



The Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Quilt

How Bromley Borough stitchers celebrated the life and service of our Queen

Beckenham Quilters

November 2023

In September 2022 Beckenham Quilters were approached by the London Borough of Bromley Museum Service.

In their “London Bridge” plan (the plans many organisations had to detail what actions they would take following the death of Queen Elizabeth II) the Council had specified that they would commission a commemorative quilt to be made by community members and brought together by Beckenham Quilters.

We agreed to take on the commission to create a quilt made up of blocks sewn by local people.

The quilt was unveiled at our biennial exhibition on 25th November 2023 by the Deputy Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Keith Onslow.

This book is the story of that project.

Much credit for the success of this project is due to the project team who worked tirelessly to create the quilt from such a fabulous but diverse set of blocks that were submitted:

Jenni Mogridge led the team ably assisted by Bonnie Foster, Stephanie Johnson, Genevieve Le Creff-Chesters, Jane May, Sharon Mills and Janet Tibbalds.

Thanks are also due to Rebecca Gediking and Sally Adcock of GLL, both Head of Libraries for Bromley during the life of this project, with whom we liaised to complete the commission.

How the quilt was
made

After some initial planning we contacted local groups and organisations to invite them to contribute blocks to the quilt.

We are particularly grateful for the enthusiastic involvement of the Bromley Embroiderers Group.

This is the letter we sent out.



Dear Quilters, Embroiderers and Lace makers

The Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Quilt

As part of the commemoration of the life of Queen Elizabeth Bromley Council has asked Beckenham Quilters to organise the making of a quilt reflecting the community's memories and appreciation of her long reign.

We are inviting local quilt and textile groups to join us to make this a very special tribute.

We would welcome blocks made by individuals or groups that represent your memory of the Queen. She was a very young woman when she became Queen and had many experiences during her long reign. We would welcome blocks that reflect that as well as those that recalling her later years.

To aid the final construction- always a challenge when making group quilts – we need to ask that blocks are 9" x 9", 6" by 9" or 6" x 12" and that a seam allowance of 1" is allowed all the way around the block. Blocks should not be sandwiched or quilted.

The quilt will be made of fabric but blocks may be pieced or decorated with fabric, embroidery, lace or paint. We will provide the background fabric for all the blocks.

The time schedule is-

January- receipt of expressions of interest from local groups
February to May- time for block making
July- August- quilt construction
September- October- long arm quilting
November- exhibition

The quilt must be completed by the beginning of November 2023 and will be exhibited for the first time at Beckenham Quilters' exhibition on 25 November. Bromley Libraries and Museum will be responsible for exhibiting it after that and it will be stored eventually in the Museum archive. Any contributions that are not included in the quilt will also be exhibited by Bromley Museums and be archived. We will keep a record of how the quilt was designed, made and by whom and that will also be archived.

We hope that your members will be as enthused as us by this opportunity. Please let us know by [Wednesday 18th January 2023](#) if your group and/ or members of your group wish to have the chance to contribute blocks.

Lastly we've written to all the groups we know of based in the London Borough of Bromley (listed below) - if you know of any other groups please let us know.

Best wishes from Beckenham Quilters.

Bromley Embroiderers, Bromley Quilters, Beckenham Quilters, Orpington Quilters, M & C Quilters, Rainbow Quilters, Colour Wheel Quilters, Chelsfield Embroiderers, Bromley Lacemakers. |

Backing fabric for the blocks was chosen – Liberty Wiltshire Shadow was picked for its quality and its association with the UK, and it was cut into blocks and circulated to local stitchers who had agreed to contribute.

As anyone who has worked on a group quilt will know, it can be challenging to fit all the blocks together. So we wrote some detailed guidance notes to accompany the fabric.



Beckenham Quilters

Queen Elizabeth Memorial Quilt

Thank you for contributing to the quilt commissioned by Bromley Council to commemorate the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

The quilt will be made up of blocks with a **finished** size of 9" x 9", 6" x 9" or 6" x 12".

Those of you who have been involved in group quilts will know how challenging it can be to get it to fit together. We are, therefore asking for you to leave a **seam allowance of a generous ¼", preferably ½"**.

If you plan to applique your block

We have included a piece of background fabric and a piece of stabiliser to use for your applique, so the fabric remains as flat and unpuckered as possible.

If you plan to piece your block

Please design and make your block as you wish, and if you can use any of the background fabric please do, but it's not compulsory. Again, please leave a generous seam allowance.

Please do not include any of your design in the seam allowance.

If you have any queries, please contact one of the QE2 project group-

Do not feel limited by the undoubtedly serious, lifelong duty undertaken by the Queen. The Queen had a long life with a multitude of experiences!

We need all the blocks back **by 4th July at the latest**. If they are ready earlier, we'd be pleased to have them.

Please contact Jenni if you need to deliver or have them collected.

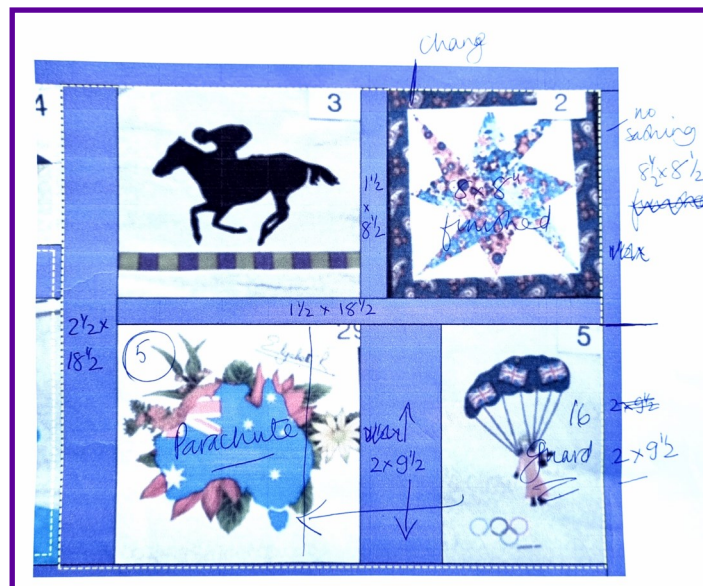
And then we started to receive completed blocks.

We were amazed by the quality and variety of the submissions.

Photos and measurements of all the blocks were added to a spreadsheet and a layout was agreed.

Genevieve, who is a whizz with the EQ8 software programme, used this information to map out the sashing requirements and work started to piece the blocks together.

We chose Makower Spraytime in a regal purple colour (grape) for the sashing and binding.



Finally, last summer it was transported to Ferret Fabrications for custom long arm quilting. She used The Warm Company 80/20 batting (80% cotton, 20% polyester).

Ferret introduced crown motifs into the quilting and each block was individually sewn to complement the design.

Once completed the quilt was returned to us for binding and labelling.



