



Every Block Tells A Story

The Stories Of The Covid Commemorative Quilts

BERNINA
made to create





FOREWORD

The Covid pandemic was unprecedented in our lifetimes - robbing many of us of loved ones before their time, provoking fear and removing freedom to live our lives the way we had hitherto taken for granted. But it also brought people and communities together to support the vulnerable and work for the common good. Many found solace and inspiration during those difficult months in their passion for quilting which, as we all know, as an art form can capture a moment in time like few others.

The period of 2020 and 2021 will stay with many of us for as long as we live. But we wanted to give our extraordinary quilting community the opportunity to come together and do what it does best - create a record that future generations look back on and gain a glimpse and an understanding of what this singular experience was like. It also stands as a lasting testament and memory to those we have lost but who we can now always remember.

They say that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Never has that been truer than with this triptych Covid Commemorative Quilt. We hope that when you see it, you will see your own experience somewhere in it and, for that, we thank every quilter who came forward to make their contribution.

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Quilt I

Pieced by Mary Mayne Quilted by Lyn Holman Bound by Merrill Tanton



Quilt II

Pieced by Merrill Tanton Quilted by Lyn Holman Bound by Merrill Tanton



Quilt III

Pieced by Janet Greaves-Stocker Quilted by Lyn Holman Bound by Merrill Tanton



The pages that follow record the members of the quilting community who have contributed to these quilts and the stories behind their contribution. The reference adjacent to their name is the position of their block in the Triptych with the format – Quilt . Row . Column .



Julia Adam – III.5.E

“I am new to quilting but during lockdown I had time to hone my skills and also make masks. I chose a block called Brave World (from Today's Quilter '36 Blocks' Booklet) because it seemed appropriate. I want to celebrate the NHS and support all the workers who make up such an important organisation. The impact of Covid still resonates today but, like quilting, if we all do our little bit every day, we can create something powerful and beautiful together!”



Jude Allan – I.5.E

“The uncertainty of a national lockdown was eased by the sound and rhythm of the sewing machine as I made nearly 100 scrub tops. To be part of an army of volunteer home sewers making scrubs for NHS staff to wear was an incredible feeling. It was so well organised and brilliantly co-ordinated. To me the story of Covid is the positivity that came out of the situation, a national response of rainbow brightness and scrub sewing goodness that brightened the soul and made a very strange situation much more bearable.”



Jean Almond – III.7.B

“Over the two years of Covid the world has been in a dark place, but vaccination and sunflowers have given us all happiness and makes us all look forward to a brighter and sunnier future.”

Barbara Alston – II.3.F



“Flying Free”

“Commemorating the souls set free from suffering. Also, the feeling of freedom once restrictions on movement lift.”

Gillian Arkley – III.10.A



“Garden Solace”

“The garden became an important space during lockdown for those who were lucky enough to have one. Many people began to appreciate nature around them which during their busy lives they had forgotten. The garden became a place of quiet peacefulness. Time for reflection and time to watch the flowers grow.”

Penny Armitage – III.10.C



“I thought this advice pertinent and the rainbow relevant - bit confused by the mustard yellow spotty fabric but presumed that someone must have liked it! I drew the rainbow on parachute silk, using ink tense pencils which I then lightly brushed with water. When dry, I backed it with fusible web, cut it out and ironed, then stitched

it into place.”

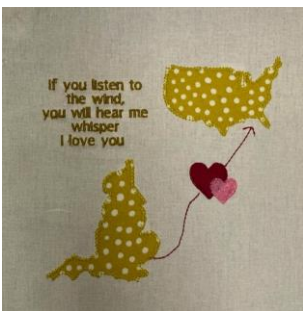
Christine Askew – II.4.C



“My granddaughter celebrated her 4th birthday in May 2020. Fortunately, it was a sunny day and the family had a birthday party for her in the garden. I was lucky enough to be able to attend but had to sit isolated from the family in the corner of the garden with my individual picnic and was not allowed to hug or give my granddaughter a kiss.

I felt very isolated during lockdown one as I live alone and did more so on this day. My feelings of isolation were further highlighted when I recently heard about the parties that were held in May 2020 in the garden at Number 10 Downing Street.”

Annette Baker – II.3.G



“I feel extremely blessed my family were safe during Covid, many were not. It was very hard though, not to be able to visit my family in the USA. At the start of 2019, my son and his wife, lost a dearly longed for pregnancy and I wasn't there to help and support them. My heart broke watching them struggle alone.

Thankfully, they now have a beautiful son, who I have yet to meet. My granddaughter was only 18 months old when I last saw her and she is almost 4 years old now. I yearn to hold them both close and now the skies have reopened, I am sure that will be possible. My block represents the miles apart and the love that holds us together.”

Nicholas Ball – II.5.E



“My block represents the hope and spirit felt throughout the pandemic, despite the difficulty of the ever-changing situation. I've used traditional stuffed applique to show this hope in the form of a glowing sun amid the dark shapes of the virus' negative impact.”

Maureen Ballard – I.6.D



“We live very near The New Forest National Park but have never really visited it. I worked in a supermarket during the pandemic and being allowed out to exercise became a life-line for us and our dogs. We discovered various walks. My block reflects the narrowness of life and its rigid rules due to Covid, but also the walks and the colours of the seasons. It starts in Spring, pussy willow catkins and blossom, Summer, sunshine, blue sky and wild flowers, Autumn, fly agaric fungi, blackberries and chestnuts, finally, Winter, deer, evergreens and grey birch trunks.”

Michelle Barton – III.9.H



“When smiles were hidden by masks, seeing a cheeky wink above a mask was such a joy.”

Ingrid Baum – II.4.H



“The little teddy is to celebrate the birth of my granddaughter Alys, born on the 17.12.2021, in France. Now the restrictions are lifted, I shall go to "meet" her in March 2022.”

Christine Billanie – I.1.F



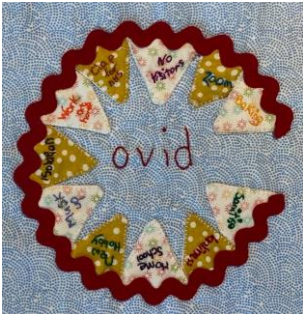
“The pandemic was and still is very traumatic. What has happened over the past 2 years has changed people and their lives forever. It certainly has affected me. At my age you worry all the time that life is precious and very short. My son is in Australia and I haven't seen him for 5 years. I am nervous about going to see him, with questions, will I be safe, what if something happens and I cannot get home. What came into my mind when decided on block I created was how people rallied together; people were a lot friendlier; people were more considerate; most of all people were kinder; strangers said 'hello' which makes a world of difference. I hope people remember what has happened and do not forget to say 'Hello' and also 'to be kind'.”

Linda Bilsborrow – I.1.D



“When Covid arrived, I was in post as President of the Quilters' Guild. At first, we were occupied with the immediate needs of our new situation but we needed more. Being a member of our Guild is like being a member of an enormous family and we began to miss the sense of connection that being a member gives us. I came up with the idea of a project, so that members could work on a block in the knowledge that they weren't alone - particularly important for those living by themselves. Little did I realise how much that project would help me, as much as those members who contributed to the project. The messages of hope and support, stay with me. That project was The Guild's "Staying Home, Staying Safe" quilt whereby members were invited to contribute a small house block, hence my chosen block for this Commemorative Quilt.”

Maureen Black – II.10.G



“I worked through the pandemic in a Forensic Mental Health in-patient and Community service. My block represents keywords relevant to patient and staff experience, it is presented as bunting as we used the opportunity of isolation to explore new hobbies, develop the garden and appreciate having a socially interactive element within the in-

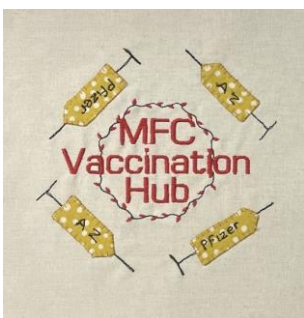
patient service, the community service however saw individuals experience extreme loneliness in their isolation
key words: Mask up, isolation, work at home, loneliness, sanitize, clap for NHS, home school, zoom, baking, new hobbies, no visitors.”

Glynne Blaik – II.8.F



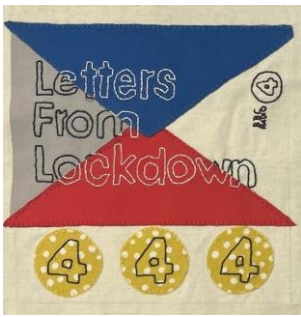
“Who would believe that a simple message we learn as children could become so important.”

Melanie Blake – II.3D



“During the first lockdown I made 101 sets of scrubs for the NHS. Then following an email asking retired nurses to return, I joined the Covid temporary register to work in the vaccination hubs. After many training courses to get up to speed and ensure we all had the knowledge and updated skills we went to work, 12 hours a day, 7 days a

week. Sometimes working on a bus to reach people who struggled to get to the hubs. One day, I prepared 499 vaccines in 6 hours. I had lost my voice so couldn't talk to patients but could still work. We are mostly retired nurses, plus an army of people from all walks of life trained to vaccinate. It's a fantastic team to work for and everyone is always happy in our portacabin at Middlesbrough Football Club.”



Jane Blayney – II.5.B

“‘Letters from Lockdown’ was published following the ‘Covid Chronicles’ series on Radio 4. My daughter Ruth had a letter included in the book and was interviewed on PM by Evan Davies. Her words – I was compelled to share my experience of the impact of suddenly being unable to gather as families in crisis. My work in Children’s Social Care is to bring families together, to talk, share, work to improve things. Suddenly, cruelly, the pandemic stopped this. I recorded my reflections to submit to Radio 4’s PM programme, so insistent was I that the process that filled my days would not be overlooked, and delighted that it was chosen to be included, I felt validated in some small way that the severity of lockdown was recognised for some of the most vulnerable in our society. Family life continued but its strength and resilience were being challenged like never before.”



Christine Body – I.7.G

“Having received much kindness when moving house during lockdown, I feel we must all continue to be kind.”



Susan Boler – II.7.D

“Plain quilt done in memory of my mum and younger sister. Both of them didn’t like a lot of fuss or fancy frills. I have used rainbow colours in thanks to the NHS who cared for them in their final days. Mum died in March 2021, and my sister in October 2021, not Covid related, but still a great loss to our families.”

Clare Boshoff – II.10.C



“This block symbolizes our isolated homes, towns and countries in the centre with flowers. Then there are the masks with the bugs trying to get in and the dark unknown surrounding us. But there is hope and normality on the horizon, we just have to get through this together.”

Wendy Bosler – II.4.G



“As an Australian living in the UK the primary impact of Covid on me was an overwhelming feeling of separation from my family and friends in Sydney, knowing it was suddenly impossible to visit, particularly worrying should any of them become seriously ill. I missed the sunshine of the Australian summer. I longed to wander along the foreshore of Sydney Harbour and to ascend the steps of the Opera House to enjoy its cultural performances. My story has a happy ending as I was able to return in January 2022 and we had all stayed safe. I feel very fortunate.”

Carol Bowden – I.9.A



“I thought about what block I would like to make for some time. In the end it was an easy decision. I chose to make a wonky star block as my favourite quilter is Gwen Marston who was the pioneer of liberated piecing in my opinion. My husband is a keen amateur astronomer and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. It is our hobbies that have kept us going through the past nearly two years now, and so a block which combines our two passions seemed very appropriate. The hand dyed fabric was a present from quilting friends and was dyed by another quilting friend, the rest of the fabric is scraps from my stash as I have tried to be as environmentally conscious as possible in my crafting over the course of the pandemic.”

Diana Brangwyn – I.4.B



“After the initial shock of the imposition of lockdown, I was surprised and delighted by the absence of aircraft. Clear, empty blue skies and brilliant unbroken sunshine created a wonderful sense of peace and calm. Birdsong became more noticeable. The air seemed clearer and cleaner without pollution from air and road travel. Everyone seemed to connect more with nature and to feel its healing power. This was the balm we needed to soothe our fears and bring joy into our hearts. The trees in my garden were full of bluetits, so my square is a celebration of them.”

Laura Brenchley – III.3.E



“During Covid lockdown our art group were obviously not able to meet together. As group leader, I was concerned about the group's wellbeing (we are a mental health group). We were able to secure funding for me to prepare craft activities and instructions to deliver to each members' door. They completed the projects, then sent photos to me to collate a gallery. I then circulated the images to the group. This kept the group in contact throughout lockdown and we are certainly stronger now due to this project.”

Elizabeth Bright – II.6.F



“As a retired nurse, working for the NHS for over thirty years, my admiration goes out to all my colleagues who have, and are still, working tirelessly to end this pandemic. My square is a tribute to all those who have had to endure unbelievable work pressures in order to keep us all safe, so that hopefully, our lives can once again return to normality.”

Karen Brooking – II.9.F



“The Blue Tit”

“Nature is a great solace. During lockdown I got a lot of pleasure from watching the birds and insects in my own garden and I started incorporating them into my textile art.”

Sue Brown – I.3.B



“I realise that my husband and I, plus all our friends and family have been very lucky not to have had Covid. The staggered cut represents all the families that have suffered loss or families that have been torn apart by Covid. The hearts represent my heartfelt wishes that everyone can recover, heal and move on with life as well as possible.”

Susan Brown – I.8.H



“I really like star blocks, so made a small Variable Star. I used the centre fabric as the backing for a quilt I made in lockdown for my granddaughter. Afterwards, my daughter said the pattern looked like a coronavirus, so I thought I should use it for this block. I love using buttons on quilts, and these are vintage mother-of-pearl buttons, used in the past and now re-used. It made me think that all things will pass, and so will Covid. I think it is important that this quilt commemorates the strange times we have been through, and hopefully can now recover from. I found the yellow spotty fabric quite hard to use!”

