



OAST POST

OAST QUILTERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 28 Number 2

www.oastquilters.co.uk

March 2026

Welcome to our meeting today

Saturday 14th March 2026

Doors open 1.30pm

The hosts will be Swallows, Chaucer, Dragonfly, Castle Wall and Independents A - C

The trader is Crafty Mastermind.

There will be a short Extra-Ordinary General Meeting before the speaker to introduce a new 'Standards of Conduct' policy.



Our speaker will be Helen Creasey, who is an award-winning quilt designer, recognised several times at Festival of Quilts, including Visitors' Choice winner in 2023 with 'Reaching'.

During the London 2012 Olympics she found herself

unexpectedly unemployed. To keep herself busy and rebuild her confidence, Helen decided to start making a patchwork quilt (currently still unfinished), but she spent many a happy hour in front of the TV with her sewing machine on the ironing board! Over the next few years she sewed bits and bobs, tried making clothes, but kept coming back to quilts. So what started as a therapeutic hobby after becoming a mother in 2018, rapidly evolved into a passion for inspiring and sharing her work with others through social media.

Helen's work is graphic, modern and bold. She uses vibrant colours, black and white as well as gradients to create interest. She favours Foundation Paper Piecing (FPP), loving the complex look and detail possible and a natural adaptation of her architectural training.



On **Sunday 15th March** Helen will be leading the workshop and expect "aha!" moments as she breaks down advanced techniques into manageable steps.

A Sweet Introduction to FPP: Gummy Bear Block. Lower Hardres Village Hall 10am - 4pm £30 for members, £45 for non members. Contact oastworkshops@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be 23 May 2025

Doors open at 2pm

The hosts will be Canterbury Quilters, Martello, Orchard, Bright Headland, and Independents G-H

The speaker is **Yasmeen K Branton**: Living Life through Needle and Thread.

Yasmeen will be talking about her life as a designer with her business 'Sand & Stars', her process for creating patterns and her love for hand appliqué and hand sewing.

From a very early age, Yasmeen could always be found creating something in her own little world.

This love of art, design, and textiles carried on throughout school, eventually leading to art college and finally a Foundation Degree at The Royal School of Needlework. It was here that she developed a deep passion for hand sewing, which gave her many wonderful opportunities, one of which was being an embroidery assistant working in film and TV.

Yasmeen lives and breathes being creative and wants to share this passion with others by giving them the confidence to learn a new skill and find daily comfort in getting lost in the calming, meditative process of hand sewing.

The workshop on **Sunday 24 May** will be: Tulip Love Block: Needle turn hand appliqué.



During this workshop Yasmeen will be teaching you how to master needle turn hand appliqué. She will guide you through the steps to create a beautiful modern cushion pattern (finished size 18 inches square). The focus will be on how to stitch certain areas of shapes plus tips and tricks to give you the skills and

confidence to take on any hand applique pattern.

Lower Hardres Village Hall 10am - 4pm
£30 for members, £45 for non members.
Contact oastworkshops@gmail.com



Oast Sewing Bee

The next Sewing Bee will be **Saturday 21st March**: Finishing a Quilt. An exploration of the different methods of finishing a quilt. These will include binding with mitred corners, prairie points, curves and piping.

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.

Bring 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.

£12 for Oast Members, £17 for non-members.



The Role of Chair

Liz Coleman will be stepping down from the role of Chairman at the AGM in November. It has been suggested that Oast Quilters try a different approach to this very vital committee role. Instead of the responsibility resting on one person, we are looking to have a Chair and three Vice Chair. The vice chairs would take it in turns to lead the committee meetings and the Oast meeting, while the Chair looks after the emails and is a signatory on the bank account. Without somebody taking the role of Chair, it will not be possible to continue Oast Quilters. We hope that there are four members of this wonderful group who will be able to come together to ensure the continuation of Oast Quilters for the next forty years. Please speak to any committee member or your group rep about these roles. All contact details are in the 2026 Programme Card. Thank you

Cable Tidies

These are such a great idea to keep your charging leads under control. They also make a handy carrier for doggy poo bags!

