



Wednesday 14 October 2009

Welcome to Issue # 31 of Midweek Moments. This week, you'll hear the story behind the world's very first computer program, and it isn't what (or when) you expect, either. Something to think about next time you're using any electronic device that involves a microchip. We also give you a look at another fabulous creation in 'Show and Tell' to hopefully inspire you with whatever you're currently working on, so that it, too, can have its turn in the spotlight.

Blueberries is now on Facebook and Twitter. Get updates, news, specials, and exclusive updates only from here. **Become a fan of Blueberries** on our Facebook page.



Blueberries on Facebook



Blueberries on Twitter

### Mothers of invention



#### **Ada King, Countess of Lovelace - "Enchantress of Numbers"**

Quick, make a guess when the world's very first computer program was invented... the 1950s? ... the 1940s? ... the 1930s? ... wrong, wrong and wrong.

Believe it or not, it wasn't even in the 20th century. For this seminal important invention which now dominates so many aspects of our lives, you have to travel back as far as 1842. And, yes, a woman was behind it.

Introducing Ada King, Countess of Lovelace (or more simply, Ada Lovelace, as she is now widely known). This gifted mathematician was born in London in 1815, the only legitimate child of the English poet Lord Byron. Ada's mother, Lady Byron, separated from Byron only five weeks after Ada was born and was given sole custody. Fearful that her daughter might grow up to become a poet like her father, Lady Byron steered Ada in the direction of such intellectual pursuits as astronomy, botany and, most significantly, mathematics, for which Ada showed a particular flair.

When Ada was 18, she met mathematician and inventor Charles Babbage at a dinner party. Babbage had just invented his "Difference Engine", a mechanical device designed for the process of complex mathematical equations. In 1842, Babbage asked Ada to translate the memoirs of Italian engineer Luigi Menabrea, which she did by encoding an algorithm in a form that could be processed by the Difference Engine. This historic piece of calculus is now recognized as the world's first computer program.

*continues next page...*

Ada also worked with Babbage to create the “Analytical Engine”, which was an archetype of the modern day computer. Many of its features remain to this day, in particular the notion of a set of encoded instructions, which is then carried out by a machine, the basis of all computer programs.

Babbage dubbed Ada “The Enchantress of Numbers” and a software language developed by the U.S. Department of Defence in 1979 was named “Ada” in her honour. A woman truly ahead of her time, she foresaw the potential of what we now call computers and programming, more than a century before they became widespread.

#### Quilters Boot Camp 2009



Click [here](#) to find out more...

#### New Fabric



#### New Patterns



*continues next page...*

## Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

### Jacqui Gardiner

#### What can you tell us about the quilt?

The pattern is called 'Baby Jive'. It's very tactile, as it has a lot of different textures. It has appliqué and chenille panels and a lion on it. The lion's mane is made from red chenille.

#### What was your inspiration?

I made the quilt about six months ago for my grandson. He was premature, so he had a bit of a difficult start, but he seems to really love the quilt so far. He's really bonded with it.

#### Did you add your own touches while you were making it or did you stick closely to the pattern?

It depends. Usually I follow the pattern, but I added a few things to this one. Because they only had this one lion on it, I put some other animals onto it as well – some elephants and a giraffe. Apart from that I stuck to the pattern because it's all different blocks, but in the blocks, instead of just having the lion I put extra things on it. So the pattern is the same. And when I'd finished, I did my own free-motion design, so I sort of did stars and things all over it.



#### Did you get these fabrics from Blueberries?

I picked most of the fabrics myself and yes, most of them came from Blueberries. I have that much material... Blueberries would have to be the best shop I've ever been to! The very first quilt I ever made I used material from Blueberries first shop at Gorokan and I made it for my other grandson.

#### Have you made many quilts before this?

I've probably made about twenty quilts in the last four years. If you talk to people who've been quilting, the most common thing everybody says is "I'll never get all these quilts made before I die". But, you make your first one and from then on you're just hooked. I give them to family members and friends.

#### Do you have a particular technique that you like to use?

I like to try different techniques. The last one I did was more of a modern one. I really like shabby chic. And we've got bags, wall hangings. Anything you can make, you'll find people make them. And apart from that, the other thing is collecting all the tools.

*If you have an item you'd liked to show us send us an email we would love to hear about it.*

Til next week!

The Blueberries Team.