Caroline Buckland – II.6.C



“My block is a wonky rainbow star. I chose this because I am a community nurse and worked throughout the pandemic, although not in the eye of the storm the ripples were still very much felt. The rainbow became a picture or sign of hope for the NHS. During the first lockdown, in the evenings, my daughter and I would walk up to the major A road and stand in the middle looking at the stars together because there was absolutely no traffic on it. We had never experienced this before or since!”

Michele Burke – III.9.B



“We are a small group called The Tockenham Village Quilters, who live in the small village of Tockenham in Wiltshire. We have been together for about six years and comprise of myself (Michele), Rosie, Wencke, Kate and Karen. Our block is dedicated to Karen's brother. Paul lived life to the full. He worked hard and played hard too. His big love was horse racing. He owned and shared ownership in several horses. Paul was overcome by infection after contracting Covid 19 in March 2020. He is survived by his wife Geraldine and two sons Oliver and Ben.”

Jo Campbell – III.7.F



“Lockdown was difficult for many people and for many of us our mental health was battered. Already living with depression, I found being forced to stay home and listen to frightening news was difficult. I had no idea where I wanted to go or what I wanted to do but I just wanted choice to overcome the feelings of Groundhog Day. Immersed myself in sewing - dressmaking and patchwork - helped me to survive this stressful time. All the practice paid off as I now find myself teaching both those skills. I'm no expert but helping others to discover the joy and freedom of sewing is not only good for their souls but also for mine. My block celebrates patchwork with a rainbow of hope.”

Anna Cann – III.3.F



“The lockdowns isolated everyone, it felt like being in the eye of a storm or on a separate island, but in every home people's hearts were still beating, even though the streets were silent, our heartbeats echoed, connecting us all. My Granny survived all the lockdowns only to die of an undetected lung tumour. She loved sewing and crafts and collected buttons, so the heart button is for her. No matter what, our hearts connect us.”

Val Cave – III.5.F



“Ken Knight, my bachelor brother, lived all his life in our family in Surbiton, Surrey. He was a lock keeper for nearly forty years at Teddington, on the Thames, and also in charge of their beautiful flower beds; he loved the open air, river and countryside. When off duty and later, in retirement, he was an easily recognised, eccentric figure with his beard, pipe and trademark, outback hat - which lay on his coffin and now lies abandoned. He died on 7th May 2020, just four weeks after being diagnosed with cancer. Lockdown meant that I was unable to visit him during his short illness. I had to arrange his funeral, but neither I, or my family, were able to attend. The NHS and Marie Curie nurses were wonderful but we still grieve that he must have felt abandoned by his family in his greatest hour of need.”

Jude Chalmers – III.5.C



“My block is of an image from the first lockdown in 2020, which links to my optimistic hope that the connections and togetherness crafted from the need to pull together, to look out for the most vulnerable members of the community continues into all areas and improve the quality of life experienced by everyone. My block is a visual representation of the wooden circle that appeared on the local beach in Musselburgh in Spring 2020. We don't know who created it but it was a catalyst in getting people to talk to others during allowed exercise periods. Even if the topic was about "Mussy Henge". I think my block must be called 'In it together'.”



Glendora Chase – II.4H

“I chose the "Circus Tent" block because life became very unusual with Covid -19. Each colour in the block has meaning. The Spotted Yellow: The Virus; Black: Fear and death; Red: The danger; Blue: The unity across communities; Aqua: Discovery; Green: The kindness strangers showed; Brown: Hearth and home where people found safety; Pink: The self-knowledge people gained through this adversity; Black & Purple: Signify spirituality & mental wellbeing; Yellow: Hope; Cream: The calm gained through medical understanding and development of vaccinations.”

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Grace Cheney-Law – II.5.G

“The teardrops represent all the sadness Covid-19 brought. The heart represents the love given to everyone by the NHS and the love we all felt once we could see our families.”



Kathryn Childs – II.3.E

“When the Covid 19 lockdown started In March 2020, my brother and some friends and family set up a Facebook group called 'Artist of the year not'. Bob advertised a topic to paint and on Sunday afternoons we painted and shared the results. The first topic was the view out of our window. I painted the joyful spring yellow forsythia bush in my garden. The group has given me some new friends as well as keeping up with family members. I embroidered this block with my Bernina Artista 630 sewing machine. I used Bernina Embroidery software v8 to create the design. I was pleased that the printed cloth provided fitted into the colours I had chosen. I continue to enjoy craft activities I have found on the internet and the restrictions of the pandemic are much easier to live with when we can share together.”

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Gill Clark – II.8.A



Gu walking towards it.”

“Looking after our then 2-year-old grandson during lockdown, afternoons were spent out walking around our local ponds. Wrapped up well against all that the weather could throw at us, we saw rainbows regularly. With the rainbow being a sign of hope for many during the pandemic its's the background for my block. With James and Mam

Sue Clark – III.4.B

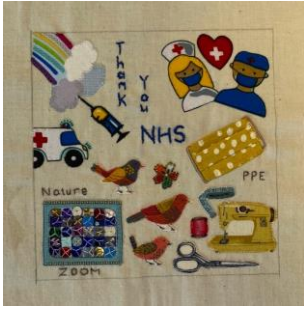


thoughtful loving gifts and cards arrived. Knowing so many were thinking of us was wonderful. My quilt block showing a gift of a bunch of flowers sums up for me, the love we received.”

Debi Clarke – II.6.H



“For me the pandemic meant clearer skies, less airplanes, and people enjoying our natural beauty. I made masks for the family - my lasting legacy of the pandemic.”



Cathy Clarke – III.6.F

“The Covid pandemic struck the UK in early 2020. In March the government imposed a lockdown - people had to stay at home. Terrifying numbers fell ill and many died. NHS workers cared valiantly for the sick while searching for cures. Leading medics and politicians gave daily television briefings. Each Thursday people clapped the NHS. I spent the first lockdown alone. Luckily, the spring was warm and I could get into the garden. With few cars and no planes birdsong was amazing. We were allowed exercise and I walked for miles. Unlike the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, in 2020 people could easily communicate with others using modern communication software. There were talks to enjoy and time to pursue hobbies like quilting. Sewing skills could be used to make PPE items. By the end of 2020 a vaccine had been developed, and an endpoint was in view. Thank you, NHS!”



Lena Clarke – II.6.E

“A little girl holds a bunch of balloons, symbolising the NHS, hope for the future, and one for a prospective vaccine. One balloon - for Covid -19 - is deflating as it is pierced by a syringe of vaccine. The other balloons will eventually fly free.”

Margaret Clarke – I.10.C



“This block depicts what Covid has meant to me. The appliqued sections convey the key message that although the Covid -19 virus dominated 2020 and 2021, the development of several vaccines has offered a way through this health crisis. The free motion embroidery around the depiction of the Covid -19 virus highlights the implications of everyday life; regular handwashing, wearing face masks, staying at home except for essential outings, maintaining a 2m distance, the shortage of toilet rolls! The other images show some of the activities, in addition to daily walks or cycles, which have helped me to maintain a positive response to the pandemic; my Christian faith; a variety of craft activities (knitting, sewing, crocheting); reading; interacting with others through Zoom. The final image in the top right is of an aeroplane. This depicts hope for the future and the opportunity to travel once more.”

Ann Clipperton – II.10.F



“My block shows that I enjoy crafting. Also, during Covid and lockdown, I did a lot of colouring, the time just flew. The letters show in my block that I also enjoy doing word searchers too, I was glad I had these things to do because it helped me get through a lot of things.”

Helen Cockerill – III.8.F

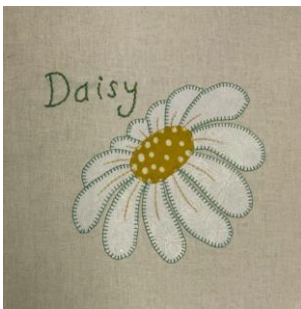


“During the first lockdown I felt it very difficult to concentrate on anything until I settled on making a large patchwork. Having decided against ordering anything online, I used only fabrics from my existing stash. The repetition of cutting out templates from old gardening magazines and then hand stitching the 776 pieces of fabric was helpful in reducing my anxiety levels. That many of the fabrics had come from trips to visit my husband's family in Japan was a way of connecting with people we could not touch. English piecing and Japanese textiles come together to create a 'Covid Curtain'. This square represents a small fragment of that experience. Definitely a commemoration rather than a celebration. We are still unable to visit Japan.”



Chantelle Cohen – III.2.A

“My block was created using scraps from various quilt and craft projects that I completed during the Covid -19 lockdowns, and includes scraps from my first ever quilt. I chose to create a block that shows a sunrise coming up over a seascape. The dawn represents hope and the possibility of better days being ahead of us. The waves symbolise the turbulent and ever-changing times we have collectively been through - they represent both the highs and lows of life. Thinking more deeply about the pandemic, the waves can also allude to the many waves of lockdowns, variants, and changes to our lives over the past two years. The block combines two hobbies that kept me sane during the pandemic - crafting and paddle boarding. The scene is from August 2021, when I joined the members of a local paddle board and surf club for a sunrise paddle. I remember feeling in the moment. The worries were being washed away as I listened to the sound of waves. I felt hopeful. Sunrises bring us the new day, and with that the chance to do things differently and learn from the day before.”



Jackie Cole – II.9.E

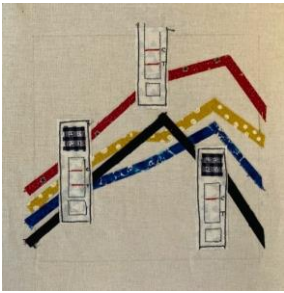
“Dedicated to my Mum, Daisy, and the 1800 other people in the UK who died on the same day, at the peak of the pandemic deaths. God Bless.”



Liz Coleman – II.2.G

“Having to deal with the wider effects of the Covid pandemic has led us all into new ways of working; which is actually a good thing. We cannot go back to 'normal' because Covid will be with us always. A new mind-set is required. Rainbows resonate with us, because they speak of better things ahead and the Phoenix rises from the Covid nadir bringing hope for a changed and better future.”

Shirley Collie – III.6.H



“I am a news freak and was glued to all bulletins at the start of the pandemic until it got too harrowing. Looking back, it seems that every news cast was dominated by stories of testing and of statistics and graphs. This is my interpretation of that. My thoughts are of those people who developed the tests, those who carried them out, what they represented and the people who developed the vaccine which sent the graphs and numbers tumbling down.”

Gina Cooke – III.10.E



“I only have Scraps”

“I didn't go out to shop for fabrics during the Covid pandemic, so it was a good opportunity to reduce my stash and use up scraps from previous projects. This piece is called 'I only have Scraps'. The funny thing about using up scraps is that you always have just as many at the end of the exercise as you did at the start - only they are smaller! I am now making cards to use up my 'new scraps', which will no doubt generate more new scraps... it's reassuring that some things just don't change.”

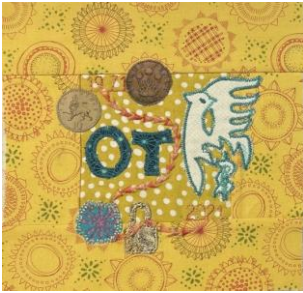
Janet Cooper – I.1.E



“It's easy to become sad and depressed thinking about Covid, lockdown, and the number of people who lost their lives. During lockdown many people became isolated from friends and family, suffering mental health problems. One of the things I found that helped relieve some of the stress of the isolation was either sitting in the garden

or walking in the park or surrounding area. For many their daily walk was an escape from four walls and helped them cope with loving every day through the lockdown. My quilt depicts a wild flower border and local hillsides. I hope it brings pleasure.”

Anne Cormack – III.4.A



“My block depicts my 50 years career as an Occupational Therapist (O.T.) working for the NHS. The phoenix is the logo of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists. I qualified in January 1971, just as we converted to decimal currency. I retired in January 2021, when the UK was in the second Covid lockdown.”

Lynn Cosgrove – II.7.A



“The block depicts the view gazing through the window, with a roman blind, looking onto grass. Like many I made numerous pairs of scrubs during the lockdown and in an attempt to brighten them up each scrub top made had these hearts embroidered onto the front pocket to brighten the day for those wearing them and to make patients smile

at times when they were apart from their family. The idea for embroidering rainbows came from seeing rainbow pictures in many windows that were placed there in a bid to cheer up people passing by. The embroidery on the scrubs felt very appropriate given rainbows usually appear after heavy storms followed by sunshine, so the view from the 'window' reflects the hope and light to follow the difficult times many endured during the Covid pandemic.”

Diane Cousins – II.2.E



“My story is in relation to my son Robert who sadly passed away with Covid. He was a post heart and lung transplantee of 19 years! He had Cystic Fibrosis, and eventually it took its toll on his lungs so he had Hobsons Choice i.e., heart and lung transplant or die in next few months. So, he had the transplant at Papworth and survived for 19 years, working fulltime in the NHS as a biomedical scientist in Papworth, Leeds and latterly Sheffield. He loved walking and climbing. He did 100km challenges all over the UK, climbed all the mountains - nothing held him back! He lived alone in Leeds and had to isolate and work from home when Covid hit, but last few months managed to go back into the laboratory. Sadly, careful as he was Covid got him August 2020, and he passed away after being intubated on 19/9/21. He was so inspirational, lived life to the full, and I am such a lucky mum to have had him fit and well for 19 years post-transplant! His heart was given to another gentleman in domino op, so he gave life too! I do miss him so, so much.”

