
STITCHING TOGETHER

Dear Members,

It gives me great pleasure to take over from Ann Smith as Editor of Stitching Together. I look forward to working with you all and receiving lots of interesting articles and photos about the work you are doing in your various areas. You can reach me at this email address: pam.its.only.me@hotmail.co.uk. Many thanks to Ann for all her sterling work over the past five years and we wish her well in her future activities.

Kind regards,
Pam Sawyer

Project Linus Theme for the Festival of Quilts 2019



Most children love to have bright colours in their quilts. Our theme for 2019 is to make a quilt of any style but using ONLY red, blue and yellow. The size of the quilt should be 36" - 42" square.

The finished quilt, or quilt top, can be given to your Area Coordinator or, if preferred, handed over at the Festival of Quilts 2019 which will take place from 1st to the 4th August 2019 at the NEC Birmingham.

Please note that the quilt depicted is only an example, you can use your own creativity to make a stylish, fun, child's quilt.

AREA REPORTS



South East Kent

Imago Young Carers Festival

South East Kent Project Linus quilters worked hard to produce 120 quilts for the Kent Young Carers Residential Festival which took place on October 25th and 26th. It was quite a challenge as we were not given much notice! Well done everyone for

such an achievement. Here are some of the Young Carers, happily enjoying themselves to the left, and some of the quilts which we made to the right. The Young Carers had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including kayaking, archery, bush craft, rock climbing, low ropes and skiing, as well as drumming and art workshops, and a cake decorating workshop.



'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'



South East Kent quilters were also busy stitching Incubator Quilts for William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Sue Clark, Ward Manager, and her staff, were very happy to receive 158 quilts and a supply of laundry bags. They will really brighten up the ward. Volunteers continue to make these quilts throughout the year as demand is so high. We received a lovely thank you letter:

'On behalf of the Neonatal Unit here at the William Harvey Hospital we want to say Thank You so much to you all for your wonderful donation of the quilts and the wash bags. They are beautiful.'

The babies appreciate them as well as the parents and the Staff who are able to give them out. The babies look lovely in them.

We thank you again.

Rebecca Berger, (Health Care Assistant, NCIU)'



Argyllshire

Dunoon Community Quilters

Our first day back after the summer, it was great to see old friends and meet some new ones. Just to prove we've all been busy over the summer, here is a picture of some of the quilts going to "Linus" our supported charity that gives a hug in a rug to children going through hard times. Well done ladies!

West Dorset

We have heard from Tesco bags of help, following a vote that took place in the Dorchester store during July and August. We have been very fortunate to be granted £2,000 to enable us to make a quantity of quilts for the Weldmar Hospice over the next year. These will be memory quilts that are given to the children of hospice patients.



We have given 19 quilts to the Mountjoy Special School, Beaminster for a new intake of children. The school asked for a photo that they could put on Facebook and we thought that you would like to see it. Both the parents and the children loved the quilts.



In August we once again attended The Melplash Show for our main fundraising event of the year. We are very fortunate to be given a free space within the homecraft tent. We had two beautiful quilts to raffle this year and managed to raise over £400.

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

East Staffordshire

Helen, the East Staffordshire Area Co-ordinator, has recently visited two of her local patchwork groups who have been busy making quilts this year for her to distribute to children in the East Staffordshire PLUK area: 'Patch from Scratch' in Barton under Needwood donated 15 quilts. These quilts had been part of a very colourful exhibition of the group's work which had been displayed in their local church during the summer village festival and Fradley Quilters organised a Project Linus Day workshop and they had great fun putting together pre-cut packs to make the lovely quilts shown in the photograph.



Oxfordshire

Margaret Metcalfe, Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire, was pleased to be invited to give a talk about Project Linus to a very well established, and experienced, quilting group called King Alfred Quilters which is based in East Challow, Oxfordshire. She said that they are very prolific with their quilt making and give very generously to Project Linus. They have some new members who needed information on sizes and needs for groups that she donates quilts to. As



you can see from the photos they are a very happy bunch and generous with their tea and biscuits!! She subsequently came home with 21 quilts which was absolutely wonderful. This group also provides breast pump bags and "wiggly bags" for children's oncology at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford.

