The News, 30 October 2026

Since I last edited this rolling news sheet, our family has blossomed a little more, we now have 7 great-grand children, the first boy being born in July this year. I have recently published a local history book – 'The Saxon Treasure of Wheathampstead' – which in her final month Judith told me to bee off and write, because I was doing nothing but sitting with her! It is therefore dedicated to my bee, butterfly and dandelion girl.



This current edition of her website has been somewhat upgraded and a couple of additions made to the Gallery. You can now download the instructions for making some of Judith's designs, for free; please note they are copyright, so you may not use them for any purpose other than to make your own version for your own use. If you raffle it, you might like to make a small donation to her favourite charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind, in return!

I've also updated the story of our pair of lap quilts, mentioned in the 2024 News, and although they were/are simple quilts, I have included one in the Gallery, with the story behind them. The pattern and instructions are downloadable.

Lastly, we recently managed to rescue one of Judith's quilts from a charity shop after its owner died. We would like here to acknowledge the Stephenson family in Harpenden for spotting the quilt and helping us to bring it back into the family collection.

Quilter Judith Stephenson's daughter brought the quilt to her Mum for an assessment and perhaps a valuation. 'Ringing the Changes' was recognised because it was labelled – do you label all yours? – and because my Judith was her first teacher, way back at the beginning of the century!

Thank you for visiting with us **Ray Wilson 30 October 2026**

OLD NEWS . . .

News, 20 March 2024

Judith's family – husband (me) Ray, children Lyn, Simon and Richard – regret to inform friends and visitors to this website that Judith – my darling wife, and our children's loving mother, died 7th March 2023.

Judith was born in Dartford in May 1942, met me, Ray, in 1959 and married me in July 1964. Her working life was spent as a microbiologist, variously employed in industry and the civil service, working on root hormones, potatoes and bees!

Judith and I moved to our 17th century cottage in Wheathampstead in 1989 and about then Judith took up quilting as a hobby. An early teacher was Angela Maddon and encouraged by her, Judith's work gained some notice (see her Gallery). Over the next 25 years she acquired some 40 rosettes and a collection of 'tin-ware' to mark her success at National and US competitive quilting shows.

Her quilts were popular for their colour, intricacy, and novelty and humour – there are a number out there featuring cartoon penguins: some went to shows and sold if she could bear to part with them. Some never returned and we don't know who bought them, so if you do know, please contact us!

She obtained City and Guilds in both Quilting and Embroidery in the late 90s, was a founder member of Mead Quilters in Wheathampstead, and after her retirement from full-time work in 2002, spent happy years teaching and demonstrating Patchwork and Quilting. Over the years she taught about 80 students, many of whom became expert quilters as well as friends!

During her last year of illness she made a dozen baby quilts for the Linus Project and a pair of matching lap(?) quilts to keep us cosy that freezing winter of 2022-23; I still have mine, and she was wrapped in hers when she went 'back to the stars'.

Easter Saturday 8th April 2023 her life was celebrated with a huge show of her quilts at Wheathampstead Memorial Hall, attended by over 80 relatives, friends, and past and recent students. Our 12 grand-children and 5 great-granddaughters and other family members each chose a quilt to keep, and the sale of other quilts raised a substantial sum for Judith's favourite charity, Guide Dogs for the Blind.

All the old News, below, was written by Judith, so I see no reason for changing it. As Judith's 'technical advisor' and occasional quilt or quilting pattern designer, I intend to maintain this website for as long as I am able, so please come back again to read the News.

News, 21 May 2018

Just back from **2018 Quilts UK** at Malvern with two **3rd** place awards, for both **Small** and **Large Wall-hangings** with **'Larger Than Life'** in the former, **'Walled Garden'** in the latter; see both in my Gallery. A pleasing result, when winners Annalize Littlefair and Liz Jones are among the competition!

Usual bit of fabric shopping and a haul including 30 metres of Bond-a-Web, which might last till Christmas!

News, 26 June 2017

'Framed' (see my Gallery) won a **Judges Merit** in the Theme category at the **2017 Quilts UK**, where I also showed my first attempt at a 'modern' quilt, **'A la Mode'.**

I don't have an entry in this year's **World Quilt Show**.

