

Good day and welcome to our May 15th Virtual Meeting.

I know that some of you are revelling in all the extra time you have to sew and others are finding that the days seem to move slowly. I'm a mix of the two, with patches of extreme activity (mostly involving bread and cake making) and others when I watch YouTube videos on how to make Very Complicated Quilts.

My challenge to myself to sew for 15 mins a day has been achieved quite easily. The masks I have made have been sent to friends in Europe and the US as well as England, Scotland and Wales. I'm still being asked and am happy to give them away. Each one I send may help slow down transmission and make the end of shielding possible.

Members have been making scrubs for various hospitals as well as Care Homes and last month we had the incredible response to the need for Laundry Bags for Scrubs. As a group, and individually, we are a group that gives to help others whenever we can.

Linus Quilts were mentioned to me and I have decided to try make one a month until we meet again. Babies are being born and the Special Care Baby Unit has a constant need for small quilts (approx. 18 inches by 24 inches) for the tops of the incubators. And Linus Quilts are a good way to try out a new piecing technique or some free-motion quilting – or simply use up some of your stash.

The Committee hasn't been furloughed! We have had meetings and made decisions. The latest one is that the June and July Meetings have been cancelled. Our June Speaker has health issues, so we thought it only fair to let her know sooner rather than later. July was to have been a Christmas in July workshops. The Committee has agreed that as soon as we can have a Group Meeting we will arrange and organise a packed session.

No-one knows when lockdown will end, how it will end and what will be permitted/sensible in terms of gatherings in the near/medium/long term future. Decisions are being made based on Govt. advice, regulation and also common sense. Everything is being done in the best interests of the Group as a whole, whether this be adjustments of the programme or the setting up of the website.

The aim is to have a healthy, busy, functioning group moving into the future and the committee is committed to doing its best to navigate through these difficult times.

If there is anything you would like us to consider, just let me know. You can phone 01494 438627) or email.

And now to Show and Tell. This month you will need to click on the links to see each item – that way the meeting notes should download quickly.



With no further ado here is **Alison Bayley's** Houses quilt top - which reminds me of Amersham Hill's steepness. The quilt will be single-bed size.

Dawn Simmons sent a picture of her daschhoung quilt.



Simmons created the dachshund block for her quilt and I've selected a couple of the dogs so you can see the detail



I'm next - with a Snap Pouch made of Japanese theme fabrics. A broken metal tape measure makes the snap fastening



and a Japanese Rice bag made from charm squares - I was inspired by Kathleen's last month.



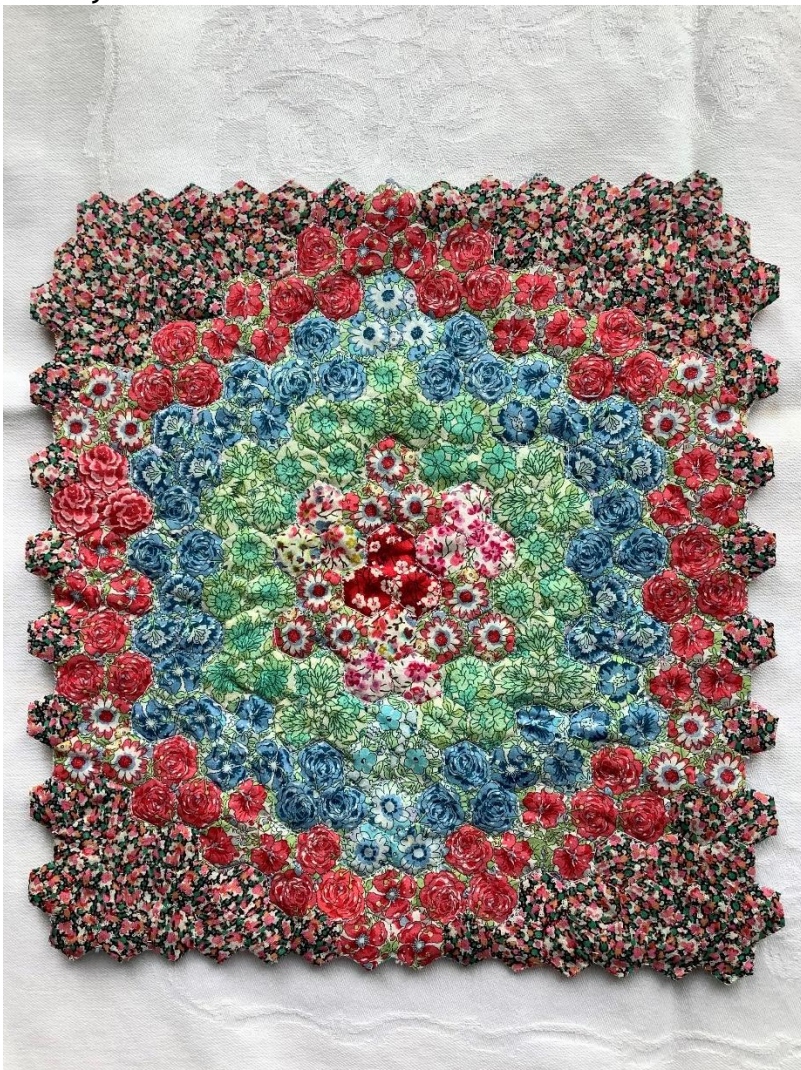
Jackie Connors continues the Japanese theme with this boro pouch



and a sashiko bag for her cutting mat .



Jenny Harper-Jones has made a miniature quilt - 9 inches square - of fussy cut hexagons of Liberty fabrics.



