

Bourne Quilters Newsletter



January 2026

Greetings from the Chair

Welcome to February's Bourne Quilters' newsletter. 2026 didn't start as we had planned, unfortunately our speaker was poorly but nevertheless we had a great meeting – it really is lovely that we have a group that can sit down and have an easy chat and sew evening.

This will be a full newsletter, there is information about the Chairs challenge that was launched in the December newsletter; how to make your fabric vinyl in preparation for your record decoration. There is also the first of our monthly quilt show articles as we start preparing in earnest for the show the weekend of 25th and 26th July.

There is an update on the terms & conditions of booking workshops, it may sound very formal but we have many new members and our speakers for meetings and workshops are charging more (inflation!!) so we feel it is worth updating them and to make sure they are clear. Also, Mel and Lisa spend a lot of time managing bookings so we want to make it easier for them.

Coming up

February Meeting - Challenge Six

The first meeting of Challenge Six, a group of Bourne Quilters' members, was on 29th June 2007 and was inspired by the visit to Bourne of the Stitch Witches, a challenge group from Farnham. "We were struck by their sense of friendship and how much they learnt from each other."

Although members have come and gone over the years, three of the six current members have been with the group throughout.

"The objective of the group is to challenge ourselves and each other, there are no rules, no boundaries ^{and} lots of fun! It's a chance to try something ^{at times} different and we all find ourselves very much out of our comfort zones ^{at times}!"

The group usually complete ^{about} 8 challenges over a 2 year period and display the results at the Bourne Quilters Show.



March Meeting - In Stitch You, Harriet Riddell

Harriet's presentation is about her travels around the world with a sewing machine that take her to unusual locations from the informal settlements of Nairobi to the tea fields of the Himalayas.



Through free motion embroidery she captures the environment and the people she meets. Her talk will take you on a colourful journey, from cycling across India to pedal-powered sewing machines. During the talk she will perform a live stitched portrait demonstration of one of our members. A camera on her sewing machine means you see the portrait coming to life!



2 day non-residential retreat - Places still available! Quilting with your walking foot (and getting out of the ditch)

25th - 26th April. Cost £70. Sarah Ashford.



This 2 day workshop is not until April but as it's 2 days we wanted to give our members time to plan. This is a first for Bourne Quilters - a full weekend, non residential, retreat. There are not many workshops that concentrate on the techniques of using your walking foot, threads and quilting (out of the ditch). So we are very excited to have this opportunity for Sarah to come and teach.



Day 1 is an introduction to using your walking foot, covering the basics, threads, getting set up and then practising on a number of pieces. Day 2 involves more practice and developing the patterns you can make with your walking foot. After the February meeting we will be opening this up to non-members so make sure you book your place now and tell your friends.

Doughty's Day - 28th February

Matthew will be returning to the Community Centre on Saturday 28th February, bringing his amazing selection of beautiful, high quality fabrics. As always we will be very grateful for your help on the day. It's ~~always~~ a really fun day and helps to boost our funds. Most help is need at the beginning and end of the day for setting up and clearing away. We also need donations of cakes to sell. There will be a sign up sheet going round. Please sign up ~~on~~ and unless you hear otherwise, turn up at the time you volunteered for. You can't also volunteer by emailing me, Chris: busybarrels@gmail.com Thank you

Last month's meeting

The first BQ meeting of 2026 didn't quite go as planned. Unfortunately, our speaker had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. The committee put their thinking caps on and decided to hold an impromptu sewing evening and an email was sent round to all members telling them of the change of plans. By the start of the meeting there was a whole range of threads, buttons and other embellishments available to anyone who wanted to try their hand at slow stitching and the tables were set out even though it wasn't clear how many people would turn up. There was no need to worry as members poured in through the doors, eager to catch up with friends and some of them even did some ~~slow stitching~~ sewing. Other members had taken the opportunity to bring their own sewing projects or knitting and a good time was had by all. It just goes to show that you can't keep a good quilter down!



