



THREADS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

During an enforced period of relaxation over the last three weeks, I have had plenty of time to think and ponder. Coupled with the challenge of becoming a couch potato and over dosing on television; I did manage to combine the two.

In between mind numbing daytime television, monotonous and depressing soap sagas and endless advertisements encouraging you to sell your house and spend the children’s inheritance or how to ensure you can pay for your funeral by buying a new insurance policy; I was able to find the delightful and educational new series by Sir David Attenborough.

I watched avidly looking for inspiration for the Darwin Category of our Weston Super Quilts 2008. And what a treat was in store.

In the final chapter of Attenborough’s epic overview of Life on Earth – Life In Cold Blood captured some amazing TV footage. Using micro cameras, thermal imagery and futuristic filming techniques he showed the behaviour in amphibians and reptiles.

The first episode showed the chameleons of Madagascar, a species that Attenborough had filmed way back in 1960 and was somewhere he longed to return to in order to track down the world’s smallest reptile, the pygmy leaf chameleon. It was absolutely tiny, only as big as a thumbnail.

He also found many other chameleons during their safari, huge Oustalet’s chameleons, enigmatic stump-tailed chameleons and colourful panther chameleons.

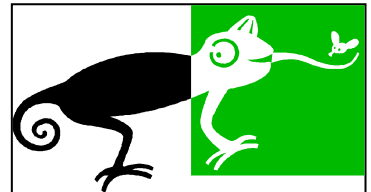
The colour range of all these creatures was huge and their scaly skins seemed to radiate out into circular patterns. Considering this I decided that perhaps a ‘clam shell’ or ‘New York’ beauty method patchwork or piecing may lend itself nicely to these wonderful creatures.

To accompany the series there is of course the obligatory new book, which was taking pride of place in the book store when we visited one lunch time. Obviously to promote this and the whole series of books, editions of Attenborough’s other books were built in piles around the star attraction.

I then realised just how much this man has managed to accomplish and indeed I think he would have made Darwin very proud. Each book is a great inspiration and I would highly recommend a browse through these wonderful books in order to gain some thoughts and ideas for our feature category at the show.

I hope we too do Darwin proud, as well as Attenborough in showing LIFE ON EARTH.

Vicki McHugh
Chairman.

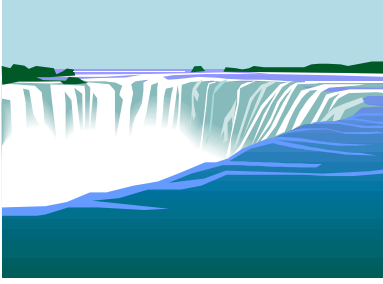


NEWSLETTER March 2008	
Page	Subject
1	Threads from the Chairman
2	Karen Llewellyn-Parsons visits Christine Scott in Canada
2	Sleeving our Quilts
3	The American museum
3	Russian quilters
4	Tea/Coffee Rota – May-July 2008
4	A few quotes from the golden thimble website
4	Tea/Coffee Rota May – July 08
5	Diary

Hospice Quilt making day!

Please start collecting all those strips and pieces of fabric that you no longer want. There will be a ‘Quilt till you Wilt’ day in June to make quilts for a Hospice. Members will be able to enjoy learning some new techniques, make some quilts for a hospice and enjoy the company of other quilt members.
Date to be announced!

Karen Llewellyn-Parsons visits Christine Scott in Canada



Karen visited me in little London, Ontario, Canada in September 2007 and we had a fantastic time together. We went to three quilt shows: one in Stratford that is a yearly event held to raise money for breast cancer research. In the five years that it has been held it has grown in leaps and bounds with well over 300 quilts being donated about half of the quilts are hung in Stratford and the rest are divided into four lots and are sent to various cities across Canada. In October two auctions are held one in the west and one in the east and in November a gala dinner and auction is held in Stratford. The second quilt show was part of a fall agriculture

show. The venue was an outside marquee but it was very windy and everything was getting blown around. The third show was a joint effort between six local quilt guilds and held in a lovely sports complex. All three shows were enjoyable and we got lots of ideas!

