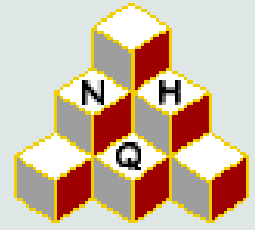


# Newsletter January 2021



## Club News

We will be holding zoom meetings on club nights at 7-30 until normal meetings can resume. If you would like to join us please contact [linda@gosby.co.uk](mailto:linda@gosby.co.uk).



To all of you who attend the Thursday sewing day at Brown Candover, please can I ask that you email me at [jackie.dimmock@hotmail.com](mailto:jackie.dimmock@hotmail.com) if you still wish to remain on the list. If we have enough people still interested I will check availability of dates starting possibly in April and also whether the price will remain the same.



We have just given the hospital 100 baby quilts and our entire stock of breast pads, so now there is an urgent need for more breast pads. They are made from 5" squares of fabric with fleece on the back and no wadding. Baby quilts are not so desperate but a steady supply is always needed.

We are still intending to display the red challenge baby quilts at the next exhibition hopefully at the end of this year. It would be interesting to know how many we have so could you let Chris B know if you have made any.

We are still making children's masks for the hospital so if anyone has any children's fabrics that they don't use then maybe they would like to let us have some. The sizes of the masks are 7"X5" and 9"X6" so any small pieces that would cover this would be useful. Jackie Cook is organising the above but if you have anything in Basingstoke please contact Hilary.



## From the Chair

Hi

I hope you all had the best Christmas possible in these times and wish you all a happy and better new year. I am trying to keep up with my sewing but sometimes it is difficult to get the motivation going. The committee is still holding meetings although not a lot is happening we are keeping up to date with Everest to let them know we will be back when possible. Muriel is keeping all things financial ticking over and Linda is doing a sterling job as secretary.

At our last Zoom meeting we discussed our next exhibition. I will talk to Marion at some point about the Exhibition Committee's views but I hope that it gives us something to look forward to and will bring us together as a club with something great to work towards in the future whether it is this or next year.

I am happy to receive any baby or charity quilts you have made and will try to pass them on to the appropriate people for distribution. Keep up the good work.

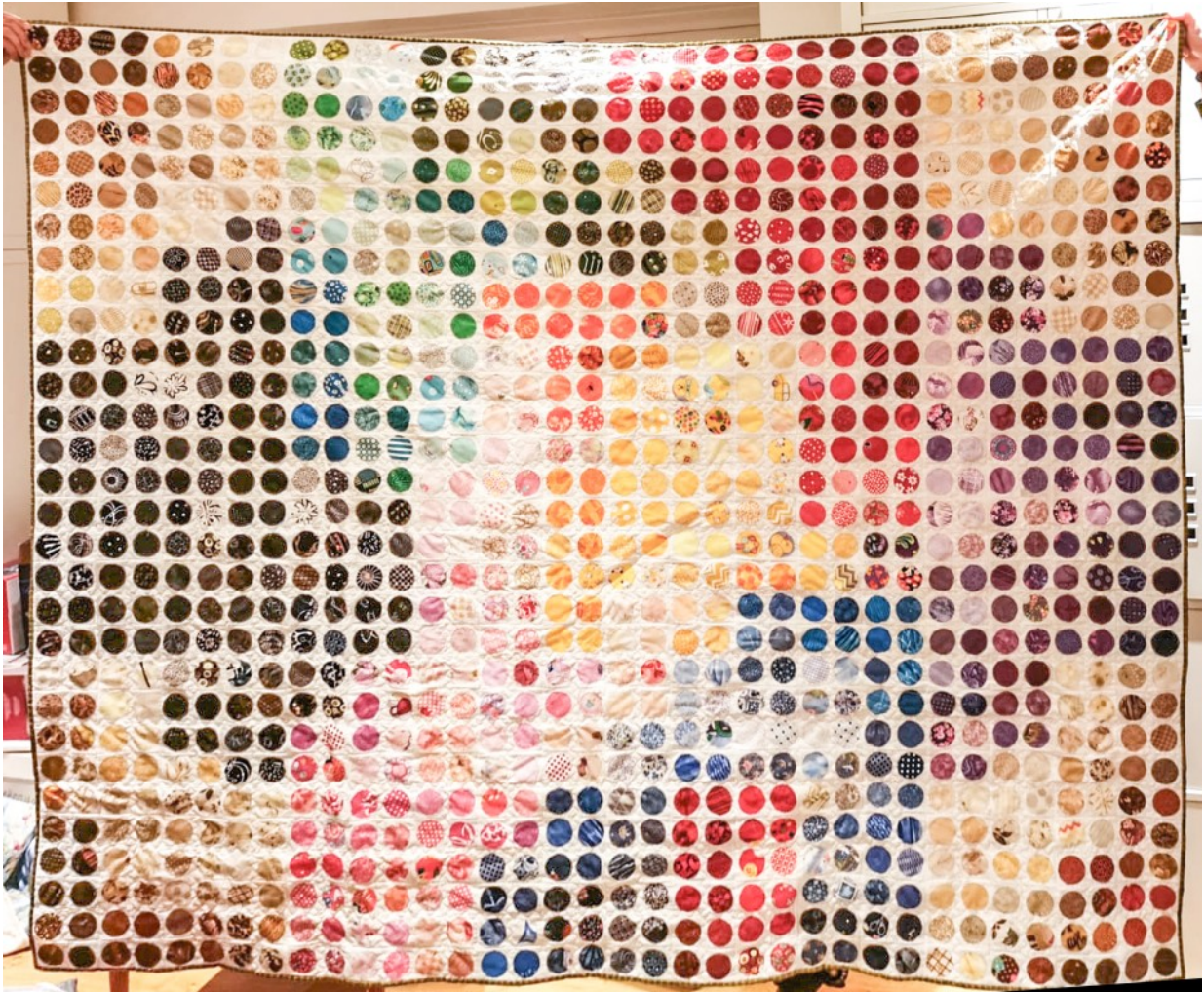
Again, Happy New Year and I hope to see you all soon.



