

Chairmans' Chat

Well I never thought my time as Chairman would begin in such an unusual way! As a predominantly aged over 70 Group, we are going to have to keep away from as many people as possible for our own safety.

I have cancelled all my tuition and have set up WhatsApp to answer any of my pupils' Maths questions on line! However I can't see them having much motivation without important exams to aim for. Our own granddaughter was due to sit her A levels in the hope of going to university next year.

Most of us do not work now, but I feel particularly sorry for those at home on their own. We will have to be quite inventive in new things to do if this infection lasts as long as they are predicting.

Should you have some purple material in your stash and want to join the Journal Quilt Challenge, that will absorb you during part of the next 4 months. There is no theme as such so you can give free reign to different skills such as patchwork, appliqué, embroidery and embellishment. Each is 11"x6". No wadding is necessary unless you use a thin one as the base.

Maybe members would like to start Linus Quilts or Quilts for Care leavers while they are in isolation.

Most of all, keep safe. We are holding back the Membership cards until we resume normal activities, hopefully later this year. If anyone needs support please get in touch with one of the Committee.

Jenny Davies

Speakers Corner

We were so disappointed to have to cancel our April meeting as it promised to be an enjoyable and sociable event. We're attaching the Shisha Mirror instructions so that you can have a go yourself if you fancy it - please have a look at the You Tube video mentioned as it is quite instructive. We have a stock of mirrors and rings for members, so if you'd like us to pop a couple in the post to you contact Terry (terryloader@gmx.com / 07990924282).

Also attached are the Dorset Button instructions and again, if you'd like some rings, let us know.

The committee will be discussing future meetings and we'll let members know about forthcoming meetings as soon as we can.

Can we urge members who have not already done so to join our Facebook group. It is a very friendly way to share ideas and participate in an online "Show and Tell" in the absence of our get-togethers! You have to join FB if you aren't a member, then search "New Forest Quilt Group" and ask to join.

We'd like to echo the sentiments of our fellow committee members in wishing all our members good health during this difficult time - let us know if we can help in any way and "Keep Calm and Carry On Quilting!"

**Terry and Eddie
Workshop Secretaries**

Chair

Quilts for Care Leavers

Q4CL have slightly changed the sizes for quilts this year. They need to be an oblong, not a square and the ideal size is 44" x 70". Please, no fabric heavier than quilting fabric, so no curtaining or upholstery fabric and also no licensed fabrics such as Disney.

Fleece is fine as a backing as an alternative to the traditional wadding and back should you prefer. Width of tops should be between 40" – 50" and length between 66"-72".

The offer of a long arming service will return, however, you will be asked for a donation towards the cost of wadding and thread of £7 for each top sent in. All tops need to be accompanied by a backing 8" wider and longer than the top.

Q4CL also run a block drive each month for people to make a different designated block a month, and these blocks are then collected together and pieced into several tops. You will find this on Facebook under Q4CL Block Drive

Freebies

There are lots of companies offering freebies for Quilters to help us during this time and also reduced charges for postage.

I have collated a few, if you find anymore, please do put them on the Facebook page for everyone.

Blueprint are offering a 2 week free trial to their classes if you are a new subscriber

Dandelion Designs – dandelionsdesigns.co.uk (Mandy Shaw) has a couple of free designs to download, Keep Calm and Sew and Love the NHS.

The Quilt Room – quiltroom.co.uk are offering several free patterns to download as a PDF. (Pam and Nicky Lintott)

Jordan Fabrics – jordanfabrics.com has lots of free patterns and Donna Jordan also does YouTube tutorials for many of them.

NFQG Journal Quilt Challenge

A reminder that this challenge is now up and running; the guidelines can be found on our website or on our Facebook page and also attached to this newsletter. So, no excuses ladies! Get your stash sorted and join us in this (now virtual) display of our creativity and talent! Get photos of your quilts to Terry (terryloader@gmx.com) or straight onto our Facebook group pages.

Remember, this is meant to be fun, so please don't stress about the measurements being exact, or whether your work is good enough – send that "imposter syndrome" packing and get quilting.

Thank you to all who contributed to this month's newsletter. If you have any items of interest to our members, please email them to Eleanor at Eleanor.dowe@gmail.com.

Don't forget to visit our website at newforestquiltgroup.weebly.com to see all the photos taken at meetings and about forthcoming speakers etc and join our Facebook page – New Forest Quilt Group.



NEW FOREST QUILTERS JOURNAL QUILT (JQ) CHALLENGE

March 2020 to March 2021

- To produce 12 small quilts of your own design, one each month starting March 2020.
- We will have a grand exhibition of all JQ challenges completed in March 2021.

The Challenge Rules

1. Size **11" by 6"** either landscape or portrait. Each JQ must be a quilt, any technique and materials are permissible. To include a minimum of 2 layers, quilting stitches, and the edges finished in keeping with your style of quilt.
2. Over the course of the year use predominantly 3 colours as specified:-

March, April, May, June	mainly Purple	E.g. Use plain and/or printed fabric or paper or plastic in mostly shades of purple. <i>(If you hate purple do them in blue and cover with red sheer - Voila purple!)</i>
July, Aug, Sept, Oct	mainly Yellow	as above using mostly yellows
Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb	mainly Green	as above in greens

3. You must write a brief **statement** for each JQ giving your source of inspiration, the materials and techniques used. Not more than 75 words.
4. Attach a luggage label to each with your name, month and the statement. Label to hang 2" below your JQ for general information when on show.
5. To stay in the challenge you must either:
 - bring your JQ's in groups to display at a meeting *or*
 - post photos on the **New Forest Quilt Group Facebook** *or*
 - email photos to terryloader@gmx.com

We will have a grand exhibition of all JQ's at the AGM in March 2021.

