

CETG ARCHIVE

Meeting Report

8th January 2018

Terry Stevenson brought in a selection of quilts made and owned by members of the ["Gone to Pieces"](#) group, of which she was a founder member and first chairwoman over 25 years ago. Many of the quilts were either group works or challenges set to the members. The first was a redwork quilt with each block stitched by an individual, many of whom had never done redwork before.

Some of the group quilts were worked as a round robin or "shoebox shuffle" where each person would provide a box containing an idea for a block - a design or colour preferences, etc - and the first finished block. The box was then passed on for the second quilter to make a block, and so on. Sometimes this works well and produces a surprising and harmonious quilt - occasionally they can go horribly wrong. But that's part of the fun!

Terry spoke about the varying styles and materials used in historic and modern quilts, including the distinctive "Dutch chintz" fabrics, and the vintage "egg money" quilts made in the 1920s and 30s American Depression from flour sacks when there was little alternative fabric. Flour wholesalers would specially print their sacks in distinctive colours and patterns to encourage people to always buy their brand.

In strong contrast to these modest quilts, she showed several modern examples stitched from kits by designers such as Sue Spargo - exuberant designs in appliqué using luxury fabrics covered in decorative embroidery in hand-dyed threads, beads and embellishments. Works of art which are a world away from practical bed linen.

As Terry finished speaking about each quilt, it was dropped on a table for members to examine in detail at the end of the meeting. We all learned a lot about quilting and quilters from Terry's knowledgeable and engaging talk.



Liz announced the workshop programme for 2018. The first workshop with Juliette Orton on 13th January is fully subscribed. Future topics include felting on velvet, embellished birds, and a still to be announced subject with our own Viki and Helen in the autumn. Liz drew attention to the full programme of talks and workshops with [Aylesbury Vale Embroiderers' Guild](#), and courses at [Workaid](#) from Janet, Mary and our February speaker, Paula Watkins.

There are still six books to be returned to the library, and Liz urged all to check they were not inadvertently holding them at home.

As the December Meeting was cancelled owing to snow, mince pies and nibbles were available. Some members brought in their Christmas-themed makes, including some lovely decorations and the patchwork "Emma's Tree" from Eileen, the pattern for which is sold in aid of cancer relief. Steve won the door prize of a £25 voucher for Fabric HQ.

All photos © Liz Smith