



SNIPPETS

The Farnham Quilters' Newsletter

November 2020

Please send items for December Snippets by 30 November to ruthandpeterh@gmail.com. If you have been to an exhibition or found an interesting shop or website, please share!

Coffee Rota Reminder.



The Next Few Months at FQ

9 November – Zoom Meeting, details to follow

14 December – Christmas meeting.



What's on Elsewhere

Postponed Events

Quilts UK at Malvern 2020
Re-scheduled for 3-16 May 2021.

National Quilt Championships, Sandown
Re-scheduled for 17-19 June 2021

Romsey Quilters Exhibition
Re-scheduled for 3-18 July 2021.

Note: keep hold of your raffle tickets.
Lullingstone Quilt & Craft Festival
Postponed until 16 - 18 July 2021

Festival of Quilts,
Postponed to 29 July – 1 August 2021.

25-26 November

Christmas Fair, Farnham Maltings
10.00 am – 9.00 pm. £1 entry
Advance tickets only and timed entry
Different stallholders on each day.

<https://farnhammaltings.com/events/christmas-fair>



Message from the Committee

Hello Everyone

November is starting with a lot of 'no' - our meetings until the end of the year are already cancelled and now the hoped-for re-opening in the New Year will be deferred too.

Last month we asked members how you felt about taking part in the Maltings quilt show in January. It was the first topic of discussion at last month's Zoom Meeting which was attended by 12 members. The organisers had told us that they were hoping to go ahead but it might be held on two days to allow for more visitors to attend as only 100 tickets would be available every hour. Spacing the traders further apart would mean there would be less room for displays. Given the increasing likelihood of a second wave of Covid there was not much enthusiasm for the idea - most of the Committee were not in favour and several members said they would not be willing to steward. Doubts were expressed about the safety of putting quilts on display with no stewarding. Since then, Carole has had a few emails from people who were not at the meeting. Our thanks to the two people who did offer some help but it is clear that there is not enough support for us to commit to participating in the event and we have informed the organisers accordingly.

Carole was still awaiting more responses from members about the possibility of a Zoom meeting in November (or later) with textile artist Joanna O'Neill, talking about her Journal Quilts or 'Twenty Years and Counting' covering her larger work. The cost would be £70 - a discount on her normal fee. It was suggested we might ask other groups to join in and contribute towards the cost. Sheila had done an on-line Guild Workshop which was quite successful and she showed us the applique work she had made. It was decided that more research was needed before making a decision. Since then, only a few of you have indicated their interest in these talks in particular or virtual presentations in general.

Various members showed their work at the Zoom meeting. A number of people have been doing cross stitch projects as a change. We were all very impressed with Ann's which has been many moons in completion!

Do try and join us for the next Zoom meeting on November 9th. As usual Carole will send out a reminder of the joining details a few days beforehand.

Stay safe and well

With our best wishes

Connie, Natalie, Lyn, Julia, Penny and Carole

Guild News

From the Region 2 Newsletter:

" If you have an hour to spare whilst stitching together small pieces of material to make a larger piece then listen to Radio 4 World Service, a programme called Stitching Souls. All I can say is that it is fascinating and an hour well spent - enjoy" Mollie Bourton.

It's all about the Gee's Bend Quilters! Was on August 20th but you can listen by following this link:-

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct0x2h>

Face Mask Pattern

I initially copied the instructions from a video on Instagram posted by stitchodyssey. The video has been very popular and is still available to view- just search for her under that name on Instagram and select her videos.

Then Jules of Sew Me Something made the pattern and instructions freely available on her website: sewme-something.co.uk It can be found under Patterns - Accessories.

They are easy to make and perfect for combining pretty fabrics. I can manage to make two from one fat quarter when using the same fabric for both sections of the mask.

Carolyn Tucker



.... and to keep your face mask clean and tidy

My daughter saw face masks in a shop being sold with little matching bags so she asked if I could come up with something similar. This was my solution:

Cut fabric rectangle 5" x 10"

On both shorter sides press $\frac{1}{4}$ " to wrong side, then turn in another $\frac{1}{4}$ ", press and stitch.

With wrong sides together, fold one short end $2\frac{1}{2}$ " towards the middle, then repeat with other end so the two ends overlap.

Sew $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam along each raw edge, clip corners, turn through and press and it's all ready to slip in a mask and pop it in your bag.



By the way, Elphicks have nose bars (10p each) which will slip inside a channel or iron on.
Ruth Harrison

Show-and-Tell

Judy Jones

Made for Baby Basics.





All about Cotton – from Aurifil

A friend forwarded to me a newsletter from Barnyards, (<https://www.barnyards.co.uk/>) which included this article about the production of cotton, promoted by Aurifil:

Cotton is one of the most important and widely used fibres in our society. It is used in the production of so many products that also include food, for both human and animal consumption. In fact, one acre of cotton produces about 100 – 120 litres of edible cottonseed oil per acre. The average person consumes about 3 pints of cottonseed oil annually. Many consumers are unaware that the food service industry relies heavily on cottonseed oil to serve up helpings of French fries and chicken nuggets for example.

Cotton has been farmed and cultivated for centuries. Currently, there are five prominent types of cotton being grown commercially around the world. They are: Egyptian, Sea Island, American Pima, Asiatic and Upland. By far, the largest producers of cotton are China, India, United States, Pakistan, Brazil, and Australia. One of the most well known and most luxurious cotton crops is grown in Egypt. However, Egypt only produces a single percentage in comparison to the largest world growers.

The strength and quality of cotton thread is often measured by the length of the staple. A staple is the individual fibre from a cotton boll, usually measuring between 1" - 2" depending on the specific cotton crop and from the country and region it is grown.

From planting to maturity, it takes 140 days to produce a cotton crop. As the plant matures, the fibres within the cotton boll grow and thicken with their primary growth substance, cellulose. An average boll is about two inches in diameter and contains 500,000 fibres of cotton. Each cotton plant can bear up to 100 bolls.

For the textile industry, the cotton is processed to remove the cotton staples from the cotton seed. Once separated, the staples are dried to reduce the moisture content and to improve the staple quality. The staples are then cleaned to remove bits of leaf, sticks and other

foreign matter leaving the raw fibre called lint, which is then compressed into bales, sampled for classification, wrapped and shipped to textile mills. The mills produce cotton yarn and cloth by first carding the cotton. Carding is the process of pulling the fibres into parallel alignment to form a thin web. The web is then combed, which removes impurities and makes the fibres smoother. The final step is spinning the fibres to make long, uniform strands. The cotton is then processed further to produce the spun cotton yarn that will be woven into fabric or twisted into thread. There are three additional processes to make the threads we know and love, not all are used on every cotton thread apart from one process, which is known as mercerising.

Mercerising is a process where the cotton threads are passed through an alkali solution. The solution causes the fibres to swell so that when the threads move to the dyeing stage, the dye penetrates the cotton better increasing the lustre, increasing the strength of the thread and reducing the amount of lint. Every cotton thread is mercerised, it's a good thing.

Gassing is an additional process used on the higher end cotton threads where the cotton thread is passed at high speed through a flame. The flame burns off the excess fuzz in order to create a beautiful high sheen and reduce the lint.

Glazing involves heating the thread and then coating it with a mixture of wax, starches, and other resin-type chemicals. After coating the thread is then polished to a high lustre. Glazing results in a glossy thread with a hard, spring like finish. Glazed thread is often stiffer than unglazed thread and is intended for hand stitching only. We do not recommend using glazed cotton thread in a machine, as the wax coating can rub off and gum up within your machine.