

Editor's Letter

Dear Members

Following the Bi-annual show there is usually quite a lull in our activities as we approach the festive season and give our time over to catching up with friends and families, and then by the time this newsletter reaches you, the festive season will be over and we will have had our fill of food and wine and festive fun and want to get back to our routine - or am I alone in this?

However, this year I still have the Christmas Tree Festival to look forward to and I really enjoyed the Bramble Patch Exhibition, a report on both follows.

Hilda

Sadly **MURIEL LIGHTFOOT** has died aged 86. She was a Founder Member of Mead Quilters and the very first Treasurer. She was well known to older members for the huge Christmas stockings she made, and her great delight in seeing other members' work.

Barbie Edwards

TEA ROTA

January 2018 = Sally Simpson, Ros Grace and Teresa Dunn

February 2018 = Alison King, Debbie Crow and Angela Lysandrou

BRAMBLE PATCH EXHIBITION

We always enjoy a trip up to the Bramble Patch for their exhibitions, I can't say it is for the coffee and cake but that certainly helps to oil the wheels for looking at a lot of quilts and a bit of retail therapy.

I am amazed about the number of quilts some of the ladies make in the course of a year and

the quality of all of them was as high as ever.

Once again hexagons seemed to be the chosen mode of hand patchwork but here they had been long arm quilted and I have to say that the quilting did not detract from the beautiful hand piecing.

There were a number of sampler quilts and some of the colouring used was quite unusual. As always there were a number of the Bramble Patch 2017 Mystery Quilts. How did they get them finished in time I ask myself? I loved the 365 squares of 4.5 patches, one I would really have liked to have taken part in but I can't get my act together in time to register. 'They' say the path to ruin is full of good intentions, and mine certainly are.

I would like to fill the newsletter with photos just so you can see the quality and variety of the quilts on show but alas I am not that good at the technology either, so I am including my favourite because I want to leave space for our Christmas Tree Festival entry and perhaps even for a mention of our Christmas party still to come.



This was my favourite quilt but with so many to choose from, it was difficult to get a good photo. It doesn't show too clearly the beautiful raspberry colour and co-ordinating print fabric.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL _____

It really was a joy to enter into the Christmas spirit with a visit to the Christmas Tree Festival at St Saviours Church in St. Albans. The Church was beautifully lit by so many trees with all their lights and although slightly confused since we had to read the programme to actually see which group had decorated which tree there were many innovative ideas from several handwork groups. It was a lovely display and demonstrated what a lively and caring community exists within both the local community and the Church.



MEAD CHRISTMAS PARTY _____

We had a fitting end to our year of quilting and the work we have done over the last year, the charity work for the St Albans and QEII Hospitals, the quilts given to the Refugee Council for the Syrian and Kurdish refugees resettled in Hertfordshire and the many other unsung activities with which we have taken part.

Many members attended the end of the year party to celebrate all this and the 90th birthdays of two of our members, Gerry McConkey and Mary Rich. We enjoyed food and drink, a game of backwards bingo (a novel twist) and then a beetle drive, before cutting a special cake for two special people, finishing with the longest running game of lefty righty.

Many thanks to the Committee for all their hard work in organising the evening.

It was difficult to make the decision about which of the many photos I received to choose, so I settled on this one of Gerry and Mary cutting their cake. It has been decided to include all 90th birthdays in one celebration each year.



YOUR NEWSLETTER _____

Although it has not been put to the Committee, I have asked if our webmaster Ray can upload the newsletter each month onto the website, so that members who have difficulty in getting e-mails might be able to access the newsletter that way. It will appear under 'Our News'

If anyone has any strong views about this, please make sure you inform one of the committee members.

As always, if you wish to communicate with the newsletter, whether with brickbats or articles, please use the e-mail address of

hildargoddard@outlook.com

which ensures I don't miss it when compiling the next newsletter.