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# MEAD QUILTERS

## NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2026

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Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome. Contact Jennie by email: [barwise.jennie@gmail.com](mailto:barwise.jennie@gmail.com)

or WhatsApp.  
07557 882606

#### This month's meetings

##### **Tues 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026: 9.30 am. Morning meeting**

Bring your own sewing projects. Don't forget your quilting bee block and any finished teddies and bags for children in care. Stuffing will be available for heart cushions.

##### **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026: 7.30 pm**

**Speaker : Sarah Hibbert**, speaking about her trip to South Korean and Japanese Quilt Shows.

<https://www.sarahhibbertquilts.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/quiltscornerstone/?hl=en>



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#### Membership and Subs

The time has come to renew your annual membership of Mead Quilters. The good news is that there has been **no** increase in the membership fee this year. So, you will continue to receive excellent value for money.

**You will be contacted by email very soon with the application form and instructions on how to pay by cash at meetings, or bank transfer. No cheques please, but paper forms will also be available at meetings.**

There are three types of membership:

- 1. Full membership [£45]** - this entitles you to attend all meetings throughout the year.
- 2. Morning only membership [£35]** - this entitles you to attend all morning and Saturday meetings and some evening meetings when there is not a paid speaker. If you wish to attend a paid speaker in the evening, you will be charged £3 per session.
- 3. Associate membership [£10]** - this is for members who only receive the newsletter. You may also pay £3 to attend any meetings in person.

All members are entitled to attend other Mead events that arise such as the Mead Retreat in January 2027. Any visitors who attend meetings and are not members will be charged £5 per session.

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## February Saturday Sewing Day

We had a very productive session, making bags and pencil cases for children in care, distributed by a charity called Comfort Cases UK. We also picked up some tips about bag making and inserting zips, along the way, which was very useful. Nearly 30 bags were completed. Well done everyone!



Ginny took 44 pencil cases and 24 bags to Comfort Cases UK this week.

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### Message from our charity co-ordinator, Ginny

Dear All,

Thank you so much for your support for our charity projects it is much appreciated and I know from the response of charities how much they value our support.

In March I gave out to our charities; 44 pencil cases, 24 toiletry bags, 15 dental bags and 22 baby/ incubator quilts. The charities were Comfort Cases UK, SAWR, (St Albans Women's Refuge) Up on Downs and Alternatives all based in Herts and supporting the whole county, except for Comfort Cases UK which is a national charity based in Borehamwood.

My stocks are now empty for these items. So if you want to make more, bags, pencil cases and quilts, these will be most gratefully received. The maximum size for a baby/incubator quilt is a fat quarter, 2" longer than the width e.g. 18" x 20" or 16" x 18". I am also taking donations of any other sizes as well.

Comfort Cases would also be happy to take donations of ribbon 2.5 cm or 1" wide, which they use to put round pyjamas. Just in case you have a stash that you don't need! I do have wadding and some backing fabric. If you need it for charity projects just ask! Once again many thanks for all your support

Best wishes, Ginny

<b>Future Events</b>	
<b>Event</b>	<b>How you can get involved</b>
<p><b>Visit to the Willaim Morris Gallery, Walthamstow, Women in Print Exhibition</b> Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 11 am meet up <a href="https://www.wmgallery.org.uk">https://www.wmgallery.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Meet at St Albans station at 09.30am, for the 09.43 train. We then travel to Walthamstow Central via the Victoria Line and a 10 minute walk to the gallery. You can also find your own way there and meet in the gallery café at 11 am. We plan to leave by 4pm.</p> <p>The gallery is free, but there is an option of a tour £150 for up to 15 people (£10 each for 15 of us). If you plan to come and would like to go on the tour, please let Francesca know ASAP so that she can book it in advance. <a href="mailto:Fmentwistle@gmail.com">Fmentwistle@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>June Workshop Molly Brown, Clamshells</b> Sat 6th June 2026 1 to 5 pm</p>	<p>Molly Brown will give us a talk and workshop about Clamshells. She has developed 4 different ways of making them both by hand and by machine.</p> <p>Please sign up with Alison K. or email her <a href="mailto:alimarking@hotmail.com">alimarking@hotmail.com</a> if you would like to take part. The total cost of £20 pp is payable now. Members will be emailed very soon, with instructions on how to pay.</p>
<p><b>Mead challenge AGM meeting</b> Tues 6th June 2026 7.30 pm</p>	<p>The Mead Summer challenge this year is to make a cushion of any size or shape. Entries will be judged by members at the AGM. Donations of cushions for the tombola at the exhibition will be gratefully received.</p>
<p><b>Mead Quilters Retreat</b> Jan 29th to 31st 2027</p>	<p>We are booking our annual retreat for January 2027. There will be 18 places, and the cost will be £265 per person. Let Jennie know if you would like to reserve a place. £100 deposit to be paid to Mead in April.</p>
<p><b>Sales table</b> Any meeting</p>	<p>Book a table at any Mead meeting to sell your own sewing related items and keep all the proceeds. The cost is £5 per table. You could also join with other members to book a table together. Please contact Elizabeth to make a booking - <a href="mailto:elizabethr0649@gmail.com">elizabethr0649@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Elizabeth is also happy to receive donated fabric to be sold to benefit Mead funds. If you want to thin down your stash, just bring it along to a meeting.</p>

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## March morning meeting: speaker Sara Sullivan

Sara gave us a very amusing talk about her obsession with hand pieced hexagons. She showed us some historic pieces and also lots of her own work.