Chris



## Show & Tell



*Inspired by Mia, not a quilt for the faint hearted!*

*All the circles are appliquéd onto 2 1/2" squares.*

Jackiz Cook





*Two quick and easy baby quilts.*

I joined in the group's Zoom meeting in December and it was so good to catch up with some of our members. A good time was had by all - lots of chat and laughter. If you haven't tried a Zoom meeting before do give it a go. Just get in touch with Linda Gosby and she will give you details of the next meeting and what you need to do. Until we can get back to normal meetings this is the next best thing and many thanks to Linda for arranging this.

Happy New Year everyone.

Anne



I bought this cushion cover as a kit from cowslip workshops in Cornwall. It was a pleasure to make as there was plenty of fabric and the instructions were very easy to follow. I haven't been anywhere recently to buy a pad for it, surprisingly.

Lesley

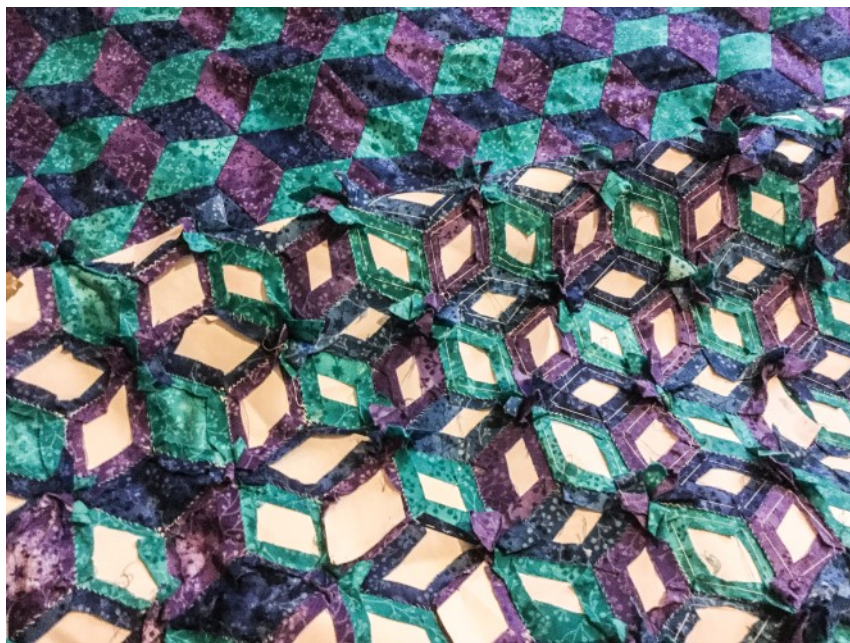




I designed the quilt myself, a simple block to show off some old Liberty Tana Lawn prints which were used to make dresses, blouses and even a pair of pyjamas. I used quilters' calico and one of the more recent Liberty quilting cottons prints, Mamie for the borders and bindings. It was beautifully long arm quilted by Louisa of Lovingly Quilted. It is a present for a friend who helped a lot when I was incapacitated after both heart surgery and when I had broken my arm.

Judę





I thought you may like to see how the mega quilt is getting along, I have been hand sewing for approx. 18 months. All I have to do now is find a table big enough to be able to make the sandwich and start hand quilting - I wonder how long that will take?

Irena



## ***Introducing a Member***

Hello and Happy New Year to all at NHQ.

I'm Chris Rowley. I'm now a country member but until we moved to Herefordshire in the Autumn of 2019, I had been a regular at NHQ meetings for about 10 years, following a beginners class run by Chris Bone and Flipp. It was lovely to join a group and learn so much from members and speakers alike and find out about all the fantastic exhibitions and retailers of scrummy fabric - a whole new world.

I consider myself to be a quilting addict now and love everything about it ( except perhaps double wedding rings!) - especially the friends, chat, cake, retreats and shopping that are all part and parcel. I've tried my hand at lots of "arts and crafts" over the years but I've found my thing in patchwork. That's not to say I'm any good at it, but I love the whole process. Life is busy with animals, garden, family and a holiday let so there's never as much sewing time as I'd like but any time spent feels like therapy (except for unpicking and when the flipping machine plays up) Most of what I produce is gifted to family and friends although I'm enjoying draping things across any available bed, sofa or bannister in our new home. My long term dream is to one day install a long arm quilting machine into the barn and invite like minded friends to sew with me. I do find stuffing large quilts under my Pfaff frustrating to say the least.