Jean Cozens – II.9.B



“Lockdown in 2020 for me meant peace - no planes flying overhead! The weather was wonderful and staying home was no hardship. Travels were cancelled and we couldn't see our families in person (thank goodness for Zoom and Face Time) but I had quilting to keep me happy, and the weather was wonderful. Every day we took our allotted hour and walked local roads, some of which I had never walked in 39 years of living in Windsor. We found a little park by the river and watched the swans make nests. We chatted with everyone we met - from a safe distance - and strangely a sense of community developed. We kept safe but every evening the news brought tragedy for many. We were the lucky ones and we felt for those who weren't. Lockdown was a time of joy but deep despair. We are thankful we survived it.”

Jenni Crampton – III.9.D



“Well, here it is. Not as perfect as I hoped so feel free to use it or not. I have used material left over from the scrubs I made for North & East London Sewers, during the first year of Covid. The rainbow print being donated by Noah Evans, you may have seen it in the press. Also, the plain blue is from donated fabric for scrubs etc.”

Angela Daymond – II.5.A



“For the second time in two years my life tumbled around me, represented by the Tumbling Blocks pattern. I'd slowly got my life back on track after a life changing spinal cord injury for the Covid pandemic. To take everything away from me again. As a clinically vulnerable person I did not go out for months but I began to notice nature and the huge number of birds in my garden. This calming force of nature helped to ground me as it carried on whilst everything else stopped. Each day the sun still came up, the birds still sang and within the natural world all was well. When I was able, I bought extra bird feeders and food, the reward was so many different birds coming to feed. These birds that brought me joy during a difficult time are represented in my block by the three fussy cut birds.”

Jennifer Dennison White – III.7.D



“During the Covid pandemic my sister, Lorna, developed Parkinson’s related Dementia and I was unable to visit her and help with her care during the lockdowns. The occasions I was able to visit were very precious to me, especially when she passed away in November 2021. My first grandchild was born with multiple disabilities in 2020 during the lockdown and I was not able to travel to see her. The care given to my family members by the NHS during this difficult time has been exemplary. I would like to thank all the staff involved. The 3 leaf shapes are taken from leaves from the Ginkgo tree in my garden. They represent Lorna's husband and 2 sons, her 3 sisters and my son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter.”

Carol Dix – I.2.A



“We live in a small rural town, so it was a delight to take an early morning walk every day during lockdown, to ease the stress of this new daily life. The lack of traffic made the birdsong and buzzing insects seemingly louder. Deer and foxes ventured closer to town and were seemingly unconcerned by two people and a small dog. This closeness with nature as it thrived with less human activity was a great aid in helping positivity. Not all my experiences during lockdown were negative and for that I am thankful.”

Kay Dowdall – I.8.E



“My block is in memory of my beloved Dad, who sadly passed away in November 2021. He had been diagnosed with vascular dementia four and a half years previously. COVID meant that the last 18 months of his life were very restricted, and he was

housebound most of the time. The block celebrates happier times when he was able to "mess about in boats". For many years he was an active member of the local sailing club, first sailing with my brother and later helping with the running of competitions. He continued volunteering long after both he and my brother had stopped regularly sailing at the club. The yellow heart represents not only the sun but hopefully the sunnier days ahead, but also the love that we feel for my dad and how much he will be missed by the whole family.”

Hilary Drake – III.6.B



“The start of the lockdown brought sunshine and clear blue skies; it was very quiet with time to listen to the birds’ spring songs. There was time to spend baking and we got two new cats who brought us great pleasure. Hanging over all this nicety was the Covid black cloud of fear. We had to stay at home, wear masks, get inoculated and try to show

our appreciation of the NHS by clapping. Through the ups and downs of trying to get back to a near normal, the "Black Cloud" is still hanging over us all.”



Marianne Drawater – III.6.B

“The rainbow background colours are "thanks" to the NHS. I (hopefully) kept my sanity during lockdowns by making quilts for Project Linus - thus the patchwork. My 20-year-old black cat was my only but constant companion - someone to talk to (even though she's deaf!). Lastly, the butterfly signifies how much nature walks helped to keep me active and interested - plus a chance to see other people even if only at a distance.”



Trina Elkington – I.8.G

“Hi, I'm Trina, a 53-year-old lady from Leeds, UK. My quilt block shows how cycling outdoors in hills, with sunshine and blue skies became my lifeline through the pandemic. The sense of freedom it gave me was truly inspiring - a feeling I needed when my world around me had shrunk to just my house. I wouldn't mix with anyone else due to extremely vulnerable people in my family. Even during the strictest lockdown rules, I was allowed out on my bike and I could quite literally transport myself away to a place of peace and tranquility. I feel truly grateful and privileged. My bike has now become a symbol for me of looking forward in life with optimism and hope - and I can't wait for bigger and better adventures on it to come!”



Joy Evangelou – I.2.A

“HOUSE ARREST!”



Dayle Evans – I.5.C

“My block design reflects my situation at the beginning of the Covid -19 pandemic, in early 2020. I was placed on the extremely vulnerable list and told to shield. It was a very dark time but I was so fortunate to be living in such a beautiful place. I had a fabulous view of the Irish Sea at the end of my garden, and spent many, many days sitting on the bench just staring at the ever-changing sea. This undoubtedly had a positive impact on my mental wellbeing. I have frayed the blue fabric edges to reflect the waves. I have used silhouetting to depict the darkness I felt I was in at that time.”



Susan Faulkner – III.1.F

“In the darkest depths of the pandemic, babies continued to be born, into an uncertain world. They will thankfully remember nothing of these awful times, but will learn from stories told by their families, who will never forget. One of those babies is my first grandchild, born in June 2020. I met my grandson on a video call, aching to hold him, but not allowed to visit. I watched his tiny body, cradled in my son's arms, and felt a huge surge of love for him. As I gazed at him, I began to see a faint spark of hope for the future, when life returns to 'normal' again. My grandson, and all the other pandemic babies, are a powerful symbol of optimism for all our futures. My Baby's Blocks pattern recognizes that spark of hope, given to us by all those beautiful babies. The stars represent them all.”

Shirley Fell – I.6.A



“I Carry Your Heart in my Heart”

“Words spoken at our wedding in 2006. Still as true today although I lost my husband, John, a year ago. The years between were stolen by that evil destroyer - 'Dementia'. It took our dreams, our hopes, our days and nights and 16 years of what promised to be the happiest ever-after anyone could possibly imagine. The love and warmth we started out with died overnight. Instead, we had confusion, anger, fear, aggression, loneliness, isolation, panic, rejection, constant battles, tribunals, police helicopters, cancer, more cancer, chemo and the never-ending lack of sleep. I lost my man, my lover, my business, my friends. There was no help for us. No financial and emotional security just fear and poverty and homelessness. Covid prevented us from being together, seeing each other the last two years. I have to let him go! But how? I love him!”

Julia Ferrar – I.5.F



“My daughter, a respiratory nurse, worked in the first Covid intensive care ward in March 2020. They had only safety goggles, plastic coats and paper masks for PPE: it wasn't until June that fitted masks with filters and full PPE clothing were supplied. (Fortunately, she was lucky and did not catch Covid until after her first vaccination in

Spring 2021.) I want to commemorate the dedication and selflessness of all medical staff, and remember the anguish they had to suffer when so many patients were dying with only the nurses for comfort. I am so proud of her courage and compassion.”

Debra Fewster – I.5.D



“Learning to participate in online meetings via zoom is one of my prominent memories of the pandemic. I made the block simple, as anything too complicated might get lost in a large quilt.”

Buffy Fieldhouse – III.8.B



“I was fascinated by the shape and details of the microscopic image of the virus that were shown on television; it appeared very beautiful. My piece is designed to show the large effect of the virus (big red piece in the bottom left) with rays of hope/sunshine spreading out as we came to live with the virus. The red of the virus extends into the beginnings of the rays of hope to show that it is still there but gradually being rebuffed. The piece is raw edge applique using hand dyed fabrics with machine and hand stitch.”

Maggie Flanders – III.9.F



“I have chosen 'my garden' for my panel, as during the Spring/Summer 2021 Covid lockdown and then the further lockdowns, I spent all my spare time gardening. My husband and I are retired and live in the rural Welsh Borders with no near neighbours, so I have plenty of freedom to be outside, with lots of fresh air and the occasional friend visiting me. I kept thinking about all those people unlucky enough to be confined to a small City flat, perhaps with fractious children to keep amused, and I regularly thank my good fortune for living in such a beautiful and peaceful place, with snowdrops (hope) and daffodils (new beginnings). I do hope that everyone viewing this quilt will take heart from all the lovely designs and the positive messages accompanying them. I wish all of you the very best of good health and fortune in your future.”

Marjorie Fleat – II.1.F



“Feeling that life has changed unrecognisably since the pandemic started, I find it difficult to interpret how I have been affected. The NHS has worked above and beyond all expectations, certainly for us. My husband's cancer treatment and chemotherapy have been continued throughout the pandemic. All workers who have continued in their workplace to keep us going deserve the highest praise too. My block reflects the waves of Covid variance - navy for the start, red graph lines, grey for the uncertainty and unhappiness. Blue streaky fabric - signs of hope when vaccines developed. Orange - some impatience and rebellion, but also some tightening of general attitudes. The candle represents light for the way forward, and the clock for passage of time. Spirits are still very low.”

Lisa Flint – II.7.G



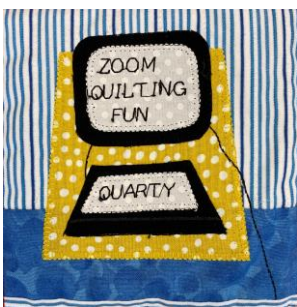
“Upon reflection, my most comforting experience during the pandemic was the wonderful reconnection I, and many others, made with nature. To immerse oneself in the beauty of the trees, flowers and wildlife was invaluable. My appreciation of the world around us, in all its splendour, is certainly something I will carry forward as we move beyond such challenging times. The benefit it provides to our wellbeing, right on our doorsteps, cannot be underestimated. A gift I wanted to represent in the Covid Commemorative Quilt.”

Jane Fox – II.9.G



“I chose the gift of a Bernina 770QE ahead of a special birthday. I received it just before the Covid pandemic started. I have enjoyed making this block with the machine that kept me busy during lockdown and beyond. I made many things for NHS and charities during the pandemic, including pairs of rainbow keepsake sharing hearts, for those in hospital or care homes and their loved ones, cruelly separated. This block represents those gifted hearts with a sunshine ray of hope and helping, caring hands. The embroidery in each colour represents celebrations missed, that we found special ways to share; the hugs we wanted, given in so many other ways; homes that hopefully keep us safe; walks we enjoyed alone, in pairs and with pets; sewing - such a useful and wonderful skill to enjoy. It continues to be my therapy; forget-me-nots, a reminder for us all that life is so precious. Upon reflection, my most comforting experience during the pandemic was the wonderful reconnection I, and many others, made with nature. To immerse oneself in the beauty of the trees, flowers and wildlife was invaluable. My appreciation of the world around us, in all its splendour, is certainly something I will carry forward as we move beyond such challenging times. The benefit it provides to our wellbeing, right on our doorsteps, cannot be underestimated. A gift I wanted to represent in the Covid Commemorative Quilt.”

Maria Fox – I.10.D



changed with the times!”

“A positive journey throughout the pandemic and beyond is the ability to connect through zoom meetings. This enabled me to meet more people than I would have met normally from all around the world and to learn more skills. I started the City and Guilds Quilting diploma online and am enjoying the experience. Quilting has certainly

Margaret Francis – I.8.C



“Within a few weeks of Covid lockdown in 2020, the tulips in my garden were amazing and gave me such joy (I live alone). As the weeks went by, I started a patchwork cushion featuring appliqued tulips - each a different pink fabric. Woven in between I embroidered words that came to have real meaning and included the names of each

full moon. The enclosed echoes the cushion and some of the words I chose to embroider.”

Margaret Fulwood – I.8.A



“This block is a version of the school badge worn by 140 children at our local village primary school. The dedicated adults there have played a vital part in the lives of our local young people during the past two years. Online skills were quickly developed to help teachers, children and parents alike. Phone calls to pupils became an important

link for those at home, whilst vulnerable children attended school to enjoy a curriculum adapted to include more outdoor activities. Two years on, there are lots of cases of covid amongst the school population, but everyone is working together to help the children progress in school and return to a normal childhood in this part of Lincolnshire. A village school that needs to be recognised. Thank you everyone.”

Lynn Gannon – I.8.B



“Richard is 45. He has Downs Syndrome. He has bipolar disorder, type 1 diabetes and a number of other medical needs. Pre-pandemic he attended activities daily during the week with Royal Mencap, 'Me Time project' in Cheam. My block has been designed to reflect his life during COVID. I have used tactile fabrics as Richard needs constant stimulus. Some contact from Mencap staff progressed to video links via 'what's up' and ultimately 'Microsoft teams' - computer screen/tv/telephone/mobile phone. Every day we encouraged Richard to go for a walk with one or both of us - Flowered arrow. Somedays he was more enthusiastic than others and would choose; 'round the block' or 'river walk'. THE EFFECT OF COVID: Anxiety and obsessional behaviour increased. As an example, he would change bags and re-organise his personal belongings Brown rucksack constantly. He was lonely. Contact with usual Health professionals stopped.”

Alan Gardiner – II.8.C



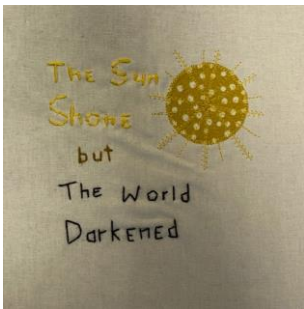
“This is my tribute to the work of the NHS. The NHS is sunshine. I have made a little hospital. Thank you to the NHS for saving so many lives during the pandemic.”