March morning meeting: show and tell



Carol W

Quilts for donation by Jane S



Bag and quilt by Ginny



Bags by Caroline



Christine

Morgane

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**March morning meeting:** an amazing amount of lovely show and tell by Michelle!



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## **Mead Quilters online**

**Mead Quilters website** - <https://meadquilters.org.uk>

News of our meetings and other events

**Mead Quilters Members Facebook group:** This is a closed group for club members.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/770972933274429>

**Mead Quilters Public Page:**

This is a public page to advertise our group and events. [Facebook](#)

**Mead Quilters on Instagram:**

Janet looks after our Mead Quilters Instagram account. You can follow us here - [Mead Quilters \(@meadquilters\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

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## Mead Quilting Bee

It is hard to believe but we are already halfway through our quilting bee year! Here are the 6 blocks received by some lucky participants. Aren't they lovely, and all very different. If your blocks are not shown here, I need to catch up with you to take some more pictures.



Alison W



Sheila



Morgane



Jeannette



Linda C



Janice



Francesca



Carol W



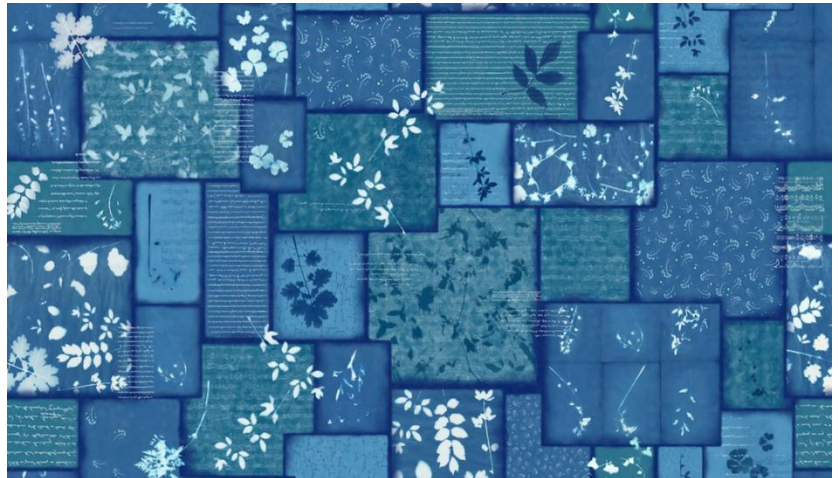
Jennie

## March evening meeting

Cathy Corbishley Michel gave us a very interesting talk about the history of cyanotype printing which predated photography and was used to make blueprints.

[https://www.baus.org.uk/museum/1387/cyanotype\\_on\\_fabric\\_appliqu\\_quilts](https://www.baus.org.uk/museum/1387/cyanotype_on_fabric_appliqu_quilts)

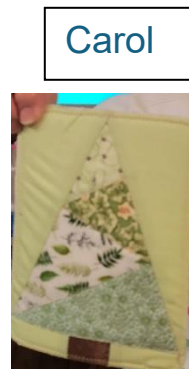
She also showed us several of her own blueprint quilts.



**Show-and-tell:** Carol W and Hillary showed us some beautiful panels they had made at a workshop with Kathy Osborne at Quilt St Albans.



Hillary



Carol



## Dates for your diary: Shows, fairs and festivals

**7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Living Crafts**, Hatfield House. We don't have a stall this year, but it is still worth a visit.

**14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026: Quilts UK, Malvern.** Three Counties Showground Severn Hall, Malvern, Worcestershire WR13 6NW

**5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026: Spalding Quilting and Sewing Show.** Springfields Events Centre, Camel Gate, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE12 6ET

Let us know of any upcoming events that you have heard of, so that we can keep members informed. If you visit any of them, do send pictures!