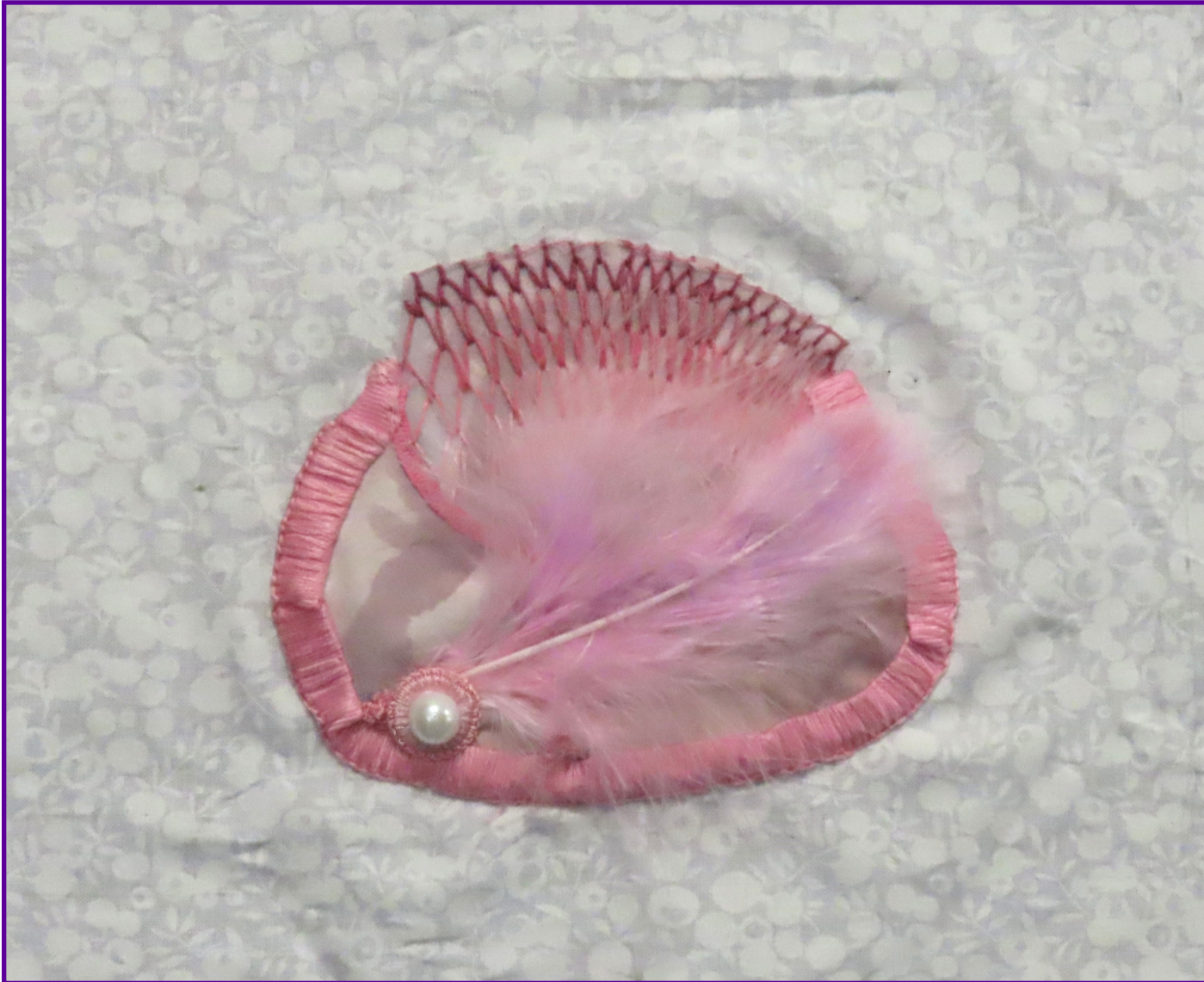


The Quilt Blocks

- makers were asked to give their block a name, tell us about their inspiration for the block design, and a bit about how it was made

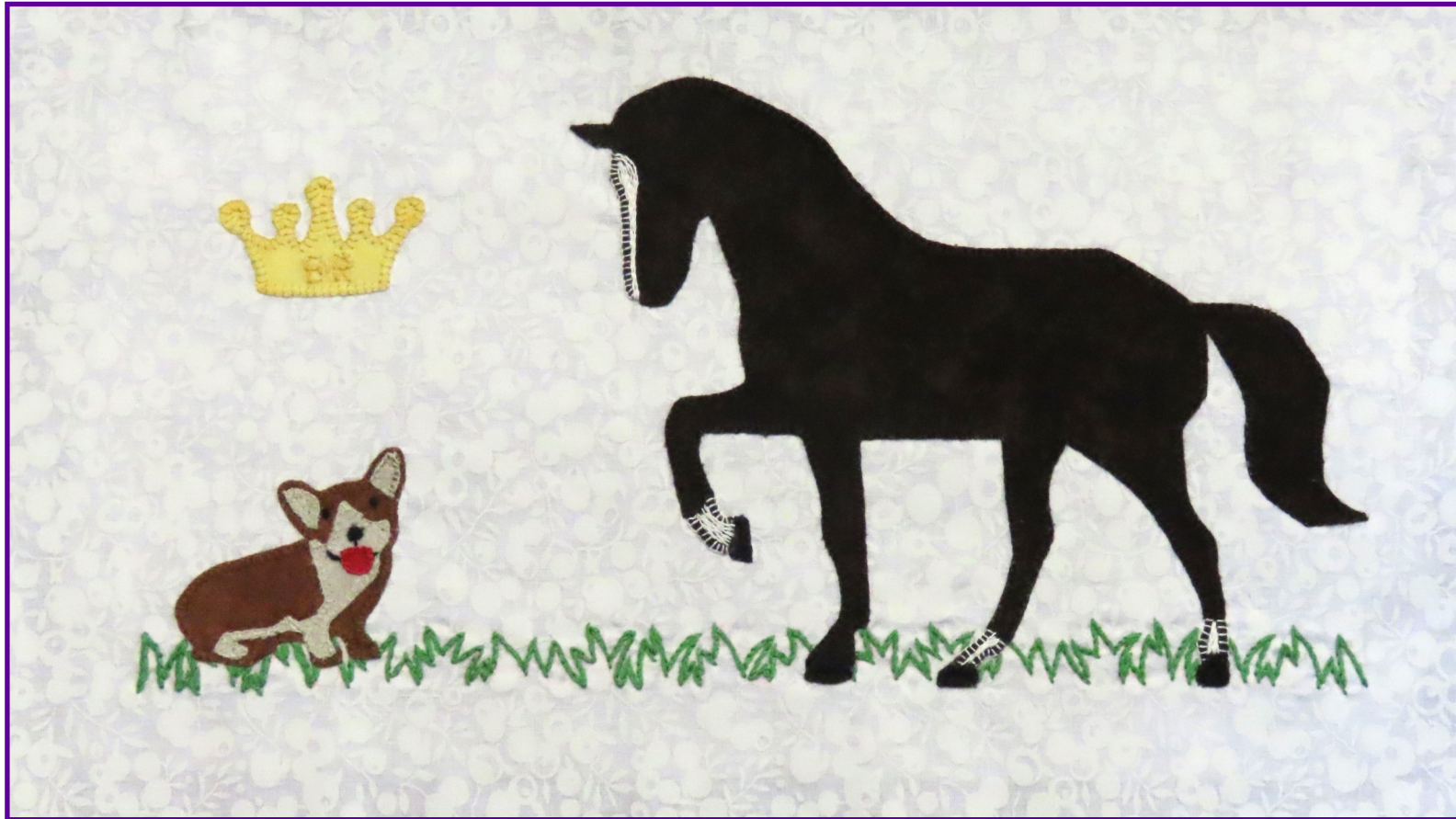
One of the Queen's Lovely Hats

Gillian Watson



“The Queen always had a stunning hat to complement her bright outfits.

