



Ann Hill – Quilter Summer Newsletter

‘Quilting with friends’

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Hello there!

Welcome to the first newsletter on my new website. “Thistle Be Quilting” has changed to “Ann Hill – Quilter” or as my friends say “Thistle Be Ann Hill – Quilter” so take your pick.

Kate and I are still teaching classes. Our new schedule for Wednesday evenings will be with you shortly – on the website! I am grateful to my son Alan for designing and ‘doing’ the site for me. He is a great kid (can you still call a 37 year old a kid).....



The resource centre for quilters here in my home at Mouswald has been stacked with new fabrics for the start of the new season in September. Moda, Stof, Makower, Fabric Freedom, Marcus, Michael Millar, all the best names are here. I counted the other day and I have over 400 bolts of fabric in the shop – and best of all they are all £8 a metre. I also carry the basics for every quilter including mats, rulers and cutters. Open most Tuesday and Wednesdays from 10 – 4 and at other times

by appointment – “if we are in, we are open”!

I was home in Shetland last month and had the great pleasure of getting together with loads of



my
fellow
quilters
in
Lerwick.



The Shetland Needleworkers and I got together on a Saturday at 9am and worked through to 5.30pm. As you can see they each produced a very fine 4 block wallhanging. I also spent an evening with the ‘Round the Bend’ quilters where we made a Bargello style cushion. Great baking girls!!!





I also took a holiday in New Zealand earlier in the year and brought back some fantastic maori style fabrics. This wallhanging now hangs in pride of place in the dining room. It's a basic 9 patch with cut outs of kiwi's taken from a road sign!

The girls in our class here in Dumfries have just completed their 20 block Scottish Sampler. It is made up mostly of traditional blocks but I have also designed some of the blocks. Charles Rennie Mackintosh is a great favourite of mine so these were easy. The three thistles were designed on a day when we had an exhibition in Wigtown and I forgot to take my sewing with me! Paper and pencil proved just as good and after a lot of measuring, trial and error, the three thistle block was conceived.



The Alzheimer Project is going really well. I had never had any personal experience of Alzheimers or dementia until I got involved in this project. This photograph shows my quilt on exhibition in the front hall of the hospital with the girls from Alzheimer Scotland in Dumfries on their week of raising awareness of the disease. They do a great job.

My interpretation of dementia is represented by 9 squares of 9 patch. The first block has one black square, the second has two and so on until all nine patches on all 9 blocks are black. This shows the journey of the person with dementia. However, in the last square I have beaded a red heart and a forget me not flower. This shows that no matter how long and hard the journey, there is always love and remembrance of how that person has touched our lives.



We have now started another part of the project called "Myndin Quilts". You all know what a Linus quilt is. Well this is the same principle but it's for people with dementia. 'Myndin' is an old Shetland word used with several meanings, e.g. "I mynd dee weel" – I remember you well; "I wis myndin da bairns da day" – I was looking after the children today. The word lends itself beautifully to the lap quilts provided for those older folks with dementia. Watch this space for instructions and news on how the pilot is going.

Keep quilting!