

Beginners' Quilting Course at Lorne Hill

I have just finished a beginners' quilting course at Jo Rabbitts workshop at Lorne Hill Farm, which I found both enlightening and inspiring. This course ran on the first Saturday of each month from February through to June and was taken by Anne Ray, an experienced and prize winning quilter who has taught many courses.

The quiltees (is that a new word I've invented?) were to make a quilt made up of friendship stars and nine patches, learning techniques such as rotary cutting, chain piecing, machine quilting and binding. Until then my only experience was in making patchwork cushions by hand using cardboard templates and some machine piecing. Always one to like an easy option, what a revelation gridded half square triangles and chain piecing turned out to be and it did not take long to assemble the blocks for our quilts! Anne was an attentive and encouraging tutor, as we dealt with blocked machines, too small pieces, etc. impressing on us there was no 'wrong' only individual touches and planned mistakes! Each lesson was accompanied with a set of notes complete with photos so it was easy to refer to when at home.

It was interesting to see the different choices of fabrics we made and we gradually formed a hardworking and supportive group, although our efforts in the afternoons tailed off after Jo's delicious three course lunches. Quilting and full stomachs do not go together, although we would not forego the lunches, Jo! The ambience was enhanced by the cosy surroundings of Jo's workshop and the setting of Lorne Hill Farm with its baby lambs and calves. Our last lesson was on binding and labelling, so we just have to do this to our quilts and will then meet up to show them off and be ready for the next course!



Some of the quilts made