I made it up as I went along with trial and error.”



The Crown, Betsy (1960) and a Corgi

Veronica
Packham

Beckenham Quilters

“I first saw the Queen at close quarters at the age of about 12, when I waited on a promenade in Malta for her car to go past. When my son was about the same age I took him to get a close glimpse of QEII when she visited Croydon. The evening I picked the pack for the block, I was a guest at Beckenham Quilters and couldn't resist being involved.

I immediately thought of a horse and a corgi - the crown followed because I wanted to make it specific for our Queen. First I searched for the Queen's favourite horse and chose Betsy, because it had character. The corgi/crown are just representations. I then found a template for each. The grass was an added feature which I thought made it look more like a scene. Fabrics are cotton with fusible interfacing, with one strand of embroidery stranded cotton by hand. Appliquéd.”

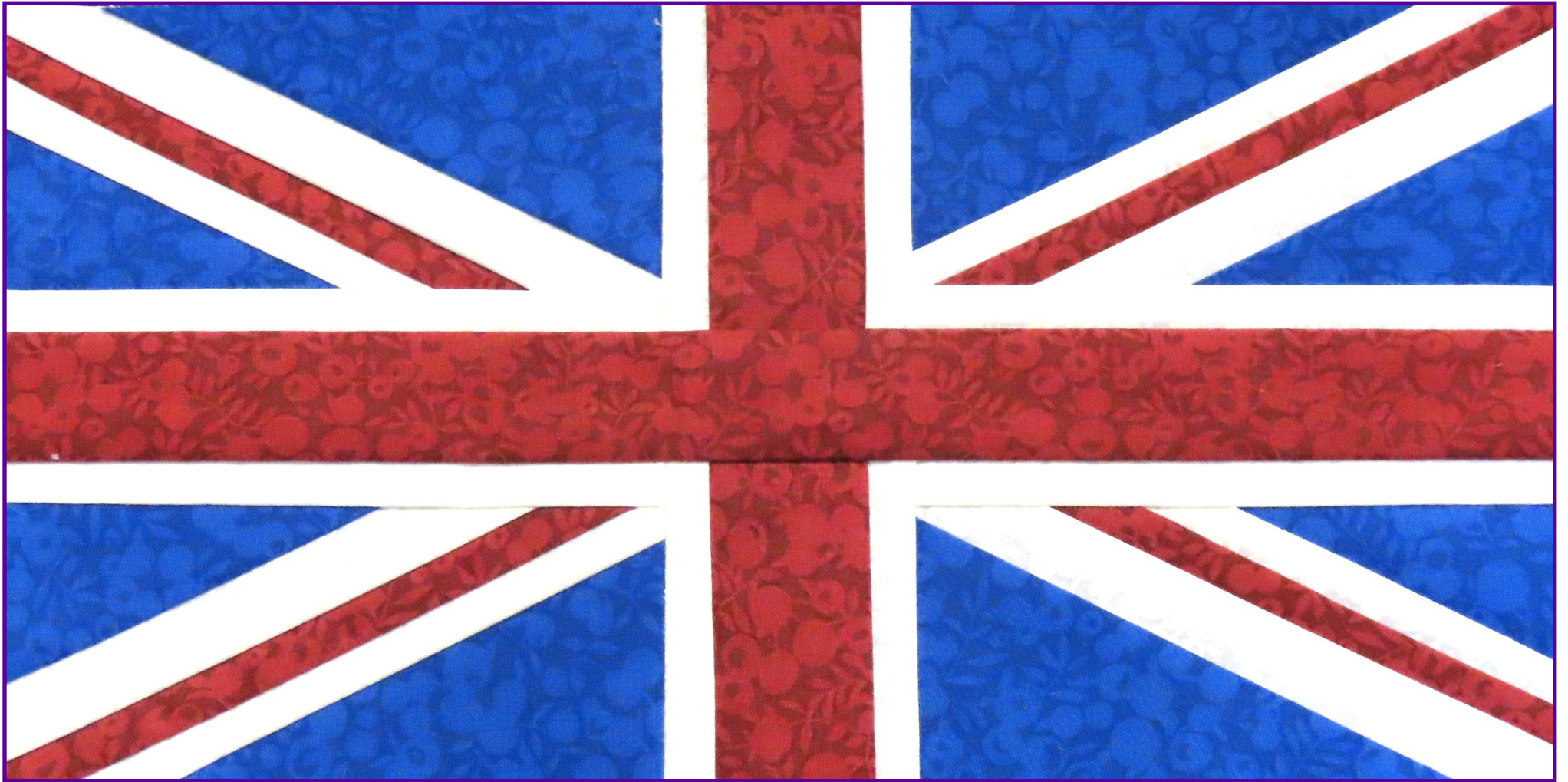
Union Jack

Gene Le Creff-Chesters

Beckenham Quilters

“I thought we would need one for the quilt and it encompasses what the Queen stood for.

