



THREADS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Don't you just love starting a new quilt? For me, it's a new beginning, filled with possibilities and anticipation. I can spend hours thumbing through a huge pile of magazines and books to find the one pattern that simply must be made ahead of all others. Hunting through my stash, using sight and touch to find the perfect fabrics. My mind is alive, 'umming; and 'ahhing' over what to choose. Excitement overwhelms me as I cut the fabric, knowing my sewing machine will soon humming and my floor will be spread with the finished blocks.

The quilt top grows and the 'story' comes together piece by piece. But somewhere about now the initial excitement begins to fade. Instead of thinking excitedly "Oh, and there is another block finished", it is replaced with "Oh no, only four more to go!". The work becomes repetitive and it feels like the top will never be done.

The magazines and books call from the shelves. "Look at me!! Isn't this a nice new pattern to try?". A trip to a show or stall brings new, far more exciting, fabrics to my stash. Fingers eager to stroke and caress the new acquisitions. The task of finishing what's on the machine becomes more daunting.

In discussing my dilemma with my big sister, (who very generously listened and nodded in the right places), I explained that the finishing of quilt tops would not be so bad if my quilting practices were much more exciting too.

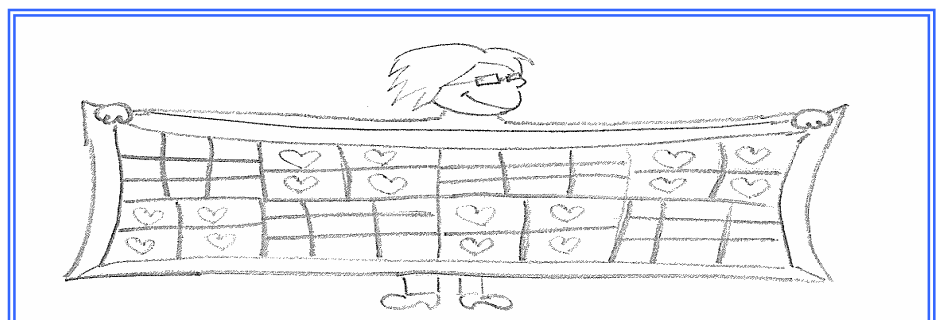
I told her of the world of long arm quilting. The possibilities to explore, whilst driving an entirely different machine. It would be like moving on from my Corsa to a Mercedes. A whole new league.

I very much imagine long arm quilting is quite a different adrenaline rush. Hunting for patterns and thread, giving the quilts a whole new look. Whatever the long arm quilter does now, brings a whole new look to the finished quilt. It's the quilting that gives the quilt a personality, providing depth, texture and subtle interest.

With a big sigh I quantify my dream. The space required, the huge amount of money to spend, the justification of occasional use. Again my big sister nods, rubs her chin and comments. "I didn't think your arms were any longer than mine!"

**Vicki McHugh
Chairman.**

Long Arm Quilter!!



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Quilts in the garden, Trentham Park

I timed a visit to friends in Stoke on Trent to coincide with the quilt show - naturally!

I had seen it advertised and it looked a really good reason to visit the area. My friend is not a quilter but loves any art forms so she was happy to come along. The show was quite small, about the size of the back marquee at Malvern, which was a surprise, but very well laid out with plenty of room to see the quilts, and several traders.

The nicest surprise was to see one of Ronnie Morgan's quilts gain a second in the 'Water' category. It was quite beautiful and very typical of her work.

My friend found two stall holders who are doing classes for beginners near to where she lives so she promptly armed herself with several fat quarters and can't wait to get started. We spent a couple of hours at home going through how her machine works - fortunately the same model as mine, so I think we have another convert. Unfortunately snow was forecast so we cut short our break but not before we visited a fabric shop where off cuts are sold by the kilo, a very diverse range as you can imagine, and I managed to buy about 8 meters of cotton fabric for £11.00.

I wish I had seen Lynne Arlow's bags before I went; the possibilities would have been endless

Jean Guard



Angels required!!

Will you be my angel please? I need lots of Quilt Angels to help me at the Weston-super-Quilts 2008 show. Can you spare me 2 hours (or more) of your time on any of the following days, 12th, 13th, 14th September 2008. You will be provided with a pair of cotton gloves and will welcome and help visitors to look at the wonderful quilts on show. This is an important job and I need lots of you to help me. I will be talking to you all at the members meetings but would welcome any phone calls or e-mails if you would like to volunteer now! Please contact me on 01278-760054 or kj.stringer@virgin.net

I have a big blank schedule at the moment and need names to fill it up, please ring or e-mail.

Karen Stringer (Angel in charge!!)