Anne Williams is the Editor of **The Quilters Guild Journal** and she also contributes a series called **"Quilt as Desired"** (that famous final phrase on a quilt pattern/instruction sheet!) to **Today's Quilter** (**TQ**) magazine.

I've known Anne for many years through the **Mead Quilters** group I belong to in my home village of Wheathampstead in Hertfordshire. So I was delighted when Anne asked to feature me and some of my work in the series in **TQ**.

About the time she popped in to visit me I had just finished **'Framed'** (see above) and she chose to headline it in **TQ** along with my thoughts, tips and opinions about free-motion quilting.

News, 10 March 2017

Yet more news about '**Humming Bee**' etc. We trekked off last week to Penrith (**PENRITH!***) in Cumbria for preview/opening evening of the **"New Quilting"** exhibition at the **Rheged Discovery Centre Gallery**. Lovely venue, event spoilt slightly by lack of

name badges for contributors — so we (and others) didn't know who was who — and the lack of a catalogue!

But they had given me a whole wall, just near the entrance, maybe 20 ft. long by 8 ft. high for my 3 quilts, which though not really innovative, were possibly selected for the 'WOW' you get with colour (especially against a black background) and maybe the unusual piecing.

Me and my Wall . . .



We went back on the Friday afternoon for some quiet peaceful photography and met **Marijke van Welzen** (note the similar surname!) who makes beautiful quilted clothes; had a good chat and later gave her a lift back into Penrith. I've put a link to her website on my site, she makes wonderful quilts.

News, February 2017

More news about '**Humming Bee**'! It is to be the December illustration in the **2018 Quilters Guild calendar**! That'll be handy because also this week I was asked to do a workshop for Fitzwilliam Quilters in Northampton . . . in September 2018, so that'll be the first entry in my copy of the calendar! Also, this will be my third quilt to appear in a QG calendar - '**Dent de Lion**' in 2006 and '**On Green Pond**' in 2016 were the previous two (both are in my **Gallery**).

News, January 2017

At the end of 2016 I received a surprise invitation to exhibit some of my recent Quilts in a '**New Quilting**' exhibition in the Gallery at **The Rheged Centre, Redhills, Penrith*, Cumbria CA11 0DQ**

So, opening night is 2 March 2017 and The Exhibition will be open every day, Friday 3 March – Sunday 23 April, 10am-5pm.

'**Poppy Day**', '**On Green Pond**' and '**Humming Bee**' will be on show among a few dozen other quilts by such luminaries as Alicia Merrett, Kate Crossley, Sara Impey, Elizabeth Brimelow and the wonderful Sandie Lush.

Quilts packed ready to go about 5 February, route planned and hotel booked, and we're going to stay up there for a few days' sightseeing . . . last time we were in the Lake District must have been in the early '90s!

***'Withnail and I'** fan? You'll appreciate our excitement about the Venue!!

Old News

I've been lucky to have had quite a few successes in quilt shows, I have over 30 rosettes on a board in my 6 ft x 8 ft sewing room.

'**On Green Pond**' (see it in my **Gallery**) had an Honourable Mention (Highly Commended in UK) in the Traditional category at the **2013 World Quilt Show** which toured the USA.

'**Humming Bee**', see my **Gallery**, was awarded another Honourable Mention green rosette in the **2015 World Quilt Show** in the Traditional category, again!

Really chuffed, and for the UK quilters who had about 30 quilts there, and well done to Sandie Lush for winning the Traditional category for the UK.

. . . and then I thought, how would it do in the **Festival of Quilts**, the most important UK quilt show, held at the NEC, Birmingham, August 2016?

So - entry fee, insurance, transport to and from - it went to the NEC.

Some wonderful quilts there, BUT . . . '**Humming Bee**' was **Judge's Choice** for **Dawn Cameron-Dick**, a well known and respected quilter, tutor and judge. So, chuffed, again, thank you Dawn.

So, altogether, an enjoyable piece of work, which was appreciated by others in many (unknown) ways.

Did you spot the bee and the butterfly?