Vicki George – I.3.D



“Although I don't think I would want to do it again, I was fortunate that my lockdown was fun. I really enjoyed spending time at home with my family. The sun was shining, we enjoyed walks and bike rides with very few people and cars about. The home schooling wasn't too arduous either. Socially distanced drinks on the drive with the neighbours brought us all together, which is still the case today. I did cooking and sewing with my daughter and got quite a few PhD's finished. The zoom meetings were great and I enjoyed many online workshops and chats. I am glad that they are continuing as they have really made the world a smaller place, and brought people together.”

Catherine Glenday – III.1.G



“The Sun Shone but the World Darkened”

“It was a fabulous sunny Spring in the UK in 2020, but the world slowed down as Coronavirus spread worldwide. Functionally and psychologically, we entered a long winter of restrictions and despair for some. We are only slowly emerging 2 years

later in 2022.”

Sandra Goldsbrough – II.3.C



“Covid made us realise our age and how few years we may have left. The message from the Queen about meeting up again made us more optimistic.”

Jane Goodchild-Pasman – I.7.B



“During 2020 lockdown, like many families, my husband and I found ourselves at home with our young daughters. The girls were 4 and 7 years old at this time. A vivid memory for me is teaching our daughters to ride their bikes and practicing in the sunshine up and down our cul-de-sac. The days felt endless. A little later, when

restrictions allowed, we took them out on long bike rides to hone their skills and bring purpose and achievement to each day. I found comfort and relief from my own anxieties in my sewing - both by hand and machine. My block represents a bicycle wheel, pieced from scraps of quilts I made during lockdown. Hand embroidered with slow stitching.”



Anna Grant – I.4.E

“During the first lockdown, I ordered a tapestry kit. Working from home and ill with Covid, tapestry helped me through, while isolated from friends and family. In February 2021 I was diagnosed with cancer. I decided to sew - one leaf a day during treatment - as a way to chart my illness but also to help me through, again quite isolated. Over 300 leaves later, 20 weeks of chemotherapy, surgery and 3 weeks of radiotherapy, I am now cancer free. The tapestry kit from 2020 is now a cushion, the leaves are framed in my parents' house, and I continue to experiment with colour and design in my sewing. Sewing, embroidery, tapestry – and are a large part of my life right now. I am grateful that amidst so much illness, trauma and grief caused by Covid and cancer, art triumphs. A reminder that life goes on.”



Jane Grant – I.10.F

“I have stitched a leaf for each of my children on my quilt square. During the pandemic, they were on my mind more than ever, wanting them to stay safe while we were all kept apart. My quilt square is a reminder of a star tapestry made by my daughter when she was a child. For her, a revived interest in stitching was a calming activity during Covid and the chaotic days of working routine in 2020. Then came a cancer diagnosis in 2021. A year of treatment followed, but having some tapestry or embroidery sustained her and helped her cope. She stitched a leaf for each day from diagnosis to the end of treatment. It grew into a beautiful artwork full of colour and optimism.”

Patricia Greaves – II.2.A



“Margaret Drury, mum, did not have a full celebratory send off. Her funeral took place on the first day of the first pandemic lockdown. Her sons and grandchildren could not attend as they lived so far away, and would not break the rules. So, hers was a funeral with only her daughter, son-in-law, priest, funeral directors (and Frank Sinatra) in attendance, plus an abundance of flowers! A keen gardener, textile woman and poet - this block is for her. Now with my dad and her siblings: the angels and flowers: the three self-coloured shapes represent her children, while the darker ones represent the shadow/hole that will always be with us - just like many, many others who were bereaved at this awful time.”

Janet Greaves-Stocker – III.5.D



“Time played a big part in people's experiences of this pandemic, it moved too slowly for some locked in their homes; while for others there was not enough time to complete what they needed to do to support others across the nation. Too much or not enough time to see family made life challenging for many.”

Janice Gunner – III.4.F



“In October 2020, my mum was admitted to Barnet Hospital after a fall at home. While she was there, she caught Covid 19, just before she was due to come home. Mum bravely agreed to the BBC filming her Covid journey for the programme.

Hospital. Sadly, my mum did not live to see it, she died from Covid 19 on 20 November 2020. My mum taught me to sew and I have commemorated her in my block by using those basic stitches I learned when I was five. Running stitch, Back stitch, Blanket stitch, Chain stitch, Lazy Daisy stitch and French Knots. The five daisies represent her five children, four daughters and one son, I am the eldest. Love you, Mum!”

Susan Haigh – III.5.A



“My block is about NATURE that sustained me during lockdown - flowers, plants and my fishpond which brought a beautiful bird to the garden. We moved house and built another fishpond and a new heron visited us. Lockdown bestowed an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate our surroundings.”

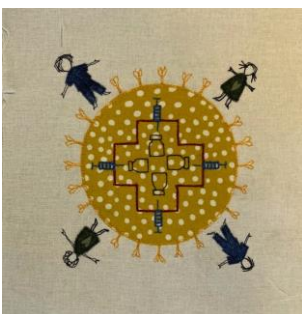
Amelia Hanratty – I.7.D



“My early passion for sewing began as I made outfits for my Barbie Doll. A positive outcome from the pandemic is that children today can play with a Dame Professor Sarah Gilbert Doll, a part of a new collection of women science dolls - finally toys for imaginative play which celebrate female minds over bodies. I am so grateful to the

women from the scientific community who have worked so hard and smart to keep us all safe. They have put an umbrella over us and the world - sheltering us from the horrid virus hailstorm. My block is a simple Thank You for this protection. The umbrella is cheerful, bright and fashionable and maybe even Barbie would like it!!

Sue Harris – III.2.G



“In December 2020, after offering to wield a needle and syringe again after 8 years of retirement from nursing, I started working at Shape Vaccination Centre, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. We have given over 88,000 vaccinations there to help protect people from serious illness and death. On my block the red cross represents my 35 years nursing, with the vaccinators in their scrubs, and the syringes and vaccine ampoules all

dominating the spike virus. Isolated, socially distanced people reach out for help. One of the people that I vaccinated told me that I was the first person to have physically touched them for more than a year. I started using a Bernina sewing machine in my early teens, this was stitched on my Bernina Aurora 440 QE.”



Norma Hasham – II.2.H

“My response is an overview rather than personal. 2020 saw the initial spread of Covid, many people were sick and we all felt very sad. We were encouraged to wear masks which reduced the spread of the virus then, in 2021 the scientist produced a vaccine reducing the risk of illness further and we could all begin to smile. I've tried to leave a

hollowness behind the smile as we know this condition is with us for a long time to come.”



Belinda Hayden – II.7.B

“I wanted to put on record the work done by a group of local council key workers to deliver government initiatives providing businesses and individuals with vital funds. Revenues and Benefits office provided reductions in Council Tax and Business Rates for those hardest hit. From March 2020 they were also tasked with delivering Covid

Business Grants. When most left their offices to work from home, they thought it was for three months. Twenty-four relentless months later they have delivered fourteen different schemes. Accounting is ongoing. From September 2020 they started delivering Test and Trace Isolation Support Payments for the low paid. Most were unable to call on extra resources, instead juggling work with the sidelined day job. It has meant long hours, often alone at home. They devised application processes and new systems to verify, pay and report on payments made. It was tough and without respite, but necessary.”



Kathy Haynes – III.7.H

“The most amazing thing to come out of the pandemic must surely be the unprecedented speed with which a safe and effective vaccine was produced. Being vaccinated is not only a way to protect yourself but also a way to protect those around us. Some of those people will be our closest friends and family but others will be total

strangers. Getting the vaccine is a way to take part in a collective act of love to others.”

Joanne Hendry – I.2.G



“During the Covid pandemic many people lost people they loved. Funerals were online, with actual mourners reduced to just a handful. Many people will relate to this block, but maybe not in the way I intended it. You see, this block represents me avoiding my granda’s funeral. He was a horrible man who physically and emotionally abused his wife and children, ruling them with an iron rod; a belt buckle actually. At any other time, I would have had to come up with a story, but Covid gave me the excuse not to go. I didn't want to hear people, particularly his children, telling pretty lies about him; I could think of NOTHING nice about him! So, instead, lit a candle and poured myself a brandy. I downed the brandy in one and said goodbye granda in my own way.”

Mary Hollick – III.4.C



“I have worked in a primary school for 30 years. When Covid hit I had been retired for 5 years. I was still going into school every week to volunteer reading with reception children and craft work with middle phase. When the schools were locked down, I felt at a loss and wondered how I could help contribute to the community in some small way. A manufacturer in our small local town set up a co-operative to make scrubs for the local hospitals. Fabric was sourced from bedding donated by the community. Also from local manufacturers and shops. The fabric and threads were delivered door-to-door by volunteers. We stitched the scrubs and they were picked up at the end of the week and delivered to hospitals in Gloucester and Wiltshire. The labels used in the scrubs was the NHS rainbow, which is a symbol of thanks and hope. This is why I have chosen the rainbow for my design. The co-operative produced several hundred scrubs bags and masks for health workers at the beginning of the pandemic when P.P.A. equipment was in scarce supply. It made the community feel that they were contributing in some small way. It made us feel less helpless in the wake of an unpredictable pandemic that was raging around the world.”



Lyn Holloway – I.7.H

“When I think of Covid it is with much confusion, hence a crazy quilt style. I have health problems and so does my husband and so it was a strange time. Luckily, we have both survived so far without contracting it. Let's hope it continues. Very worrying for people all over the world. Thank goodness for NHS and vaccinations.”



Kathleen Houghton – I.2.H

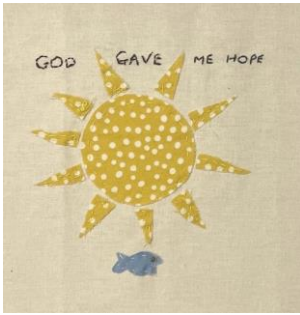
“Living in the Orkney Islands, Covid lockdown time was spent walking in our beautiful, spacious surroundings; small compensation for being unable to travel to spend time with family south in Scotland and Yorkshire. Orkney is a centre for renewable energy development; one proposed windfarm is planned on my native island, Hoy, on ancient peatland teeming with rare birds - white-tailed eagle, hen harriers and red-throated divers to name a few - and plants. My block represents a turbine, backed by the yellow square of sunshine and rain, surrounded by William Morris flowers, representing May Morris' connection with Melsetter House (see May Morris, Melsetter House Hangings, National Museum of Scotland, in collaboration with Theodosia Middlemore) and remembering bluebells in the spring woods beside the road. Let not man destroy our, and nature's, sources of comfort and solace.”



Gill Howes – III.9.A

“It took just one, and then went around the world.”

Lynn Hughes – II.4.B



“It was a very desperate and dark time for me mentally. It brought back to me my Grandad's saying "even in the darkest places, there is light". He was a pitman. I found Christianity in the dark and believe God's words "whoever walks with me will never be in darkness". Jesus became the light in my darkness and I have been blessed and bathed in light ever since he came into my life. My mood has risen and I have been reborn.

Covid gave me God and God gave me hope for a much brighter future.”

Mary Hunt – II.2.F



“We celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary on 10th April 2021 and had been looking forward to a family party, a get-together with our four children, their spouses and our four grandchildren, to celebrate the big occasion. Lockdown put a stop to that. No parties allowed and no unnecessary travel. So, my husband and I celebrated with a

nice home cooked meal, a glass of wine and golden yellow roses. We were just thankful that we were still happily together.”

Lesley Hutchinson – I.3.A



“My block is designed to represent 'light at the end of the tunnel' and optimism that, despite the challenges faced, we would find our way through to the other side. I have worked in the NHS for 15 years and will be retiring later this year (to concentrate on sewing and quilting!), but my first career was in the clothing industry and my comfort

has always been sewing. I am an enthusiast of colour; a perfect fit for quilting, so I was delighted that the colourful rainbow became symbolic of the NHS during the pandemic. I think it is a fitting choice, so I have included a rainbow in tribute to the NHS. We are living through very challenging times, but I wanted to create a block that symbolises OPTIMISM; and the hope that there will always be a Light at the end of the Tunnel for everyone.”

Sally Hutson – III.4.G



“With time on our hands, mountains of fabrics in our stash, miles of thread and a trusty sewing machine, thousands of people helped the NHS - by sewing! Old, new, antique and modern, mechanical and computerised sewing machines, many dug out from under the stairs, all, were put into action. A whole army of stitchers around the country created uniform scrubs, face masks, headbands, and scrub bags, all in glorious patterns and colours. Husbands and partners were conscripted to turn, trim, iron and pack. Many of us textile artists lost our mojo to create, worrying over the pandemic and being confined in lockdowns. Stitching simple but useful things repetitively helped us stay sane and gain focus. Millions of stitches united us and held the stitching army together. And we helped the brave NHS workers keep others alive.”

Helen Jones – III.6.A



“Like most people I wasn't prepared for the long lockdown that it was necessary to carry out to safeguard ourselves and others from catching Covid. Initially I resented being 'cooped up' unable to see friends and family - this is represented by the bars on my block. However, I very soon realised how very lucky I am. I live in a little village surrounded by beautiful countryside. I was able to go out every day to exercise and walk the lanes around my home. I began to take more notice of the way that nature just carries on regardless, and how beautiful it is. Observing nature and being able to go outside saved my sanity! The flowers over the bars represent the feeling of freedom this gave me.”



Kay Jones – III.8.E

“This square to be included in the "Covid Commemorative Quilt" is based on a drawing made by one of our grandchildren (aged 4.5 years) - assisted by his mum –for us during the first lockdown. We could not see any of our grandchildren or great grandchild. It gave us comfort knowing they were thinking about us. I have used the colours he chose for the rainbow but replaced the crock of gold with endless hearts/love. It represents love, beauty and hope.”



Marianne Ten Kate – II.9.C

“During the pandemic I was able to form a covid-bubble with my niece, her husband and their daughters, my great nieces, who were then five and three years old. They live 30 miles from me, but I was able to see them almost every other week. These visits made the isolation of the pandemic bearable. When I was by myself at home, I still felt the golden threads connecting me to them. I realised I had everything I needed and could still have laughter and love in my life despite the sadness that was seemingly everywhere and that I was therefore very lucky indeed.”