You need:

Two pieces of fabric 3½" x 2½"

Once piece of wadding 3" x 2"

A small thread-covered hair elastic

A small button

Needle and thread

A glue stick

Small scissors

Pinch the hair elastic in half and secure one end with some stitch and wrapping the thread around the end.

Put a smear of the glue on the wrong side of one of the pieces of fabric and stick the wadding to it.

Place the elastic centrally on the right side of the other piece of fabric and secure with a pin.

Place the two pieces of fabric right sides together. Starting at the other end from the elastic, stitch around the rectangle, taking care to leave most of the starting end unstitched so that you can turn the piece inside out.

Stitch alongside the wadding.

Snip the corners – but take care not to snip through the stitches.

Turn everything inside out, pushing out the corners very carefully.



Sew up the gap.

Decide which side is the top and then stitch a button in the middle of the top.

Wrap the cable tidy around the folded cable and fasten by stretching the elastic over the button.



For Sale...Freestyle Pro Quilting Frame

Frame size.....80" (2mtr) All instructions included
Fits any sewing machine Excellent condition (as new)
Buy as seen Buyer collects

£400.00

Custom made stands also available

Plus hand controlled pedal (to use instead of a foot pedal) £15.00

Contact Rosemarie Hoad Mobile no. 07791 367765 rosie.hoad@hotmail.co.uk



Oast Festival Showcase 40th Anniversary 2026

23 - 24 October 2026

St Andrew's Church, Watling Street, Canterbury CT1 2UA

The Challenge will be '**RUBY**' as it is 40 years since the first meeting of Oast Quilters in October 1986. These Challenge quilts will be hung at the Festival Showcase and can also be entered into the annual Oast Quilters theme Challenge. They will be judged as usual at the AGM in November with a first, second and third prize in each of the two categories: The quilt that best fits the theme and the quilt you would most like to take home.



We would like to have a display of items from the 1980's, so please if any of you have a quilt, a cushion or a wall hanging made in the 1980's, please let us know.

We would also like to sell hand made cards, featuring fabric, as well as offering a Bag Tombola. If you are able to make some cards and bags, that would be much appreciated.

Set up will take place on Thursday 22nd October from 2.00pm

Please contact Jayne Whiting to offer: your help; your quilts; your cakes and your enthusiasm. jd60@hotmail.co.uk



An Exhibition and Sale of Quilts and Textile Art

By East Kent Textile Artists

Jan Bevan - Glenys Davies - Stella Gibbs - Margaret Ramsay

Quilts and gifts for sale in support of the Motor Neurone Disease Association
Donations Welcome

17-30 April 2026

Monday-Saturday

10.00-16.00

TOAST Cafe on-site
(Cafe closed Mondays)

BEACH CREATIVE

Herne Bay's Creative Hub
Beach House, Beach Street
Herne Bay CT6 5TP
beachcreative.org

Ashford Sewing Centre

are offering a 10% discount on everything in the shop (*excluding machine promotions) to all Oast members. All members have to do is say the word **Oast** at the till to receive the discount. The Sewing Centre also supply, service and repair all makes and models of Sewing, Embroidery & Overlocker machines.

New Rents Ashford TN23 1JH 01233 620948

Quercus

Quilt Show

Saturday, 11th April 2026

10am-4pm

Knole Academy

Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks TN13 3LE

All Proceeds to Charity

Refreshments, Raffle & Traders

Free Parking

Entrance £5

Guildford Quilters Exhibition

Tue 12th - Sun 17th May 2026 10-5pm
Cranleigh Village Hall, Cranleigh, GU6 8AF

Browse our exquisite handmade quilts, cushions, and gifts as we celebrate 40 years of Guildford Quilters. Explore the vibrant village of Cranleigh.

