



Total donations
since we started:

498,137

This year to date:

28,352

Community Interest Company No. 08422226

November 2021

STITCHING TOGETHER

Word is getting round the Herts and Bucks area about what Project Linus has to offer. This is how coordinators Sue and Kathy tell the story.

We have had an exceptionally high demand for quilts this month with requests from two charities new to us and, just recently, from our contacts who are helping refugees from Afghanistan. Sue has dealt with a request for 130 quilts and blankets and I am expecting a similar request. Our stock of quilts is now looking quite depleted.

After a quiet start to the summer, we have donated quilts to two new (to us) charities. The first was a charity called Up on Downs. This is a local group which supports families of children who have Down's Syndrome. As part of their contact with new families they offer a welcome pack with a teddy and some literature from the group. The welcome pack will also contain a Linus quilt.

Our second new charity is the Hillingdon Hospital Charity which accepted some quilts for the Medical Haematology Day Unit patients. In their words 'such a beautiful gift for children and young people needing a quilt 'hug' during day treatments and something lovely for them to take home.'



Staff at the Medical Haematology Day Unit with some Linus Quilts for their young day patients

Janet from Up on Downs with her daughter Rosy collecting Linus quilts for their charity



We have also delivered 87 quilts to our existing charities including the Women's Refuge in St Albans, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Home Start and the High Wycombe Refugee Centre.

November 2021

Project Linus joins in Wigan Rotary Community Day

Coordinator Barbara Kennedy tells all

Project Linus Wigan and Leigh joined 50 other charities setting up stalls in the main street this year to provide local people with information about what we do locally and nationally. The event was set up by Wigan Rotary on Saturday 18th September to help local charities become better known.

The stall was run by four ladies from our group who were all very enthusiastic and worked well as a team, Christine Davies, Audrey Burgess, Margaret Small and Jan Aspinall .

However it was a group event as the gazebo had been loaned by another member, Michele Nel MBE, the bunting was made by Vicky Nelson and the Banner was a joint effort with members providing the blocks and Margaret doing the free motion quilting.

A lot of members contributed to the tombola prizes and the quilt raffle. The first prize quilt was made by Bronwyn Gendall and the design was based on a Today Quilter Christmas pattern , and our other quilts prizes were also made by members.

The day itself began early with the setting up of the stall and putting out the tombola prizes, and displaying the quilts , showing off the work which we do for Project Linus as well as displaying the quilts for the raffle.

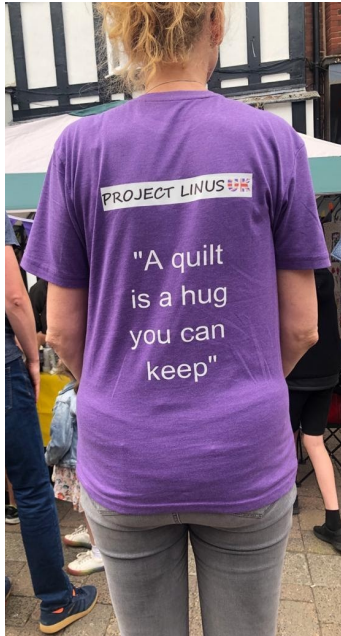
It was a great success with the Mayor visiting the stall during the day , but the highlight of the day were the families and children who had received our quilts coming to our stall and making themselves known and giving some feedback about the quilts. Also one of the nurses from Rainbow Ward commented about how much comfort the blankets give to both the children and parents.



Photos—top right—Jan, Christine , Audrey and Margaret with Veronica Johnson in front of stall. Above - Audrey and Margaret with Mayor Yvonne Klieve

Next page—Christine modelling one of our new T-shirts; Calm before the storm!





Maureen Holcroft from the Daffodils Dreams charity also said how much the quilts were appreciated.

It is wonderful to hear that our work is being appreciated as so much time effort and love is put into these quilts , often we do wonder what happens to them once they are handed over. The day was a great success, our leaflets were given out to every stall holder too in exchange for one of theirs as well as to the visitors to the stall.



We raised the profile of Project Linus in Wigan and Leigh as well as £183 on the day. The ladies who ran the stall are already talking about next year's event!



Bunting by Vicky

- Bronwyn's first prize for raffle

A special message from the Directors

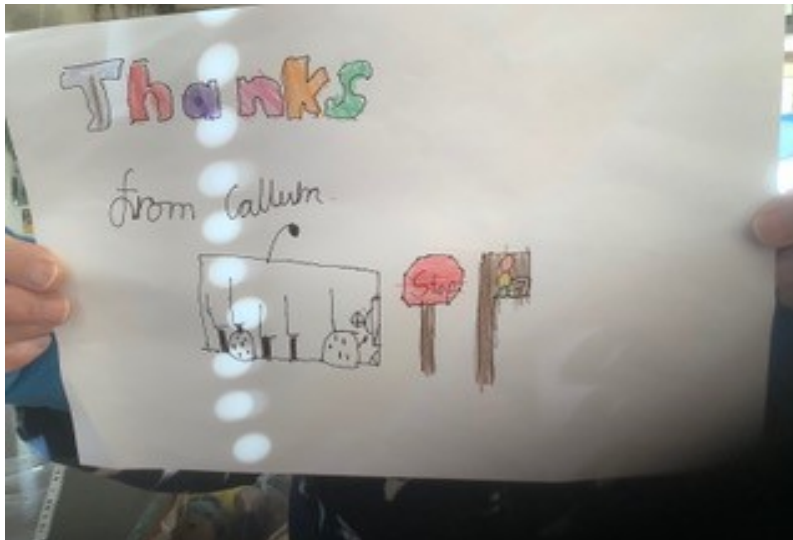
In the present climate it is uplifting and very motivating to read about all the ideas and effort our Co-ordinators put in to promote Project Linus UK and raise funds for their area, not least for all the beautiful quilts they and their volunteers make for the children who are in such need. Without our volunteers we would not be able to provide comfort and security to so many children. Thank you all!!