Janet Keenan – I.3.H

“Looking back over the last two years I can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of relief. The reason I can feel that relief is knowing how lucky I am to have "home, family, friends, health, nature, science, sewing and books". I am sure many people will echo these sentiments which shows how important they are.”

Carole King – I.9.B



“This flower is to commemorate the people who have fought Covid and lived to tell the tale, and to give hope to the people with Long Covid.”

Michaela Knight – I.6.E



“When Covid started to spread 22+ months ago, I immediately started to wrap my scarf around my face when going shopping. Then the first Mask Patterns came along and I made pleated masks for my husband and me. Then these pointed shaped masks came along and they fitted much better. My friend had a charity website for Cancer Research and I bought many masks from her. Now they are part of our lives. We have now so many masks, I can colour co-ordinate them with my outfit. I will not give up wearing masks for a long time yet...”

Hilary Jean Lawrenson – III.5.B



“There were so many difficulties for so many people over the last couple of years. Coming out of lockdown and rules people still seem to feel protected, and protecting with the mask on. I have made so many for people and as a sewing, quilting person, this was something I could do.”

Christine Leonard – II.10.D



“My block represents the anonymity that Covid 19 imposed on humanity. We have endured all kinds of physical barriers, screens in shops and one-way systems, social barriers, two metres distancing everywhere we went and enforced periods of self-isolation as the need arose. But for me it was the personal barrier of wearing face coverings/masks that has had the greatest impact, essential though they were. During a period in hospital in 2019 which was not Covid related, every single person I came into contact with wore a mask and it struck me how much more difficult it was to cope with the situation when I struggled to hear what people were saying and was constantly pressing the repeat button which was exhausting. All I could see were tired, anonymous eyes and I realised that I would never recognise any of them without a mask if I passed them in the street. Very strange times indeed.”

Gill Lewis – II.5.D



“This shows my feelings about the progress of Covid and the effects on our lives. Having always been interested in Escher's transformations and with my love of gardening and open space, this painting and embroidery shows the breakthrough from confinement to hope. May it continue.”

Margaret Logan – II.3.A



“This is my image of the Covid virus that I see every day in the media. It is a constant reminder of the plague that has blighted us all over the past two years. Our daily lives have changed in a way we could not have imagined and we have had to look at our own behaviours to try and reduce the impact on others. My block is a reminder that in life viruses of any kind will be with us always.”



Sandra Longley – III.8.G

“This block is a thank you to all the volunteers at Plymouth Home Park Vaccination Centre. The vaccination preventing the broken hearts when Covid hits the unvaccinated. The green fabric represents the grass at Home Park, Plymouth Argyle's football stadium. This is the fantastic view we have as we guide the public through the

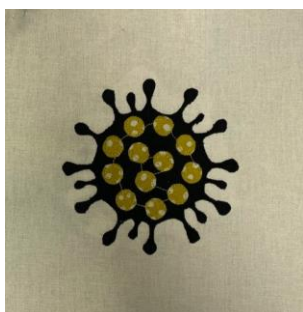
centre. Such a wonderful team to be part of.”



Assumpta Lydon – I.9.D

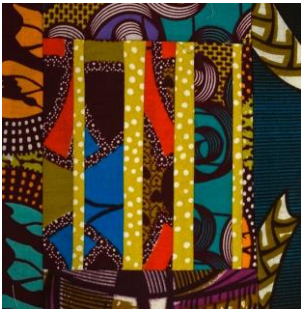
“I have tested positive for Covid this week as well as my 3 adult children. I thought it ironic that I should be sewing this block. The Celtic Knot is a symbol for family and unity, which I find myself thinking more about as we spend this time together - self isolating. 'Self, I think not! We have told each other stories, woes, love life, work life

and the world in general has been spoken of. Imagine my surprise that Covid could bring us, even if forcefully, together! As a widower you wonder and worry about your children, no matter what age, (32, 30 and 25!), but dealing with this and not very well, thank goodness they have pulled together, chatted more and made plans and entertained the dogs Yoyi and Luna. I also made this block on St Patrick's Day, so very symbolic!”



Claire Lynch – I.9.F

“A few years ago. not many people would have been familiar with the Coronavirus. However, the outbreak of Covid -19, has ensured that now, nearly everyone can recognise this virus (electron microscope view). Every day, the news is full of information about the virus, accompanied by the familiar Coronavirus pictures. I made my block to show the now instantly recognisable virus.”



Pauline Macaulay – II.9.A

“This block marks the thousands of people in the African continent who still await vaccination against Covid -19, and those who died. Made from African wax cottons and the print cotton unifying the quilt top. Machine pieced.”



Pamela Malabon – I.9.H

“I have sewn this square to commemorate my husband's life. He began to feel unwell in August 2020 and went into hospital in the September. He was diagnosed with incurable cancer and given 6 months to live - which he just achieved. It was a difficult winter with Covid and lockdowns but with the help of my two children managed to keep him home until the end. I have used the heart material to depict our love, being happily married for 55 years. He started a model train set when he retired hence the train fabric. The green hand depicts his love of gardening. The background blue of the train fabric and the yellow, which was a requirement, are the colours of Rotary. He was a member of Rotary for forty years and during that time volunteered in many ways to help the local community.”



Karen Maltby – III.2.D

“My block represents the healing power of being outside in the fresh air and in particular in my garden. Despite everything that was going on in the world at that time, being outside observing the flowers grow provided a sense of calm and optimism for the future. I have chosen to showcase the flowers in a Dresden block as this was a technique I learnt whilst attending an online class during lockdown.”

Diana Martin – III.8.D



“Long Covid”

“This block symbolises the rocky road from infection to a complete recovery - I hope!”

Amanda Mason – II.5.H



“I made this block using an improv technique with applique and embroidery techniques. I reflected on how the feelings of the pandemic took me, first feeling scared, sad, worried and then as the vaccination programme took off these feelings changed to hope and feeling grateful for my family and home where I feel safe.”

Mary Mayne – I.7.A



“One of the main things I missed during lockdown was being able to give my family and friends a hug. I think many people felt the same. This block commemorates being able to give all those hugs now and I hope this is reflected in the block. Blue and white represents the NHS and the two figures the community feelings being shared again.

The white curves represent arms open wide ready to give a hug to anyone who might need one.”

Laura McHard – I.4.D



“Faltering Steps to Health. The steps taken to emerge from Covid have been many and uneven, but eventually our scientists and healthcare staff will get us to a healthy outcome.”

Helen McKinnon – III.3.D



“My block celebrates joining the Scrubbery in April 2020. It is a voluntary group in South West London making washable items of personal protection, such as scrubs sets, masks and hats, for health and care staff lacking an adequate supply from elsewhere.

The sewing gave me an immense sense of purpose during the uncertainty of lockdown, enabling me to make a practical contribution to supporting health and care staff facing severely challenging conditions. I made almost 90 scrubs sets in difference sizes, particularly for those of petite or tall and slim build previously unable to obtain properly fitting work clothing. The fabric ranged from plain and workaday colours to brightly patterned. A selection is used in my block. I embroidered each item inside with the letter H in green as my way of saying ‘made by me in thanks for the essential work you do’.”

Margaret McQuillen – III.3.B



“As daffodils are one of the first flowers to bloom in spring, they represent new beginnings, which I felt appropriate as we begin to emerge from our lockdowns and restrictions.”

George McVittie – I.6.D



“My work shows the unfortunate ones who suffered in hospital. This could have been me but I isolated myself for a whole year.”

Morag Medwin – I.9.C



“Lockdown 2020 coincided with the start of my phased retirement from the NHS, so my extra home-time was now filled with lockdown projects to keep me busy. One of these was the making of a bed quilt, as my first ever quilting project. I decided on a scrappy quilt with the fabric coming from my vast dressmaking stash of fabrics. It took me a year to finish it, but I was chuffed with the result, and throughout it all the stars continued to shine each day throughout the pandemic. This square is made from the scraps of the quilting pieces and reminds me that the small things in life keep us going and do make a difference and the stars will keep shining.”

Yvonne Memory – I.2.E



“I took early retirement from the NHS in 2019. When lockdown struck, I wanted to help and joined a 'scrub hub' to provide uniform, gowns and bags to enable dirty uniform to be put straight in the washer without touching it. None of my neighbours had any spare duvet covers or sheets left! Companies donated fabric and the hub fundraised for materials. I made 10 full sets of scrubs (I had never made clothes before), 240 scrub bags, 100 mask extenders and 20 masks for family and neighbours. I used 12km of thread in my overlocker!! and 500m of tape in the bags when I ran out of buttons, my husband used his 3D printer to make them! Our hub saved the NHS over £125000 on the cost to buy uniform. I feel privileged to have been able to help.”

Jenny Michell – III.6.E



“Because of making lots of face masks during the pandemic I decided this was an appropriate subject for my square. During the first lockdown I was trying out different styles of mask, as were various friends. It also indicates the new 'normal' we had for a long time of only seeing people's eyes and not the lower half of their faces!

This square is similar to one that I made for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Covid quilt, which was initiated by the Mayor of the Borough. I also helped to assemble that quilt which has been on display in The Museum of Richmond (Surrey) and will be part of their permanent collection.”

Anne Middleton – I.9.H



“Our community grew into a strong support network. Groups formed to help with whatever skills, care and provisions they had. A friendly wave, a regular phone call, happy music played across the valley to lift the spirits were precious moments. We slowed, we shared. Covid reminds us that nothing is certain, however, the sun always shines, the tide flows in and out. The glass beads depict the support groups that formed - the golden tree shows distress and loss that we all experienced, supported by the people (knots). There were dark days and lighter days. On a gentle background of waves, we are by the sea in clay country, our community is stronger and the sun rose this morning.”

Emily Miller – I.5.H



“My block represents meeting up virtually for a coffee, which became popular during the lockdowns - both as part of work and personally. It helped us to keep in touch with colleagues and friends, as well as supporting people's wellbeing and helping not to become isolated. I have used the yellow material to create a 'custard cream' biscuit.

The rest of the fabric was left-over from making face masks.”

Beth Miller – I.4.D



“When Covid struck my first thought was to make masks for all. I then joined 'Yorkshire Scrubs', a group making all and everything. With over 3500 members we achieved so much - 22585 sets of scrubs, over 50000 accessories and using over 120km of fabric. Home was base for everyone and with the sun shining we all got sewing for our NHS.

Even after having Covid myself and getting hospitalised it didn't put me off. I am still sewing and helping one of our local hospices only now I have included the Ukraine into my sewing for others section. My block shows home, sunshine rainbow for our wonderful NHS, whom I cannot thank enough.”

Kim Mitchell – I.10.E



“This simple block is made in memory of my lovely mum who passed away on 26th April 2020. Sadly, mum never had a funeral, just a cremation due to Covid, with no family. Mum and I enjoyed sewing together, these hexagons, apart from the yellow ones, are what mum made which I found and felt I had to use them in this block in her memory.

Mum loved Liberty and sewing hexagons, but as her eyesight deteriorated and then Dementia came mum could no longer sew. The forget-me-not is not only the Dementia flower badge, I will never forget my lovely mum.”

Kathy Moore – II.4.A



“Discombobulated”

“My little block represents the disconnect we felt during the Covid years and the return to an almost synchronised mode as the pandemic weakens.”

Veronica Moore – I.9.E



“This block represents the freedom to walk in parks and country estates when we were allowed to. My local park during the early hours of the day was a place of peace and fresh air. As we could travel further, nature reserves were an added bonus.”

Ann Moorhead – III.8.H



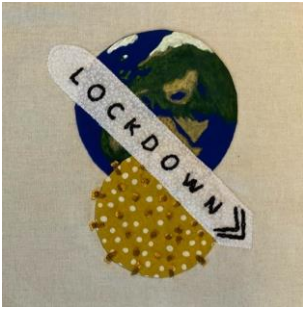
“During lockdown social distancing signage and stickers sprung up everywhere - in shops, banks, wherever anyone queued and even in parks. For me they became a metaphor for the social isolation many people felt at that time.”

Karen Morehouse – III.10.F



“I took the many weeks of home school as the inspiration for this quilt block. The picture represents myself with my two daughters, one with headphones on a Zoom call and the other working with myself on a laptop. My older daughter had online classes, but I had to be a lot more hands on with my younger daughter. I pictured us all smiling, but some days were not easy! On reflection, I feel that we all grew as a family, learning to function together. I've just started a new job and feel that my time home learning gave me back some self-confidence, not to mention, becoming an expert in multi-tasking and patience! The house and background were designed and constructed using foundation paper piecing. I then used hand applique to stitch on the rest of the design.”

Rosemary Morgan – I.7.F



“March 23rd 2020 England was put into a lockdown caused by the covid pandemic. A few days later I received a letter from Matt Hancock advising that I am considered vulnerable therefore should only go out for exercise and fresh air once a day. This came as quite a shock. At the time I was 76 but very active. However, I did as was advised and stuck to the guidelines for a year. March 2021 came the letter to say no longer need to shield but use common sense. April 2021, I had an accident and broke my right leg badly which required surgery. Throughout the last year I have had many hospital appointments. I am now waiting to have another operation. Much of the world was locked down for 1 year. I feel that I have been locked down for 2 years.”

Rene Morris – II.3.B



“During the first lockdown, when we were feeling particularly vulnerable, our granddaughter Gemma kindly offered to do our weekly grocery shopping. When visiting, little Charlie, our great grandson, 2.5 years usually rushes in to play with his tractors. It was particularly poignant when grandad opened the door to find a tearful Charlie carrying his little bag of shopping for us, saying "We can't come in 'cos of the 'ronavirus'. This just had to be the inspiration for my square!”

