

**u3a Summer Programme “Textile Adventures”
Hosted by our Patchwork and Quilting group
Beech Hill Church, Otley on Wednesday 17th August 2022**

U3A members enjoyed a stimulating and busy day which began with a film about Aiwan Obinyan a young, English born Nigerian woman searching for her identity. She found it all in the African Wax Prints.

Aiwan’s journey told the fascinating story of these exuberant designs and how they came to represent black communities across the globe.



This was followed by a “Quilts for Causes” presentation. Since the 19th century groups and individuals have made quilts in the name of “*Good Causes*”. From early signature quilts made in the USA, to the Aids Quilt in the 20th century and the Quilts for Care Leavers in the 21st Century. This talk shared images of many of the beautiful quilts produced and told the stories behind their making.





The afternoon became the practical side of the day, with an opportunity for members, using beautiful Indian wood blocks, to print onto re-purposed fabric and create fabric panels and unique tote bags.

Members then “slowed” down the pace by participating in the art of “slow stitching”, creating personalized notebook covers using simple stitches, applique and embellishments.

On display, members had an opportunity to view and enjoy a selection of quilts, art works and sample pieces created by members of the U3A Patchwork & Quilting group.



One of the members who attended this event adds:

It was so lovely to have the luxury of spending a full day doing what you enjoy most of all. From beginning to end it was magical.

Aiwan's film was so emotional and shows just what can be achieved with enthusiasm and determination despite adversity.

Your presentation showing the ways that quilts can present powerful messages of ownership and caring was fascinating, and to see our very own quilt for Ukraine was an uplifting conclusion to the presentation.

It was great to have a go at printing using such special blocks and lovely to relax with 'mindful' slow stitching. Thankyou to Carolyn and Angie for so generously sharing their resources. It was like an Aladin's cave!

I can't sign off without thanking you all for the delicious refreshments throughout the day and an amazing lunch which tempted us all to eat far too much!!

With grateful thanks to the organisers of this fascinating day:

CarolAnn Allan, Angie Griffin, Carolyn Patel, Kathryn Thompson and Pippa Wardman.

Thanks also to:

Kathryn Thompson for providing this report and Bob Griffin for these suburb images.



To learn more about our Patchwork and Quilting Group [select this link.](#)