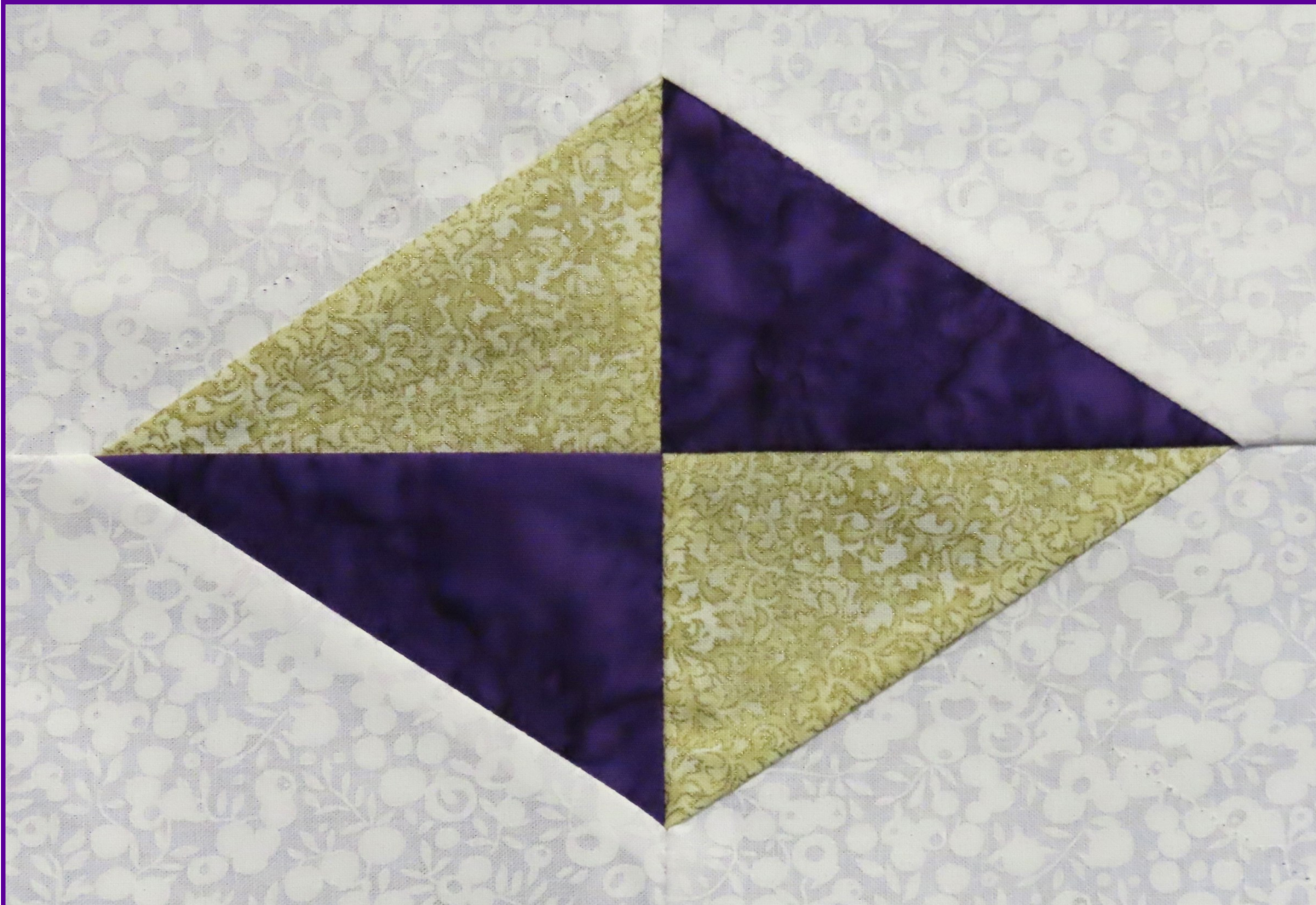
Foundation pieced using Liberty fabrics.”



The Regal Diamond

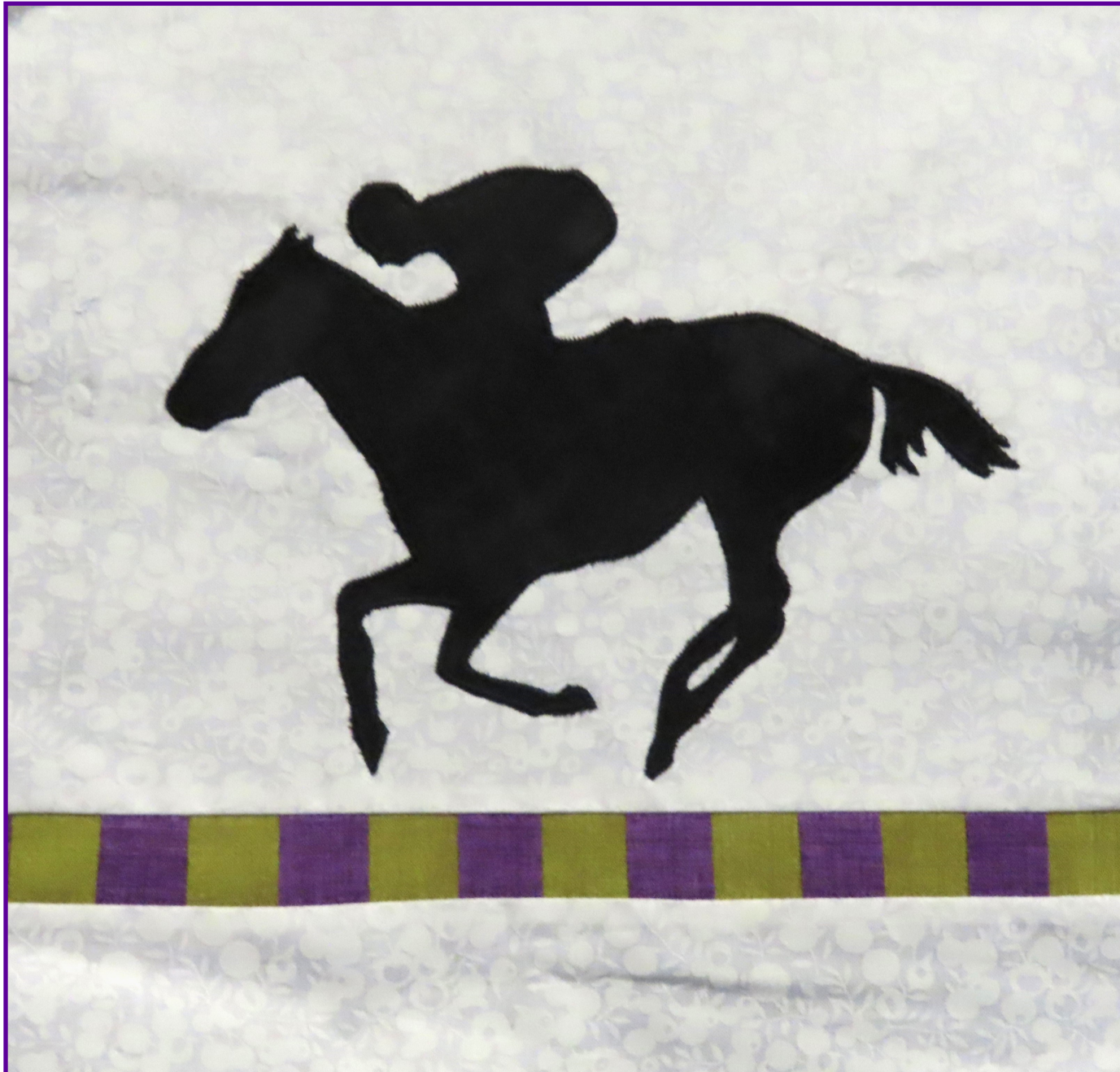
Steph Harris

Beckenham Quilters



“I chose a simple diamond shape as a diamond is a precious stone, and our Queen was a precious woman who gave her all to our country.

I made 4 blocks using a half rectangle triangle technique. I chose a regal purple and a light gold as my colours.”



Racing at Ascot

Elizabeth Coates

Beckenham Quilters

“Thinking about the things the Queen enjoyed doing and being around eg. Balmoral, corgis and horses, I remembered she attended the races and loved seeing her horses win.

The block was made by appliquéing the silhouette of a racehorse and rider, and to incorporate the royal colours I pieced a narrow border of purple and gold which also represents the racetrack.”