We also went to **sixteen** quilt shops so were able to 'shop till we dropped' and we did!!

We also went to two guild meetings and admired the speaker's quilts. The first one was an eclectic display of quilts that showed how the quilter's style developed through the years. At the second meeting the quilter is well known locally for her miniature and tiny quilts. We also went to one of my favourite quilt shops where we saw Patti Carey (designer and marketing person for Northcott fabrics) and her latest quilt designs, (when does Patti sleep?)

We also managed to do the tourist bit and visit Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Niagara falls. While in Niagara we went on the 'Maid of the Mist' boat and behind the Horseshoe Falls. We spent most of the time getting wet, drying off and getting wet again.

We had terrific and memorable time and I can hardly wait to do it again.

Christine Scott

Sleeving our Quilts

With the thought of finishing, or maybe just thinking about quilts for September 2008, I thought the following may be useful information for new exhibitors. I know I did many things incorrectly and now try really hard to obey the rules and my quilts do hang more accurately.

The reason - to make a smooth, even tube of fabric, this is to protect the back of the quilt and stitches and to hold the hanging rod or batten to be threaded easily.

Fabric to use -100% cotton, not a mixture of fibres. New fabric should be soaked then washed to clear dressing and if necessary shrink the fabric. Sometimes old used fabric can be used.

It is best to use white sheeting, unbleached cotton muslin or calico. This will mean that there are no colours to run by accident. However, a sleeve of the backing fabric can be used which of course, would have already been washed!!

Thread - For new quilts it is probably best to use the type of thread used when sewing the quilt. For antique quilts cotton thread or fine polyester thread is used, being careful not to cut into the old fabric.

Cutting the fabric - the fabric can be cut lengthways or crossways grain. I have found whichever seems less piecing and the most economical.

Sleeve - cut a strip $8\frac{3}{4}$ "wide and about 1" shorter than the width of the quilt top. Fold the strip in half lengthways and use 1/2" seam allowance. Turn in the ends of strip and stitch on the outside.

Attaching to the quilt - Centre the sleeve along the back of the quilt, approximately 1" below the top edge of the quilt. Pin the sleeve straight even if top of quilt is slightly wavy as you want to ensure that quilt hangs straight. Slip stitch the top edge of sleeve in place, being careful not to stitch through to the

front. Make good size stitches into the wadding to help support the weight. Slip stitch the bottom edge, making sure that the sleeve is not too tight.

I hope this may be of use. I know I have found huge stitches on the front of the quilt and made some too narrow for the battens to pass through. These suggestions may help you not to make the same mistakes - Happy quilting and sleeving!!

Ronni Taplin

n.b. Some of these suggestions have come from The Quilter 2006.



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM

If you need an afternoon out in beautiful surroundings and peace The American Museum on the outskirts of Bath is an ideal place to visit.

The house itself is set out in rooms arranged chronologically to tell the story of life in America starting with the first settlers. The staff who guide you around the house are friendly and knowledgeable. All in all it is a very pleasant experience. One of the most fascinating rooms is full of quilts hanging on display racks which attest to the skills and frugality of the clever quilters of bygone ages. It is an absolute delight to flick through the racks and guess about their lives and note the skills of these women. The quilts are remarkably preserved and still glow with colour.

The icing on the cake is on Tuesday afternoons in the Spring and Summer when many local quilt groups have been invited to sew for the afternoon in this lovely room, to chat to the people wandering around and to prove that quilting is still very much alive.

Weston quilters went in April last year and had a really pleasurable afternoon. Visitors to the house were really interested in the quilts we were making, looked at our display and stopped to chat and exchange stories. It was amazing how many men found time to come and see what we were doing and really showed an interest.

The staff at the house looked after us well and as there were enough of us we took it in turns to go off and look round the house and garden (lovely herb garden with very reasonably priced plants), the annexe where there is a good selection of books (quilting and other), and a special exhibition. The restaurant had a good selection of snacks for lunch and the coffee was good. A quiet afternoon with no jobs to do and no interruptions. What more did we want!

