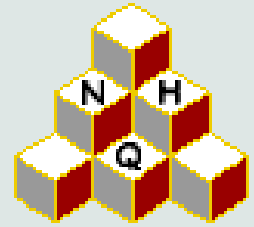


Newsletter February 2022



Club News

Next Meetings

2nd March – Trader Kirsty Billings from Nicola Fabrics.

16th March – Talk by Mark Pickles on caring for your sewing machine.



Committee

The committee urgently needs a new secretary from now. Please consider if you could volunteer for the job.

The next AGM is at the beginning of June when a few new committee members will be required, however there is a need for a new secretary now. We cannot run the group without a committee so please think if you could take one of the posts coming up especially if you take on the secretarial duties.



Events

Whitchurch silk mill exhibition “picking up the thread” is now on until 27th March. Open Tuesday to Sunday 10-30am to 5 pm. The exhibition is a range of work produced by the “Basingstoke Creative Stitchers” formally Basingstoke Embroiderers guild. This is the groups 25th anniversary and the members have created pieces using silver thread to celebrate.



Meon Valley Quilters

Exhibition

of our members' work

**Rookesbury Park, Southwick Road,
Wickham, Hampshire PO17 6HT**

30th April and 1st May 2022

Saturday 30th April: 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday 1st May: 10 am – 4 pm

Admission £3.50

Members and children free

**Refreshments Traders Sales Table
Raffle Book Sales Bag Tombola**

TALK BY JOY SALVAGE

2 pm on Saturday

Tickets £3 available in advance or on the day

www.meonvalleyquilters.org.uk



Challenges

Row Robin

The next two rows are 2 ½" high (2"finished).

The first row is pin wheels, I have done four with spaces in between but feel free to do as many as you wish.

For each pin wheel you will need two squares each of a light and darker fabric 2" square.

Make half square triangle blocks by matching a light and dark fabric, right sides together, drawing a diagonal line from corner to corner and stitching a ¼" seam either side of the line.

Press gently open and trim to 1 ½" square using the diagonal line on your ruler to make sure the join is central. Lay the 4 blocks into the pin wheel design sewing the top two and the bottom two together. Press the seams in opposite directions on the top row to the bottom row so that they will butt together nicely when you join them. Sew the two rows together carefully. These can be a bit tricky to match the centres so I will often sew a few stitches first across the central seam to check they are correctly positioned before sewing the whole seam, these can be easily unpicked if you are not happy with the placement - much easier than unpicking the whole row!

Make as many as you wish and then join into a row. You can use plain pieces in between as I have done or they could be joined directly to each other with some plain either end to to make them fit the width.

The second row is just 2 ½" (2"finished) squares in complimentary fabrics across the row. As the binding will "un-square" the blocks I have split them and put half blocks either end. This also helps if your squares are not quite accurate like mine!

Add a 1" strip (which will be ½" when finished) to the top of the pin wheel row and the bottom of the square row and join to the main piece with the squares under the flying geese row. I tend to cut these slightly longer and then trim to size once I have sewn them together which allows you to make allowances for any minor differences in the pieced rows and keep the sides straight.



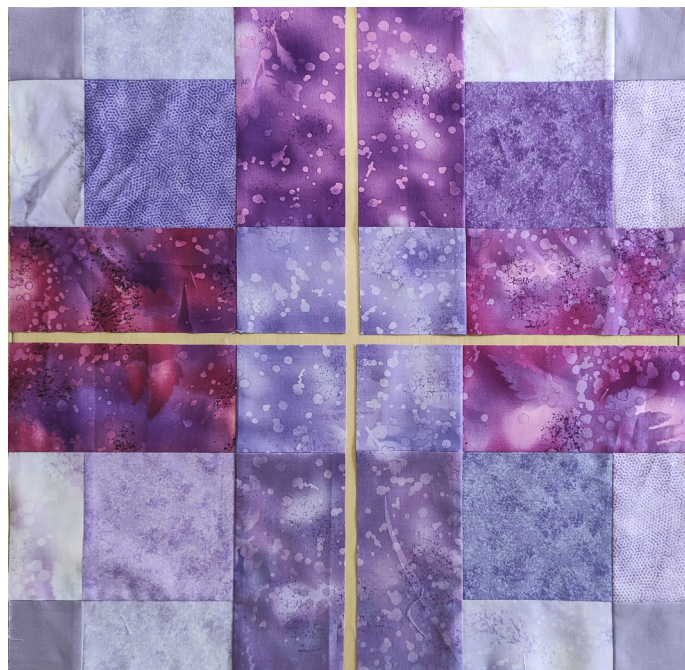
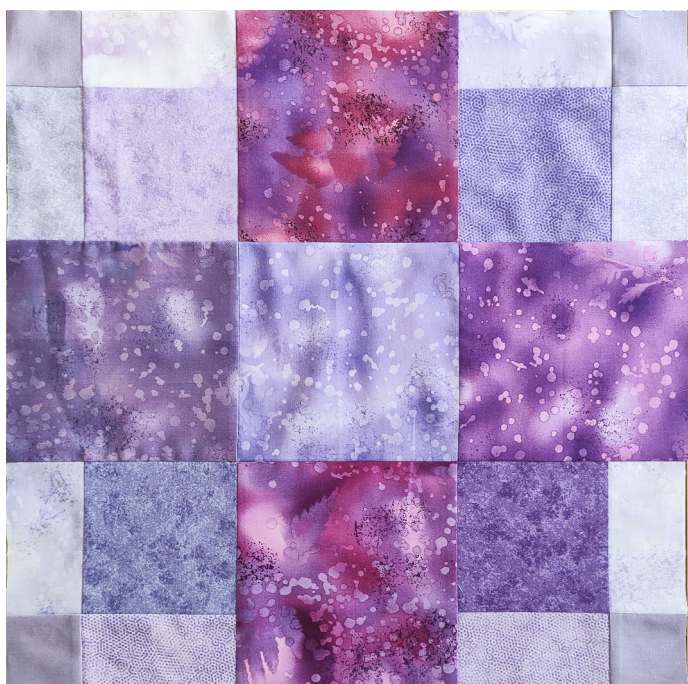
Double disappearing nine patch block

