



Mid Week Moments #62

Wednesday 2 June 2010

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Welcome to your Midweek Moments and to the official beginning of winter. This week we bring you another 'Class Report' in which Helen Roberts describes the almost 12 month journey that she and a group of people undertook with tutor Karen Cunningham. You'll also find out about an obscure and interesting connection between the American Wild West and a particular character from the very British story 'Alice in Wonderland'. Intrigued? Read on to find out more.

### Your new and improved Blueberries shop...



#### Have you been to Blueberries lately?

We have been busy bees moving, building, sawing, screwing, cleaning and more to bring you a new and improved shop.

Click [here](#) to read more and see more pictures...

### Class Report

The column where pupils give us a report from the class.

**Pupil:** Helen Roberts

**Class:** Reproducing the Four Inch Sampler Quilt (once a month for a year)

**Tutor:** Karen Cunningham

#### What did you do in the classes?

Well the object of the classes was to recreate that Sun Dial Quilt which is on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. We were working from a pattern that Karen had adapted from the original. We collected the patterns together, we chose the fabrics and started to reproduce the squares.

#### How was the tutor?

We've all been going to Karen's classes for about 10 years now so we're all very familiar with her as a tutor. I love her patterns and the work she produces. She makes everything see so easy. She's particularly good at helping people make good colour choices.

#### What was the best part of the classes?

Without a doubt it was the camaraderie of the group and getting in amongst all those beautiful fabrics in Blueberries. We were like kids in a lolly shop.

#### Did the classes meet your expectations?

Well, as I said, we've been doing classes with Karen for so long we're not actually learning a huge amount of new stuff, its more about gathering patterns and actually doing it. But Karen's classes are always so enjoyable.

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### Would you encourage others to do it?

Yes, because we enjoy the classes so much. The girls who work with Jackie are so accommodating and helpful. The whole package is such a delight, the getting together, the sharing, all of that.



*Helen Roberts with her quilt*

### Machine Quilting with Deborah Louie

#### Have you viewed the DVD with the latest Quilters Companion magazine?

If so you will be pleased to know that Deborah Louie, who presents "An Introduction to Domestic Machine Quilting" in this DVD, will be teaching at Blueberries this month.

So why not brush up on your machine quilting techniques with Deborah. The class is for two days and will be run from Thursday 24 June to Friday 25 June.



Click [here](#) to find out more about this class and to register.

### 10 Good Reasons to buy Fabric

1. It insulates the cupboard where it is kept.
2. It keeps the "economy" moving, it is my duty to support cotton farmers, textile mills and fabric shops.
3. It is less expensive and more fun than psychiatric care.
4. It's a contest – the one who dies with the most fabric wins.
5. It keeps without refrigeration, you don't have to cook it to enjoy it, you'll never have to feed it, change it, wipe its nose or walk it.
6. Like dust, it's good for "protecting" previously empty spaces in the house, like the ironing board, laundry basket, the dining room table etc.
7. It's not immoral, illegal or fattening. It calms the nerves, gratifies the soul and makes me feel good.
8. Because it's on "SALE."
9. Because I'm worth it.
10. And buy it now, before your husband retires and goes with you on all your shopping expeditions.



*Thanks to the MWM (Mid Week Moments) reader that sent this in.*

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## Tweet Tweet now instore

Click on the Tweet Tweet image below to see the fabric selection we have in store. Price per meterage is \$21, Charm Packs are \$17.50 and Jelly Rolls \$52.50.



## Who wants to be a Milliner?

### The Secret Life of Hats, Episode 12 - The Cowboy Hat

The classic Stetson cowboy hat is one of the most iconic pieces of headware ever, an instant identifying feature of North American cowboys, ranch workers, horseback riders, country singers, and, more recently, line dancers. It has an epic and dangerous history that parallels the untamed, frontier-like geographic regions in which it was born. And most surprisingly, the original model was called the 'Boss of the Plains', a name so cool it's a wonder no-one's ever made a musical about it.

The cowboy hat is a high-crowned, wide-brimmed affair the shape of which can be modified by the wearer for fashion and as protection against the elements. They are mostly made from fur-based felt and straw and sometimes also from leather. They are manufactured with a sweat band inside which helps the fit on the head and often have a more decorative hatband around the base of the crown.

In some form or another, cowboy-like hats have been worn by riders from as early as the Mongolian horsemen of the early 13th century, evolving over the centuries to more wide-brimmed models, such as Mexico's famous sombrero. When opening up the American west, pilgrims and frontier men and women had no standard headwear and appropriated a hodgepodge of current styles to protect their heads from the harsh western sun. Ironically, it was the British bowler that was the most popular hat of choice for these adventurous souls, earning it the nickname "the hat that won the West" (another good song title for that musical, perhaps?).

However, it wasn't until John Batterson Stetson first created his soon-to-be-famous design in 1865 that the modern day cowboy hat had truly been born. Stetson's hat was officially named "The Boss of the Plains", but for more than a century it has been known simply as the Stetson. Flat-brimmed, lightweight, waterproof, adjustable and available in many different shades and materials, it was affordable and accessible to almost everyone. Stetson was the first person to actually market a hat directly to cowboys, a canny business idea that quickly cemented idolatry for his creation. The classic cowboy hat is now a staple of popular culture, appearing on the heads of individuals as diverse as American presidents, high profile entertainers and even those aforementioned line dancers.

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An interesting addition to the modern day Stetson (as well as other less famous models) is a small memorial bow in the shape of a skull and crossbones that's manufactured inside the hat. This is dedicated to hatters from the past, who commonly used toxic mercury when treating the felt, something their bodies quietly absorbed. The resulting brain damage and uncontrollable muscle twitching was often attributed to madness, rather than poisoning, and gave rise to the popular expression "mad as a hatter". Another good song title, surely, for 'Boss of the Plains – the Musical'. Baz Luhrmann are you paying attention?

Famous cowboy hat wearers...



Actor John Wayne



Entertainer Cher



Former actor and  
U.S. President  
Ronald Reagan

*Quote of the week: Quilters know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em.*

Til next week!  
The Blueberries Team