



OAST POST

OAST QUILTERS NEWSLETTER

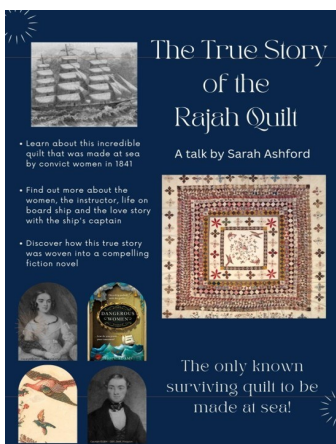
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May 2025

Welcome to our May Meeting

Thank you to our hostesses: Chestfield, Bright Headland, Pumpkin Patchers and Independent J - N. The trader is Crafty Mastermind.



Our speaker is Sarah Ashford and her talk is 'The True Story of the Rajah Quilt'.

180 convict women, 20 wannabe stitchers, 24 hanks of cotton thread, 100 needles, two pounds of patchwork pieces, one quilt instructor, one captain and one ship.

That's how the incredible voyage from Woolwich in London to Van Diemen's

Land (Tasmania) began, way back in 1841. By the end of the journey, there's a true romance, twenty quilters, one finished quilt, and hope for a new and better life on the other side of the world. Join Sarah, as she weaves facts with your imagination, as she tells the incredible true story of the Rajah Quilt, the only known transportation quilt that still exists today.

On Sunday 25th, take a 'walk' with Sarah as she guides you through some clever ways to use your walking foot to produce striking quilting designs. Based on some of the patterns in the book 'WALK' by Jacquie Gering. This class will give you a toolkit of ideas and inspiration for future quilting projects.

Enjoy the opportunity to play, and see just how easy and effective walking foot quilting can be.

Lower Hardres Village Hall 10am-4pm Sun May 25th £30 (or £45 non members).

Booking with form via oastworkshops@gmail.com

Our next meeting, our OPEN DAY 19 and 20 July

The hostesses will be Quay Quilters and Independents O-R.

Due to changes by the school, the **July 19** meeting will be our **OPEN DAY**. We will have 'Corners' in the morning and the speaker will be Russell Barrett in the afternoon. The afternoon session will start at 1pm.

Russell is a textile artist known for his vibrant, expressive quilted artworks. Utilising second-hand fabrics and repurposed clothing, Russell's creations are not only visually striking but also environmentally conscious, embodying the principles of recycling and sustainability.

His work reflects a deep connection to memories of childhood, domestic life, and the nostalgic resonance of specific textiles. He incorporates various quilting techniques while pushing the boundaries to create innovative and contemporary pieces, prompting viewers to contemplate the significance of materiality, memory, and craftsmanship in our modern world.

Russell was the winner of the first Sustainable Category at FoQ in 2023.

For the workshop - Wonky Dots mini quilt class. We will machine piece a small quilt top using scraps then appliqué dots using various techniques, mostly by hand sewing.

Lower Hardres Village Hall 10am-4pm Sun July 20th £30 (or £45 non members). Booking with form via oastworkshops@gmail.com



A Talk by Heather Audin

I recently attended The Quilters' Guild AGM in York. Heather Audin, The Guild's Curator, gave a talk about some of the items in The Guild's Collection.



Queen Victoria Jubilee Print Quilt. 1887 - 1900. Maker unknown. 236cm x 246cm
Heather points out the Turkey Red fabric and explained that the dying process for Turkey Red meant that it was dye-fast and therefore safe to be laundered. This impressive Queen Victoria Jubilee quilt contains a vast range of printed cotton fabrics. Highlighted with Turkey Red and white cotton quartered triangle square blocks that form a star over the quilt's surface. Around the outer frame are much larger squares, some of which feature a printed cameo portrait of Queen Victoria to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 1887. Made in the Lake District, this quilt is backed with linen and is hand quilted with a wineglass and shell designs.



Forties Silk Bed Jacket. C.1949. Made by May Martin
This glamorous looking hand-made and hand-quilted bed jacket features a back stitch quilted yoke and ties at the neck. It was made by Mary Martin, the Godmother of the donor, who trained in dressmaking at Plymouth College. May married Tom Mutton in 1956, and as a farmer's wife she helped out on the farm, but she also did a lot of sewing for family and friends in her village. Heather told us that the jacket was probably never worn! Students from York St John's Textile courses who go to view The Quilt Collection have no idea what the purpose of the jacket would have been. Staying in bed to eat breakfast is a concept young people can't understand today!