NB: if you don't keep up with producing JQ's for the June and December dates you disqualify yourself from the challenge.

6. Sign up for the challenge today or at the April meeting. **BE BRAVE! let's see just how many quilts we can have to display at next year's AGM!**

In doubt? Please contact:

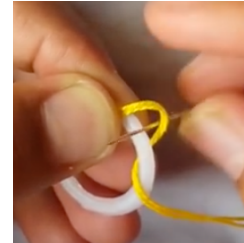
Freda Haylett, Janella Upton or [Terry Loader](#)

Shisha Mirror Rings

Shisha Mirror Rings Embroidery (We've used 1" rings and mirrors)

1. Cut a length of embroidery floss or perle cotton about 20" long if you're using a single thread or 40" if you want to use it double

2. **Cast on** by pinching the end of the thread and making a *blanket stitch* around the plastic ring – bring the needle from the back of the ring and pass it through the back of your loop



3. Continue making blanket stitches around the ring - keep the stitches close together but don't pull your thread too tight



Make sure you have a definite FRONT and BACK to your work – keep the messy joining in and casting off stuff on the back!

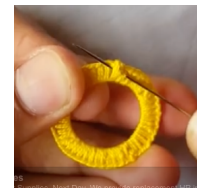
4. When you feel your thread is getting short, pull it through the back of your stitches and snip.

Join in a new length of thread by knotting it and pulling it through from the back of your last stitch.



5. When you have completed a round, making sure the stitches completely cover the ring, finish by pulling the thread through the back of your stitches and snipping it off.

6. Join a new colour by knotting it and pulling it through the back of your last first row stitch, at the top. Continue around the ring, making blanket stitches – not too tight – by passing your needle through the very top row of stitched loops.

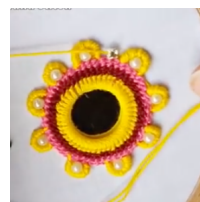
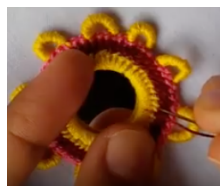


Do as many rounds as you want – change colour every row or every other row as you like.

Finish with a last row of bullion stitch loops, or fringing etc.



7. Place your mirror on your fabric. Sew your embroidered ring over your mirror to secure in place. Add beads or other embellishments as you desire.



Photos taken from the You Tube lesson by "Sana Hand Stitch" - hand embroidery mirror work - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVxDRwk6uDc> which I recommend you watch for further clarification!



The most popular Dorset Button made today is called the Dorset 'Cartwheel' Button

All other designs of Dorset Thread Buttons using a ring and thread are based on this technique.

There are four stages to making a Dorset 'Cartwheel' Button

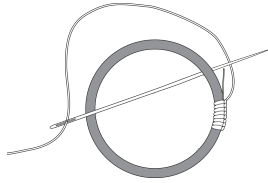
1. Casting
2. Slicking
3. Laying
4. Rounding

The length of the thread will depend on the thickness and the size of the ring, which you will be able to judge with practice. If you do not have enough thread, join after the casting stage. I tend to work with a thread long enough to complete the slicking and laying stages as you can join threads with a reef knot and work neatly into the button at the rounding stage.

Happy button making

Anna McDowell
www.henrysbuttons.co.uk

Casting - Stage 1



This stage covers the outside of the ring and is worked using a blanket stitch.

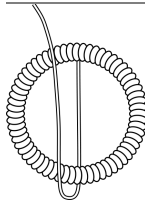
Start with a 19mm ring and around 3 metres of thread and blunt needle. Secure the thread around the ring with a single knot. Hold the short end securely and work a blanket stitch over it. Continue with the blanket stitch until the ring is covered completely. Make certain the stitches are kept very closely together. Finish by pulling the thread through the first stitch if you can but do not force it.

Slicking - Stage 3

This stage is when you create neat a ridge on the outside and inside of the button.

This ridge has to be worked to the middle of the back of the ring forming a nice neat finish and it cannot be seen from the front.

Laying - Stage 3



It is at this stage that the spokes are made.

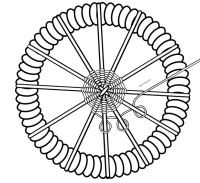
Hold the ring with the front of the button facing you and the thread at the top. Wind the thread down the back of the button and up round the front so the thread divides the ring in half. By turning the ring slightly, wind the thread around the button, making certain it crosses the first thread at the centre point of the front of ring. Continue to do this about five to six times until you have made between ten to twelve spokes. Once you have gained experience more spokes can be added.

How to secure the spokes:

With the thread at the back of the ring, bring it forward so it catches the last rounded spoke and hence secures it in place. Make a cross-stitch so all the spokes are held securely in the centre of the button. Do not worry if this is not exact as the first round of rounding will help to centre it.



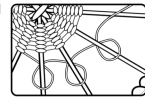
Rounding - Stage 4



This is as it sounds, as the thread is wound around each spoke using a back stitch.

With the thread at the back of the ring, bring it forward between two of the spokes. Take the thread to the back of the ring around the first spoke and bring it up between the next two spokes. Make certain that the thread is kept on the outside towards the ring.

Do this over each spoke until the ring is filled.



Casting off

After completing the rounding stage cast off by running the thread to the centre of the back of the button so it does not show in the front. Cast-off with a couple of over stitches and cut thread.

Alternatively, leave enough thread to sew on at a later stage or to make a shank. I tend not to use shanks.