PAT Testing (Portable Appliance Testing)

Mark Pickles will be available at the August 2008 members meeting to undertake PAT testing on your sewing machine at a cost of £2.50 per machine



QUILTER'S WORKSHOP

In Aid Of CLIC Sargent And
Making a Home Away From Home



SATURDAY 14 JUNE 2008
10 AM – 4.00 PM

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL
OLD CHURCH ROAD
UPHILL
WESTON SUPER MARE BS23 4UH

We would like to invite you all to come along and learn a new technique, have a day amongst like minded friends or just to help along a charitable cause.

Please bring with you:

- Basic sewing kit
- Packed Lunch
- Any scraps of fabric (strips even better!)
- Sewing machine and extension lead (optional)

Tea, coffee and squash will be available through the day.

COACH TRIP – FESTIVAL OF QUILTS 2008, NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Back by popular demand, Weston Quilters are organising a coach trip to the Festival of Quilts on Thursday 14 August.

The cost of the trip will be £16.00 which includes coach fare and entry to the exhibition and is based on us filling a 53 seat coach. (Slight upward variation may be made dependant on numbers).

This is a popular trip and will be opened up to other quilters in the area in order to fill the coach. Prompt booking is encouraged.

Pick up points are as follows: 7.30 am from Locking Road Car Park by Tesco roundabout in Weston-S-Mare
 7.50 am from Gordano Services (traffic permitting)

N.B. Parking at Gordano is £8 per day – best to get a lift there and be collected on return.

We aim to arrive at the NEC at approximately 10.00 am. A comfort stop can be arranged, if necessary.

We will be leaving the exhibition at 4.30 pm with approximate arrival times of 6.50 pm. at Gordano Services and 7.00 pm at Locking Road Car Park

Deposits of £10 are required to secure a seat, with the balance payable on the outward bound coach. **N.B. Ensure you state where you will want to be picked up from!**

Cheques made payable to 'Weston Quilters' and sent to Karen Llewellyn-Parsons, 37 Oakleigh Close, Backwell, Bristol, BS48 3JX (Tel: 01275 463119) Or given to Vicki McHugh on Members Evening. (Tel: 07816566385)

Looking Forward To Seeing You!

WESTON QUILTER'S COMMITTEE

I'm going out on Thursday night.

I'm getting together with the girls, talking my favourite topic - quilting. A good fun night with the girls. What is more is that this select little group do it every month and they are a great group of friends.

After sitting down for a cup of tea or coffee (and usually a couple of naughty biccies - our host is very generous), we might catch up on what we've seen or done in the quilting world, showed off something new or asked advice on something we have got stuck on. Then we get down to the 'nitty gritty' of the evening - Weston Quilters.

This is Weston Quilter's Committee. Organising your monthly meetings, suggesting ways in which we can communicate our craft to others, doing a bit for charity and even organising our annual shows (be it a small exhibition or our big show).

It doesn't all happen as if by magic, but through discussion, planning, sending letters, talking to people and coming up with ideas and bringing it all together. It may not be magic, but it is not very difficult either, especially if you have lots of help.

Our current committee are very helpful, hands on and willing to have a go at anything. Some of us have been doing it for a while so are well practiced. Some of the lessons we have learned are:

- Not to set your goals too high.
- Ensure plenty of time to organise
- Ask and thou shall receive
- A job shared is a job halved

When everyone takes on a little task, the big tasks are more achievable. And this is where you come in.

At the end of this year I will have been Chairman for two years (plus 9 months of Penny's 'reign'). As much as I love being involved, I need to do a few other things and so shall be stepping down. Other committee members have also expressed the option of stepping down.

Now over to you. If you already have friends in our group, why not step forward together to help with Weston Quilters. As I have said, "Many hands make light work", and of course you make your own goals too. Just because we have organised a show each year, doesn't mean it is set in stone. If you want to organise a speaker for every month, then do so. If you want to sew every month, then do so. If you are involved, you get to help choose what you want the group to do.

Of course Weston Quilters needs an active Committee; otherwise the group ceases to exist. I do hope some of you will take on the challenge and get more involved in your group. Nominations for a new committee will be out at the end of the year. Don't forget, you are Weston Quilters.

Vicki McHugh - Chairman

Stitch and Creative Craft Show – Shepton Mallett

The Stitch and Creative Craft Show at Shepton Mallett was held over 4 days in April and we were lucky enough to be given a stand to sell raffle tickets for the RNLI quilt.

Committee members manned the stall in pairs over the 4 days and raised a fantastic £706.90. We were sited next to a guitar player selling his CD's, fortunately he was very good and had a very extensive repertoire, otherwise it could have been a very long day! On our other side were the stairs going up to the coffee lounge, we soon learnt not to try to stop people going up in search of the loos and coffee, but we did catch a lot on the way down. It was quite hard to catch the customers, a lot of hard selling required, but when people realised who our charity was many were happy to buy tickets.

