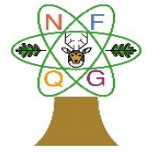




# New Forest Quilt Group Newsletter August 2020



## Chairman's Chat

I do hope you are all coping during this extended time of isolation. Your Committee has continued to meet, either on Zoom or in groups of 6 in the garden, between March and August. We are aware that most of our members are in the "over 70" group and therefore have to be very careful. We certainly do not plan to have a large gathering inside again until it is safe to do so. The Community Centre is booked from March 2021 onwards and we hope to return in some way then, but no one can predict the future with this pandemic. The Community Centre is celebrating 60 years in September and the roof may be repaired by then, but many groups have decided not to return until next year.

The Art Group is planning a display some time later. We may be able to help the Centre by displaying lockdown creations - Scrubs, Masks, Journal Quilts, Care Leavers Quilts, Linus Quilts and the many other beautiful things you create. It would be good publicity for what we do and charging a small entrance fee could help the Community Centre. The New Forest Quilt Group Committee has agreed to donate £300 towards the roof (which covers the rent we would have paid up to now). The original estimate for the roof repair was £80K, but the delay due to the seagulls nest has undoubtedly made this rise. What a crazy world we live in!

I have encouraged Committee members to ring round to see how you are all getting on. If you need to be linked up with other members to meet in a garden, please tell us. If you have any ideas for the future, at any stage, please tell us. Meanwhile can I encourage everyone to keep making their Journal Quilts, Linus Quilts and Care Leavers quilts. Dimensions can be found if you google the Linus Website or go to the Quilts for Care Leavers Facebook group, the dimensions are in the Announcements Section. If you are not online just tell the Committee member who gets in touch what you need to know.

## Jenny

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## From Speakers' Corner....

The sad but sensible decision to cancel all our meetings until March 2021 has inevitably meant quite a few phone calls and emails cancelling our speakers, workshops and traders. But the good news that we have been able to re-book some of them (including Janet Clair, Paula

Simpson, Annabel Wilson and Jenny Rayment), and quite a few new ones too (Catherine Lawes, Dawn Cameron-Dick and Jackie Dimmock amongst others). So watch this space for more details about events next year.

One of the suggestions made by members that we have listened to is that many of you enjoy coming just to sew and chat so we have embedded opportunities to do just that into our yearly schedule.

Our AGM in March will be a relatively brief one, giving us plenty of time to meet up with old friends, and celebrate the end of lockdown, queueing, winter, Brexit, face masks..... yes, we are all keeping our fingers tightly crossed!

Terry Loader

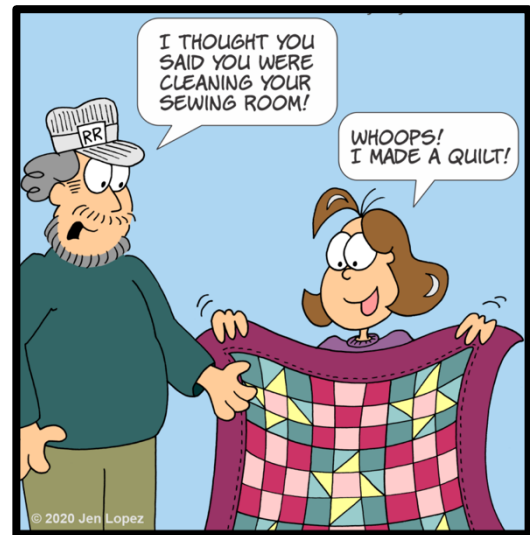


Quilters Anonymous

## What Kind Of Stitcher Are You?

Each of us has a unique way of organising our sewing space and there are many different approaches when it comes to keeping our space clean and tidy. Which of these are you?:

- **Tidy Tina** Super-organised and super-efficient, this sewer makes sure she has all the materials needed before she starts a new quilt. This lady can't work in a mess – she has boxes labelled according to colour, size and weight of fabric, and every time she cuts a piece the rest goes back in the box, back on the shelf. Threads are organised according to colour and each reel has to be replaced in its proper place before she chooses another. Never let it be said that even a single pin could drop to the floor, thread snippets are placed directly into her little bag, scraps are immediately sorted and filed.



This sewer only uses the correct scissors, the correct thread and the correct needle for job in hand. She cleans and has her machine serviced regularly. All her finished work is neatly labelled with her name and the date. Quilts are stored in acid-free bags clearly labelled and stacked neatly in the cupboard. She changes her slippers before she leaves the room, and has a sewing apron which catches any (heaven forbid) loose threads. No project is left uncompleted, no UFOs, WIPs, no PHD.... what she starts, she finishes.

- **Betty the Blitzzer**. This sewer has no time for thread catchers or scrap bins; this lady cuts and trims and sews in a whirl of concentrated enthusiasm and as a result, everything ends up on the floor, on her slippers, on the bed, on the ironing board, on her new jumper.... thread snippets everywhere, pins scattered like confetti, pairs of scissors covered in piles of fabric scraps, Bondaweb offcuts stuck to her cutting mat, fabric glue all over the floor. Her haphazard approach means that accurate cutting is often sacrificed for speed, so there's an awful lot of 'negative stitching' involved, which means tiny bits of curly threads flying around in the miasma. And because she didn't plan ahead, she always runs out fabric and ends up patching and mis-matching, or running to the fabric shop just as it closes.