Star for Elizabeth

Caroline Legg

Beckenham Quilters

“I wanted to use red, white and blue and I wanted to make a star. I chose Liberty fabrics as they are so classically iconic and associated with London. The Paisley border is to represent her love of Scotland. Machine pieced. Templates from Crafty UK. Fabric from Hometown, Rochester.”



So Many Hats

Regan Purcell

Beckenham Quilters

“When chatting with friends from abroad, at sometime all have asked why the queen wore so many hats. Never had an answer for them but loved all the colours and designs.

Used photographs of the Queen to trace shapes for my blocks. Raw edge applique with free motion machine embroidery.”

Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II - Army Princess

Jenny Corbett

Beckenham Quilters



“These blocks were originally inspired by my childhood memory of the Queen driving through Beckenham. We had been given the afternoon off school so we could wave as she passed. However I could not find any images of that day but I did find some images I was able to replicate in fabric.

Initially I took the pictures and converted them to line drawings (I did have some help here). Then I drew them on the computer software EQ8 so that I could print an appliqué pattern. I then used raw edge appliqué to create the pictures. The edges are all free motioned to stop them coming unstuck over time. I have then used the trapunto technique behind the queen to make sure she stands out.”

Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II - a Young Queen and the Queen I Remember

Jenny Corbett

Beckenham Quilters





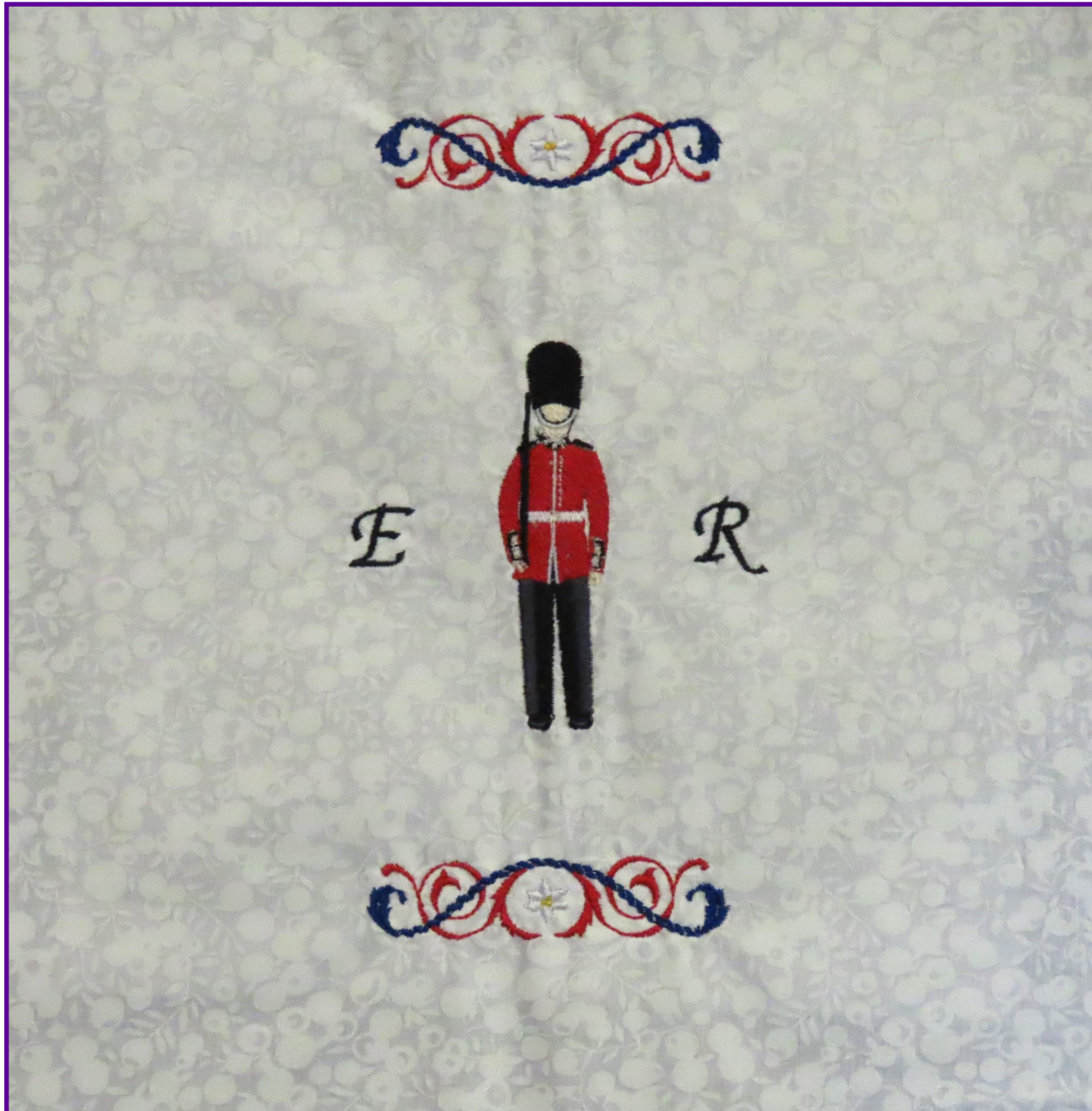
Olympics 2012

Jenni Mogridge

Beckenham Quilters

“I stole this idea from a couple of Beckenham Quilters who produced blocks to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee depicting her arrival at the London Olympics parachuting from a helicopter. Sebastian Coe says that, for years, he was asked if she had really done it. I bet she wished she had had the chance.

Very basic use of Bondaweb but I did look at the image of her leaving the Palace, so she was wearing black accessories with her salmon pink frock. I added the crown for fun.”



The Queen's Guard

Gina Hedges

"The inspiration for this block was the Queens Guard, guarding the residences of the Queen and by extension, the Queen herself.

Embroidery done by Brother Embroidery Machine."

Queen Elizabeth II's Green Canopy

Polly Munday

Beckenham Quilters



“I always felt that the Queen seemed happiest when she was in the countryside surrounded by nature and in particular trees. Well, we had that in common. In our enthusiasm, just in our suburban garden, we have planted 12 trees over 50 years, a few remain, but now we more wisely donate to the National Trust to plant more on our behalf.

I decided to try and make a representational block of a tree canopy. I selected mainly batik fabrics because they resembled foliage, but all the colours I had were autumnal, so its the green canopy in Autumn (apart from the fir trees). I liked the look of the trees flowing into each other as they do in woods and forests so I decided not to appliqué the edges. This gives the trees the appearance of more depth and fluidity I think.”

Three Swans- a-Swimming

Janet Tibbalds

Beckenham Quilters



“The Queen, like all British monarchs has a prerogative over all swans in England and Wales. I have always thought of swans as such beautiful and graceful birds and therefore decided to make them the subject of my block. Obviously, a white swan on a white background could have been problematic and so my ideas developed from a single black swan (rather gloomy) to a trio of red, white and blue birds. The crown on the white swan in the middle was suggested by my grandson.

The fabrics were from my stash, the silhouette shape came from the internet and each was bonded to the background before being carefully machine appliquéd to the background.”