We have been invited to go and sew again this year on April 15th and are looking forward to another lovely day out. If you are interested in going let someone on the committee know as soon as possible in March as numbers are very limited due to the small space we sew in

Lynne Arlow

RUSSIAN QUILTERS

From October 15 - 20, 2007 a group of 28 Russian quilters were at Cotton - By - Post a quilt shop 45 minutes from my house.

There was a lecture/slide show classes with the Russian master quilters, demonstrations merchant's mall and an awe inspiring quilt show. It was amazing to see that quilting is certainly a universal art. I got lots of ideas now I just need to find the time.

The quilt show was on for the full week and then on Saturday evening there was a Gala. The Russian ladies prepared the food using Canadian ingredients. Everything was delicious and well presented. After the dinner the ladies put on a fashion show. Four of the ladies are fashion designers in

Russia. The garments covered all aspects of style and all areas of Russia. I felt quite dowdy in my outfit and I wanted to go home and start updating my wardrobe. This was truly an overwhelming and awe inspiring experience. Suzanne and Garnet, the shop owners, are to be commended for all the work they did and for bringing an international flavour to quilting. Karen Llewellyn-Parsons has a copy of the DVD of this show if anyone wants to see it. This year October 2008 Suzanne and Garnet will be hosting quilters from East African countries.

Christine Scott



Tea/Coffee Rota April - June 2008

Tina	Aston	Apr-08
Janet	Boobyer	
Ruth	Case	
Anne	Coia	
Sylvia	Cox	
Ann	Dibble	May-08
Katharine	Edwards	
Chris	Fost	
Heather	Fowler	
Dorothy	Francis	
Mary	Griffiths	Jun-08
Beryl	Hearn	
Molly	Khan	
Carolyn	Hollands	
Jenny	Lester	

A few quotes from the golden thimble website
 A creative mess is better than tidy idleness.
 Asking a patchwork and quilter to mend, is like asking Picasso to paint your garage!
 Fabricologist Resource Centre – That sounds more impressive than ‘fabric stash’.
 Good friends are like quilts; they age with you but never lose their warmth.
 One quilting project, like one cookie, is never enough.
 You know you are drinking too much coffee when you can thread a sewing machine while it’s running!

Diary

7 April 2008 – Jennifer Barlow - An introduction to Durham Quilts

Using welsh quilts as a comparison and their social history

12 May 2008 – Members Evening

Please note the date the first Monday falls on a Bank Holiday

9 June 2008 (not 2 June 2008) – Roy Dickinson – Man in a woman's world

The only man in the UK to complete both parts of the City and Guilds P & Q

Qualifications takes a light- hearted look at Man-made Quilts in the UK and from around the world.

7 July 2008 (not 4 July 2008 as stated in Dec 07 newsletter) – American Pot Luck Supper

A celebration of the 4th July with all things American

4 August 2008 – Members evening

Preparation for the show

1 September 2008 – Catherine Millar – Quilting Outside the Box

An exploration of quilters and quilts that do not conform to traditional patterns

12 – 14 September 2008 – Weston Super Quilts 2008

Quilt show and workshops at the Winter Gardens on the Seafront in Weston-Super-Mare

6 October 2008 – Lynne Quinn – Colourwash and Counterchange

A mini workshop in the use of colour and value. You will be able to make a block or 2 towards a quilt

3 November 2008 – Karen Stringer – Presentation about the quilt show

Weston Super Quilts 2008 in all its glory

1 December 2008 – Christmas Party

Prepare yourselves for another fun filled evening of merriment and food.



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Treasurer	Jean Guard 01934 429169	Hospitality/Tea Rota	Lynn Arlow
Secretary	Verity Edwards 01934 834278	Newsletter	Karen Stringer 01278 760054
Membership Secretary	Karen Stringer 01278 760054 Liz Hooper 01934 425546	Programme Secretary	Karen Llewellyn-Parsons 01275 463119
Website	Vicki McHugh	Committee Members	Olga Cottle 01934 416161