Show and Tell



Work on the raffle quilts is progressing and the 2 tops have been pieced. One was started by Caron and one is blocks made by a friend of Rita's, both of whom, are sadly no longer with us.



We also saw a stunning gold and black quilt from Alice. Chris showed us the tuffet that she had made from her father's ties.

Kathy showed us the bunting that she'd made from a pillow case. Gerry brought along some of the dolls that she had made.



Workshop Bookings – Terms and Conditions

We have updated our terms and conditions for workshop bookings. They are on the Bourne Quilters website immediately under the details of our programme for the year. Whilst we *are also* understand that things change and sometimes it is necessary to cancel, we ~~must be~~ aware that the group has to pay for hall hire and speakers/demonstrators however many people attend. We are going to change the signing on sheets slightly by adding a few spaces for a waiting or reserve list to make it easier for us to fill spaces.

Bla.

The Ts and Cs are here in full :

Booking for our workshops is non-refundable so please check your diary carefully before you book. Bookings require payment in full at least three weeks in advance of the event, your place will only be guaranteed once you have paid.

If you have to cancel, please notify events@bournequilters.com as soon as possible. We will ~~try to~~ fill your place if there is anyone on the waiting list or you can use our Facebook page to advertise your place and try to sell it on.

No refunds will be given to those who fail to attend a workshop or event.

We will do our best to run every advertised workshop, however there may be times, due to sickness or other unforeseen circumstances that we have to cancel the workshop. In this event you will be offered a full refund and you will be notified as soon as possible via telephone and/or email.

Can you help a fellow quilter?

We all know that Bourne Quilters are an incredibly kind and caring group of people. One of our long standing members, Joan Smart, who lives in Cosham, would really appreciate a lift to meetings. If you can help please email Karen: members@bournequilters.com

Chair's Challenge

One of the things we do for the show is a Chair's Challenge. I have the honour of setting it this year. The challenge is to make a record out of fabric and decorate it with something that represents an 33 rpm album, 45 single, or if you wish a 78! The only rule is that the record should

be the size of a 33, 45, or 78. The decoration can be 2D or 3D, appliqué, embroidery, machine embroidery – whatever you fancy. Here is how to make your vinyl:



Requirements

- Black fabric - enough to cut out 2 circles the size of an LP record -12 inches plus seam allowance or 45rpm
- piece of wadding - size of record.
- Embellishments for record.
- Coloured fabric for inner circle of both sides of record – or you can work this into your design.

Instructions

There are several ways of going about this – it depends on what and how you have decided on your decoration – it may be easier for you to decorate your vinyl before you put the back on and quilt it or, if you have made a separate decoration you may want to piece and quilt your record and then stitch on your decoration.

- Cut out central circle and Bondaweb to each of the black circles
- **Decorate the front of your vinyl or proceed to the next step if you are going to decorate after construction
- Put two black circles right sides together with wadding on top. Sew 1/4 inch from edge, leaving a small area open so you can turn record out. Tack and press to form circle. Sew up opening.
- With black cotton, sew a spiral around the record, starting on the edge of inner circle. Keep sewing, forming a spiral that looks like the grooves on the record. Use the sewing foot as a guide to get an even spiral until you reach the edge of the record.

Please have a chat with me if you are not sure and want to talk through the method.

Young Quilters

The dates for young quilters workshops this year are: Sunday Feb 1st; Sunday March 1st; Sunday 17th May; Sunday 28th June; Sunday 1st November; Sunday 6th December.

We've been running Young Quilters for over a year now. Workshops are successful with up to 16 young quilters really developing their sewing skills. The success of the workshops is largely due to the support we get from Bourne Quilter members as the 1 to1 help really makes a difference. The workshops are so busy we have identified that we really need an extra person at the workshop, not necessarily to work with the Young Quilter but to help with the refreshments, checking in the children attending and just an extra pair of hands. I have sent out an email about this and if you think you can help



volunteers
generally
just an extra pair
please let me know and I will add you to the circulation list. You don't need to help every time, by having lots of volunteers it doesn't always fall to the same people. Also if you don't feel you would want to work with a young quilter but could help just by being there then do please come along.