Commonwealth Canopy

Jo Steele

“I wanted to do something different and that included the Commonwealth. I remember her launching the Canopy, so found their logo and all the Commonwealth flags.

Centre: Canopy logo - free motion machine embroidery on cotton/linen fabric. Machine embroidery stitch around circumference. Flags: iron on transfer and free motion appliqué around their edges.”

Queen of Hats

Cath Anley

Beckenham Quilters



“I love the rainbow of colours that Queen Elizabeth II always wore to stand out in a crowd so that people who might have waited hours, would see her when she passed by. The idea for the block came from an image I saw which lined up pictures of the Queen to form a rainbow. As she always accessorised these outfits with a fabulous hat I decided to create my own rainbow of hats.

I hunted the internet for images of the Queen, and copying as closely as possible some of her actual hats, I raided my stash and identified fabrics in the right colours. Using Bondaweb I drew, cut out and bonded the fabric in place, and using free motion stitch, embellished the hats with ribbon, feather and flower details. The only hand stitching was the French knots on the light blue hat I like to think of as her Wedgewood hat.”



Maple Leaf Crowned

Chris Hughes

Beckenham Quilters

“A Commonwealth country
always of interest to the Queen.

The maple leaf was appliquéd
onto the background and the
gold crown then added, again
appliquéd.”



Advance Australia Fair

Sylvia Francis

Beckenham Quilters

“As an Australian living in the UK I felt our long association with Britain should be acknowledged. Queen Elizabeth II visited Australia 16 times during her reign and the bouquets she received frequently contained some of the beautiful native flowers.

First of all the flag was photocopied onto cotton poplin photo-fabric. Using Bondaweb the map was traced and cut out and the flowers were fussy cut. Once these were ironed onto the background fabric I machined with a small buttonhole stitch around everything. The signature was hand embroidered.”

Bromley Broom

Fiona Byers

Beckenham Quilters



“Something I associate with the Queen is her gracious, smiling acceptance of flowers handed to her wherever she visited and did a walkabout. I wanted to mark this by linking her visits to Bromley. After doing some research I read that some broom had been specially planted in front of the Civic Centre in Bromley for when she came to open it in 1986. Bromley gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon name Bromleag which means a heath of broom. This area used to be covered in the bushes and the Victorians would come and visit them. By 1986 there was none left so they planted some. Once Her Majesty had left, they moved the broom plants to Martins Hill where they established themselves and a few are still there.

I embroidered the words and numbers in chain stitch as the Green Chain Walk passes through some parts of the London Borough of Bromley. I embroidered the broom branch using a combination of long and short stitch, stem stitch, bullion stitch and straight stitch. All done by hand.”



Long Did She Reign Over Us

Pat Taylor

Beckenham Quilters

"I saw Queen Elizabeth's coronation gown, designed by Norman Hartnell, many years ago at an exhibition and spent ages looking at the embroidered floral motifs used to decorate it. Each one represented a different part of the United Kingdom and also the seven Dominion countries at that time. I have used that idea in my appliqué patchwork square using motifs from the UK only.

The flower shapes were adhered to the fabric using Bondaweb and then machine stitched to hold down and embellish. The *Long did she reign over us* title is taken from the national anthem line – *Long may she reign over us.*"

EIIR Cypher

Tesca Osman

Beckenham Quilters



“I served in Her Majesty’s Diplomatic Service from the time I left school. It gave me a little buzz of pride whenever I saw her cypher. Its bold design must have seemed so modern when she ascended the throne as such a young woman, and I was sure it would translate well into fabric.

I had the honour of meeting her a couple of times, and her gift for putting nervous people at their ease was deservedly famous! I was so pleased to be able to create something meaningful to celebrate the lifetime’s service of this remarkable lady!

I enlarged the cypher to the size I wanted, traced it onto the background and bonded the appliqué pieces. I realised that the sparkly gold was not a strong enough contrast to the cream background to be seen easily, so was obliged to replicate the black outlines in stem stitch despite having no claims to be an embroiderer!

I could not source satisfactory “jewels”, so simply omitted them. The pearl bead buttons were added last, so that I could keep ironing the piece smooth.”



London Borough of Bromley Coat of Arms

Sharon Mills

Beckenham Quilters

“I felt it was important to include a block that represents Bromley.

This is an appliquéd block using 100% cotton fabrics. There is also a very small amount of hand embroidery.”

Nine Decades of Hats

Jennifer Green



“Queen Elizabeth II was rarely seen without a hat. A hat that complemented her outfit. I researched images of the Queen and chose one hat from each decade of her life. I have Fuch's dystrophy, a condition affecting eyesight. However I am able to sew following cornea transplant surgery. Thank you to the generous people who donated their eyes for transplant material. My last transplant was May 2023.

I used a variety of fabrics from my stash of scraps. After drawing the hat the approximate size, that template was then used to hand sew pieces together to make the design. Each hat was made then appliquéd to the background using needle turned edges or stabilised raw edges. The lettering was machined.”



Queen's Guide

Pam Egan-Wyer

Beckenham Quilters

"I was a Queen's Guide - the highest award for a guide in the 60s. The Queen, Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother came to Newport where I lived at the time. All the local Queen's Guides and Scouts were asked to form a guard of honour and the Queen greeted us one by one.

Knowing the Queen herself was a Guide I decided to incorporate that into the block. I printed a photograph of the Queen (and some badges) when she was in her uniform onto printable fabric and appliquéd them onto the block adding the dates and her unit details. The embroidered words were very challenging for me as I'm not a natural hand sewer."



Tree of Life

Bonnie Foster

Beckenham Quilters

“An image that regularly appears in royal regalia, this tree represents the Queen's love of nature and the growth and love she devoted to people.

Raw edge appliqué, hand sewing, machine quilting. I added pearls because she did love a pearl!”

Most Photographed Person in the World

Carole Stewart

Beckenham Quilters



“Have met the Queen at Buckingham Palace's Garden Party and in that small gathering she was photographed so much. This was my inspiration.

Mainly machine sewn with some hand sewn lettering.”

The Queen's Duchy of Lancaster Brooch

Linda Baldwin

Beckenham Quilters

“The Queen wore beautifully crafted brooches, carefully selected for their connections to the people and places she visited.

As monarch, the Queen held the title “Duke of Lancaster” and this design is inspired by the top of the Lancaster coat of arms, a gold lion holding a silver feather and standing on a banner “Sovereigne”. This Dukedom has been held by the English reigning monarch since 1399.

The lion and banner are appliquéd by machine onto the background. The diamond crown and collar are silver sequins held by a crystal bead to increase the brilliance. The lion's face and banner are hand stitched. The feather is white satin ribbon, the ribs are machine stitched and the ribbon is cut between the ribs to give the texture of a soft feather.”