She would also like to show everyone that what we do is really appreciated. by the certificate she received from the Red Cross. How joyful is that.

She would recommend any co-ordinator who wasn't too sure about giving a talk to just go for it. It's a good way to earn some money for expenses even if you only charge mileage. Groups are always pleased to talk to us. Margaret thanks everyone from Oxfordshire who has donated this year and hopefully they will keep coming.



'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

Shepton Mallett

We have just had another successful Craft4Crafters event at Shepton Mallett. It was lovely to meet our stitchers - old and new - and hear some of their stories.

There were also a number of people saying how much their own children had appreciated being given a quilt when in hospital. The next show will be in April and we hope to be there again, flying the flag.



Edinburgh's Mary Erskine School Linus group

This group has been making quilts for Project Linus for the past two years. They recently handed over 17 beautifully made quilts. Teacher Jane Campbell, who has been a Linus supporter for many years, has developed this enthusiastic group which meets weekly in term time. Last year two of the girls included Project Linus as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Editor:

We wonder how many school groups there are? If you have one in your area, please do let us know.



East Devon

We were lucky enough to go to All Saints Quilters (Axminster in Devon) exhibition and to be given over 50 quilts of various sizes for Project Linus. They were displayed mainly in the church with the bigger ones in the Village Hall. The group have an exhibition every two years and some of the ladies had produced an amazing 8/10 quilts each over a two-year period.



'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

THANK YOU LETTERS

'I just wanted to say thanks so much for the two blankets I was given when I moved into Woman's Aid. My two little girls love them, one is a Noddy one with paw prints on the back, the other one is a Teddy bear, green with red border around it and made by Liz Casciani. I can't say thank you enough it has given the girls loads of smiles and my older girl went to bed with the Noddy one and wrapped it around her and her dolly, it's such a lovely thing to make for people so from the bottom of our hearts thanks so much xx'

Pip, Barbara, and Beth

'My wife and I are in the Edinburgh sick kids' hospital with our baby who has a nasty bout of pneumonia. We were so touched to find the quilt in her cot and the note attached. It's beautiful and hugely thoughtful of your organisation. We would love to donate; do I do this through the website? Thank you again for such a beautiful quilt and all your amazing work.'

'I just wanted to thank you and your team for the lovely quilt my daughter received at the sick kids. I'd love an opportunity to thank the person who made it directly. My daughter is nearly two years old. She has suffered severe complications of chickenpox and has been in hospital since Monday. She's had several operations and they are prepping her for her next one as I write this. The nurse gave my daughter the quilt yesterday, but I only realised today that it is a gift from you to us. It's a very thoughtful meaningful thing for you to do. Thank you, a thousand times. My daughter's big brother came to see her yesterday and loved the quilt! He was so excited to see animals, pirates etc and has been talking about the quilt this morning as well. We are hoping that all will go well and that we will be able to take my daughter and her amazing quilt home in a few weeks.'

'Just got some feedback about the Matilda quilt. The child was overwhelmed when she received this and said 'that's me'! Her Dad said she immediately got the Matilda movie out, wrapped the quilt around her and watched the movie which he said was the 500th time. Once again you have made such a difference to a child's life with the time and thought given to each of these quilts.'

*The quilt was requested by a Social Worker for a wee girl in bad circumstances. Our quilter always asks for any details which might be helpful in allowing us to provide something **really** suitable for individual children - and this time she was advised that she was "a reader". She bought a 'Sale' double-sized 'Matilda' duvet cover for only 4.99p, and managed to get four full-size quilts out of it. It featured Matilda saying "Now, what am I going to read next??" Perfect!*

EASY FUNDRAISING

Do you shop online? If so, you could be raising funds for Project Linus UK with many of your purchases. By registering for the free Easy Fundraising website and selecting Project Linus UK each time you shop online with any of the 2,000 Easy Fundraising retailers (including Amazon, John Lewis and M&S) a small donation will be made to our organisation. It doesn't cost you (or us) a single penny.

Your donations keep Project Linus UK going and contribute towards buying fabric, wadding and other sewing and quilting supplies. While the amounts are only small, they quickly add up and thereby enable us to create more quilts and blankets for babies, children and teenagers "in need of a hug" in the UK.

It's quick and easy to register if you take a look at easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/projectlinusUK

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