



Sandra pieced the centre, inspired by award-winning quilter Judy Mathieson and her legendary Mariner's Compass designs. The N, S, E, and W points of the compass were worked separately and appliquéd onto the background, as were the puffing 'winds'. A scalloped edge was created around each side of the octagon.



**SANDRA SMITH**

You'll be able to explore the complete interview with Sandra Smith, along with many other remarkable stories, later this year as Talking Quilts starts to make the archive available online.

[www.talkingquilts.org.uk](http://www.talkingquilts.org.uk)  
<http://maggyhowarth.co.uk>  
[www.rrsdiscovery.com](http://www.rrsdiscovery.com)

## A voyage of discovery


*Join us month to month as we explore exceptional quilts that inspire and excite*

Earlier this year Dundee quilter Sandra Smith took part in the Talking Quilts Project and shared the story of the Discovery Quilt. It was made by a group of quilters and embroiderers based in Dundee, inspired by Maggy Howarth's mosaic created for the Discovery Point Visitor Centre where Captain Scott's ship, the RRS Discovery, is moored. Talking Quilts is an oral history project of The Quilters' Guild, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund that seeks to capture and share the stories of present day quilters. Now in its second year, the project is travelling to Kent, Surrey and Sussex and then to Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

Sandra knew that the story of the Discovery Quilt was one that she wanted to share. "Our group was made up of many modest, but extremely talented, stitchers and we are so proud that the Discovery Quilt has

pride of place at the Discovery Point Visitor Centre. It's important that the story of the quilt and its makers is recorded in our textile history," said Sandra.

Maggy Howarth's 5m diameter mosaic sits majestically at the entrance to the visitor centre. A large compass surrounded by puffing 'winds' forms the centre, linked to a circle of old port bollards by a twisted rope design. Translating the centre of the mosaic into a quilt design was no mean feat but Sandra worked with Norma Scothern, Mary Stalker and Norah Clark, who were members of Acorn Quilters and skilled embroiderers.

Every region brings with it heartfelt stories of quilts and their makers and together they are creating a wonderful archive. The Discovery Quilt is a great example of the power of stitch and it's fantastic to discover more about its journey. 

*Do you have a quilt with a tale to tell? Let us know, and you could be featured on the Back Story page! Contact us: email [todaysequilter@immediate.co.uk](mailto:todaysequilter@immediate.co.uk) or write to us at Tower House, Bristol BS1 1AA.*