

STITCHING TOGETHER

A big bunch of "Thank you's"

These are all the quilts donated by my volunteers in East Lothian, Scotland. All done over lockdown. A very big thank you for all their hard work.

Thanks

Beth Nelson

East Lothian Co-ordinator



"Hi - I just wanted to let you know that the blanket you donated to the Edinburgh Sick Kids brightened up my day after my daughter was admitted at only 4 days old. She wasn't regulating her temperature herself and we were in observation for 24 hours. Being a first time mum it was very hard being alone without my partner during Covid. Thank you so much for the blanket - I was really at one of my lowest points that day and the generosity and time taken to make the blanket really blew me away. Thanks again."

I just wanted to drop an email to thank you for the quilt. I attach a photo of my son, who was two weeks old, under his gorgeous quilt, so you can thank the maker. We were in Sick Kids (Edinburgh) last week as he was losing weight. After 5 days he was finally on track.

It's beautiful and an amazing keepsake. Thank you for cheering us up.



"Thank you's" continue on Page 4



Pat Thompson, coordinator of South-West Essex/part East London sends news about her areas' activities during the past year.



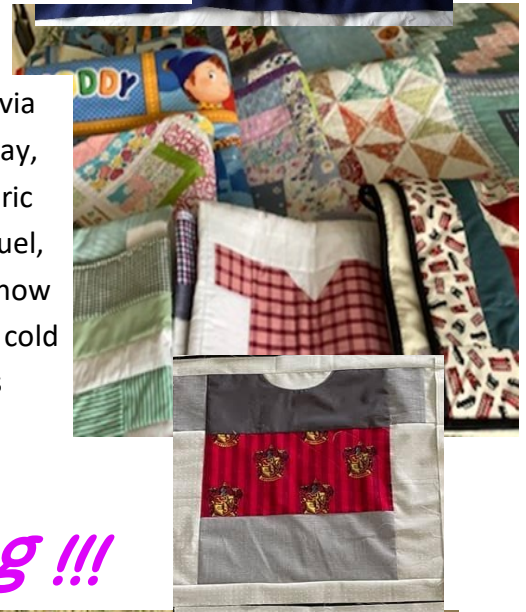
Although Roding Quilters, a group of crafters from Chigwell and surrounding local areas in Essex, were unable to attend their normal monthly meetings, behind the scenes a lot of work has been taking place to build up stocks of quilts and knitted blankets to keep Project Linus in easy and safe donations



Zooming and stitching !!!



It was decided that a 'virtual' sewing day would be held via Zoom in October 2020. A couple of weeks prior to the day, members met in the garden of the Church Hall for a 'fabric swap', shirt fabrics donated by Charles Tyrwhitt and Esquel, collection of wadding, quilt patterns, advice, chat and 'show and tell.' Despite previously good weather, it was a very cold day and warm coats and hastily-eaten picnics and drinks were the order of the day.



Stitching and Zooming !!!



A selection of these quilts was donated to the Acorn Children's Ward at Whipps Cross Hospital in East London and to a fostering agency in Essex Just in time for Christmas



**Stitchers
outside
braving
the cold
weather**



Local knitters have also been very busy during the winter knitting blankets for tiny babies up to single-bed size. The small blankets will be donated to local special care baby units and the large ones will be donated with the teenage quilts made at another Zoom meeting in March 21.

News from South Buckinghamshire and South Hertfordshire

Sue (Area Coordinator) and Kathy (Assistant Area Coordinator)

We organised a virtual Project Linus Quilting Day on 27th January. Over 47 quilters, knitters and crocheters (Is that a word?) popped by to say hello and some even stayed on-line all day quilting, stitching and chatting. Not quite the same as meeting in person but we still managed to put the world to rights with a plentiful supply of “virtual” tea, coffee and cakes!!



Following the event, we collected in excess of 160 quilts with many more still to come and we have delivered quilts to a range of local charities including High Wycombe Refugees, Action for Children Rickmansworth, St Albans Women's Refuge, SACs in Hemel, Home Start and Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

We are so grateful to everyone who took part and the feedback from the charities makes us realise how well received our quilts and blankets are. Brings a tear to the eye.

This is from the coordinator for the refugees: 'My mind is blown away with the colours and designs of all the quilts, the knitted blankets and hats are incredibly sweet. From the bottom of my heart thank you on behalf of all the families. Please extend this thank you to all the lovely people who have so generously made and donated these precious keep sakes.'

The St Albans Women's refuge was so delighted to receive quilts for their teenage boys and expressed how it made the boys themselves feel very special.

Rickmansworth Action for Children specifically said 'You cannot comprehend the joy these quilts give the children.' There is an open invitation for us to visit them once this situation has improved.

... and more “Thank You’s”

We wanted to write to thank you all for the beautiful quilt our son was gifted during a recent stay at Edinburgh Sick Kids. It was so touching to receive it, it kept him nice and cosy in hospital. I attach a wee photo for you. We will make a donation to the work of Project Linus UK via the website. Thank you again.



For every “thank you” received there are ten that go unheard, but are still in the hearts of parents and carers of those who are given your quilts. So you can know you are thanked, even if you never hear the words.

People have been sharing tales of what they got up to in the lockdowns and hard times of the past year. There aren't any surprises about what Crafters have been doing. More of the same! In this newsletter you've seen how the ingenuity and tech know how of two group kept them together and stitching. If you have a similar record of “lockdown times” or of how you are celebrating getting together again, please send them in !!!

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 £20 million 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/projectlinusuk.

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

Stitching Together is edited by anna briggs. Send news and photos to projectlinusyork@gmail.com