I'm so looking forward to all things quilting gradually returning to normal this year. I'd like to say I've been working through my stash during the lock downs and restrictions but I fear I've bought more than ever online. No doubt I'm not alone. A few of my latest makes are below.







Chris Rowley







I read Marion's piece in the last newsletter, it brought back many memories, what a shame all those fabric shops have gone. I remember them when I first came to Basingstoke. I have always loved working with fabrics. A big part of that is the feel of the fabric so online fabric shopping is such a poor substitute for high street fabric shops.

I don't remember a time when I haven't been interested in sewing and making things. At various times I have sewed, embroidered, knitted and even for a brief period in the eighties made lace. Making things makes me happy. It has taught me a lot too. Not sure where I saw or heard it in connection with sewing but I have taken on board that 'finished is better than perfect'. I try to remember that when things inevitably don't go quite as planned.

Last year I was reunited with some very early makes my aunt moved into a care home and downsizing she returned to me things I made when I was very young. I am pleased I have improved a little bit – proof practice does make you better at things.



*Early work – the great thing about this is that it left me lots of room for improvement!*



*1st Quilt pattern from Janome Website*

For a long time I was far more interested in dressmaking than quilting. I made outfits for my three daughters but as they became older they were more interested in outfits from Tammy Girl (does anybody else remember that sweatbox of a shop?). I wanted to sew something, making things for me has never gone so well – I'm tape measure shy. I had a Janome machine and decided to look on the Janome website to see if there were any ideas about what to make. I saw a quilt I liked the look of and decided to give it a go. This is where I learnt another lesson. I didn't want to waste money which was tight at the time. I bought polyester wadding – very and thin and cheaper cotton fabrics. I hadn't learnt finished is better than perfect at this stage and didn't want to spend an awful lot on something which may never be finished. I enjoyed piecing the top and decided to just quilt in lines. I was hooked from the second line of quilting.

I have invested lots of time and effort making a quilt so I have to be brave to try free motion quilting on it. There are good days and bad, bad days of quilting.



*First decent attempts at Free Motion Quilting*

*Pattern from Quiltmania*

*2016 Pinwheels are meant to have cropped points! Birds are appliqued.*

*Shrinks everytime I wash it!*

Funny thing is that some things I think are awful when I do them actually become some of the bits I prefer when I do some more and look again. It is a learning curve. I am really glad I went on a course at Viv Poon's purple stitches to learn a bit about free motion quilting. It taught me to think on a bigger scale and introduced me to a book by Christina Cameli called Step by Step Texture Quilting. Starting off with ideas of what to quilt is the hardest decision for me. I am still working on the Big Dream panel I started on the course but other things have overtaken it for a bit. Two Christmas items which will now enter the plan for November 2021 finishing! - cutting out another quilt and a bit of hand sewing too. I like variety and flit from project to project, hence 'finished is better than perfect' is the best mantra for me.



*Work in Progress – Dream Panel started in workshop held at Purple Stitches.*

*I do hope everyone is keeping safe and I am looking forward to the club meeting again as soon as it is safe to do so. If you are missing a chat do feel free to join the Keep In Touch meetings via Zoom– we will be pleased to see you. Just email me to say you would like to receive the online invitation. (linda@gosby.co.uk).*

**Linda Gosby**



## Challenges

### Project Linus round robin

I have spoken to Jane at project Linus and found there is a need for a charity that helps parents learn to play with young children for play-mats around a metre square. To give a bit of a challenge that ends up useful I have come up with a design for these which I hope a few of you will join up to. Over the next few months I will give out instructions for each round. In the real spirit of a round robin the quilt should be passed on after each round so you have the challenge of adding to someone else's piece, in the past the group has done quite a few of these but lapsed over the past few years, I think mainly because we didn't know what to do with them afterwards! As these have a good use I hope to get a good response and be able to give the charity a nice pile of quilts.

Please let me know if you would like to join in and I will let you know who to pass your quilt onto. If you feel you would rather make one on your own that is fine just let me know so I have an idea of the number.

Part one.

Please make a central square 10 1/2" inc. seam allowance in any style you wish to set the feel of the quilt, remembering it is for small children. I have just used one piece of novelty fabric for mine but it could be a pieced block, appliqué etc.etc.

Then add a 1 1/2"(including seam allowance) border all the way round bringing the total size to 12 1/2". If you have any doubts about the size of your block please cut the border wider perhaps 2" and then trim to the correct size after pressing, the exact size of the block or border is not so important but it does need to be 12 1/2" when finished.

Hilary



### **News Letter Contact:**

In these times where we aren't meeting it is even more important that we get together with our marvellous quilts, ideas and tips and our News Letter is the place to do it so please let me have all your news, photos of your work (jpg preferred) etc.

If you are sending a PDF file please also include the file as a .doc and jpegs.

[newsletter@thedrakes.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@thedrakes.co.uk)

