



KZN Quilters Guild

Newsletter No 123—May 2020

MYSTERY QUILT SEW-ALONG



For more details....

SEE INSIDE

FROM THE HOT SEAT

Greetings KZN Quilters,

While not quilting related, I would like to thank everyone of you that are either fulfilling an essential services role – or supporting someone who is. I know also that there are many of you nursing family members, and in a time like this, this must be even more difficult than normal. On behalf of the KZN quilters, we send you strength, love and hugs.

We have also just celebrated Mother's Day – so to all the quilting Mothers, we wish you a belated happy Mother's Day.

With the world being turned upside down, there seems to be so much that we cannot do. Yet there is so much that we can. Let us define ourselves by our creativity, and many of us have had plenty of time to do this. I am encouraged by the work that so many of our quilters have done – mask production has featured highly; there are FaceBook challenges that have been taken up; guilds have set up groups to share work and communicate through the isolation; and many PhDs have been worked on – and even completed. Well done to all of you!

How lucky are we as quilters to be able to have the time to play with fabric, to sew and quilt - to create such beautiful and useful items for those we love. I predict that the gifts we are creating in this time are spectacular as we do not have to snatch time away from all the busyness of the day, but can be present and mindful – and give so much more time and thought to the work we are doing.

In this time, we have had so much bad quilting news: guilds have cancelled meetings; Quilt Academy and our High Tea have been postponed; and we have received confirmation that the Royal Show has been cancelled for this year. Let us continue to take this time to sort out our quilting spaces, finish already started projects, and plan the next ones. This time is also an opportunity to take up the Red and White challenge for the KZNQG Quilt Competition at the end of the year and make a quilt for the "Diversity" festival in the Cape next year. But I do not only expect you to sit in front of your sewing machine... take a break outside and get inspiration from the beautiful weather. And while you are enjoying your garden (currently untouched by a gardener) why don't you propagate some of your favourite plants for us to sell at the Big Plant Sale?

We obviously are not in a position to give you the dates of all meetings and events at this stage, but will communicate through email as soon as we have everything scheduled again.

Until I see you again... sending you all virtual hugs

Kind Regards

Twig

Members are reminded that subscriptions are now overdue

***Existing members R200
New / re-joining members R220***

Bank Details

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Reference: Your name

Please EFT payment as soon as possible.

Note: The bank charges R50 per individual cash/cheque deposit, so we appeal to you **NOT** to deposit cash/cheque at your local branch.

Launching..... The KZNQMG Mystery Quilt Series



KZNQMG is launching the Mystery Quilt Series, designed by our own Sue Cameron.

Participants will be given 7 sets of instructions and three quilt sizes to choose from - cot quilt, single bed and queen. Participants can use meterage or scraps.

Instructions will be released every 2 weeks on the website, via email and on the KZNQMG FaceBook page.

The first set of instructions will be released on *1 June 2020*.

We encourage quilters to take part in this opportunity. Completed quilts will be *displayed at the first KZNQMG meeting of 2021*. **We'll also have a Viewers' Choice prize.**

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DONATION OF COMMUNITY QUILTS

FOR THE 2023 FESTIVAL

By LEANNE STEWART, Chairlady NQF23, Instagram: #quilt.sa, 0836547096,
031- 7653534, gregleahome@gmail.com

A huge thankyou to all those who have been working on community quilts.

REASON FOR REQUEST OF QUILTS:

The committee would like to have a quilt on every single bed in the venue. These quilts need to be made with love and care and show off our art form.

WHO WILL GET THE QUILTS AND HOW WILL WE DISTRIBUTE THEM:

After the festival the quilts will **not** be returned to the makers as this is logistically impossible, but the likes of Rotary will help us distribute the 600 quilts to old age homes or other needy establishments selected by Rotary.

SIZE OF THE QUILT:

The quilt must be no bigger than a single bed quilt: 150cm x 220 cm.
Lap quilts will also be accepted. 140cm x 140 cm

BACKING AND BATTING:

A huge thanks to Bernina in PMB & to Nicky Hunter-Smith who have kindly donated a roll of batting each. The batting will be available at our next KZNQG meeting. Nicky has distributed a lot of the batting amongst the Midlands quilters.