Events and Speakers at Quilters Guild Groups. April 2026		
When	What	Where
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> Apr 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Ash Valley Quilters</b> Liza Jones - Bullet Bra Comeback	Memorial Hall, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9BD (CM21 9AX for Sat Nav)
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> June 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Mimram Quilters.</b> Helen Butcher, Miniature Madness. <a href="#">Little Patch Pockets: Home Page</a>	Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9ER
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jun 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Ash Valley Quilters</b> Elspeth Jackson, An Insight into Rag Rug Making	Memorial Hall, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9BD (CM21 9AX for Sat Nav)
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Ash Valley Quilters</b> Fiona Rose - The Work of May Morris	Memorial Hall, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9BD (CM21 9AX for Sat Nav)
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Mimram Quilters.</b> Kathy Osborne of Quilt St Albans - My Quilting Journey	Welwyn Civic Centre, Prospect Place, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9ER
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup> Sep 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Ash Valley Quilters</b> Angela Daymond - Natural Dyeing	Memorial Hall, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9BD (CM21 9AX for Sat Nav)
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Ash Valley Quilters</b> Aruna Mene - Fabric Collages	Memorial Hall, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9BD (CM21 9AX for Sat Nav)
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 7.30 pm Visitors welcome £5	<b>Speaker at Ash Valley Quilters</b> Mary McIntosh - From Trash to Treasure	Memorial Hall, The Forebury, Sawbridgeworth Herts. CM21 9BD (CM21 9AX for Sat Nav)

**Member's Day Out:** Francesca and Jennie went to the Stitch Festival in Islington. There was a delightful array of traders and they also bumped into Teresa, who was visiting with her sister. Francesca went to a workshop on Machine Embroidered Daffodils with Sarah Bevcar, which was very good. Here is some of the work that was on display, including a Sarah Hibbert quilt – can you spot it?



Jennie's favourite quilt – we couldn't decide whether the centre blocks were pieced or printed – can you?



Francesca's favourite costume



Francesca with the embroidered daffodils



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**Member's Day Out: Alison W visited the American museum in Bath. She writes -**

'The museum has a wonderful collection of quilts, and at the moment they also have a special exhibition (until June 21st) called Kith and Kin. This displays the quilts of Gee's Bend in Alabama, the home of a quilt making community of African American families. The fame of the quilts today dates from an exhibition in Houston in 2002, arranged at short notice to fill a gap in the museum. Attendance at the exhibition broke records, as word spread that the quilts were "eye-poppingly gorgeous", a quote from the New York Times. The Gee's Bend quilters were overcome with amazement at the appreciation their work received; these quilts were "make-do" items, made with love and creativity, and to keep their families warm in the damp, draughty huts that were their homes.

I found the quilts I saw joyful and boldly colourful. Fabrics are placed next to each other in surprising ways, but they work. The edges are often uneven and lopsided, because their construction is often from the middle outwards (without rulers and rotary cutters!) Here are a few photos I took, I hope you enjoy them.'



## *Mead Quilters Programme 2026*

<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> May: 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting
<b>Tues 19<sup>th</sup> May: 7.30 pm.</b> <b>Presentation of a suitcase collection from the Quilters Guild.</b>	The Handbag collection <a href="https://www.quiltersguild.org.uk/special-interest/miniature">https://www.quiltersguild.org.uk/special-interest/miniature</a> A varied selection of miniature quilts made by the Quilters Guild Miniature Quilt Group.
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> June: 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting
<b>Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June: 1.00 – 5.00 pm</b> <b>Talk and workshop by Molly Brown:</b>	Clamshells <a href="http://www.mollybrownsemporium.co.uk">www.mollybrownsemporium.co.uk</a>
<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup> June: 7.30 pm</b> <b>AGM and Summer Party</b>	Annual committee reports, election of new committee, Mead challenge of a cushion for the tombola at the exhibition.
<b>Tues 7<sup>th</sup> July : 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup> July: 7.30 pm.</b> <b>Speaker Catherine Hill, award winning textile artist and embroiderer:</b>	A Way with Words <a href="http://www.arnolds-attic.co.uk">www.arnolds-attic.co.uk</a>
<b>Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Aug : 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting
<b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Sep : 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting
<b>Sat Sep 12<sup>th</sup> : 1 pm – 4 pm</b>	Saturday sewing day
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Sep: 7.30 pm</b> <b>Speaker: Helen Creasey,</b>	My Quilting Journey, from Architecture to Quilt Design <a href="https://www.soulstoriesart.com/helen-creasey">https://www.soulstoriesart.com/helen-creasey</a>
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Oct : 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting
<b>Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00 to 4.00</b> Exhibition of Mead Quilters work	Mead Exhibition. Marford Hall, Wheathampstead. AL4 8BP
<b>Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Oct: 7.30 p.</b> <b>Speaker Moira Neal, free machine artist.</b>	A View from my Kitchen, and how it inspired a quilt <a href="https://www.facebook.com/p/Moira-Neal-Free-Machine-Artist-100048675651245/?locale=en_GB">https://www.facebook.com/p/Moira-Neal-Free-Machine-Artist-100048675651245/?locale=en_GB</a>
<b>Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov : 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting
<b>Sat Nov 7<sup>th</sup> : 1pm – 4 pm</b>	Saturday sewing day. Heather will show us how to do needle turn applique, 4 different ways.
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Nov: 7.30 pm</b> <b>Member's showcase</b>	Jo Day will show us all her beautiful work and tell us about her quilting journey.
<b>Tues 1<sup>st</sup> Dec : 9.30 am</b>	Morning sewing meeting Mince pies, Christmas show and tell
<b>Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Dec : 7.30 pm</b>	Christmas party