Post-War Patchwork Dressing Gown. Late 1940's. Made by Charlotte Harris and Ena Annie Sowden
It is thought that this dressing gown was made by the donor's grandmother Charlotte, and her mother, Ena, either during or just after the Second World War. Charlotte, born in 1888, was a dressmaker and Ena followed in her footsteps, starting work in a dressmaking business in London and later working for the Co-op in Chatham in the dress, fabric and haberdashery department, often modelling new ranges for the customers. She married in 1938 and worked part time in the library in Aylesham and later took a job in a public school in the sewing room. Both continued sewing, knitting and crocheting all their lives and it is thought that they both worked on this dressing gown together.



Happy Dinosaurs. 2016. Made by Joseph, Fine Cell Work. 79cm x 97cm
This bright and attractive cot quilt was produced under the Fine Cell Work initiative—a social enterprise that teaches needlework skills to prisoners to help reduce re-offending and provide participants with a sense of self-discipline and self-worth. This piece, called Happy Dinosaurs, features nine squares of appliqué dinosaurs with dense clamshell hand-quilting. A hand written note on the label states: "Joseph became an accomplished quilter whilst in prison, and took particular interest in the quilting stitch. He designed the clamshell quilting pattern in this quilt taking about nine hours per square foot. The dense quilting will prolong the life of the quilt."



Tribute to the Titanic. 2012. Members of the Liverpool Welsh Choral Choir 112cm x 204cm

This group piece was made by members of the Liverpool Welsh Choral Choir to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the tragedy the 1912 Titanic disaster. The quilt was made as a signature quilt, and has embroidered squares by members of the choir on alternate blue and cream cotton squares. Images of the Titanic and its crew members feature as part of the design, as do the logo of the White Star Line, The Blue Ensign and The Royal Mail Pennant. The project was organised by quilter Pat McCoy, and is a good example of a community based project completed by a non-textile based group.



Lynne Newell

Oast Sewing Bee

The next Sewing Bee will be on **21 June**.

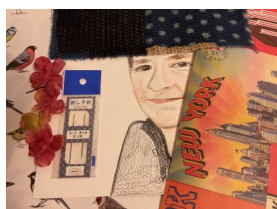
The workshop will be held at Petham Village Hall. Church Lane, Petham, CT4 5RD 10.00am – 4.00pm It's best if you arrive at the hall at 9.30am to set up.

At the June meeting we will be making the Disappearing Pinwheel block, Bring two contrasting fabrics and a background fabric, a packed lunch, a mug, your machine, sewing kit and an extension lead. Contact oastsewingbee@gmail.com for more information and to reserve your place. Spread the word that people new to sewing and non members are very welcome.

£10 for Oast Members, £15 for non-members.



Quilters' Guild Workshop, Birthday Bash and Nordic Reindeer workshop



By popular request, Jill Moorcroft is organising another **Cas Holmes** workshop on **7 June** at **Petham Village Hall** CT4 5RD. 10-4pm

This will be an interesting workshop using a variety of textiles and other mediums to create an individual collage.



The Quilters' Guild Sapphire Birthday Bash and Stash Sale will be on **12 October** at **Littlebourne MH**. There will be a Stash Sale, mini workshops, entry gifts and refreshments. If you would like to have a table to sell your stash, please email Jill.



On **23 November** at **Challock VH** Jill will be offering the Nordic Reindeer workshop. This is a delightful few hours and the result is charming.

For more information and to reserve you place on all the above, please email Jill southeastkent@quiltersguild.org.uk

Textiles: The Art of Mankind

Celebrates the ancient and deep entanglement between textiles, people and our world. **28 March - 7 September 2025**. The Museum is open Tuesdays – Saturdays, 11.00 – 18.00 with last entry 45 minutes before closing. We are closed on Sundays and Mondays. The Museum will be open for the final Sunday of each exhibition. Recommended visit time 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Admission: Advanced ticket purchase for our exhibitions is highly recommended. If you have not pre-booked, entry may be available on the day. Ask a member of staff at reception for details.

Fashion and Textile Museum, 83 Bermondsey Street London SE1 3XF (near London Bridge)



Sarah Hibbert 25 July 2026



Following the last committee meeting, the committee would like your opinion on a proposed speaker.

For the 2026 programme we are looking to ask Sarah Hibbert to come and give a talk and do a workshop in July. Sarah Hibbert is a renowned modern quilter. She won third place at QuiltCon in 2024, and has had galleries at FoQ, Nantes and Seoul, South Korea. Her workshop is more expensive than other speakers so we would have to charge more to be under the tutorage of this exceptional teacher. We are proposing £50.00 for members and £70.00 for non-members.

