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## STITCHING TOGETHER

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The Directors have been eagerly awaiting a time when we receive the email from one of our coordinators containing deliveries, that make our total 400,000. And yes - we have done it! Congratulations to Kate Clark - Area Coordinator for West Sussex - whose May deliveries took us to the 400,000. What an amazing number for an organisation that has only been running for 19 years.

We could not have done this without the continued help of all the amazing quilters and knitters that keep us supplied with quilts and blankets. Thank you.

Heather, Helen and Sarah

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Dear Volunteers,

How nice to put a face to the names of our Project Linus Leaders. In the photo we see Helen Scales and Heather Russell manning the Project Linus UK stand at the British Quilt & Stitch show in Uttoxeter. They said many thanks to everyone who supported them through purchases and donating quilts. Helen Scales is a Director of Project Linus and Coordinator Secretary, Heather Russell is also a Director of Project Linus and is responsible for sales, events and shows.

Kind regards,  
Pam Sawyer, Editor

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## AREA REPORTS

### Jersey, Channel Islands - 10th year anniversary

Sarah Jordan

I have been contributing blankets to Project Linus UK for over 20 years. Towards the end of 2008 I was invited by a Co-Ordinator in the UK, to whom I had been sending blankets, to become a Co-Ordinator covering the Channel Islands. Initially I was not keen as I live with anxiety and depression and, I am not always able to function well, and I still wanted to do a good job. Having been reassured that this would not be an issue, I decided to take the plunge in early 2009. I am proud to say that I started from scratch in Jersey in February 2009.

*'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'*

I had to find kind people to make blankets, 'blanketeers', and agencies through which blankets may be donated, e.g. The Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) and Robin Ward at the General Hospital, The Women's Refuge, Brighter Futures, the Baby Steps programme formerly run by the NSPCC, recently taken over by Family Nursing & Home Care (FNHC), Bel Royal School, to name a few.

In the last ten years we have donated approximately 1,300 blankets & quilts in Jersey. Project Linus now has a separate operation in Guernsey, ably run by Debbie Baker. The charity could not have achieved this without the kindness and generosity of the numerous 'blanketeers', agencies involved, and the team who participates behind the scenes.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO YOU ALL.



Members of the Project Linus UK-Jersey, Channel Islands Committee.



The Ladies from Eden Knit'n'Natter Group, one of a number of groups which donate blankets & quilts.

## King's College Hospital, London

### Jenny Strong and Elspeth Facer

Having been members of Dulwich Quilters for many years, Elspeth Facer & I are the Linus representatives for Kings and have taken Linus Quilts to the children's wards for several years. In May 2018 we were approached and asked if we could include the Neonatal ward and provide quilts to cover the Incubators. We met with Jude, the nurse in charge, to discuss the project, as she had some very specific ideas as to the covers she needed. There are 30 – 40 Incubators in Kings and about 800 babies from 24 weeks use them each year! They have found that if the babies are kept away from outside stimulation – mainly light and noise – they can use all their energy for breathing and eating. Therefore, they make better progress.

After one or two prototypes the pattern of covers we have decided on are practical, easy/quick to make & fill the bill! They are 40 x 40ins, the underside is black/dark navy (& dark stitching), there is a flap that lifts back for access to the hole for feeding tubes or medication. This flap is held in place by Velcro. The top is bright, childlike and either a single piece of fabric or pieced. The bright, individual top lets each parent know where their precious baby is, brightens up the ward and is taken home as a play-mat when the child goes home.

When we started making the incubator quilts, we were given some money by Kingfishers (a local children's charity run in aid of the children in King's) Dulwich Quilters, & some generous members of the public who heard about the idea or read about it at our last exhibition. After ordering the wadding & backing fabric we cut it out on the kitchen floor – not the fastest process - to produce a large number of quilts. Since then an incredibly generous businessman has come to our rescue. He and his company have now provided us with 500 backings & waddings – READY CUT. We have produced packs with details of how to make the quilt, including black bias binding for the internal flap & Velcro (non-adhesive) to attach the flap and a template for the flap. So far, we have given 60 Incubator quilts to the neonatal unit.

*'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'*





We are extremely grateful to all the following groups who have helped us (and will hopefully continue to support us) with these quilts and the ordinary quilts for the children's wards. Bromley Quilters, Dulwich Quilters, Dulwich WI, Half Moon Stitchers, Knitting & Natter Beckenham, Lewisham Adult Education, Quilt Academy Bell House Dulwich, Quiltessence, Stitch West Norwood, the Rebels, Sevenoaks Weald U3A, & other personal friends. For anyone interested in helping us in this project please feel free to contact us: Jenny Strong - [jenny4strong@gmail.com](mailto:jenny4strong@gmail.com), Elspeth Facer - [epfacer@btoopenworld.com](mailto:epfacer@btoopenworld.com).

## Edinburgh, Mid and East Lothian

**Pip, Beth and Barbara**



Beth, East Lothian Coordinator held a workshop in Dunbar at the end of March. Here is a photo of some of the dozen or so quilt tops completed on the day by a dedicated group of volunteers, using two different patterns. All fabric was provided by the coordinators.