SHOULD YOU PUT A LABEL ON THE QUILT:

I believe that every quilt should have the following on the back:

Name of quilt

Year it was made

Made with love by: (your name & /or guilds name)

HOW MANY QUILTS DO WE NEED & HOW MANY ARE EXPECTED FROM EACH GUILD?

Our goal is to have 600 quilts to donate. We have 600 beds to cover so please make as many as you possibly can.

Each guild has a different number of members. The bigger the guild the more quilts can be donated. The more quilts we get, the more people we can bless.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE QUILT ONCE IT IS COMPLETE AND READY TO DONATE?

Unfortunately, none of our committee members have a large enough storage facility to house these quilts till the festival. Please hang onto them. Wrap them up so that the fish moths can't get to them and we will call for them closer to the time.

The Committee



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Vacant	Quilt Display Coordinator		



Quilters' Calendar 2020

Details will be updated as Lockdown Stages change

1 August:	TBC Quilt Academy
15 August:	TBC KZNQG Open Day – Hillcrest Primary School, Hillcrest
24 – 27 September:	Fynbos Quilt Retreat – Stellenbosch (Rhenish High School)
3 October:	Quilt Academy
24 October:	KZNQG Open Day – Hillcrest Primary School, Hillcrest
19 – 21 November:	Quilt in Clarens
28 November:	Quilt Academy

SUGGESTIONS & ARTICLES

Please let us know what you want to see in your Newsletter. More articles? More images of quilts? More tutorials/book reviews? More about Quilt Exhibitions? Please tell us. Send your news / suggestions / contributions to the editor: simona.damerell@gmail.com



To visit our new-look Website [Click here](#)
We welcome your contributions to the Blog and feedback on what you would like to see on the Website.

Please email simona.damerell@gmail.com

FaceBook— [Click here](#)

Cheddar

By Sue Cameron—SAQG Accredited Quilt Teacher; SAQG Master Quilter

Cheddar is wonderful! It is tasty, great on a sandwich, perfect on potato bake and not too shabby on top of macaroni and cheese. But what does cheddar have to do with quilts?

In the Far East cotton fabrics were dyed orange using saffron, turmeric and jackfruit rind. In the west, weld was used to dye linen and wool yellow. The heartwood of the American mulberry was also used to create a yellow dye. In the 1770's the British chemist, Edward Bancroft, discovered that the bark of an American oak could be used to produce a new yellow dye with green undertones. The fabrics that were dyed with these dyes were not colourfast, with cotton fabric being particularly difficult to dye.

Although the dyeing process for silk, linen and wool had advanced during the 16th and 17th centuries, cotton fabric was still tricky to dye as it needed chemical or mineral substances to enable the cotton fibres to be receptive to dyes. When Chromium was used to enhance a yellow fabric and make it orange, things changed, and the fabric became colourfast. The addition of chromium to the process is the reason for the name Chrome orange.⁵

Antimony or Chrome Orange was a very popular colour for quilt fabrics in the 1800's.² It provided a welcome distraction from the reds, browns and indigos that were widely produced at the time, while offering the quilter more options for creative expression.¹ When used with dull colours, chrome orange always added a pop of colour.

In the 1800's, ladies were discouraged from wearing the colour orange as it was said to grey the complexion. Because of this, chrome orange fabric would have been bought specifically for quilts as there would have been no dressmaking off-cuts to use. For this reason, it is safe to assume that only wealthier women used it in their quilts.⁵

Some immigrants to the United States already used golden orange in crafts other than quilt making. Moravian (from Czechoslovakia) potters from Pennsylvania and later North Carolina regularly used orange and gold when slip-decorating their work. The Pennsylvanian Dutch used the color in painting furniture details.