- FREE Entry
- Demonstrations
- Refreshments
- Traders' Tables
- Charity Raffle (Supporting Dementia UK & Cranleigh Lions)


www.guildfordquilters.co.uk

Project Linus

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our February workshop hosted by The Little Shop of Fabrics in Smarden. There are several Project Linus workshops planned for 2026: **Saturday 11th April, Friday 19th June, Saturday 15th August and Friday 16th October.** The workshop days are free of charge and tea and coffee will be available too. We will be cutting, sewing, and binding quilts throughout the day. No experience is necessary just a willingness to take part. To keep track of people coming, please book your space via <https://www.littleshopoffabrics.co.uk/courses>

Even though we hope we have finished with the cold days, we still need larger quilts and quilts suitable for boys or gender-neutral quilts. We thank everyone who donates fabrics. If you would like to donate fabric or unfinished quilt blocks or quilts, we would be happy to receive them. Daisy Rudnick, who runs the Project Linus table at the Oast Quilters meetings will happily collect any donations on our behalf. Alternatively, you can contact one of your local Project Linus Area Coordinators:

Thank you for continuing to support Project Linus – Project Linus Kent and Medway 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

Hosting Rota for 2026

I was asked to refresh our Hosting Rota to help ensure our meetings continue to run smoothly and successfully. With Independents now making up more than a third of our membership, it felt important to make sure they're fully included and have the opportunity to take an active role. Our hope is that many more will feel encouraged to volunteer when their group or indie section is rota'd on.

Please remember there is absolutely no expectation for anyone to take on a task they're uncomfortable with - physically or otherwise. We can always swap people around if needed, so there's no pressure at all.

The Rota is now divided into three areas: **Host** – responsible for refreshments; **Raffle** – purchasing the prizes and running the raffle on the day; **Assistants** – helping with setting up and clearing the hall.

Every Group and every Independent has been included across the calendar year, which should give us good coverage at each meeting. If you're unable to attend your allocated slot, please arrange a swap with someone else.

Thank you all for your continued support - it really does make a difference.

Debbie Marsh Membership Secretary

Pincushion Pantiles

It is with great sadness we learnt that this wonderful little shop in Royal Tunbridge Wells is closing. Jenny is currently offering a 20% discount on all fabrics both in the shop and on line.

Dates for your Diary 2026

14 March	Oast Quilters meeting The Langton Boys 1.30pm
15 March	Oast Workshop Lower Hardres VH 10am
21 March	Oast Sewing Bee Petham VH 9.30am
11 April	Quercus Quilters Show, Knowle Academy TN13 3LE
17 - 30 April	Stitch Art Beach Creative, Herne Bay CT6 5TP
24 April	QG Trip to Canterbury Cathedral
14 - 17 May	Quilts UK Malvern
23 May	Oast Quilters Meeting The Langton Boys 2pm
24 May	Oast Quilters Workshop Lower Hardres VH 10am
6 June	Oast Sewing Bee Petham VH 9.30am
25 July	Oast Quilters Meeting The Langton Boys 2pm
26 July	Oast Quilters Workshop Lower Hardres VH 10am
30 July - 2 Aug	Festival of Quilts at NEC, Birmingham
22 August	Oast Sewing Bee Petham VH 9.30am
26 September	Oast Open Day The Langton Boys 10am
27 September	Oast Quilters Workshop Lower Hardres VH 10am
23-24 October	Oast Showcase St Andrew's Church
28 November	Oast AGM and Ruby Challenge Vote The Langton Boys 1.30pm



Hostess Rota 2026	Host	Raffle	Assist
March	Swallows (Jane Ottoway)	Dragonfly (Maryrose Douglas)	Castle Wall (Judi Kirk)
	Chaucer (Trudy Smethhurst)		Independents A-C
May	Canterbury Quilters (Marion Fox)	Martello (Jenny Hoyle)	Orchard
	Bright Headland (Jayne Whiting)		Independents G-H
July	Ethelburga (Liz Coleman)	Pumpkin Patchers (Lynne Newell)	Independents J-N
	Hop Pocket (Christine Ward)		Owls (Sheila Stojasavijevic)
Sept AM	Quay (Ann Wood)	Pogles Wood (Tansy Martin)	Independents O-R
PM	Grove Quilters (Ingrid Hudson)		Independents D - F
Nov	Pieceful Patchers (Heather Powell)	Jo Blox (Elaine Gore)	Independents S-Y
	Blockmakers (Joy Visagie)		