## South West Essex and part of East London

**Pat Thompson**

Here are some members of the Sunshine Quilters who are based in and around Harlow in Essex. They are a dedicated group of needlewomen who like to challenge themselves in the designs and techniques they use to make Linus quilts. A very special thank you to them for the work that they do. You can see how they diverse they are in the quality and design of their quilts.



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A recent new contact has been the Foster Carer Associates organisation in Rettenden, Essex who were in need of quilts and knitted blankets for the many children they place in foster care throughout the area. Katy Sullivan, their participation officer, collected and distributed the quilts and blankets to the children and foster carers who were so pleased to receive them.



Here she is with her staff and some of the quilts donated.



Carol Cross, the owner of Just Between Friends, a patchwork and quilting store in Buckhurst Hill, Essex, regularly holds Linus days where we cut, sew, iron and assemble quilts, assisted by tea, coffee and cake! Many thanks to Carol for her continued support of Project Linus and all the volunteers who willingly give up their time to support us. Here are some of the quilt tops made on the day.

Our latest venture in 2019 has been the cooperation of two quilting groups in our area, Marsh Quilters and Roding Quilters to get together for a day to make quilts for PL. We were given working space at a Disability Resource Centre in East London and members of these two groups really worked very hard to create these quilt tops. A simple five-inch block and three inch border resulted in some very striking and original quilts. Many thanks to the coordinator of the Resource Centre for making us feel so welcome, again with tea, coffee and cake! Some quilts have already been donated.



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## Cumbria - Allerdale and Copeland

Barbara Strong

At the beginning of the month Derwent Patchworkers held their Maytime Quilt Exhibition. My fellow group members have donated over 150 quilts and blankets to Linus during my first year as a Linus Coordinator and in recognition a separate display of Linus quilts was included in the exhibition. During a light lunch of tea and cake, visitors were able to enjoy our Linus quilts which brightened up the cafe walls. After the exhibition the quilts were delivered to the Children's Ward at West Cumberland Hospital, and to the Children's Centre, where they will be enjoyed all over again. As always, my thanks to DP members for their support and enthusiasm.



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## Easy Fundraising

Don't forget if you shop online, please sign up to **easyfundraising** and help support Project Linus UK!

It's a really simple way to raise money for Project Linus UK through your everyday online shopping with retailers like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and it's completely free!

Over £20million has already been raised for good causes in the UK by **easyfundraising** shoppers so please help us get our share here: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/projectlinus](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/projectlinus)

Money already raised from **easyfundraising** went towards helping our co-ordinators provide fabric and wadding for their volunteers. All proceeds are re-invested in Project Linus and the work that we do together.

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# Raffle 2019

**Tickets £1 each**

**3 prizes each comprising:**



Warm Company wadding  
donated by  
**Andrews Agencies**

**and**

A selection of fabrics  
donated by  
**Lewis & Irene**



**(items may not be exactly as shown)**

**Tickets are available from your local Project Linus Coordinator and all proceeds raised go to help fund raise locally in your district.**

**If you would like a book, or books, of raffle tickets to sell to your friends, family and quilting colleagues please ask your local coordinator.**

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# THANK YOU LETTERS

My daughter is in RHSC, Ward 1 at the moment. We have been here for a month so far. F..... received this beautiful blanket today and I just wanted to say thank you to whoever made it. It is greatly appreciated and made us both very happy.

Many thanks,

S.....



'We would like to extend a huge thank you to your organisation for the beautiful quilts that were donated to us. We have had a number of children and young people use our service and be given a quilt. We have allowed the children to pick the quilt they would like themselves and each one of those has been taken out of here in the arms of a very grateful child.

As you know due to the nature of our work it is difficult for us to give a lot of information regarding the children who have received one of the quilts but we wanted to share a few bits of information with you so the people who have made these beautiful gifts know how grateful we are.

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An 11-year-old boy looked through the quilts with my colleague Harry and picked a beautiful blue one for himself to take home.

A 15-year-old girl in care attended here. She had brightly coloured hair and talked about how she enjoyed dyeing her hair. I showed her one of the big quilts that was multi-coloured patches. She loved the quilt so much and said she was going to dye her hair every colour on the quilt! She left us feedback and said how much she loved the quilt.

A 3-year-old boy attended, and we found a great quilt for him. One of our Crisis Workers Nicky wrapped him up in the blanket and told him stories.'

Thank you so much for our amazing quilt donation. I can't wait to start giving them to the children.

Lauren Clayson  
Play Leader  
Rainbow ward  
QEQM, Margate



#### **Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh**

Thank you very much for the Project Linus Quilts which were handed into the hospital for the children and young people to use. These quilts are fantastic and, as always, bring a little bit of comfort and home to the many children in hospital.

We are always very grateful that people take time out of their busy lives to remember the children in hospital and your donation will hopefully make their time spent in hospital a little bit better. Please find enclosed a little picture from some of the children and young people to say thank you.

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