Barbara Moxey – II.8.B



“There's a star for everyone and a star in everyone. Some people seek stardom but this star is for those who became stars through care, love and humility.”



Inez Munton – II.5.F

“I made this quilt square to remember my husband Dr Robert James Munton who died on 24 December 2020, aged 91, after being admitted to hospital and then contracting Covid there. The strip of Somerset patchwork in the middle represents the 9 decades of his long life through Childhood, School, University, Graduation, Marriage, Engineer, Father, Lecturer and Grandpa to his two grandsons. The fabrics I have used are remnants left from a quilt made many years ago for one of our grandsons. Bob was always very interested in and supportive of my textile work and liked to contribute with design and planning. He was also very good at cutting the fabrics ready for assembly which was a great help. He would have loved to see the finished result of the Covid quilt. He is sorely missed by all his family.”



Ruth Murray – I.3.C

“A bit embarrassed at my block, but "anything goes", so will send it. Won't be upset if not used. Let's call it a "disjointed rainbow", remembering all the ups and downs of the NHS. I'm relieved not to have had need of their services throughout Covid, but thank them for all they have done.”



Sheila Musson – III.2.B

“My block of a tree shows spring, summer and autumn. Reflecting how we became more aware of our seasons whilst taking our daily walk. I also lost my husband (not Covid related) suddenly in 2021, so it also reflects the stages of grief. Luckily, I have not experienced winter - i.e., depression.”

Jane Nairn – II.7.C



“We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the scientific community who formulated the first vaccine for Covid 19 and to the NHS who rolled the vaccine programme out. They in turn relied on earlier knowledge and experience. In the words of Isaac Newton "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants" (1676). In memory

of Elizabeth Florence Bailey - my maternal grandmother - who died aged 38 of lobar pneumonia when my mother was 9 months old.”

Moira Neal – III.3.C



“I'm pleased to say I lost no-one near to me with Covid, so decided to focus on the future with my block. As a Speaker, I have given several zoom presentations to far flung quilt groups and our local group has also kept going by offering zoom presentations. For me, the joy of meeting again in person is fabulous and heralds the

emergence into a brave new world... filled with colour, creativity and love.”

Sue Norgrove-Moore – III.6.G



“Covid sent us in all directions - two people, together yet isolated from the world. It was an exceptionally bright, sunny, yellow spring, but as summer faded, my partner got very ill. Dark days, confusing days, scary days. Yet he survived, with the help of amazing NHS staff. He won't ever be truly well again, but the sun shines brightly today and we

move forward together, there is less darkness now.”

Sheena Norquay – II.6.B



“During the pandemic, the main word by politicians to describe it was 'unprecedented'. It was a word I began to dislike and I lost count of the number of times I heard it. I embroidered it in the colours of the rainbow, a popular image since the start of the pandemic, often appearing in windows. It has been a dark and difficult time for many people. This is symbolised by the black circle. Covid 19 appears at the bottom of the circle and is being pierced by 3 injection needles which represent the 3 vaccinations we had to protect us. The blue crosses symbolise death and grief, the yellow circle represents light at the end of the dark tunnel. Hand applied and embroidered.”

Victoria Nowell – I.2.C



“When I think back to the early days of the pandemic what struck me was how isolated I suddenly became. I went from regular commuting to never leaving my house. My mother-in-law moved in and, later on, more family joined us but I felt like I had lost my life, my work and my independence. I was struggling with new jobs where everyone was virtual. And then, we began to form little bubbles but I couldn't hug anyone (I am a hugger) so I still felt isolated. But in times of trouble, you find out who your friends are - and my support network has been amazing. I still feel uncertain about the future. I am not sure where I am going or how to get there now. But with the support of my friends, I will get there.”

Caroline Oakes – I.2.F



“This block is dedicated to two friends, Janet Alexander, who died of cancer at the start of the first lockdown, and Janette Whitehurst, one of my oldest friends who died of heart complications in August 2021. The block is made up of the print fabric sent to me, and my own handwoven fabric. I spent many hours weaving during the first lockdown, so improving. The blue represents the NHS workers who had so much to deal with. The lines represent community, the colours crossing showing how we need each other. I particularly think of my own community who supported each other during the pandemic, and still are.”

Amanda Ogden – II.10.B



“During the first lockdown, my friend Aimee Smith (who makes couture wedding gowns) set up a hub in the North-East to make scrubs and scrubs bags for NHS workers. I set my Bernina up on our kitchen table which was piled high with lengths of fabrics for the bags. A photo was taken for my blog and I used it as reference for this applique and hand-stitched block. Since then, I have moved to the South-East and Aimee is back making couture garments for weddings. The days of sewing for others are key memories of the Covid-19 lockdowns for me.”

Imelda O'Grady – I.4.G



“My block is called "A New Hope". I am focusing on looking forward from the trauma of the last few years of Covid. Machine pieced and foundation pieced.”



Julie Oxley – III.4.H

“Covid brought tragedy with the death of a loved one in hospital alone. Robbed of the opportunity to say goodbye and hold their hand after a long life well lived. Grief hits hard. Funerals with set numbers and telling some ‘Sorry, there is no room’. The lonely journey home to grieve alone. Then the joy of a beautiful baby boy we celebrate together luckily with no restrictions. This design represents the loss and joy with a rainbow - the symbol of the amazing staff who have been there for all our family journeys. Holding the hand of a dying loved one, taking our place, never to be forgotten. And a team of midwives and obstetricians bringing new life into the world. Time stands still when facing dark days yet time marches on in the beautiful face of a new life, bringing more joy than can be put into words.”



Jill Packer – III.7.C

“Scientists worldwide have been studying, bacteria, disease and viruses, and are producing vaccines to protect us, especially during this Coronavirus pandemic. We owe them and health workers so much for their tireless work, keeping us safe. We are so grateful.”



Jacqueline Palmer – II.7.E

“My block signifies the work of the special ladies at my local sewing group in Berkhamsted. Over many months, our Bee ladies spent their free time in lockdown making items for the local Hospice and Watford/Stoke Mandeville wards/units. In Spring 2020, social media was reporting stories of medical staff having to take home and wash their own scrubs and they were in desperate need of 'scrub bags'. Our local hospice needed masks for volunteers to wear... and nursing friends asked for buttoned headbands - to help keep masks from rubbing their ears. Our members were soon dropping off bags of handstitched items at my door ready to distribute. One member made over 200 scrub bags! Working at the sewing machine we felt we were doing our best to help those on the 'frontline' feel less HELPLESS! and more HELPFUL!”



Jean Parrott – III.1.E

“My block is an off-centre Log Cabin using mainly cotton scraps from my stash with embroidered 'prison bars' over a central oblong indicating lockdown which was 'fast in' and 'slow out'. I have used permanent pens to write in the date of my eldest granddaughter's wedding on 14th March 2020 - almost the last performed at the Bristol Registry Office before lockdown was imposed then, above the 'prison' - 19th September 2021 - when gatherings were once again allowed, in my case first, for a sadly missed choir, soon followed by monthly WI meetings etc. Embroidered crosses, queries and Exclamation marks, etc. show general uncertainty as well as use of zigzag and more gentle curved machine quilted lines around outermost sections of the piece.”



Suzanne Pass – I.8.F

“Blue sky or grey sky, quilting can bring joy! Lockdowns were periods of great creativity for me. I made many rainbow quilts, including one for the Quilters Guild Challenge 2021. My "Double Gillymac Rainbow" quilt used this technique of laying down ribbon on the diagonal, then applying applique on top. Lockdowns proved challenging in many ways, but my love for quilting grew.”



Lucy Paton – III.3.G

“During 2020 I was one of over 50,000 sewers who joined a group started by a nurse called Ashleigh Linsell, called 'For the Love of Scrubs', that made scrubs for the NHS, they were mainly brightly coloured rainbow scrubs. It was lovely to have been part of this group.”



Alison Pearson – I.3.G

“Covid lockdown meant we were imprisoned in our own homes, fearful of the unseen virus, not knowing when our sentence would come to an end. This block depicts marking off the days - the yellow strikes being the more hopeful, positive days until eventually, thanks to the vaccine, there came the day when it wasn't necessary to mark off the days anymore.”

Carole Pearson – I.2.D



"Tree of Hope".

"Despite the suffering, upset and worries, outdoors and nature became ever more important providing a calming and positive focus. We all became more aware of the small things taken for granted or not noticed before - the joy of things growing and flowering and the beauty around us."

Siân Phillips – II.2.D



Spiros."

"Spiros came to us as a tiny kitten from a local farm. He was all alone in a cowshed as his mother had died. We hand reared him, at first every two hours. He repaid us for 18 years by being a loving, gentle and happy cat. Throughout the long lockdown he was always close by ready for a cuddle. His death has left a huge hole in our hearts. R.I.P.

Sylvie Plested – III.5.G



"Covid", but I used red for love - the red button hearts. I made 80 scrub bags for nurses and over 100 hearts. My neighbour took them to the hospital where she works in ICU; all her colleagues thanked me for the bags. I reduced my stash and I made people happy. Covid for me had more positive than negative aspects."

Susan Price – III.2.C



“I feel extremely blessed my family were safe during Covid, many were not. It was very hard though, not to be able to visit my family in the USA. At the start of 2019, my son and his wife, lost a dearly longed for pregnancy and I wasn't there to help and support them. My heart broke watching them struggle alone. Thankfully, they now have a beautiful son, who I have yet to meet. My granddaughter was only 18 months old when I last saw her and she is almost 4 years old now. I yearn to hold them both close and now the skies have reopened, I am sure that will be possible. My block represents the miles apart and the love that holds us together.”

Helen Pringle – I.6.H



“The Covid pandemic has been an awful time for us all, but lockdown did give me the opportunity and time to bring a puppy into my home, which I had been wanting to do for many years. Max is a Springer Spaniel (hence the image on my block) and full of energy and he has brought immense pleasure into my life.”

Julie Reid – II.1.E



“Through the lockdown I moved house, so now I have a new house. I needed a haircut as it got really long.”



Penny Reid – II.9.D

“This reflects the loss of my husband Tony Reid in April 2020. He did not die of COVID but because of COVID, compulsorily abandoned after 18 months of daily visits because we weren't allowed to enter the nursing home - a sudden change for someone with Dementia with Lewy Bodies who didn't cope well with disrupted routine. The staff could not have cared more if he'd been one of their own family. We could not visit him for 5 weeks but were allowed into the nursing home within an hour of his death, still warm beneath the last quilt I made for him. There's a piece of fabric from that quilt in the block. The block shows a rising sun that happened every morning regardless of COVID, overlaid with a black ribbon for Tony's early death, and a broken heart for the abrupt end to our 50+ years of marriage.”



Dulcie Richards – II.6.G

“I have enjoyed crafting during Covid lockdown as it has helped keep the stress level down. Unfortunately, I lost my uncle, my last connection to my deceased mother. He battled cancer for all 2020 only to get Covid in January 2021 and died in hospital. He was a merchant seaman and was able to see the world and told us many mad stories of his travels. I have included the rainbow for three reasons; as a recognition of the work of the NHS; showing you have to have rain (bad times) to get a rainbow; God's promise that he is there for us all.”

Sally Riley – II.2.C



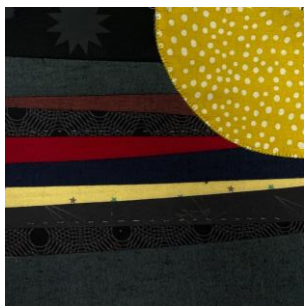
“At the beginning of first lockdown I was diagnosed with breast cancer and treated throughout the lockdown until September 2020. Then ongoing to present day to prevent recurrence. Summer 2020: enjoyed time in the garden, talking to neighbours over the fence and having a drink. No family contact. Spring 2021: watched frogs in the garden - saw them and newts develop and grow. Really enjoyed the wildlife visiting: birds, dragonflies, bees. Had first Covid jab in February 2021 - 3 hours later had massive heart/chest pains. Still alive next morning. So phoned G.P. - told not a problem!!? No more vaccines for me - still waiting for heart check-up (12/12/2021!) Autumn 2021: mood levels dropping and motivation low. Hopes for the future to be able to travel freely to visit family - also to not always need to wear a mask or take lateral flow tests to feel safe - Omicron.”

Sylvia Roche – I.1.G



“I spent the whole of lockdown in the garden. We live in a lovely part of the country so could be outside all the time. The rainbow is because I made rainbow hearts (crocheted) for family members, the block is the garden with flowers in - grew lots of vegetables as well. The pink flowers represent cherry blossom in Japan, as our quilt group had made wall hangings representing Japan for Olympics but unfortunately the Queen Bee Quilt show where we would show it was cancelled in 2020.”

Vera Root – II.6.A



“The dark, uneven stripes in my block represent the difficult times during the pandemic, days full of fear, pain, blood, tears and mourning. The yellow quarter circle is, of course, the sun and it represents the recovery from the pandemic, the hope, the future, the light. I wanted to say that even during the darkest days the hope was there, sometimes strong like that yellow stripe, sometimes just like a glimpse of it, like the golden thread in my hand quilting.”



Pauline Salt – III.1.B

“COVID posed a huge threat to our small island community of 2000 people. Our main defense was the sea. Throughout lockdowns, and our COVID free existence whilst border restrictions on sea and air travelers were in place, I spent my days sewing and quilting with my Bernina sewing machines. Border restrictions lifted and COVID arrived and we lost our safe island isolation. My home then became my safe place and continues to be so. Thank goodness for my Berninas and my stash of fabrics. I am happy in my isolation.”



