



Newsletter #6  
April 09

I write this newsletter on a lovely SUNNY day – it's great to see the sun at last, and no snow, at least here.

Since I last wrote, we have delivered more quilts to Stirling, Southern General and to Dunfermline Hospice, meeting their request at last for large quilts. Two of the ones we sent over with Margaret to Dunfermline are for children, so hopefully, all ages will benefit.

Our website is now up and running, and we have had two members join this way, and also a request for patterns from Canada, from a group making quilts for their local palliative care centre. So, we're being looked at internationally! We hope to make a few additions to the website, to include a way of members joining and paying on the site, or accepting donations that way, via Pay Pal as it is probably the most secure way. We are waiting to see how our lottery finances are before we go ahead with that.

We have nicknamed the big machine, Bertha. It makes it easier for everyone, as it's not a long arm, it is a quilt frame, and it was getting complicated making the distinctions. There have been some teething troubles, but we think we have sorted these out now.

Bobbins – only the ones in the plastic bag with the tools please.

Needles – we're using Schmetz large needles, please change for each quilt.

Threads – King Tut, Mettler, Coats Star, and Ikea cotton, all seem to work well, but Madeira Cotona, YLI and YLI select, and Gutermann haven't been as good. We think it is the thickness, so tex 50 is OK, but thicker (smaller number) isn't so good.

Wadding – Soft and bright is good, Warm and Natural or equivalent is good, and the new one we are going to be using a lot, Dream Green, seems fantastic – which is very pleasing as it is a recycled wadding – made from plastic bottles! Very good price as well.

Maintenance – it is a good idea to check the book and see when Bertha was last cleaned and oiled – I'm trying to do it every week – yes I know that sounds a lot, but a whole quilt's worth of sewing makes lots of fluff! THERE ISN'T A CAP on the oil – just a poly bag over the end, so please don't shake or turn upside down!

I have been very remiss when showing folk, and using it myself, not putting in details in the book, which is on the bookshelf to the left of the machine. Please remind me, and remember to put your details in there, just so we can see how much the machine is being used.

WONDERFUL donations have been received from Lorna of Patchwork Cottage. Lorna mentioned at the Regional Day that she had cot panel and cushions made up as samples for the shop, and then they just went into a box when the fabric was retired – could I use them? I nearly kissed her! I made arrangements to travel up to West Muir (which was a gorgeous run on the day we picked) and loaded two large and strangely heavy boxes into the car. We dallied back via Blackford (for some Baxter's soup), and delivered some more quilts into Stirling, then made a side trip to Stacey at Match a Patch. At Stacey's place we dispelled a rumour that Stirling didn't take quilts – they've had nearly half of what we've donated so far! A nice gentle run back home, then got those mysterious boxes up the stairs.

Well!

21 gorgeous cot and larger panels, 58 cushions, Christmas stockings, advent calendar and skirt were all beautifully made up. Then I found a wonderful selection of panels of retired fabrics – I wasn't expecting those!

Ruth has used some already, as she was doing a children's workshop for Tulloch Trust, I am doing cushion panels, and some have gone through to Dunoon with Irene. The completed panels are already labelled, and will be washed and packed soon, ready for delivery. It's a thought you could repeat with your local shop – ask what they do with the samples – if they don't sell or giveaway already, maybe they could give them your way, either to give to children or use for fundraising. We reckon that cushion, bag and miscellaneous tombola at LLQS will help raise funds for more fabrics and waddings.

We have been in the papers, in Sunday Express, and we hope to be in My Weekly, first or second week in May. The photographer has been (see the Gallery on the website for photos), and the interview has been done over the wire (Lisa, the journalist, is in Thailand teaching). We also have a wee spot in the West Dunbartonshire volunteer's magazine, In Focus.

Our Have a Heart day in February had 10 attendees and we have had three quilts finished and handed back. Two were quilted on Bertha. Very grateful thanks to Ruth for organising soup and rolls to keep us going.

Yesterday, our Chinese Coins had 10 attendees as well, lots of strips were made and wadding, backing and scraps taken away for finishing – didn't seem to make much of a dent in the scrap boxes though! Every CQ machine was in use, my wee Brother, Mum's singer, Ruth's Bernina and the studio machines, it was like a cool sweat shop! I got some hot nibbles from Iceland this time.

So our numbers to date

48 members, 213 quilts given out, 300+ items received (lots of cushions in that number), and 20 + larger sized quilts done on Bertha.

Our raffle tickets are now on sale, and the main prize is pictured on the Gallery section of the website. We hope to get other prize pictures there as soon as we can. Draw will take place at a fun day, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2009, at The Studio.

Other events

20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May LLQS09 – volunteers for stand please 10 – 5 at the trader's village, til 7 on Thursday.  
**20<sup>th</sup> June** – AGM and workshop 12 for 12:30 meeting, workshop afterwards – free, but please renew your membership before using CQ machines.

\*\*\*\* If you have anything you want discussed at the meeting, please send in for the agenda by 25<sup>th</sup> May, to allow it to go out to all members in writing \*\*\*\*\*

18<sup>th</sup> July, Pearls of Wisdom – St Anthony's Guild Headquarters, York All day.

We have been invited to do workshops, display and talks at St Anthony's, and our theme is making group quilts – our "pearls of wisdom" on what to do and what not to do. We intend going down on the Friday, stopping off at suitable points, stay over night, do the event on Saturday, and then drive back Sunday. If anyone is interested in going, please let me know. You would be asked to do a "turn" selling tickets at the raffle quilt, but not all day, so that you can see the exhibitions and have tea in the town, which is only a 5 – 10 minute walk at my pace, probably only 2 min for everyone else!

24<sup>th</sup> October Fun day at The Studio, with raffle prize draw at 3.00. Hand or Machine sewing, fabric swaps, stripping for fun, Christmas specials – what do you fancy doing? Ideas please!

Well, I am sure I have missed news out, but I hope we'll get together to catch up on everything soon.

Thanks for reading and Happy Stitching

Rhona

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