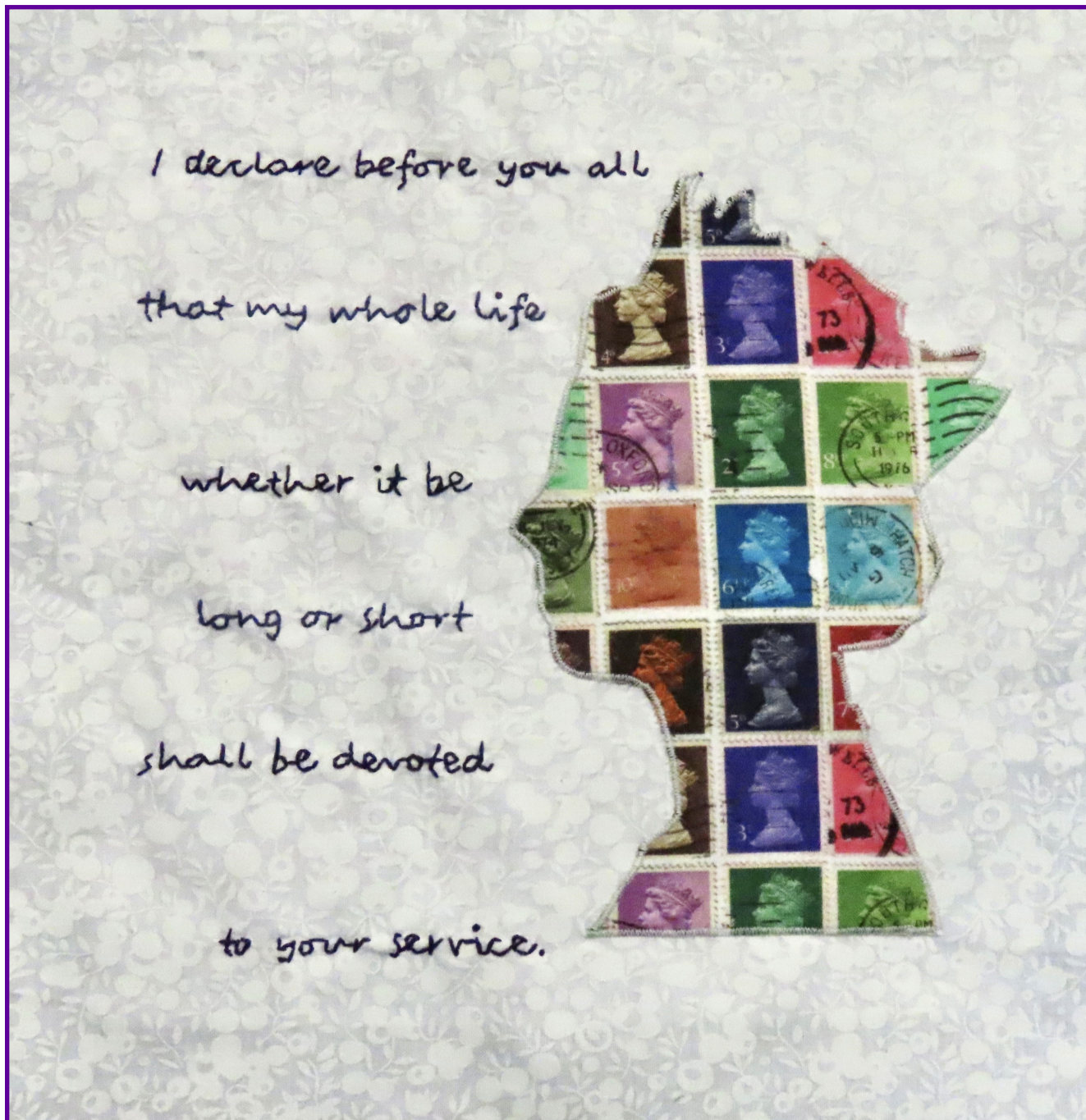
Duty and Service

Jane May

Beckenham Quilters and
Bromley Embroiderers

“Words taken from a speech made on her 21st birthday in 1947. She repeated the sentiment again in February 2022, just seven months before she died “It gives me pleasure to renew to you the pledge I gave in 1947 that my life will always be devoted to your service.”

The text was hand embroidered. The Queen’s head was cut from postage stamp fabric and appliquéd using Bondaweb and machine stitching.”



Silver Jubilee

Pam Egan-Wyer

Beckenham Quilters

“We had a big street party to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the whole street was full of bunting in red, white and blue.

I used a silver cord and hung triangles on it in red, blue and silver (white would not have shown up on a white background). I had hoped to add “Silver Jubilee 1977” in the block but it was too difficult, so I just did the bunting.”



Queen's Canopy

Ann Fried

Bromley Embroiderers

"I was inspired by the significant number of trees the Queen must have planted during her lifetime.

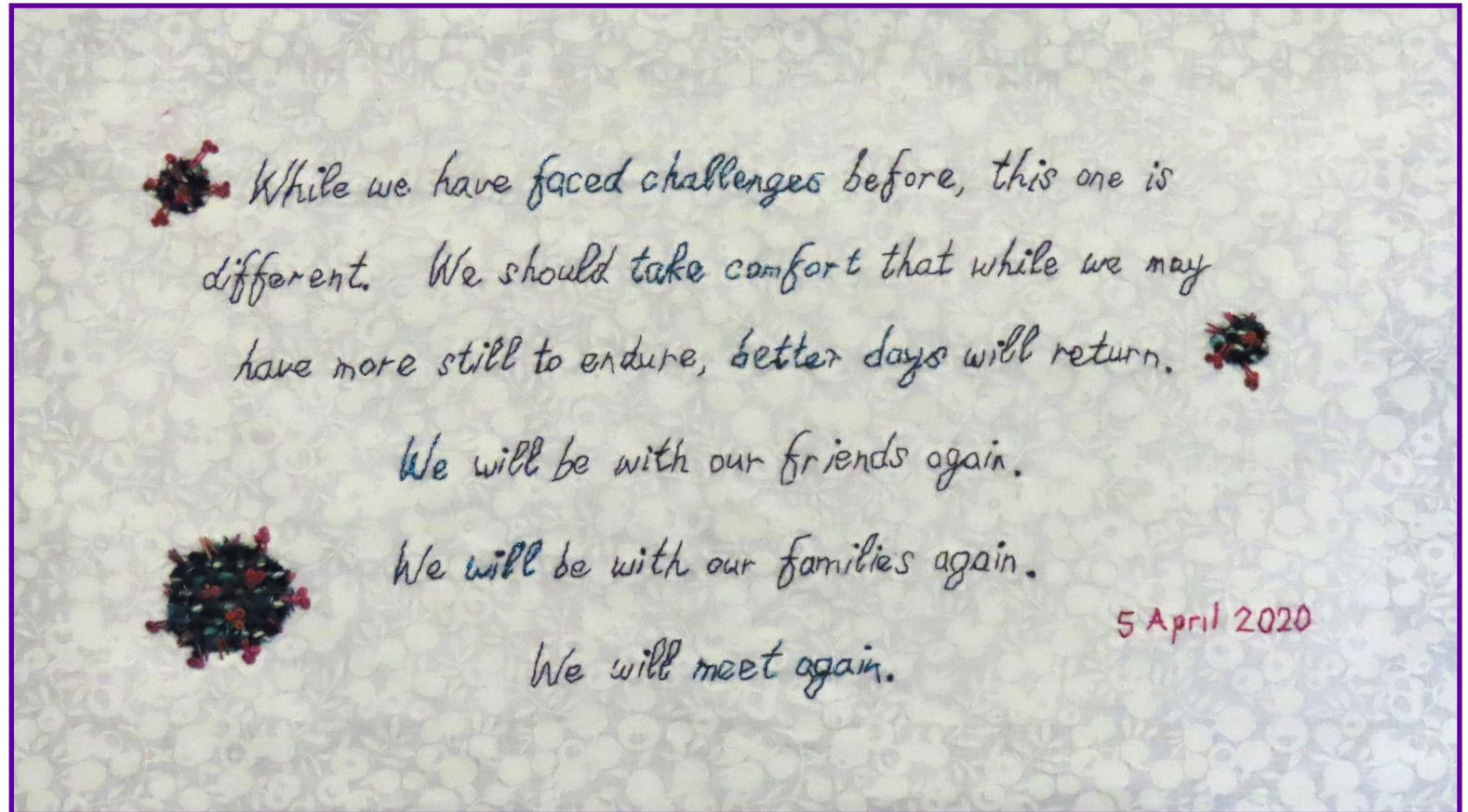
The technique was appliqué with hand stitching and button embellishment."



