



Teddies & Quilting- Sandy Sheward

Elaine Well I am here near St Caradec at Chez Sandra Jane to talk to Sandy Sheward about her bespoke teddy bears and also another craft that she has started.

So, Sandy, could you tell us perhaps when you came to Brittany and how you set up your workshop?

Sandy Peter, my husband, and I, came to Brittany in June 2006. I was actually making teddy bears back in the UK so I continued making them here, and selling them, but really teddy bears are just my hobby. But when I was younger, I would make things with my grandmother, and I was always drawing, so I've always been interested in arts and crafts, and I would play for hours on my own. I liked making things.

Elaine That's fantastic, and its wonderful that you will be able to continue it over here now. Oh yes, less pressure of actual work let's say.

Sandy That's right, and when you've got a family you don't have time for it, and when you're working, again, you don't have the time, so, here, I am able to 'delve' into my crafts.

Elaine Well, they are lovely. I gather also now that you've diversified into patchwork quilts and patchwork?

Sandy Yes, a couple that we met in the first year that we were here, introduced me to patchworking, and, as they say, I was hooked, um, so my husband now has to clamber over boxes of fabric, but um, what you can create from, from just you know, one, two, three pieces of fabric is amazing.

Elaine I'm just looking now at this beautiful one you have brought down, your mystery.....

Sandy Mystery quilt yes, I endeavoured to start last year on a mystery quilt with some other ladies that come to me for patchworking. This gave us the opportunity to try out different techniques and I, 'hands on heart' some of them I had not tried myself, so it was a new experience for me and a very new experience for them, some of which they don't want to try again, but, we did it and I have to say I think three of the ladies have finished, one is still completing

but she lives in Belgium, so she comes when she can.

Elaine It's a pity you ca....., it's not, radio isn't visual, if I can describe it, its background is white and then all the quilting on it is in gree..., colours in green and red and the pattern is absolutely beautiful, each one being different. Absolutely wonderful. Now, I understand you also have workshops?

Sandy I hold the workshops in our kitchen. I have at maximum of about four people, um, I offer a full day patchworking from 10 o'clock 'til 4 and, um, in that time, I do ask people to bring their own lunch and what we do is, we'll either start..... if you're a new person then we start off on a very simple quillow, which is just blocks and sashing. I can get them to the stage of putting the layers together sometimes in a day, sometimes the second day, but you can make one of these in a weekend, so it depends on the hand sewing or machine sewing or what they want to do.

Elaine So how many days a week would you spend on your courses?

Sandy Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and if needs be, Saturdays.

Elaine So tell me, how can people buy your lovely things?

Sandy Well, um, I go to events, I have a website - all my details are on there, that you can call me. I also organise an art and craft event at AIKB, which is normally the end of February. I also organise the textile expos, for AIKB, one is in October and April/May time, so again, you can find me at those, um, shows.

Elaine You are obviously very, very busy, so thank you so much Sandy, for your time today and also for the lovely tea and scones, scones and jam, I'll come again, they do get this when they come for a patchworking course?

Sandy You're welcome. That's the attraction, they always have afternoon tea!