The Dutch and the German settlers in Pennsylvania used cheddar fabric extensively in their work between 1860 and 1890. As this fact is widely known in the world of quilt history, the choice of this fabric in an antique quilt is a good indicator for dating and placing the origins of that quilt.²



Above: 1870's Red, Green and Cheddar Sunflower Appliqué Quilt

Chrome orange fabric was used in various ways. If it was used it as a background for appliqué or as an accent in an appliqué design, it would have been a solid colour.



Right: Antique Log Cabin Barn Raising Quilt
Circa 1860

Not as commonplace as the solid chrome orange, was the chrome orange calico, most often overprinted with black and red motifs.¹ This fabric was most often used in piecing rather than in appliqué.



Chrome orange fabric was often dyed at home from dyes made from a powder that was shop-bought. This dyeing process was dangerous because it was made using lead although the danger was not known at the time.²

Antique chrome orange quilts are enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Before 1990, the colour was simply referred to as gold or bright orange. Some marketing savvy antique quilt dealers came up with the term to move away from the normal word for the unpopular colour orange. The new name changed the perception of the colour and made selling the quilts easier.⁵

Above: Some Reproduction 1860's Chrome Orange Prints

A quilt collector and dealer called Sandra Mitchell had a very large collection of Cheddar quilts. She passed away in 2000 but still today, when pictures of cheddar quilts are published, they are often said to have come from her extensive collection.

Cheddar is not just a fabric used in antique quilts, contemporary quilt makers still use the fabrics today.

In the modern quilt movement, cheddar is again a popular colour, used extensively as a wonderful pop of colour.

So, yes, cheddar is delicious on mac and cheese and on a toasted sandwich. Personally, I prefer a bit of cheddar in my quilts!



Above: Tucker's Tulips by Sue Garman

Right: Direction Optional by Stephanie Ruyle and members of Bee Sewcial



Bibliography

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3. <http://aquilterbynight.blogspot.com/2013/09/a-slice-of-cheddar-antique-pennsylvania.html>
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5. Quilter's Newsletter Magazine, June/July 2014, pgs 33-37

Focus on lockdown projects



Above left: quilt by Anna Celliers (Cottage Patch Quilters) Above centre and right: quilts by Carol Hodsdon



Above left: Lockdown quilt by Gaye Ballard; Above centre Festival charity quilt by Janet Waring (Meander Guild) ; Above right and below—3 quilts by Lyn Gonzaga (Grassroots) for her grandchildren





Below from left to right —quilt by Lynne Roborg-Coke ,cushion cover by Charmain Grainger, Lynne Roborg-Coke's memory quilt made from ties (all members of Hibiscus Guild)



Below left Lynda Horner's quilt; centre: Andrea's memory quilt for her mom in law, left Sue Rencken has almost completed grid of embroidered and framed blocks (all from Midland's Guild)





Right and left—work by Alice Massie

Below by Fiona Walker

Both members of Sheffield Nite Owls



Below, from Tollgate Guild—left Erica's Quilt Academy Christmas angel applique mini quilt, centre Valda's hand made king size hexie quilt, right Ilse's Quilt Academy Blooming Marvellous quilt from 2013



From Sew Wot—below from left to right Colleen's Dear Jane quilt, Caroline's Hexies and Margie's Hexies.





Clockwise from top left :

Leanne's Jelly Roll quilt ;

Blocks by Rachel Cooper;

Baby quilt by Lorette;

Joan who just celebrated her 90th birthday, knitted 116 beanies for charity.

All the above are by Queensburgh Quilters.

Big Truck Quilt (almost complete) by Rosemary of Sew Wot Guild

Happy Easter by Beth Barkus, and

Magda's blocks (both from Queensburgh Quilters)



Lockdown News

By Debbie Becker, owner of BERNINA Durban North, SAQG accredited teacher

By the time this is read I would hope we should be at Lockdown stage 3 or even 2.

What a crazy 5 weeks it has been. As we closed up store on the 24 March, I knew that with more time at home I would have time to complete my UFOs and make many masks.