We are working on a quilt for the young quilters to display at our show. It will be wonky houses. The first few workshops will see them making the block and quilting it and we will then assembly by quilt as you go.

ITS SHOWTIME

Our quilt show is this year!

Saturday 25th July & Sunday 26th July

Charity Quilt

We have two charity quilts this year. The quilt tops come from friends of Bourne Quilters and so as they asked we are donating the proceeds from the charity quilt to The Rowans Hospice and Crisis. The quilts will be quilted and then bound and we hope to have them on show in March.

Nominate a charity for us to raise money for.

Money raised from the show goes to support local charities and groups. Please tell us who you would like to benefit from this – we need to know by the March 31st so we can announce it at the April meeting. Tell one of the committee or better still email your nomination to

members@bournequilters.com

Publicity

Getting the word out about the show is vital to it being successful. We are visited by lots of people who are not quilters but are just interested or having a day out. We have our trusty list of related quilting/textile groups but if you know of one or a local publication you can recommend do please let me, or one of the committee know. Deadlines for adverts is sometimes quite a few months ahead so the more notice and early ideas the better.

Lucky dip/Sales Table/Books/Bags

If you have anything for the Lucky dip, sales table, UFO's, books etc can you keep them til March when we will start to collect them in the meetings. The Community centre has kindly agreed to arrange some storage and also will store things in our homes but for now it would be helpful if you could keep hold of them and then we will collect from March onwards.

Sales table sewing together – Saturday 21st March – Westbourne Hall ROLL UP ROLL UP SIGN UP!

Our sewing days are really popular and really enjoyed so we are doing one to sew for the show. Rather than deciding on projects at this point please sign up to come along and make your own project or to come along and choose one of the projects that have been prepared.

To give you a few ideas over the past few years we have done some great workshops and demonstrations things like Fabric Flowers; Shopping tote; Pin cushion and scrap bag; Key fob; Glass cases; Phone bag. We have plenty of fabric, zips, bag catches, magnetic catches so if you think you need anything special please say as we may have it already

We are asking for £5 to cover room hire/ refreshments and materials (if needed)

SO

1. Sign up to come along
2. Let us know if you are bringing your own project or want to do one of ours
3. Tell us if you have any special requirements for your project – we can't promise but will try to help
4. COME ALONG AND HAVE FUN SEWING ON SATURDAY 21st MARCH

Ideas or questions?

It's definitely a team effort so if you have any ideas/question don't hesitate to get in touch with Karen karen.lillington@btinternet.com 07886796857 or you can also speak to a committee member.

Bourne Quilters Programme 2026

1st February	Young Quilters	
2nd February	Challenge Six	
28th February	Doughty's	
1st March	Young Quilters	
2nd March	Harriet Riddell	In Stitch You
21st March	Sew for the Show	In house
6th April	Easter Sewing	In house
25th and 26th April	Non- residential retreat Sarah Ashford	Walking foot quilting
4th May	Show and Tell	Shirley Quilters
17th May	Young Quilters	
1st June	Kate Findlay	Nature in Textiles
2nd June	Kate Findlay workshop	Bluebell Woods
29th June	Young Quilters	
6th July	Show preparation	In house
25th July 26th July	Quilt show	
3rd August	Helen Sill	Threads of Tradition
7th September	Pimms and strawberries	In house
5th October	Hannah's Room	Batiks
6th October	Hannah's Room workshop	Confetti
10th October	Coach trip - Knit and Stitch	Alexandra Palace
24th October	Doughty's	
1st November	Young Quilters	
2nd November	Christmas Sewing	In house
7th November	Christmas Funday	In house
6th December	Young Quilters	
7th December	AGM	Christmas party

Bourne Stitchers Dates 2026

	February 10th, 24th	March 10th, 24th
April 7th, 21st	May 5th, 19th	June 2nd, 16th, 30th
July 14th, 28th	August 11th, 25th	September 8th, 22nd
October 6th, 20th	November 3rd, 17th	December 1st, 15th, 29th tbc