Susan Searson – II.4.D

“My block represents the end of lockdowns and being able to invite family and friends back into my home. At the beginning of the lockdowns in March 2019, I had a year-old granddaughter and a grandson who was six months old and not being able to cuddle and physically be near these two much longed for babies was very, very difficult. We missed our granddaughter's 2nd birthday being in another lockdown, so it was a great day when we could throw open our front door and welcome everyone in.”



Deb Shann – II.1.C

“My square has been made in memory of my friend Linden Fairman, who died of Covid in April 2020. She was age 51. Linden was one of life's colourful people and up for anything. She left behind two lovely children, Kai and Eliza, and her ex-partner Stuart. Linden lived in Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, Bucks.”



Rebecca Sharp – I.5.B

“There are too many thoughts about the pandemic to put into words. I chose to commemorate the panic buying of the early days when we didn't know how this would play out and there was a lot of fear. We never panic bought toilet rolls (represented ... badly ... by the pile of six on the left). However, we did panic buy a car! As we knew we'd be going into lockdown imminently we had one day to choose and ended up with a bright yellow car - it brought a ray of sunshine to our street and our neighbours have commented how cheery it is. The tree represents how important nature has been and hints at the guilt of owning a car during the climate crisis. The green slope with chaotic stitching represents what seemed an insurmountable challenge when the pandemic started and gives a nod to the widespread use of graphs and data on the news cycle.”



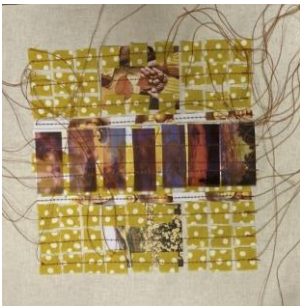
Jane Sheldon – III.2.H

“My block is of NHS blues. During the pandemic I sewed numerous sets of scrubs for the Ninewells Hospital in Dundee in Shades of blue. A family member spent some time in hospital and it reminds me of visiting and talking to nurses in these various shades of blue. All the NHS workers did an amazing and professional job under such difficult conditions. We are so lucky to have our NHS.”



Kerry Sherriff – I.3.E

“Our best friend Steph loved travel and was very well regarded in the industry. She adored Crete and after reading *The Island* by Victoria Hislop, she nagged us to visit Spinalonga - the beautiful, sad island where so many people had been isolated from their families. She knew the hotel owners and secretly arranged treats to make the holiday extra special. She was like that with everyone - suppliers, family, friends - she always found thoughtful ways to give more. Steph was diagnosed during lockdown with an aggressive cancer that claimed her life in just 2 short months. Just like her favourite story, she too was separated from her loving family and so, we became her family, staying with her until her last flight. The block is the view through one of the iconic domes of the hotel, overlooking Spinalonga with the three of us together forever - the Three Musketeers.”



Nina Slater – III.10.B

“My block illustrates both nature and the passing of time. We have all had a forced pause in our lives. For me this pause made me see the beauty of the sunshine, sky, clouds and human kindness. The loose threads illustrate the unfinished or ongoing pause in our journeys.”

Janice Slator – III.2.E



“During the lockdown of late autumn 2020, the sewing group I was in participated in a quilt block of the day with the theme of Underground Railroad Quilts. Sewing these daily blocks helped to keep me going through a very dark time of the year and of the situation we were in due to pandemic. Through the mindful sewing of these blocks, I felt a connection to all those past and present sewing through times of both personal and communal crisis. I decided to choose one of these traditional blocks as my contribution to the Covid Commemorative Quilt. The Log Cabin block represents the home which was so important to us during the pandemic. I was very happy to be able to use scraps of fabric from my Underground Railroad Quilt in the block.”

Hazel Smee – III.6.D



“This piece is entitled 'Hope', and is based on the famous quote from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 'Hope is being able to see there is light, despite all the darkness'. The waves of the dark fabric have been taken from the graph data of deaths from Covid over the pandemic in Great Britain. The yellow fabric mirrors the waves of death but depicts the ebb and flow of hope experienced. Between the two layers of contrasting fabric tears are represented by dark French knots and tiny seed beads which gradually become tiny golden seed beads, tears of hope. The devastation of the pandemic also brought out the very best and all that is good in communities and individuals. Hope will ultimately win through.”

Margaret Smith – II.8.D



“My block represents my rural home and garden with frequent visits from birds and wildlife, a retreat from the world. Yes, we're lucky. The heroes of the pandemic are too numerous to mention, but I thank each and every one of them for keeping us safe. The scientists whose heroic efforts produced the vaccine, especially Dame Sarah Gilbert and her team. The whole of NHS staff who have worked tirelessly, under enormous pressure, to treat the sick, given compassion to loved ones, and for the roll out of the vaccine. To all workers who have supplied us with essentials and kept essential services running, especially the quilt shops for supplying us with the materials to enable us to carry on sewing. The World is now a very different place and it will be a long time before I feel able to travel and resume the life I had before.”

Sandra Smith – III.9.E



“You asked for a block reflecting our thoughts on the pandemic and recovery from it. The last two years have been grey. So many things that brought colour and stimulation to our lives were paused. Time passed quickly because, with nothing to mark its passing, each day was the same, confined, constrained and grey. Our lives have been dominated by this lively and dynamic virus and, although restrictions are lifting, the spikey little virus is still here.”

Veronica Smith – III.7.G



“The Bluebird of Happiness and the Heart representing love is for my three daughters. One is a midwife, one is a senior nurse and one is a teacher. Between them they have 10 children and as front-line workers they all worked tireless throughout the pandemic. I am so proud of them.”

Wendy Ann Smith – I.7.C



“I chose my block design for the Commemorative Quilt to celebrate the life of my brother-in-law LCpl Neil Dimelow. Neil died from cancer in 2020 during the Covid pandemic which was very hard on him and his family. We are a very close family and none of us were able to visit him, support his wife Kathryn, daughter Nicola or son Leigh or say goodbye personally due to stringent hospital rules. He served as a Green Howard in the Yorkshire Regiment, as a younger man, and some of his Regiment honoured him at his funeral. It seemed fitting to commemorate him on this quilt with the Green Howard badge of which he was immensely proud.”

Jenny Spouge – III.8.A



“This block represents the Luton Covid Memorial on the outside wall of Wigmore Church. A textile flower, tied to trellis, represents each life lost to the virus in the town. The flowers have been created by my friend, Gail Bennett, and I - both of us finding the creating helpful to our mental health at this time as well as creating a beautiful memorial which families can visit.”

Susan Stehli – I.5.A



“During the first lockdown, I spent many hours hand-stitching a quilt made up of paper-pieced diamond shapes. I called it "Precious Moments". The colourful centre diamond shape, was made up of scraps from my stash and precious scraps donated by quilting friends. The slow methodical hand-stitching process was meditative and healing as I grieved for my beloved mum who died three weeks into lockdown. She loved my quilt creations. I also spent hours walking along our local beach, which further helped with my mental health. So, my commemorative block reflects walks on sandy beaches, the glorious sunny warm weather we enjoyed at the time, and the paper-pieced quilt that I was working on during the first Covid lockdown.”

Michele Stephen – II.7.F



“Covid turned our lives upside down. The skeleton skull shows how it terrified me. Relationships broke down - the orange block shows this - as well as being separated from loved ones. Both adult children had to return home. Redundancy and job loss was part of this nightmare. But ... birdsong every morning was amazing! Yellow heart

– Love and Hope!”

Sara Sullivan – III.3.H



“I felt very strongly that the vaccines enabled us to emerge from the darkness and fear of Covid. They were the rays of hope shining through the dark clouds.”

F. Syckelmoore – III.3.A



"From the Window"

“During the first lockdown I made many pairs of scrubs for the NHS and other users. I would sit at my sewing machine (a Bernina) and enjoy the ever-changing view of Kingsplay Hill, as the seasons came and went in 2020. All windows from the back of our house enjoy this view. It is where I take solace and it is a wonderful place to walk up to, sit and enjoy the view of the village below, contemplate, picnic or just to breathe in the fresh air, well away from anything Covid! Of course, with the dog for company.”

Emma Tabor – II.1.D



“I am an artist but I have also always sewn. During the lockdown I found it difficult to do my usual work and turned to sewing instead to keep myself busy, finishing a number of old projects and trying new techniques. After the summer of 2020 I joined a year-long fabric dyeing and painting course with one day workshops once a month, as an activity to get me out and about again. Subsequent lockdowns meant it didn't quite go to plan but the workshop organisers worked hard to re-organise dates so we could complete the course. The block uses fabric that I hand dyed on the course. I have used a crazy patchwork style as I also did my first zoom workshop last year making a crazy patchwork elephant. The block is a representation of the hope gained through old skills revitalised and new skills learnt during difficult times.”

Sharon Talbot – III.7.A



“This block celebrates my two youngest grandsons, born during the pandemic. One arrived on 1st May 2020 - right in the middle of the first lockdown. The other one arrived on 29th May 2021 - great cause for celebration as he was a much longed for IVF baby and for a while it seemed like all treatment would be suspended indefinitely.”

Merrill Tanton – II.4.F

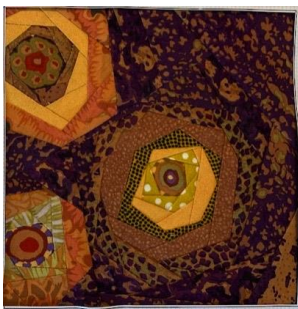


“My block represents the care of key workers who gave so much to those who could not be with their families in their last hours. The power of touch and holding a hand became significant and poignant for so many, even with the blue gloves. My heartfelt thanks go to all those who gave comfort to anyone suffering, so they did not feel alone.”



Liz Temple – II.6.D

“During Covid lockdown, my husband and I were in contact with our family through Skype. We were all so pleased to see each other and hear each other, even if it was only on our computer screen. One of my most positive memories of 2020.”



Gail Theis – I.1.B

“This is foundation paper piecing but done as if it is crazy quilting to use the base fabric provided. It is designed to take the whole square and there is a margin around it to "bleed" into which is why I have placed the frame over it. So, you can see how it is designed to look. Probably self-evident but the circles are the virus and they radiate out, joint spread. So far, we have had three main ones and so there are three circles.”



Elizabeth Thomas – I.9.G

“A global pandemic with the world at the centre, things we did on one half, and the emerging world on the other. It was a time of anxiety, while hoping for better days.”

Barbara Thompson – I.4.C



“For me, personally, I feel the vaccine has represented a breakthrough in the "fight" against Covid. True, it does not prevent you catching the virus but, in the knowledge that, having had all our "jabs" and "booster(s)", we are as protected as we possibly can be, we can start to regain some freedom, however cautiously, to start to live again; to meet with family and friends once more; to hug our loved ones and to look to the future with renewed optimism.”

Eileen Thomson – III.1.D



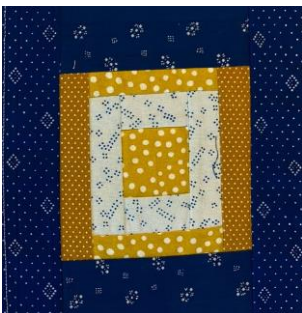
“John James Smith was born in Motherwell, Lanarkshire, on 3rd February 1957, but lived his whole life in Wishaw and, his sister, Elizabeth, is my closest friend. He developed learning difficulties from meningitis, but despite this, his life was full and eventful. He was a season ticket holder with Motherwell FC, loved music and musical theatre, going out for lunch and was so proud of his house and garden. Like many, he found lockdown challenging and maybe difficult to comprehend, but with support from some wonderful carers and regular family zoom bingo, quiz and music sessions he coped well. In January 2021 he contracted Covid and died in hospital. Colour choice - Motherwell FC - Amber and Claret. Clock' fabric - John's sense of humour and his hilarity at people forgetting to change their clocks. Batchelor Boy - his favourite, Cliff Richard, was played at his funeral.”

Marie Thompson – III.8.C



“My square shows the important things to me in 2021. My group of lady friends decided to swap poetry, by email, on a regular basis. This has caused much discussion, interest, investigation, laughs and delights, as well as broadening all our minds. Sometimes we even wrote our own. We have many favourites, including Maya Angelou, Seamus Heaney and Charles Bukowski. I think we must have over 400 by now. My family has also been very important and supportive during the lockdowns. One of my daughters is a practice nurse so I know first-hand how hard it has been for her working so many extra hours with vaccinations. My garden has been the perfect place to while away the hours, giving me much pleasure.”

Gilly Thomson – I.4.F



“Covid has meant staying at home a lot more than usual these past two years, and the first year, I spent a lot of that time in my "log cabin" in the garden. This is my sewing room. Since I like making log cabin quilts, it seems appropriate to make a log cabin block for the Covid Commemorative Quilt. I have used some of the "Kekfesto Cotton" in the block too, as I had intended to close the website business that I have been running for the past eighteen years, but Covid has delayed that too, as there have not been any events to go to, in order to sell the fabric.”

Jenny Thomson – III.5.H



“In March 2021, I decided to re-register as a General Nurse to help with the Covid vaccination crisis. The organisation at grass roots level of the 5 Rural Surgeries in my part of Cheshire was amazing. We vaccinated over 2,500 patients using volunteers and Primary Care staff. The Primary Care Managers worked out the logistics of rotas, vaccine deliveries etc., as well as their day jobs. I was very proud to be part of the team, and loved every minute of it. At present, I am in isolation as my husband of 73 has just tested positive to Covid. I thank God that we had the opportunity to both receive our 3rd vaccine in the Autumn.”

Carol Thorn – II.3.H



“My block represents the need to look out of windows to see what is going on. Everything is filtered by the glass! Thank goodness for real people!”

Merna Timmins – II.8.H



“Tractor Shed Café”

“The Threads of Friendship that Hold us Together. Each week during lockdown the 6 of us, Daphne, Jasmine, Jayne, Linda, Merna and Sue, met on Zoom did our show and tell what we had bought online. Then as restrictions eased, we met in my open Tractor Shed (cafe) coming regardless of weather, masked and sanitized, blankets and boots. We felt so lucky to be able to meet up to share and support each other in our safe place. We helped our local NHS by sewing wash bags for nurses and masks for friends. Quilting has unravelled itself and sewn together 6 friends.”