There were people from all over the country and as we just happened to have a pile of flyers for the show on our table we hope quite a few will be coming to see us too. Several people were from other quilt groups and took some entry forms to pass around so it will be interesting to see if we have many outside entries this year. The show itself was a general craft show, so not very much for quilters but, needless to say, we did manage to pick up quite a few 'must haves' and lots of ideas too.

Jean Guard



Tea/Coffee Rota July - September 2008

Maureen	Lindsay	July 08
Pam	Michelmores	
Gilly	Morgan	
Juliet	Nelmes	
Kathleen	Northey	
Beverley	Smith	August 08
Joan	Stringer	
Jutta	Strutt	
Sarah	Tapley	
Veronica	Taplin	
Myra	Taylor	September 08
Antoinette	Welch	
Belinda	Williams	
Sybil	Windsor	
Tina	Aston	

Diary

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.

Quilters Quotes

<http://www.stitched4you.com/index.htm>

A messy house is the sign of a happy quilter.

I'm creative! You can't expect me to be neat too.

If I stitch fast enough does it count as aerobic exercise?

Friends are like quilts, a great source of comfort.

Quilts are like hugs from the ones you love

A quilt will warm your body and comfort your soul.

When life throws you scraps make a quilt

Weston Quilters Committee Members

Chairman	Vicki McHugh 01275 876856 (after 6.30pm)	Publicity	Karen Llewellyn-Parsons 01275 463119
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
Funding	Sue Hart, Co-opted Committee Member, Funding		



Events

Details correct at time of print.

Please check event is still happening before making plans to attend

Time Present and Time Past

3 June – 31 July 2008

An exhibition of new work by Rubicon Textile Artists.

Corineum Museum, Part Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire

Information – Valerie Gilmer 01684-575230

www.rubiconart.com

Textiles 109 – Challenge to Change

3-21 June 2008

10.00 – 16.00

Includes a group of 'Round Robin' quilts

Serendipity Quilt Shop

6a Station Road, Bovey Tracy, Devon

Admission free

Autumn Quilt Festival, Malvern

31 October – 2 November 2008

10.00 – 16.30

Severn Exhibition Hall, Three Counties

Showground, Malvern

Tickets 01775-712100

Quilters Guild, Garden Party

21 Jun 08

Summer (hopefully) Garden party

21st June

Castle Cary

10-4pm

Cream teas

Contact: Catherine Millar 01963351594

Festival of Quilts

14-17 August 2008

NEC, Birmingham

The largest quilt show in Europe. Running for its sixth year, the show comprises over 1,000 competition quilts on display, galleries from leading international quilt artists and groups, over 200 exhibitors selling specialist patchwork and quilting supplies, plus hundreds of master classes, workshops and lecture

Weston Super Quilts 2008

12-14 September 2008

Winter Gardens, Weston-super-Mare

North Somerset

Quilters Guild - Regional day

27 Sep 08 - 27 Sep 08

Speakers - Linda Straw and Gwenfai Rees Griffiths

Traders - 21st century Threads and Rustic Angel Show and Tell, Raffle and lots of fun

Members £8 non members £15

Venue: Chipping Sodbury Town Hall

Contact: Ann Henry-Smith

Phone: 01453511597

Email: ahenrys@btopenworld.com

Quilters Guild - Workshop

28 Sep 08 - 28 Sep 08

A workshop with Gwenfai Rees Griffiths

The old Grammar school rooms

Chipping Sodbury

10-4 pm £30

Contact: Ann Henry-Smith - 01453511597

Email: ahenrys@btopenworld.com

Winchcombe Quilters Exhibition

11 Oct 08 - 13 Oct 08

10am-5pm

Admission £2

Traders, Refreshments, Quilt Raffle, Free Parking

Venue: Abbeyfields Community Centre, Back Lane Winchcombe

Contact: Joll Cowen – 01242-602269

Stitches in Time – An Exhibition of the Old and the New in Patchwork and Quilting 13-16 November 2008

Wales has a rich heritage in quilt making with a fascinating history that has an important place in Welsh culture. A study of quilts made by previous generations has provided inspiration to contemporary quilt makers to take quilting into many new directions. At the exhibition there will be an opportunity to explore these links as both antique and quilts made by renowned modern quilt makers will be shown. There will also be a programme of workshops and talks about the history and making of quilts taking place at Tredegar House.

Tredegar House, Newport, Wales

Ticket sales 01633-810801

www.newport.gov.uk/tredegarhouse