"Thank you"

*Some more "Thank you's" sent to Elspeth Russell,
Coordinator in Lanarkshire*

Hi

I am a foster carer in Cambuslang and the health visitor just gifted my four year old with one of your blankets. It's the yellow digger one with red background. He's delighted with it and was all snuggled up last night with it after his bath, thanks again -Sharon



Sent by a social worker who supports prisoners families -

Elspeth says "how lovely to get a thank you note from a child!"

*.....and a "Thank You" worth repeating from the
Wigan and Leigh report on page 2*

"The highlight of the day was the families and children who had received our quilts coming to our stall and making themselves known and giving some feedback about the quilts. Also one of the nurses from Rainbow Ward commented about how much comfort the blankets give to both the children and parents."



"Thank you" - a letter to Norma Goodwin, Assistant Coordinator, Project Linus Winchester & area

On behalf of everyone on the Neonatal unit RHCH, we would like to thank you very much once again for your donation of beautifully made quilts that you recently and very kindly sent into us.

We are as always truly very grateful for the support and kindness shown by the group. Everyone (parents/staff) on the unit has commented on the stunning designs of the material used, so appropriate for our little ones as they spend time in their cots. We will certainly make good use of them all.

Please may we take this opportunity to send you all our very best wishes for the future and to thank you very much once again for everything you do to support us.

*With kindest
regards,*

*Sandra Clarke (Ward Clerk, Neonatal Unit
RHCH)*

*(On behalf of Raewyn Twaddle, Sister, Neonatal Unit Royal Hampshire
County Hospital)*

Bears knitted by the mum of one of the Linus Quilters in Lanarkshire -

Mum's name is Jean Hutt - and she is 92 years old!!!!!!



How some children are going to love these!

Out of the Blue - Quilt competition plus all the fabric descends on Oxfordshire

Area Coordinator Margaret Metcalfe tells how it happened.

Pauline Meagher from Liberty of London contacted me in 2020 and asked if I would like a challenge to which I said yes, despite not knowing what I was getting myself in to!! Pauline said she would send me two ranges of fabric, one pink and one blue (and there were eight patterns in each range) and I decided that I would try and organise an exhibition that was also a competition.

Ani Catt and I got our heads together and created a registration form to send out to all the contacts in Buttercross Quilters, and all the people who had been making quilts for me in recent years. This was to get some idea of how many people would be interested in making quilts from fabric they hadn't chosen and if it was going to be feasible to carry out. Pauline said

she would send 32 bolts of Lasenby cotton fabric that would be with me within a couple of weeks.

By this time we had put details together of the requirements for the competition. Quilts had to be no more than 45 inches wide but could be as long as they liked. Each quilt had to use all eight designs and it was to be in either pink or blue. We then created three categories. Category 1 was to be an original design, the second category was to use a published pattern and the third category was to make a 3D project, ie toys, etc. Each of

these categories would be judged by Pauline and one of her designers Elle Gager and there would be prizes in each category. We were on our way to having an exhibition in Witney sometime in 2021.

Then Italy got Covid!! Despite this the fabric was on its way and I knew that I had to store it. Then as I am sure, everyone will know, things got worse and we went first in to our first lockdown!

I knew that this all had to happen eventually so we went ahead with sending out all the registration forms and waited for them to come back. We had a promise of at least 40 quilts plus some toys.



As all the fabric was sent to me I had to cut out all the kits for all of those who had entered the competition, (it was going to be a joint effort) together with all the other things one has to do to organise an exhibition. Everyone was very understanding and I extended the finish time and as Christmas approached I was able to make a firm commitment to a venue and book a date but also knew there was a chance that it would all change if things got any worse with Covid.

Luckily we were able to continue and Ani Catt and my volunteer Ann Taylor took over some of the boring things that needed doing and I persuaded the Region 6 Quilters Guild to loan us the quilt stands. The venue was the High Street Methodist church in Witney who were so helpful in trying to help us make it happen and happen it did on Friday and Saturday 17 and 18 September of 2021.



What an amazing exhibition it was. It was opened by our lady Mayor Joy Aitman and Elle Gager from Liberty and we had 45 incredible quilts as you can see from the pictures and there were some wonderful 3D's too. Everyone who won a prize went home with vouchers and Pauline also provided a Liberty goody bag containing some fabulous Liberty products including Jenni Smith's book. We had a pop up shop selling donated

fabric and a raffle and raised enough money for us to be able to stock up on backing fabric and wadding for the next round of quilts to be made for Project Linus UK.

My thanks to all those involved.

And the winner is -

Judy Harris standing with the two ladies from Liberty, Pauline Meagher and Elle Gager -

and her winning quilt (above)



- and more photos from Oxfordshire



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/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.

www.projectlinusuk.org.uk

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