Maya Tolmie – III.9.C



“Trees became magical. Dead leaves fell in autumn and yet returned full of life in spring. Sparkling with hope and a new story.”

Christine Toomey – I.6.G



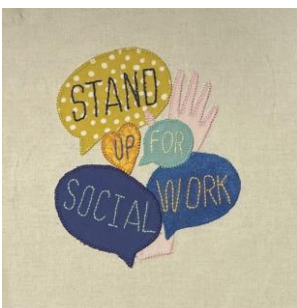
“My block is made up of scraps from the 145 masks and 45 bags I made during the first lockdown. The actual design is based on a card I saw that had a face in the window. During the second lockdown my husband had an emergency operation, and we sadly lost my mother-in-law to Covid. The NHS saved my husband's life, and although he has a long road to travel, the rainbow reflects the NHS, and the hope for a brighter future. All the fabric is cotton, and the threads are a polycotton, which are all tested and pre-worked at 40 degrees. Thank you for including me, as a disabled person, the NHS is of particular importance to me.”

Violet Tosh – I.10.B



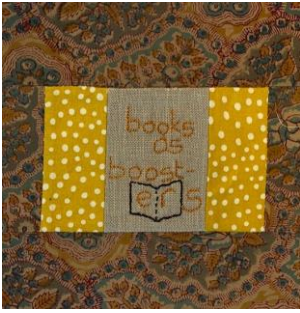
“The pandemic has been my worst time ever, it was just a big BLACK hole, and just when you thought things were getting better, it started again. At its height I was very low and things were so disjointed. I hope you can see this in my stitching. I still don't feel happy about how things are and find it difficult to go out and about to shows and exhibitions.”

Alison Townley – II.5.C



“The NHS received a great deal of well-deserved praise for their herculean efforts during the Pandemic, but they weren't the only group of people who worked tirelessly throughout to keep the country safe. Being a Social Worker, I want to give a shout out for Social Care, and the people who worked in very difficult circumstances. Some working from their own homes, isolated from their supportive community, with fewer and fewer resources to call upon. Others left their homes and isolated themselves from their own families, to support the most vulnerable. These were dark days, so for everyone in social care who spent the time of Pandemic trying to keep vulnerable people safe, supported and out of hospital, a heartfelt Thank You.”

Penny Trigg – II.8.E



“Books as Boosters”.

“I understand that independent bookshops were facing a worrying future before the pandemic, and some people were talking about the inevitable decline of local, high-street bookshops, and the buying of real books too. However, I think there's been a turnaround as people have discovered what reading real books can do for your quality of life, and how important it is for our shared culture to have good bookshops. Books and bookshops can help people feel connected despite social distancing.”

Cathy Unwin – II.1.B



“During the Pandemic lockdown we kept ourselves safely at home, afraid for our adult children doing essential jobs out in the community. We missed the freedom of being out and about so we needed to readjust to our restricted lifestyle. Taking solace in nature, and spending time outside in our garden helped. Feeding the wild birds was a way of focusing our minds on something positive and beautiful, welcoming the surprising number of bird species that visit our feeders in east London. We may have been a little bit jealous of their freedom to fly off again too.”

Uma Vaithilingham – Il.8.G



“NHS + Rainbow - a very big thank you to all NHS personnel and all front-line workers. Tulip + Strawberry - spent lot more time than usual in the garden, grew flower plants, veg + fruit. Birdhouse - bought 2 bird nesting houses; more feeders and bird seeds online. Fed them and watched them. Neighbour's chicks - made friends with the chicks and started treating to sunflower seeds daily at 4pm! (3 of them). If I am late, they peck at the glass French door and I feed them and have my tea with them. Outdoors when dry and indoors when wet. My cat Bowie - stolen along with his brother 'Tiger' during lockdown and found by someone who called the RSPCA. Got him back after 12 months and few days. I was over the moon to have him back. Still hoping to see Tiger soon. All the above and slow stitching and embroidering kept me going.”

Angela Vastano – Il.1.G



“Esterina Vastano was a wife to Luigi, mother to Angela, Christina and Thomas. Esterina was born in San Potito Sannitico in Italy, but lived for more than 60 years in the UK, ultimately making her home in Rochdale. She loved everything about the UK and worked in and around Rochdale until she retired at 60. Esterina caught Covid the

weekend before the first lockdown - just around the time everyone was realising how serious this might be. She is missed every day.”

Sue Wakefield – I.6.D



“My square replicates the ones that went into my Covid 19 Quilt. I made the quilt following a 12-week period of making cakes for the staff on the Emergency and ICU departments at the Bristol Royal and The Children's Hospital. Three Bristol Quilters got together to organise members and friends to make cakes for weekly deliveries to the hospitals. Ann Moody, Christine Porter and myself coordinated the 26 volunteer bakers. The hospital staff were so very grateful for the support at one of the most difficult times of the pandemic; they needed some TLC too. We have continued to support the Children's Hospital Charity, "The Grand Appeal" by putting 32 recipes into a book. The "Grand Bakes & Cupcakes" book has been on sale since before Christmas, 100% of the sales will go directly to the charity. It has been selling very well!”

Susan Waldron – III.4.D



“Life was in pieces - but hope must return. Be brave and fight onwards. Gradually the virus will diminish and the sun will shine.”

Graziella Walton – I.6.B



“My block is about staying at home. Home is meant to be a place of comfort, a safe place, a place that gives us protection from the outside world. Through lockdowns our homes have become our everything, including sometimes our prison really!”

Before Covid life was non-stop and I barely had time to look at my surroundings – then the world stopped and home became sanctuary for me. I had time to look around me and appreciate what I had been working hard for. I finally had time to learn to love the four walls around me and all the love, the happiness, the tears, the memories they held. My block is called 'loving home!'.”

Heather Ward – III.7.E



“During lockdown I was shielding as highly vulnerable. The picture is of me looking out at the rainbow and the flowers, wanting to be out there but terrified as well. The crow signifies the bad is out there - the mask in his beak a reminder.”

Margaret Ward – I.3.F



“This is to commemorate all the children wished for and born during Covid. My daughter and daughter-in-law had to go through IVF treatment during pandemic.”



Amanda Warren – III.10.D

“During Covid there have been many people who have had their hearts broken by the loss of loved ones, either by the virus or other illnesses. In the early days it was especially difficult for family members not to be able to visit loved ones in hospital or care homes to say 'Goodbye'. There has also been a great deal of people and communities who have opened up their hearts to do some small and some big things for others and shown a great deal of love for one and another.”



Madeline Warren – III.6.C

“In the early days of the initial lockdown I became involved with the North, East London Sewers. The NHS and Care Homes sadly needed scrubs, gowns, bags for scrubs and masks which we provided for them over the many months of isolation. My block reminds me of that time, of the many scrubs and numerous gowns I made. The rainbow of hope in so many windows and the heart symbolising the love and thanks to all the devoted medical staff who worked so tirelessly during a very difficult time.”



Christine Watson – III.9.G

“My block represents the scrubs that I made for the NHS workers during the pandemic. The sewing gave a routine to the days and opportunities for friendship and contact for all involved. I was always pleased to see my scrubs hanging out to dry and I felt I was doing something constructive in a time of negativity. Whilst they were valued by the staff receiving them, the making of them created a network of stitches and crafters who continue to create for the community.”



Janice Webster – I.7.E

“Robert was 48 when he sadly caught Covid in August 2021, and passed away September 2021. He loved walking up mountains and across moors and joined lots of groups and went on many trips. He was a warrior in his short life having had Cystic Fibrosis and then a heart and lung transplant, but he fought all the odds, kept fit and healthy and worked for the NHS for 26 years as a Senior Biomedical Scientist. He was fully vaccinated and took all precautions even working from home for twelve months, but unfortunately Covid struck and took him away from us far too soon. He raised lots of money for Cystic Fibrosis research and through his life helped other sufferers deal with their illness.”



Emma Weeks – I.10.G

“Guinea Pig Olympics”

“Covid was a particularly hard time for my family as I am extremely vulnerable, having had cancer 3 times. We stayed at home with no outings and it was especially hard on our kids, one of whom is adopted. During this time, one of the happiest times we had was outside in the garden playing with our guinea pigs Domo and Roo. One day we set up a 'Guinea Pig Olympics' course for them. It was very silly and caused much squealing and laughter for all of us! We all played with the guinea pigs a lot during lockdown but I remember the 'Guinea Pig Olympics' with such joy during such a hard time.”



Sandra Weir – II.2.B

“There are many images and memories to choose from when thinking of the personal impact of Covid 19. I have chosen to be positive and remember the good things rather than the difficult. As an NHS Key worker, I continued to work throughout the Pandemic and was briefly redeployed to assist in other areas. Each morning on my way to work

I took time to stop and SMELL THE ROSES in our garden. My mother's favourite is the yellow Arthur Bell rose, which has a beautiful fragrance. Smelling the roses was a pleasant, grounding, experience and reassuringly made it less likely that I had Covid.”



Jennifer Wenborn – I.4.H

“This block comprises of two of my lasting images of the pandemic, namely: rainbows and hearts. The background pink hearts fabric reminded me of The National Covid Memorial Wall in London, a public mural painted by volunteers to honour those who

lost their lives during the pandemic. It's important to remember that many, many others also lost their lives, not directly due to Covid, but due to the lack or delayed diagnosis/treatment for other conditions. The rainbow signifies hope for the future. During the pandemic this symbolised the nation's support for the NHS and other essential workers, along with gestures such as the weekly 'Clap for Carers; donations of food and care packages for staff; and legions of volunteers sewing Scrubs, Scrubs bags, headbands and masks - an activity that many quilters turned their hands and needles to!”



Constance Wheeler – I.6.C

“Like most people Covid had, and still has, a big impact on my daily enjoyments. Lockdown in particular was a scary time, finding joy in small things became the order of the day. My daughter locked down with a new baby and two other children to care for and entertain, sent me some beautiful flowers in a letterbox parcel. I celebrate these flowers and the band of love tied up in them.”



Dianne Whyte – I.1.C

“This block is called "Households, Bubbles and Groups of 6". As we emerged from lockdown and tried to grasp at 'normality', how confusing it all was. None of us wanting to get it wrong. Can a bubble be made up of more than 6 people? Can 2 households form a bubble if they total 7? I'd like to dedicate my block to my beautiful daughter Shelley and all the other Community Nurses who, throughout lockdown and the entire pandemic, have continued tirelessly to visit and care for the sick and dying in their homes often with little or no PPE for their own protection. Thank you all so much!”



Eleanor Williams – II.4.E

“I have made over 100 quilts during lockdowns. Some were experimental when I had time to explore (and play!). Several were scrap quilts and most were donated to charities. The scraps are pieces from some of those quilts. They represent butterflies moving out from the sun to carry a positive message to the world.”

Clare Workman – III.4.E



“Such a huge heartwarming response from sewists all over the UK making scrubs and scrub bags for NHS and Care Workers and knitted hearts for Covid patients and their relatives who were unable to visit them in hospital. A terrific voluntary response to support individuals, communities and the NHS in a time of great peril for the country and the world. With that love and support so much can be achieved - Let's remember and honour that, and harness it for good in the future. Well done, Sewists! A powerful force for good.”

Jane Worsley – III.2.F



“My square is in memory of my brother, Alan James Worsley, who died during the pandemic on the 12 June 2021. He was a doctor in medicinal chemistry and pharmacognosy, and taught pharmacology and pharmacy at Hong Kong University's Faculty of Medicine and Newcastle University's School of Pharmacy. Alan was very popular amongst the students and staff. He was also a talented artist and combined his art and scientific knowledge to create some wonderful illustrations which he used to help students understand important concepts in science. Alan had many hobbies and interests: travelling, playing the bassoon, learning Cantonese, reading. He is much missed by his friends, family and colleagues. We will always remember his thoughtfulness, sense of humour and fun, and his friendship. Done with fabric pen and applique.”

Brenda Wroe – II.7.H



“The Covid pandemic swept the world whilst it was sleeping. We lost our freedom to walk in the fresh air and mix with others. We lost our livelihoods and our loved ones too. Walking was the key to maintaining my mental health and it is a dearly treasured gift. I walked alone every day and when permitted with a dear friend too. The pandemic left its footprint on the world just as I left mine in the earth. These records of my ventures disappeared each day and were replaced by new ones. We continued to welcome new generations but will not forget those who passed in the Covid pandemic.”

Ruth Yates – I.5.G



“Sunny Sunflower”

“The sunny sunflower quilt is both a celebration and remembrance of my sister-in-law, Julie Alcock, who passed away during the pandemic. She was a dedicated and quiet care worker for over 40 years. She worked with many people and clients in different settings around Lancashire. Sunflowers were her favourite flower, the bigger and brighter the better. The sunflower in the square represents the sunshine she brought to everyone around her, especially her grandchildren, family and those she cared for. The sunflower is also a symbol of her optimism around the future and supporting everyone through the pandemic.”

Muriel Yelland – II.10.E



see bright new days.”

“I feel very lucky to have come through the last 2 years unscathed both mentally and physically. Living in a village rather than a city could have something to do with it. Quilting I would recommend, the hours just pass in a flash. So, my square is for all those who have survived lockdown living alone. We will learn to live with Covid and live to

Sadie Yeomans – III.10.G



“At the start of Covid, with Quilt Groups not meeting in person and all my workshops and classes cancelled, I decided “Home is where I need to be”. It was emailed out as a free stitchery pattern to the groups I usually tutor. The original quilt hung in the window by my front door during lockdown.”



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