Judith Halls sent a photo of a small rucksack made in a fabric I recognise as one we used to have as curtains. I told Judith but what I didn't tell her is that I also made a jacket from the fabric - which may have been a step too far....



Julie Purvis has completed a Japanese Knot Bag after the demonstration by Terry - and doesn't that seem an age ago!



Julie also finished this wall-hanging based on a design by Annette Claxton with a lot of accurate curved piecing.



Mary Mayne has sent some photos of miniature houses - she promises to bring them to a meeting - and a tiny 4 inch teddy bear. The words "Never again" were used about the bear!



Pam Fessey has finished a quillow. The first photo is of the cushion part, the second of the quilt that folds up into it.



The next photo is of 3 items made by **Terry Stevenson** - a piped cushion, a small quilt and a bag in Japanese indigo fabrics.



This Roman Stripes tote bag was made by **Tessa Dalton-Morris** - the black makes the stripes really 'pop'.

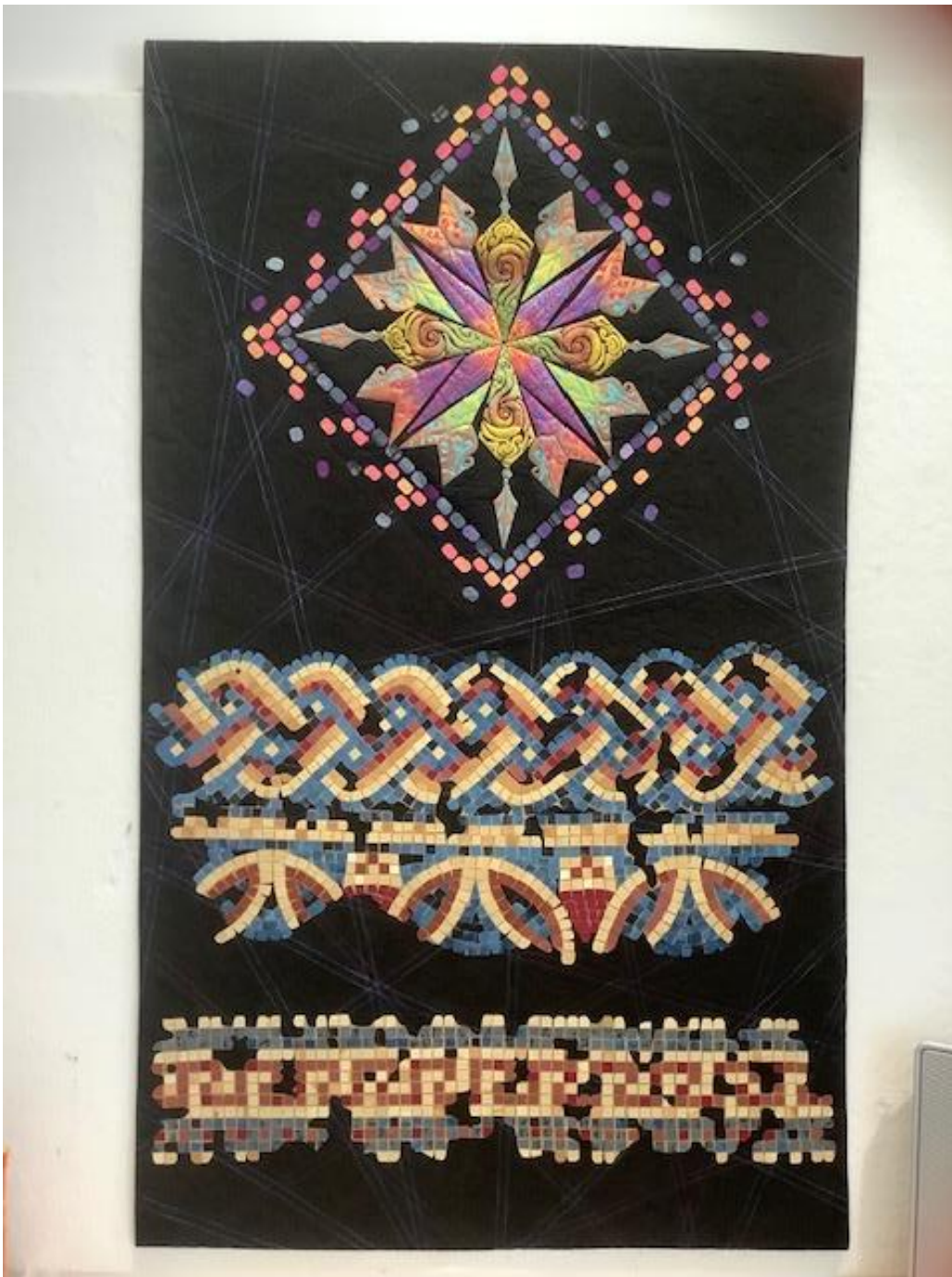


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Wendy Crampton has been as busy as ever and brought 4 bags to Show and Tell. Two are based on a Japanese design and two are an enlarged version of the 6-pocket bag I gave you a link to last month.



Finally - a quilt from **Jill Packer**. This is her piece for the Contemporary Quilters challenge. It is 1 metre high, and the theme was 'Fragmentation'. Jill has titled it 'Ancient and Modern' and the quilt combines Ancient Roman mosaics and a Modern piece made using Markal sticks.



I promised a section for tips but have only received a couple so I will save that for a bit of wittering next week.

The Group Committee and some of the Show Committee are having a Zoom meeting next week. Let me know if there is anything you would like us to consider.

Best wishes,

Gloria

PS On reading this I think (but am not certain) that I have 'misaid' a couple of photos. If you sent me a photo and it isn't here then let me know. It's not deliberate - just incompetence!

