

Founded

June 2007

Dumbarton

The logo for Comfort Quilts features the words "Comfort Quilts" in a large, stylized, cursive font. The text is set against a background of a colorful patchwork quilt pattern with various shades of red, yellow, green, and blue.

Newsletter 19<sup>th</sup> July 2010

A gorgeous summer day today at the AGM 19<sup>th</sup> June, so what else could we do but snowballs for the workshop! The pattern was very easy, with Jan and myself cutting, and others stitching, we made over 30 blocks. Leftover strips were given to Eileen to make into Bricks and Cobblestones, which will be the pattern we use in the next workshop. It can easily be made from 2 ½ inch strips, so please save any you have, or any leftover strips from Bali Pops or jelly rolls. See enclosed patterns.

Attendance at the AGM was not the best. We know that many friends choose to support Comfort Quilts, but can't get to the meetings. We understand this, and respect it, and to try to alleviate the constitutional issues this raises a suggestion was made of having a different wording on the membership form.

The suggestion is, for those who wish to continue to support the group, or who want to use the equipment when they visit the studio, or when we visit them, but who can't, or don't want, to vote at meetings, we have a section on the membership form stating that the member **does not wish to be considered as a voting member.** This means that when we are counting the number needed for an AGM vote we don't need to include those who have opted out.

In addition, although last year we were asked for more meetings, we had some with very poor attendance. We have taken the decision to limit the number of workshops to 4, full day workshops, with the pattern/instructions produced in advance, so that you can read over what you will be doing, bring along anything that might suit, and have some fabric cut ready to stitch if you have it! Or, you can make blocks at home or in your own groups if you would like to support, but not come to a workshop.

**Workshop 1 – Bricks and Cobblestones, 7<sup>th</sup> August, Studio**

(2 ½ inch strips any colours, including 2 ½ inch squares), machine sewing, cutting and pressing

**Workshop 2 – Endless Stairways 16<sup>th</sup> October, West Kirk, Helensburgh**

(2 ½ inch strips colours and light neutrals), machine sewing, cutting and pressing – please advise if you need us to bring Comfort Quilt sewing machines with us.

**Workshop 3 – Seeing Stars – 26<sup>th</sup> February, Studio**

Lights, mediums and darks. Making half square triangles using pre-printed papers for accuracy, then turning these into nifty and unusual stretched stars. This is a group project, with a pieced border for the quilt, and the star blocks in two different sizes. Machine sewing, but with some teamwork needed for cutting and pressing please

**Workshop 4 – Easiest Appliqué Ever - 25<sup>th</sup> June, AGM included, Studio.**

(a silicon baking sheet, Morrisons do one for a pound or two, would be handy, but not essential, blunt knitting needle for turning out, solid reading colours or small prints in scraps and a fat quarter of a plain perhaps, variegated threads if you have them, not essential). machine and/or hand sewing.

We need more people to learn how to use Bertha! I am going to be working this year, on a schools contract, so will not have as much time as I have had. Bertha is not mine – she is there for everyone to use. If you want to practice, we have fun front fabric (the clown stuff), poly cotton backing and wadding. Someone else must learn how to clean, thread, change needles, load up the rollers etc. If you can spare a Wednesday evening come and have a coffee and see how she works. If you and some friends want a date, we can hire the small hall from The Studio at an hourly rate, but please, please, come and try! It

takes about a hour to load up 5 metres backing and wadding carefully onto Bertha, and to show how to thread up, change needles, and load a quilt. Small quilts, not a lot of quilting, take about 1 hour. Big quilts, patterns, careful quilting, take much longer. Experience equals confidence equals a little more speed!

We want to make lots of tops at the workshops, and then have folk want to come and use Bertha to have fun quilting them! And then we can give even more quilts to those who need them – we have donated nearly 400 in 3 years – could we make it 500 by next year?

Preferred sizes for Bertha – small – up to 45 wide – we can get two, side by side, to quilt at the same time. Anything wider, we may put on across the way, to minimise wastage, so not bigger than 90 long please. Any left-over wadding from edges we can use for Chinese Coins (quilt as you go) or bags, or other small projects. If you want, you can put a long strip of bag fabric at the edge of the frame to quilt at the same time, as this keeps tension even when the quilt is being rolled up after each “pass” on the quilting frame.

Funds to make the quilts! We’re solvent for the rest of the year for basic expenditure, storage and insurance. We have a big quilt we are raffling in a slightly different way. You “make a date” with the quilt – it’s a diary, you choose either am or pm on a day. An independent person has chosen a date and time, placed it in a sealed envelope, and at the end of the raffle, the person who has picked that time/date will be the winner. The licence to hold the raffle is at the front of the diary, so that folk can see it, and we will try to sell at various venues. No printing costs! It should make £730 if we sell every date. The end of the raffle will be when all dates sold or 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011, the date of the next AGM at the studio.

LLQS are having a table top sale **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November** as part of the Guild fund raising venture, and Comfort Quilts are taking a table or two, and will have textiles, threads and buttons for sale there. Hopefully that will raise more than the cost of the tables. Next year at LLQS 2011 we would have to pay for a table, and we pay as per normal trader, so I may take a table as a jewellery trader, and have the profits go to CQ – but I would need guaranteed assistance, as I am not likely to be able to get much time off work!

Wendy Bowyer of United Reform Church Helensburgh has offered to sell some of the curtains I have been donated at a stall there at the cream tea days, the first made over £100, second day is 31<sup>st</sup> July, so there are still other fund raising things on the go.

**Next** meeting at the **Studio, 7<sup>th</sup> August, full day**, workshops Bricks and Cobblestones, bring any 2 ½ inch strips you have please, and remember lunch.

New committee!

Rhona Thomson – Chair – taking over from Ruth Higham – 01389 601657

Eileen Appleton – Treasurer – taking over from Isabel Paterson - 01436 675861

Mary Robins – Secretary – re-elected – 01389 841396

Barbara Ramsay – Committee member without portfolio – re-elected 0141 887 0764

Thank you for your support in the past – we couldn’t have got this far without you! Please consider giving your support again for the coming year – membership still £5, all donations gratefully received!

Yours

Rhona Thomson

*STOP PRESS: 28/7/10: We have been asked to make 4 single bed quilts and two matching hangings for Robin House for their family room – they are buying the fabric, we are making the quilts. Can you help?*