

MIMRAM QUILTERS NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Here we are with only one more day before the last month of the year. Where has the time gone? So much to do and so little time, oh well, I will get to Christmas with the usual scramble. I always promise myself I will get organised earlier but somehow it never happens. How about you?

I do hope you enjoyed last month's meeting when we showed you the ancient Japanese technique of Sashiko. We had quite a few comments about where could you get more of the kit, so perhaps it was a hit. It is a lovely easy technique where you do not need to worry about the size of the stitches

In December we will be giving you some kits to make up some felt reindeer decorations. Thank you Wendy and Penny for making these up. Please remember to bring your sewing kit. The information about the programme is always on the website but I am not sure everyone looks at it. You should. There are some lovely photos on the gallery, the programme and of course we will soon be putting on all the forms for next year's exhibition

Also at the December meeting Lucy of Secret Garden will be bringing her beautiful range of fabrics to tempt us. It could also be an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping for some of your 'quilty' friends. On the other hand you might just have to buy something for yourself too

As always at the next meeting we will be having our usual feast of Christmas goodies to enjoy. People with surnames A-L please bring something sweet and those with surnames M-Z please bring something savoury. I always love to see what a wonderful range of culinary skills are presented on this occasion.

I am always asking what information you want in the 'Tips' section and this is responding to such a request. Needles for your sewing machine are such an important part of your ability to sew properly, but often forgotten about or completely neglected. I often ask people when they last changed the needle on their machine. They look at me blankly and say 'I cannot remember'. That tells me that it is well over due. You should regularly change the needle and a good rule of thumb is at the beginning of a new project. Needles become bent and blunt very quickly. The size of needles is also a puzzle. The higher the number of the needle, the bigger the hole it makes in the fabric. So if you were using a fine fabric, silk or lawn you would use a 70. Piecing with normal weight cotton fabric you should use an 80. If you were using heavier weight fabric tweed or heavy denim for example you should be using a 90. They come colour coded in sizes. Schmetz provide a good app which is well worth looking at for all the different type of needles that are available

I buy my needles from Schmetz and buy them 100 at a time for something like £30.00 for the box. Yes an expensive outlay but cheaper than buying 5 needles for £5.00 approx. You could always buy a box and share it between friends.

Please keep working on your exhibits for the exhibition. Don't forget to finish all those samples from the hands on evening we have done over the past three years. We would like to display a section of all this work. I do hope that each member will put in at least one piece of work to display. Please also keep in mind the sales table that we hope will be full to bursting of items you wish to sell. Paper work for all exhibition related issues will be coming your way in the new year.

In the meantime, it does seem early but I will say it anyway, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Sally