In hindsight, that was an optimistic presumption. Here I am writing to you from a very untidy converted lounge/ dining-room/ entrance hall, now sewing studio. My son says it's the worst hobby store he has ever seen! Within 2 days of being home the calls started. From "my sewing machines broken" to "do you have elastic" to "I know you are a quilter...do you by any chance have 100% cotton to give me".

It has not stopped for 36 days! Fortunately I had got my husband and son to take all my sewing "stuff" home, my shop stock, just in case and all my big embroidery machines. Thinking I would have an amazing time of peace and quiet making all the quilts I dreamed about making. Never did I think my collections of precious Liberty, Kaffe Fasset and Gucheon would become face masks (*see pic on the left*)! Over the time I have realized that friendships made during this time are really special.

I have connected with self-employed women who have lost entire incomes, heard stories of unbelievable hardship. My steady "good" friend's kind of disappeared into the mire of their own life stresses. New friends and old friendships have been restored and recovered. And I can honestly say its been so special. My precious fabrics have saved a few households from hunger. My online call to make masks gave the most surprises. 44 owners of sewing machines have kept busy making masks. By lunchtime today, Saturday 2 May, I have received over 1450 masks to disperse with. Many

of my new friends are now making masks to earn a living and I know that these masks will continue to be necessary for the next few months. Many stories of grannies teaching the grandchildren to sew and make their own masks. I can't find a favourite story yet because my heart is so touched by the vastness of what has gone on. One couple have lost their jobs and just want to sew masks for charity while they navigate the uncertainty they face. Lungelo, volunteered her time, 5 years ago to help me navigate teaching sewing to African ladies, from previously disadvantaged backgrounds. We trained over 50 ladies while I learnt enough isizulu to communicate with my students. What I didn't realise, is that Lungelo had gained sewing as a skill. And yesterday appeared at my gate wanting elastic, wearing beautiful face masks she had made and is selling.

Right: almost completed quilt for a friend—border still to be sewn on



Guild News

HAYFIELDS QUILTERS GUILD

Just before the lock down our guild started a row by row challenge.

We have been working on this and many other projects during the lockdown.

Our WhatsApp group is open to all on a Friday and pictures come thru fast and furious.



Rose Varty kindly put together these collages of all the "Show and Tell ". We are all missing the camaraderie of meetings and hope to get together soon

Sue Rencken
Chairlady

GRASSROOTS QUILTERS GUILD

I sincerely hope that this newsletter finds you all in good health and coping with the numerous challenges as a result of the lockdown.

The year started quite normally for Grassroots members, with another good meeting in February. Sarojani Naidoo inspired us as she took us through, and shared with us, getting to grips with the "ART" of quilting. The online Design and Art Principles course sounded most intriguing, and something worth looking into in the future.

The "tree" squares for quilts for Australian fire victims were enthusiastically created by members to be sent over to Australia for use. They were quite beautiful.



The 2 day course by Paul Schutte in February proved popular amongst members.

March/April meetings were cancelled, and the AGM scheduled for and due in March will be held once life returns to normal.

Meanwhile, it is quite astounding what members have been up to since being sent off home into lockdown in March! So many masks, from surgical quality to funky fun masks for kids have been made and sent out to hospitals, businesses, necessary service centres, etc. All members can be proud of their achievements in this regard.

The enthusiasm and hard work going into the Festival 2023 Community Love Project quilts is most impressive and inspiring! Even though in lockdown, quilt tops are being completed by members. These tops somehow move off to be quilted, and once quilted find their way back for binding and labelling, Members have really taken this project to heart, and although there are still some years to go, Grassroots Members have passed the halfway mark in the number of quilts (40) requested of them! Well done members!!

Batting and backing mysteriously seem to stretch and reach further

Left: Blerrie Mosaic by Merle Mulder

Right: Gaudi mosaic quilt made by Gill Lewis



KLOOF COUNTRY QUILTERS

We have unfortunately only had 2 meetings this year.... The theme for the February meeting was 'nostalia' Our ladies dressed in red and white or vintage. Someone even brought along their wedding dress, another their own christening robe! Show and tell saw us oogling over beautiful crocheted doilies, embroidered tray cloths- probably all trousseau items from our mothers and grandmothers!! We shared ideas of how to take care of vintage fabrics: laundering, stain and rust

removal and then spoke about how to rework vintage fabrics into modern quilting. Some of us left feeling inspired! Good to think of ways to use vintage fabrics rather than being forgotten in a dusty drawer.