When (if) she finally finishes her quilt she stuffs it into a bin liner and throws it under the bed, because she's already lost interest and has moved onto the next exciting project! At some stage she will look about her room and register the chaos, and set to work clearing up the mess – pins in tins, fabric in boxes, threads in the bin. The room will look shiny and neat and clean.....for about a week!

I suspect most of us fall somewhere between these two scary ladies. I aspire to be the first one, but I know I am so very close to the second one! Whichever you are, ladies, enjoy your stitching and embrace your creativity!

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## **Project Linus UK**

Project Linus is a volunteer organisation who provide security and comfort to sick and distressed children by making and donating quilts which we like to call cuddles.

It was started in the USA in 1995, came to the UK in 2000 and was started in our area in 2002, Lourdes Ball and Kathy Osland-Moore are the co-ordinators for this area which covers SE Dorset and SW Hampshire.

We deliver to Southampton Hospital children's wards, premature baby unit, teenage cancer unit, Poole teenage cancer unit, Sure Start centres, Special Needs schools, Women's Refuge centre's, Child bereavement groups, Fostering agencies and many more, in this area we deliver 250 every 6 weeks, with some units requesting quilts more often, a total of 2713 quilts were delivered in the year up to October 2019. At Christmas, we make sure that every child in hospital receives a Christmas quilt on Christmas morning.

Lourdes recently appealed for Christmas fabric, and we would be hugely grateful if any of you could make us some Christmas Quilt(s). We are also very grateful for the normal Linus Quilts as well.

We prefer the quilts made from bright and colourful 100% cotton fabric with either a fleece backing or traditional wadding and a backing (not both as it gets too hot), they can be any size from a minimum of 24 inches square up to and including single bed size, we do however struggle with enough quilts for teenage boys, they also need to be quilted 6" to 8" apart in both directions because of the wear and tear and of course, must be machine washable.

Once you have your quilt(s) finished, you can contact Lourdes on 01425 616058 to have it picked up or arrange to drop it round to her at 8 Park Road, Barton on Sea, BH25 6QE.

Lourdes and I are extremely grateful for all of the quilts that are made and donated from everyone of you, without your time, generosity and help we could not continue to carry on, it is such a rewarding job especially when we receive the lovely thank you letters, cards and e-mail messages from the parents, grandparents, staff and even the children.

## **Kathy & Lourdes**

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## Jelly Roll Piecing Using Your Scraps

It seems that however hard we try, our scrap bins just keep getting fuller and fuller! Maybe lockdown is the time to really have a sort out? Using your scraps to create a jelly roll is a fun and cheap way to create a new piece of fabric to play with.

My scrap bin is full of the most peculiar mixture of fabrics, some of which I swear I have never seen before, let alone used in a quilt! The first thing I do when I start a "sort out" is to throw away anything smaller than 2" wide (these are put in a bag labelled "confetti"), anything that is not suitable for quilting (dress fabric, furnishing fabric etc.) and anything that's marked or stained. Everything else is fair game.



The next job is to cut all the scraps into 2" wide strips, as long as you like but straighten the ends. Then you pile them all into a basket, sit at your machine and start chain-piecing random pairs together, then join the pairs together, then the fours etc. until you have one very long 2" strip – your 'jelly roll'.

(Don't try and match or plan your fabric pairings, they will be mixed up anyway and the fun is in seeing seemingly incompatible fabrics join up beautifully!)

Find your two ends, and start stitching them, right sides together, all the way down the long side.

When you get to the end, snip through so that you now have one long piece that is 3" wide. Don't worry if it's twisted, cutting through will sort that out.







Find your two ends, bring them together, sew them wrong sides together, cut through at the end. Then keep sewing the long sides together and cutting through until you have created a piece of fabric whichever size you want – I wanted mine long and narrow as I had plans to add contrasting stripes to it, but you can make yours square or fat etc. Use the fabric to create blocks or pieces of 'improv' textile art.

My finished piece of fabric..... and my quilt.



Have fun playing with your scraps!

**Terry Loader**

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### **Free Patterns on the web**

I am always keeping an eye out for lovely patterns for Q4CL (and myself) and have found the Jordan Fabric website ([jordanfabrics.com](http://jordanfabrics.com)) to be a wonderful source of inspiration.

They have a wealth of free patterns available which can be downloaded as a PDF and I have made several from this site. They also have a very helpful Youtube channel with step by step tutorials so if you prefer to learn that way.

Diamonds Squared is one of my favourites, it goes together really quickly and I have used up a lot of smaller scraps in the same shades.

The Ribbons quilt is another favourite and is on my list, when my Sewjo returns. I have seen it made in both blue and red colourways and is always beautiful. The one below was made for Q4CL last year, and my contribution was some of the fabric and making the backing. Someone much more talented did the piecing and quilting. It was considered to be so outstanding, with the permission of all those involved, it was raffled off by one of the Christmas Dinners to raise funds for Q4CL.

I am determined to make one for me this year.



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Thank you to everyone who has 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](mailto:eleanor.dowe@gmail.com). Don't forget to visit our website at [www.newforestquiltgroup.weebly.com](http://www.newforestquiltgroup.weebly.com) and join our New Forest Quilt Group Facebook Page.