We Will Meet Again...

Jane May

Beckenham Quilters
and Bromley
Embroiderers



While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return.

We will be with our friends again.

We will be with our families again.

We will meet again.

5 April 2020

“At the start of the covid pandemic in 2020, along with the rest of the country, I was feeling a bit anxious! The Queen had always been a constant in my life, so hearing her say that everything was going to be alright and that we would get through this - as the country got through WWII - made me feel better. It felt as though she was speaking to me personally, which, I imagine, is exactly what she was aiming for - even though millions of other people in the UK were thinking the same thing!

Hand embroidered text with specific words highlighted in blue metallic thread. Additional embellishments (i.e. coronavirus!) were appliquéd and embroidered.”

Treetops Lodge

Gerlinde Southey

Bromley Embroiderers



“An impression of the Treetops Lodge in Kenya, near the Aberdare mountains and National Park. A three cabin lodge, built into an old fig tree. The young Princess Elizabeth stayed there, when she learned her father had died, and she became Queen! Placed near a water hole to watch the animals.”



The Queen's Handbag

Ursula Middleton

Bromley Embroiderers

“My inspiration came from my personal love of handbags and noticing the Queen was never without her handbag. They are made by Launer in England and nearly always in the classic Traviata style.

Appliqué with felt and silver braid. Hand stitched.”

Jubilee Years

Astrid Dudgeon

Bromley Embroiderers

“Dates to remember; silver, gold and platinum jubilees. My story starts with the coronation coach, moving up through the jubilee years. Growth in the Queen's popularity worldwide illustrated by the size of each profile.”

Each piece individually hand stitched on Vilene and even weave. Sheer fabrics added to illustrate silver, gold and platinum. Beads to give sparkle. Predominantly worked in chain stitch. All stitches attached by appliqué.”



The Royal Yacht Britannia

Ann Frazer

Bromley Embroiderers

“I was inspired by Her late Majesty's love of the yacht.
Drawing taken from a photograph printed onto fabric.
Background of sky and sea stitched together then image
trimmed and attached using Bondaweb. Machine and hand
stitching embellishment.”





Y Bwthyl Bach/The Little House

Jenni Dieter Buhr

Beckenham Quilters

“At the time of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, I was reading old news articles about the Queen’s childhood. I learned about the group in Wales who built a Wendy House as a gift for Elizabeth and drove it to Windsor where it was loved and used by her, her sister, her children, and her grandchildren.

The block is machine sewed using Bondaweb for the pieces to be held in place.”

Corgis are Cute

Regan Purcell

Beckenham Quilters

“Mad about dogs, always notice them first in any picture.

Used photographs of the Queen to trace shapes for my blocks. Raw edge appliqué with free motion machine embroidery.”



The Queen's Cypher

Frances Green

Beckenham Quilters

“Inspired by a template supplied by another Beckenham Quilter.

Having golden fabric, decided to Bondaweb and appliqué design onto Liberty fabric. Once bonded, finished with blanket stitch.”





A Crown

Barbara Brown

Beckenham Quilters

"The design was inspired by the interesting materials that I found in my bag of scraps.

I was given the golden leather. The other materials were in a bag for fidget quilts".



Mothers' Union Logo

Diana Pattison

Bromley Embroiderers

“Queen Elizabeth was the patron of the Mothers' Union, of which I am a member.

The design is the logo of the Mothers' Union. It is stitched on white cotton fabric with blue cotton thread in satin stitch bordered with couched perle thread in white.”



The Crown

Liz Sawyer

Beckenham Quilters

“I was inspired to make a crown because of the television series of the same name. Before watching the series I hadn't realised or thought about the Queen's sacrifice and her dedication to serve her country. I now realise how committed she was to her job as a public servant and how she applied herself so admirably to it.

I made the block using the foundation paper piecing method and the colours purple and gold to represent royalty, achievement and success.”



Jubilee Years

Jean Dillon

Beckenham Quilters

“Back in June 2022 Beckenham Quilters set up a challenge for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Members were encouraged to put fabric, beads, ribbon and any added extras into a jam jar. You were then given a different one back. From the contents you were asked to make a Royal Celebration block.

I took part in this project and produced a red and blue patchwork background with silver edging and a golden crown embellished with jewels (beads). I added the postage stamps an everyday reminder of the Queen. I repeated a similar block for this project.”



The Little Black Bag

Norma Hale

Bromley Quilters

“I saw a quilt pattern called “Little Black Bags” by Cheryl Phillips. The picture next to the pattern was an illustration of a lady holding a bag. I thought it was just like the Queen always appeared to me. A character. She was always so neat and tidy and carried a handbag. The picture inspired this block.

I used Liberty fabric for the dress because I love it. The pieces were appliquéd using Bondaweb and then hand embroidered and beaded.”



Regalia

Stephanie Johnson

Beckenham Quilters and Bromley Embroiderers

“Images of the 1953 coronation.

Appliqué, beading and hand stitching with some couching. Leather and beads used for the orb. Gold ribbon, beads and embroidery for the mace.”

The Garden Party

Lillian Heyworth-Dunn

Beckenham Quilters



“I have had the honour of attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II. My block takes its inspiration from the gardens there. I wanted to illustrate the care taken from the soil, grass, sky and sun necessary to grow beautiful flowers. The Queen always block coloured her outfits whenever in the public eye, in order that Her Majesty could be easily identified by the crowds. Her outfits were always coordinated and Her Majesty did not shy away from bold colour.

I have used basic patchwork and appliqué techniques in the design of the block. I have used Kaffe Fassett fabrics for the flowers and stems. Kaffe is renowned in the quilting world for his design of fabrics, using the boldest of colours. The polka dot edging is a nod to the formality of the occasion. This is an off cut of the dress I wore on the day.”