March was a workshop meeting- members were encouraged to make tree blocks for Australia and Mary Chapman taught us how to make thumbles. Leanne from 2023 Festival Committee motivated us to make blocks for the Community Quilt Project – 600 quilts are needed! She also inspired us with some of her quilting ideas. Since then we have been unable to meet..... We started a Kloof Country WhatsApp group to keep members in touch with one another. Ladies share photos of their quilts and news. Many of our members have been finishing off ufos, making masks and assisting with community projects. How fortunate are we to have a hobby that is so satisfying and keeps us busy during this lockdown time.

Stay well, keep busy and hopefully we will all soon be back to the new normal Love, Felicity



Above: Bag with vintage tray cloth by Felicity Crouch



Above—quilt by Menaka Pillay

Below—quilt by Elmarie Erasmus



Right: face masks by Felicity for Issy Geshen Old Age Home in Lamontville





MEANDER
Quilters Guild

Unfortunately our exciting plans for 2020 have had to be put on hold, but our members continue to be creative.

Heather Murray has made a beautiful flying geese quilt to contribute to the Festival Charity drive (photo on the right).

Anne MacDonald has used this time to finish a long term project. It is English paper pieced and quilted with buttons. She used 600 buttons. A real masterpiece! (photo below)

Our members continue to keep busy sewing for various appeals in our area for charity.

Regards
Janet



QUEENSBURGH QUILTERS

Hello to all our fellow Quilters in this difficult time, we certainly won't forget Easter 2020.

Our ladies have been busy during lockdown, beautiful crocheted blankets, quilt tops, some even had the help of their grandchildren. Sashiko machine embroidery, beanies being knitted and of course plenty of masks make for family and friends as well as the NGO's that required them.

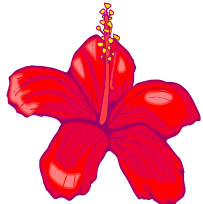
There were dress up tea parties, jig-saw puzzles, gardening, baby quilts, card making and knitted toys. *Photos of our members' wonderful work in the Newsletter's section on Lockdown Projects.*

We have also started a challenge of strip blocks for our festival quilts that we are making.

On the 14th May, Joan Visser our oldest ex QQ member celebrated her 90th birthday, lots of good wishes, messages from family and friends and laws broken about social visiting.

Our condolences to Lorette and her family, on the loss of her sister Sue, who was a frequent visitor to our meetings. She will be sadly missed by all.

Annette Lee



Hibiscus Quilters Guild

Greetings Quilters,

Wow, who would have thought that our lives would change so much between one newsletter and the next? Our last Guild meeting was on 25th February, the last committee meeting on the 10th March and I haven't seen anyone since!

The panic of the first few days and weeks of the lockdown have subsided and we have become used to our new routine. The pile of loo paper is diminishing slowly, the grass is getting really long and we are not going to mention our hair!

Along with the shock of our new lifestyles came a wonderful gift – TIME. Something we never used to have enough of before. Time to get up a bit later in the morning, time to do jigsaw puzzles, time to reclaim our gardens, time to attend to all those UFO's that have been lying at the bottom of the cupboard, time to sip our coffee or tea without having to dash off somewhere, time to do whatever we wanted to but never got around to doing. It has also brought time to reflect, relax and figure out what is really important in our lives.

Another gift it has brought is silence – a quietening of traffic and unnecessary noise.

I think the most difficult thing for us is not knowing when it will all be over. It will pass eventually – we must have Faith and patience.