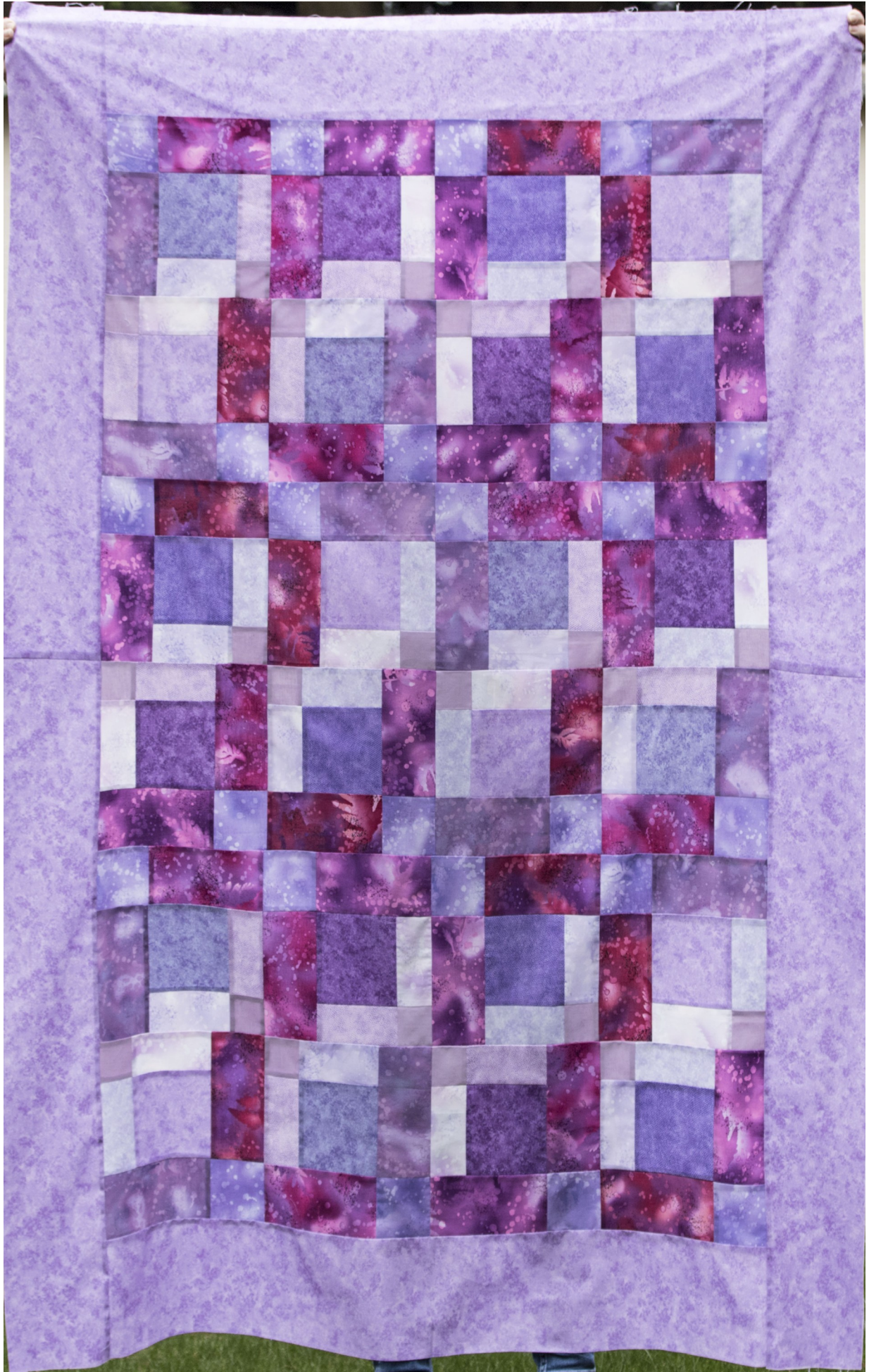
Recently I have made a quilt top using this method and found it quick and interesting.

Most of you will be familiar with the disappearing nine patch block shown below, where you make a nine patch and cut it centrally from top to bottom and sideways to make interesting blocks with different sized pieces. I have used a selection of mauve fabrics which blend well and give an effect that I like but if contrasting fabrics are used it makes a bolder pattern especially if the central square is darker or brighter. There are many ways of joining these blocks to make different patterns.



If you make another nine patch using these blocks as the corner squares you then get an even more complicated looking block, which again can be joined to make different patterns.





The beauty of this is that you only have to cut out squares of fabric to start with and it sews up really quickly but looks quite complicated. It's quite fun to colour up a few blocks on paper and play with them to see what patterns you can make and how different colour mixes work. I made this one with 5" squares on the first nine patch and 7" on the second but you can use any size squares remembering that the second nine patch will need larger squares. As you can see it was a bit windy when we were taking this photograph.

Hilary



Newsletter Contact

Please let me have all your news, photos of your work (jpg preferred) etc. by the end of March for the next newsletter.

newsletter@thedrakes.co.uk

