

# Mannin Quilters Newsletter

November 2016

As always, apologies for any mistakes and omissions in this newsletter. Please let me know if you have any information for the next Newsletter before the end of January 2017. The newsletter is another way in which members can communicate with each other, but since taking this on last year, hardly anyone one has given me anything to include. Please do.

Just a note for any new members - Mannin Quilters meet twice a week; at Ballabeg Methodist Church Hall on Tuesday evenings between 7.15 and 9pm and at St Columba's Catholic Church Hall on Wednesday afternoons between 1.30 and 4pm. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both sessions.

## Thelma Davidson

Thelma Davidson sadly died in early October. Thelma was a founder member of Mannin Quilters. She taught a hand stitched sampler quilt evening class at Castle Rushen High School, and as some of the group wanted to continue after the course finished, she offered her house in Castletown Square as a meeting place and so Mannin Quilters was born. This was in January 1990. Memories of those meetings were of a large quilting frame in her front room and helping each other to quilt even if it meant crawling underneath! There was always much fun and laughter.

Thelma was the driving force behind Mannin Quilters, and if it wasn't for her we wouldn't exist! She had a wicked sense of humour and will be remembered for her kindness and helpfulness and her love of "a bit of glitter!" She organised the first exhibition, held at St Thomas's Church in 1992, and our first off island trips - the American Quilt Museum in Bath and to the Malvern Quilt Show. Thelma was also a talented spinner. Latterly she collected, made and furnished doll's houses - correct down to the last detail.

Mannin Quilters has grown over the years from the first 10 in Thelma's house to the British Legion Hall at Janet's Corner, to the Scout and Guide hall in Castletown to Ballabeg and Port Erin today, and to 80 members! Thank you, Thelma!

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

### Block of the fortnight

Following the Exhibition earlier in the year, life seems to have been as busy as ever on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons. We have all been addicted to the "Block of the Fortnight" which has kept us busy and has taught techniques and skills, many of which have been new to many of us! A HUGE THANK YOU goes to Christine Elliott for organizing all this and to Chris, Elisabeth and Charlotte for ably supporting the task. We can't wait to see the finished quilts, throws, and whatever other items have been created from the twelve blocks. If our weekly "Show and Tell" items are anything to go by, the results will be truly stunning.

### **Southern Agricultural Show**

This really didn't work out! We were in an out of the way tent and really were not on the visitor trail. It was worth another try after the washout show of 2015 but the decision has been made to give the Southern Show a miss next year. Many thanks though to the valiant members who gave their time to man (or should that be woman) the tent.

### **Laxey and Lonan Live at Home Scheme Cushions**

Thank you so much to everyone who has made cushion covers and to Joy for co-ordinating this project. Mannin Quilters are providing the pads.

### **Afternoon Tea at Bradda Glen**

A great afternoon appreciated by everyone who went. Special thanks to Joy for planning such a treat and also for laying the tables! (Thank you, too to those who arrived and found themselves laying tables, too!!!)

### **Tombola**

More thank yous... to everyone who worked so hard to produce the quilts, quillo and other prizes. Also thank you to New Generation for displaying the large quilt. Special thanks to Wendy for organizing everything. The draw has now taken place.

Chris Eastham gave a talk on Manx Patchwork to the Little Balkan Quilters while on holiday in Kansas. There was great interest and they couldn't believe how easy it is so they might have some exhibits in their next exhibition.

## **WORKSHOPS**

Many thanks to Pat for her Cathedral Window workshop in September and to everyone who joined in with the UFO workshop last month.

More workshops have been arranged for next year and will continue to be announced at meetings and advertised on the website.

**Future Workshops** – All workshops listed cost £20.

- January 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 – Disappearing 9 patch led by Di Benson (This workshop is now fully subscribed.)
- February 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Crazy patchwork led by Ruth Hall
- March 18<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Double sided Log Cabin led by Chris Eastham
- April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 – Colonial Knot Work led by Dot Lowey
- May 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 – Metal Framed Purse led by Hilary Cairns

For future reference, please remember that all workshops are non transferable and must be paid for at the time of booking. You may book for more than one workshop at a time. One cheque for multiple workshops is fine but please enclose a separate stamped addressed

envelope for each workshop that you book. Send these with your cheque(s) (made payable to Mannin Quilters) and your booking form(s) (available either on our website or as a paper copy) to Christine. Your cheque will be banked straight away and if you cancel more than 14 days prior to the workshop you will get a refund and your place will be offered to someone on the waiting list. If you cancel less than 14 days before the workshop date then you will forfeit your booking fee.

All Workshops are at Ballabeg Methodist Church Hall.

We haven't forgotten demonstrations at the weekly meetings. Now that "The Block of the Fortnight" has been completed we will look at arranging more demos as soon as possible. The planned Quilt Binding demo will happen!

### **Christmas Sale Day**

St. Columba's Church Hall has been booked for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The sale event will take place between 10am and 4pm. Please keep quilting and sewing so that we can ensure that the event is as successful as the first one that we held last year. Any offers of mince pies would be gratefully received. Just have a word with committee members.

As usual, please ensure that all sale items are clearly labeled with your name and price and that they arrive in a named bag. This helps so much with the clearing up process and ensures that any unsold items are returned to the right person without confusion.

If you have any Christmassy items that may be exhibited, please let someone on the committee have them, again named and in a named bag, but CLEARLY labeled EXHIBIT, NOT FOR SALE. The idea this year is not to overfill the hall with exhibits but we will put a few items on display if the need arises. So no promises! Posters are now out and about. Please advertise this as widely as possible and badger all your friends and relations to come along.

Look out for pictures and "the results show" in the next newsletter!

### **Christmas Party**

This will take place at St Columba's Church Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December between 12noon and 3pm. Do bring something to eat for a bring and share lunch and if you would like to participate in the Secret Santa a handmade gift to the value of about £5 or a couple of fat quarters. We always have great fun and this is also the occasion when Tuesday and Wednesday meeting members get together. See you there!

Our last meetings of 2016 will be Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

First meetings of 2017 will be Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

The next sales tables at weekly meetings will be the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Just a reminder....**

Members have been provided with name badges and the hardest thing is remembering to bring them each week!! They will take a lot of the guessing out of workshops as well. If you haven't one, please ask someone on the committee. If you have but don't wear it,

please do! Oh, and do add your name to the weekly refreshment rotas so that we can all take our turn. Great British Bake Off cakes are not required!

Committee members:

Ruth Hall - chair

Rose Mary Coase - vice chair

Christine Elliott - workshop co-ordinator

Amanda Fryer - secretary

Pauline Cringle - treasurer

Kath Bentham - public relations officer

I do seem to have typed "thank you" many times during this newsletter. All the thanks are truly meant.

The next Newsletter will be out in February 2017. Until then....

Happy Christmas, Happy New Year and keep quilting.

Ruth.