In the meantime let me tell you what I have learned:

The MTN Helpline is anything but helpful, it is possible for your future son in law to fix your computer when he is in Lichtenburg and you are in Shelly Beach (it's called Team Viewer), I can cut my own hair, I don't have to wear lipstick anymore because you can't see it under my mask, I never want to make another mask – I made three and it was three too many and I still can't bake.

Many of you, like myself, will have been getting re-acquainted with your brooms, dusters, mops and dustpans. Not my favourite job but it has to be done. I have new respect for Mavis who will only be back at level 2 unfortunately.

I would mention that old expression "take time to smell the roses" but if I had any they would be difficult to find because the grass is growing at an alarming rate. Roll on level 3 and the return of the garden services.

We are not going to discuss cigarettes and wine.

While in lockdown and trying to flatten the curve I expect many of us have been fattening the curve! The bakers have been producing yummy goodies and so far chocolate has not been classified as a non-essential item.

With the extra time on our hands I am hoping that when we are allowed to re-open meetings there will be a huge amount of projects for the Show and Tell wall!

Several of our ladies have been involved in making masks for some of the police stations in the Margate area and also for retirement homes in our area – well done ladies!

Hang in there ladies – it won't last forever! Margi



Above left: scrappy quilt by Anne-Marie Kapp ; Above right: UFO by Heather Frost

SEW WOT QUILTERS GUILD

I am absolutely blown away by the massive effort all our members made to decrease the size of their stash. Amidst the “fun” of lockdown, Sew Wotters focused all their energies on the positives—time to read, to garden, knit and crochet, and of course, to sew and quilt. Hope you enjoy some of our contribution to the world of stash busting.



Above left: Judy's Dear Jane, Above right: Maria's Gypsy Wife Below left: Ronel's Illusional Circles; below centre: Loredana's miniature below right: May-Gene's cross stitch book mark



QUILT ACADEMY 2020

Queries? Email twigg@telkomsa.net



**Watch this space
For updated QA dates**



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SHEFFIELD NITE OWLS



Hi everyone

Well what does one write about when we've only managed one meeting since the last newsletter. I was one of those people who were not unhappy to be confined to home for the first three weeks- no rushing around, a chance to get some UFOs finished, make tracksuits for the grandchildren etc. Even the two weeks extension didn't see me too unhappy - more time for UFOs, there were still weeds in the garden, and I was busy. Well I'm still busy, but I miss my friends popping in for coffee, I miss my sewing groups and all the chat and encouragement that goes with it, not to mention the fabulous lunch we have every month.

We are a small group (13 members) and several of us are the far side of 70 so I think we

will be "contained" for a while yet. We started a block-a-month in January and thanks to the internet and people whose computer skills are better than mine, we were able to share the patterns for April and May, and people have been putting blocks together so the quilts are still growing. Others have been busy making masks and donating them to worthy causes. So we are carrying on - as you do - one day at a time. Alice is completing many quilts that have been donated to the group, Fiona has started an heirloom quilt

for her granddaughter - she has 10 years till the 21st birthday!! and I have 2 sides

to go on the binding of my queen sized Gypsy Wife Quilt. And the sky hasn't fallen yet - the sea is still blue- and the moon over the sea

is still beautiful. Keep smiling, stay safe, and carry on quilting regardless.

With love - Sue



Above by Nina Neil

Below by Sue Freckleton



Top left by Fiona Walker

Above by Sioban Hood

Below by Rosa Fourie



MIDLANDS QUILTERS GUILD

COVID-19! Lockdown! Life suspended ...

2020 will certainly be a stand-out year in our memories, flagged with the vagaries of an unleashed virus and its myriad knock-on consequences.

There are frustrations and stories of great sadness – from our own quilting guild's (relatively minor, in the great scheme of things) frustration at not being able to assemble community quilts and having to cancel three monthly meetings and inspiring guest speakers thus far, to the obviously bigger-picture community, social and economic woes.

