for Beartown – as well as my long list of UFOs. (If I should have put an apostrophe in that, forgive me. When an abbreviation has become a word I am never sure what to do.)

Anyway, enough from me. Enjoy the evening.

Diana

RAFFLE QUILTS

Don't forget to make your blocks for these quilts which will be raffled separately from our exhibition.

AREA DAY

As the Area Day took place very close to our last meeting I didn't have a report for the last newsletter. We had an excellent talk from Gwenfai Rees Griffiths, an award-winning quilter. In her usual amusing way she told us about her life in quilting and showed us her beautiful quilts.

In the afternoon she gave a mini workshop and we made brooches from felted old knitted garments. It was interesting to see her collection of felted pieces – some had felted really well, others still showed the stitches. We were given templates for various sizes and shapes for flowers which could be put together in different arrangements, and also hearts, so that no two flowers were the same. With embellishments as well there was a wide variety at the end.

SANDRA MEECH WORKSHOP

I was fortunate to have a place on the Sandra Meech workshop in October organised by Region 13 along with Diana. The venue for it was Ruthin Craft Centre. Our room was light and airy with its own facilities – kitchen, loos and 2 sinks for messy paints!

The subject was Creative Stitched and Bound Sketchbooks. We were asked to research our own theme. I chose L'Aude region of France as we had just visited there for our son's wedding, and Diana's was based on a garden she liked at the RHS Tatton Flower Show. A water theme was quite popular. One member chose sailing holidays, an activity she'd not quite come to terms with, for the lady next to me the seascape around Bardsey Island was a big feature and for Margie Jenkins, the Californian coastline where she grew up was a theme with fond memories.

We started with a speedy application of brusho paint on our blank white pages and onto our black and white photocopies in colours applicable to our theme. Left to dry Sandra demonstrated several drawing exercises in her current sketch book of the Dorset coastline. She will be using some of these pages to illustrate her new book to be published soon. We had a chance to look through her many other sketchbooks, some complete like the Artic Scapes and others that are ongoing. She emphasised that our books should be an experiment of ideas and a record which may work eventually in a quilt or stitched textile.

After lunch we folded and tore our painted pages, tracing paper and photocopies to create 6 signatures for the book. Next we selected pages and marked holes ready to stitch together. In fact this became our home work for the evening.

I had been generously offered accommodation with a fellow quilter in Denbigh. Fortunately she understood I needed time to complete the task and I spent a couple of hours at her kitchen table marking and stitching them, not quite as accurately as it could have been, as I discovered the next day when weaving the spine.

The second day we spent most of the time doing composition and design exercises on our pages. Again Sandra demonstrated a technique and we replicated it (or tried to) in our theme and colourway, such as Strips and Stripes, Block Shapes, High & Low Horizons, Collage and so on. Before lunch we began weaving the signatures together with stranded cotton. Most of us had lunch in the Craft Centre café – well worth a visit if you are in Ruthin. More design and decorative exercises and weaving continued on the last afternoon and finally we had a showing of our ‘best’ pages.

It was an excellent workshop. It was intense, informative and enjoyable. Diana and I have the pleasure of a Stitched and Bound Mini Sketchbook to continue to be creative in and maybe the inspiration of a quilt!
Ellie.

REGIONAL DAY

What a great day you missed if you didn't go to Regional Day! The morning session was a presentation by Sandra Meech on her Arctic Expressions series of work. If you were not there I suggest you visit her blog sandrameech-art.blogspot.com to see it for yourself.

In the afternoon we were entertained by Cauldron. The group of five showed us the challenges they had set each other and seeing the different approaches was very interesting. I do know that there was a certain amount of nerves on their part beforehand but they needn't have worried. I think because they work so closely together and all are members of the same larger groups, one being Cauldron and Friends who are having an exhibition in November at Holyhead, they were very much at home and dealt with their “ordeal” in a light-hearted manner – no chance of nodding off after lunch when this group were on stage.

INTERESTING WEBSITE

My son Andrew came across this blog about how quilt blocks were used as a code for slaves moving north. You might be interested to see this, especially if you are likely to be in the Wilton, Ohio, area. I found it fascinating that blocks were used in this way. <http://cathynellsquilt.blogspot.com/>

WHAT'S ON

Until 4 Nov	Textile 21 exhibition at Jobling Gowler Solicitors, 250 Park Lane, Macclesfield SK11 8AD Tel: 01625 614250 Open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30
28-30 October	The Malvern Autumn Quilt Festival 10-4.30 (4pm Sunday)
1-27 November	Cauldron exhibition at Holyhead
8 November	8 pm. Exhibition of The Contemporary Quilts Suitcase Collection at Beartown P's and Q's meeting at New Life Church, Danesford Community Centre, West Road, Congleton CW12 4EY (for SATNAV please enter CW12 4EU). £4 for visitors, £1 for Beartown members.
24-27 November	Knitting and Stitching Show, International Halls, Harrogate

NEXT MEETING:

November:	AGM and library book auction
Refreshments:	Bring food to share, cutlery, crockery and glass

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome two new members from the September meeting.