

## The Making of The Fifield Quilt

### Seemed Like a Good Idea

It was last October when I tossed an idea into the pool: “would any of the Fifield ladies be interested in making a quilt?” Anyone who wanted to know

more was invited to a coffee morning, one Saturday in the autumn, when those of us who had quilting books and examples of patchwork and quilting came along, together with our scrap bags. Over several cups of coffee we decided to go ahead. After all it didn’t matter if the end product was no bigger than a cot quilt – and surely, with so much initial interest, we could manage that!

### Growing Like Topsy

We decided to start using some hexagons already made by Mrs Palmer Snr. In no time at all the ladies were riffling through the scrap bags for the colours they wanted to use. Sadly a few had to drop out - some through ill health and others for lack of spare time, but a hard core of six remained, four doing most of the stitching and two others concentrating on preparing templates and cutting out the fabric.

The ‘cot quilt’ grew – and grew – and grew! We met at monthly intervals to compare notes, share out the next jobs and generally encourage each other. The quilt was beginning to take shape and we felt it might be a major prize in the Fifield at Home raffle.



### Race Against Time

Our “£1 in the pot” at each meeting paid for the wadding and the backing had been donated so it was all ready and waiting for the patchwork top – but would it be finished

in time? Tina Palmer was determined it should. In the weeks just before the fete four of us stitched like fury while two concentrated on removing the templates; with only four days to go, we had a final evening session. “Could we pull it off?” The wadding had to be stitched in place, the backing tacked, the corners mitred (on the insistence of one who shall be nameless!) and the edging strip neatly hemmed – then sufficient quilting had to be done to hold all the layers together. Four and a half hours later – at 11.15 pm to be precise – we’d put in the last stitch.

### A Prize to be Proud Of

There were a lot of sore fingers and aching backs – but we’d done it and when we saw it hanging up behind the raffle table at the fete, we forgot the aches, pains and pricked fingers and remembered only the fun and laughter we’d shared in the making of the Fifield Quilt.

### Pat Yaxley

*PS. It’s been suggested that I don’t have any more bright ideas – but someone has done it for me: “Oh!” said one lady, “Will you make one every year?”*