What are your views on this? Would you be happy

to pay extra to have Sarah run a workshop? Please let Tansy know, email oastprogramme@gmail.com

Here are some photos of her work, and more can be found on her website sarahhibbertquilts.com and her Instagram page [@quiltscornerstone](https://www.instagram.com/quiltscornerstone)



We thank everyone who has made a quilt and donated to, or bought from our stall since our last meeting. The next workshops at Little Shop of Fabrics in Smarden will be on Friday 13 June. Please book via the website www.littleshopoffabrics.co.uk/courses

Daisy, Jane, and Jayne are running the Project Linus UK table today and are ready to collect and sell donated items to raise funds and collect any donations of quilts on our behalf.

We have currently paused taking donations of quilts under 45 inches square. Most of the requests coming through are for larger quilts. If you have the time to make us a quilt, we would be pleased to hear from you. Larger quilts and those that are gender neutral or suitable for boys are always in high demand. We are currently welcoming quilts in the following sizes:

Child size (6 to 10 years): from 45" x 45" to 45" x 60"

Teenager quilts: approximately 50" x 70"

Your local Project Linus Area Coordinators:

Lou Matthews, East Kent, 07938537375 or louisemathews5@icloud.com

Michelle Hogben, Ashford, and surrounding area, 07706 582662 or shellhogben2004@hotmail.com

Christine Gainsford, Medway and North Kent area, 07931 294836 or Christine.carey61@gmail.com

Lou, Michelle, and Christine – Project Linus UK Kent and Medway Area Coordinators

Oast Quilters 40th Anniversary 2026

As you are aware, in October 2026, it will be forty years since Oast Quilters came into being as an umbrella group to support, encourage and facilitate the creative art of patchwork and quilting in east Kent. Over this time, Oast has hosted many national and internationally renowned speakers, who have offered inspiring talks and challenging workshops. We have held many exhibitions which have drawn in new members and spread the word about our diverse, often comforting and sometimes frustrating craft!

The committee would like to mark the marvellous achievement of forty years of continuous creative textile craftsmanship.

Organising an exhibition takes a lot of time and effort. The previous Showcase, at the centrally placed St Andrew's Church, attracted a good number of people who had seen information about it in the Canterbury Festival catalogue, as well as passers-by. Some have since become members of Oast. One of our aims is to spread the word and encourage the uptake of the craft. However, it was disappointing that very few Oast members attended both the exhibition at St. Andrew's, and the previous Showcase at Westgate Hall. We acknowledge that the car park at the church is limited, but the venue is very close to the bus station for local buses and the park and ride. The Committee would like to know whether parking was the only issue, or are there other issues?

Please speak to your Group Rep or email hello@oastquilters.com with your thoughts.

The Challenge for 2026 will be **RUBY**. We would like to hang all entries at the exhibition as well as the AGM with the usual voting taking place.

The Committee

Dates for your Diary 2025

24 May	Oast Quilters meeting at St. Anselm's School 6th Form
25 May	Oast Workshop at Lower Hardres VH CT4 5NP
7 June	QG Cas Holmes workshop Venue to be confirmed
13 June	Project Linus Sewing Day at Little Shop of Fabrics
21 June	Oast Sewing Bee at Petham VH CT4 5RD
19 July	Oast Quilters Open Day at St Anselm's School Main Hall
20 July	Oast Workshop at Lower Hardres VH CT4 5NP
23 –25 August	Dragonfly Quilt Show at St George's Church, Deal
20 September	Oast Sewing Bee at Petham VH CT4 5RD
27 September	Oast Quilters meeting at St Anselm's School 6th Form
28 September	Oast Workshop at Lower Hardres VH CT4 5NP
12 October	QG Birthday Bash at Littlebourne MH
1 November	UFO Day at Lower Hardres VH CT4 5NP
22 November	Oast Quilters AGM at St. Anselm's School 6th Form
23 November	QG Nordic Reindeer workshop at Challock VH
6 December	Oast Sewing Bee at Petham VH CT4 5RD

Hostess Rota	2025
Chestfield	24 th May
Bright Headland	
Pumpkin Patchers*	
Independents J - N	
Quay*	19 th July
Independents O - R	
Ethelburga *	27 th September
Independents S - Y	
Jo Blox*	22 nd November
Owls	
Independents A - C	
*denotes care of Hostess Box and purchase of Raffle Prizes	