The lucky ones in our quilting community who were able to, have taken the gap and turned to their sewing machines, and in this newsletter, we look for a touch of colour therapy and inspiration. It is not lacking:

Bea Gush sized her wall hanging to fit a section of her bedroom wall that needed cheering up; Nicky Hunter-Smith tackled UFOs, some with her grand children, and had fun in the process ; Lynda Horner and Hayley Farrow-Woolridge celebrated National Quilt Day with a virtual display on WhatsApp of their colourful creations.

Many more of our creations can be seen on the Newsletter pages dedicated to lockdown projects.

The Kaffe Fassett Facebook page has many posts of UFOs and PhDs being hauled out of hiding, and tackled ... so we are in good global quilting company.

Keep on sewing, girls – and I don't mean masks!



Above left: Nicky Hunter-Smith's work

Above right: Bea Gush's wall hanging

Left: Lynda Horner's National Quilt Day creation

Below right: Hayley Farrow-Woolridge's National Quilt Day creation



TOLLGATE QUILTERS GUILD

I am absolutely blown away at the work that has been done by the Tollgate quilters over the lockdown period. We may have needed to stop meeting formally over this time, but the conversation has certainly not stopped: We have enjoyed regular posts from our members on the work that they have been doing – and have completed – over the period of isolation. We look forward to the most impressive “Show ‘n’ Tell” ever when we return to our traditional meeting format.

We look forward to seeing everyone again soon.



Above: Mandy's bird

Bottom right: Phil's 35 Days of Lockdown embroidery

Bottom left: Lynda's Japanese Boro

Left: Beth's Heart of Love and Flowers

Top left: Barbara's shwe shwe bear



VILLAGE QUILTERS GUILD

LOCKDOWN. In March I just could not get my mind around this word. The whole world – our planet Earth!! Well, we are well into it by now and what a boon it has been to many people, especially us quilters who have so many quilts to complete and start, but not at all good for those in business, the poor and the entire world's economy.

However this letter is to the quilters. We started our year with a wonderful Gaudi class by Paul Schutte. He is so inspirational and such a good teacher. None of us in the class will forget his commitment to helping everyone, and the word blerrie!!



*Gaudi quilts
by Helga
Beaumont
(far left) and
Tiiu Excell
(left)*

Our "not technically challenged" committee set up two WhatsApp groups – one for people to share the beautiful work they are making or had made, called "Creative VQ", and the other for

funnies, news, questions and inspirational messages, called "Social VQ". Then now and again we have a committee Zoom meeting which some of us intend to attend but walk around with our cell phone in our pocket waiting for the call that never comes and miss the Zoom meeting! No names mentioned!

At the beginning of the year the committee challenged the ladies to concentrate on finishing some of their UFOs. The Gaudi quilts above can be included in this UFO list! About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the class raised their hands when asked if they had any!! Now was the time to get these done and it proved to be a double challenge because the quilting shops were closed so you had to use what was in your stash!! Here are a few of the nearly forgotten and maybe now loved UFOs

Below Left: Bag by Sue Cameron

Below Right: Quilt by Joyce Murphy



Having finished their UFOs some ladies have even started and finished new quilts. I don't know where they found the time to clean the lavatories, scrub the pots, iron the T shirts and cut the acre of grass – never mind the weeds which are taking over our patios and pathways!! Anyway they have and well done to them.



*Left: quilt by Caroline Trezona Quilt
Right: quilt by Niri Moodley*



On our usual Monday meeting day in March we had an "at home sit in and sew masks morning". What fun – plenty were made and handed out to needy organisations. I took mine to PnP early one morning, handed out a couple and then those hanging around all asked for one. 36 gone in 15 minutes. We need to make more, ladies, and hand them out at no cost. Just watch TV and see how many people are walking around with no protection.

In closing I hope and pray for those in business, for those who have lost their jobs and for the poor. May some good fortune be experienced by you all. And quilters, please make some more masks.

Time to make my coffee, sit in the sun with one cat on my lap, the other on the chair behind me and watch the birds as they tuck into the lovely ripe fruit on my Tassel Berry tree. Look after yourselves and keep safe.

On the right, a warm blanket made by Margaret Jones

Yours in quilting

Colleen Roberts

