

Stitching Together – February 2024

The newsletter for supporters of Project Linus UK



Community Interest Company No. 08422226

"A Quilt is a hug you can keep"

A huge thank you to all our volunteers for making and donating quilts and blankets to PLUK. Our Area Co-ordinators have delivered a total of 614,104 items since 2020 and so far this year we have given out 3,960 items.

Focus on PLUK Treasurer Jackie Anderson



Way back in 2014, being an active member of my local Women's Institute craft group, we were given a talk by the PLUK North Wales Area Co-ordinator and that is when my involvement with Project Linus UK began. Joan was finding it more difficult due to ongoing health problems to get out and about to collect and deliver quilts so I began first helping her and then took over the Area when Joan retired.

I am a member of the Quilters Guild and, when the 2016 Annual conference was held in Llandudno, I had the good fortune to meet Lyn Antill who was the Project Linus UK President at that time. She explained how Linus worked and, after realising I had accountancy knowledge, she asked me if I would be willing to help her with keeping the accounts up to date. Operating from her home in Shropshire I soon became familiar with all things Project Linus UK and very soon the accounts became more organised. Since 2016 when I was appointed Treasurer, I have prepared and submitted the annual accounts to Companies House whilst also working as the PLUK Area Co-ordinator for North Wales.

Each year Project Linus UK attends two shows - Uttoxeter and the Festival of Quilts - and I have volunteered at both venues. I have always been supported by the Directors in my role. It is a position that I have enjoyed and, whilst I am thinking of stepping down in the near future, I will always be on hand to help and will continue as Co-ordinator for North Wales.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Jean Dickeson - PLUK UK Area Co-ordinator for Warrington



We held our Annual Fayre on Saturday 14th October to raise money for our group. It is our main fundraiser of the year. We charge £1.00 admission for adults (children free), and they receive a free fabric tote bag to put their purchases in. During the year we make the tote bags and items to sell on the craft stall. We make a quilt, a blanket and other prizes for the raffle, and bags

and cushions for a tombola. We have a cake stall, Christmas stall, name the teddy, lucky bags, books and bric-a-brac. Refreshments available were pie and peas, sticky toffee pudding, toasted teacakes and, of course, tea and coffee. We had a display of quilts and blankets in the church which looked lovely draped over the pews and in front of the altar and volunteers explained and answered questions about Project Linus UK. We all had a lovely day and made some much needed funds to buy fabric, wool and wadding and to pay the hall hire for our meetings.

Barbara, Beth and Pip – PLUK Area Co-ordinators for Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian

About five years ago we started making customised quilts for children receiving palliative care at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh. Nurses contact us with details of the child's age, gender and interests and our volunteers make a quilt with white squares, sometimes at very short notice, which the child and family, with the help of the hospital team, then decorate with washable



fabric paints. We make up to 25 a year for children in hospital and those receiving care at home or elsewhere.



The example above shows a quilt ready for decorating, and on the left, a decorated square. We've been asked for music, football, princesses, unicorns, dogs, fortnite, minecraft and even parrots and sloths! Favourite colours are easier to manage, but sometimes the colour schemes requested are quite interesting!

We are most grateful to the nurses who have helped by giving us lots of fabric and to our imaginative quilters who rise to every challenge.

Pauline Wright – PLUK Area Co-ordinator for North Derbyshire

I deliver quilts to the Children's Community Nursing Team based at the Den in Chesterfield. They support families where the children have life limiting conditions from birth onwards.

I received this lovely thank you from Harry's Mum:

Thank you for the absolutely beautiful quilt (made by Barbara) which has found its way to my 16 year old son, Harry, who is having chemotherapy at the moment. It made his day to receive it when he was feeling rotten and he's slept with it on his bed every night since. The colours are just perfect and it's made him very happy to think that someone handmade it. Please pass our thanks on to the Derby Quilters to let them know it is very much appreciated.

Tracy, the Lead Clinical Nurse Specialist got in touch to request a lap quilt for an 8 year old boy who had just had his leg amputated due to a tumour. He loves going to watch Manchester United so I made one to keep him warm when he is in his wheelchair watching his team play.



Another quilt given out by Tracy was to Adam, a 16 years old who suffers with



quadriplegic cerebral palsy, epilepsy, is visually impaired, an oxygen user, nil by mouth, and has chronic lung disease and chronic reflux. Although he battles daily with pain and discomfort he's always happy.

Adam's mum wrote: *What a lucky lucky young man Adam is to be the recipient of a Project Linus UK blanket. Thank you so much to Project Linus and Adam's community nurse for this beautiful gift. Adam's face says it all.....he loves it.*

Cathrine Moon - PLUK Area Co-ordinator for Carmarthenshire

I started making Christmas quilts at the beginning of November and managed to get them all done in time to deliver to Glangwili Hospital Childrens' Ward at the beginning of December. These are some of the finished quilts.



Barbara Kennedy - PLUK Area Co-ordinator for Wigan



Thank you to Joanne Taberner and her Sewing Group at One Vision Media Productions CIO – a creative centre for adults with learning disabilities - in collaboration with Hope School students for making and donating 7 lovely quilts with the help of Audrey and Julie.

Over several sessions we worked with an amazingly talented group of people. The students were in charge of the foot pedal / speed of the machines and also cut out the squares, designed the quilts and chose the fleece for the backing. It was wonderful to watch a new generation making quilts for children in need of a hug via Project Linus UK Wigan and Leigh.

The quilts in the photo were donated to St Aidans School for students with special needs to use as comfort hugs. Previous quilts had been given to Rainbow Ward with the special request that they be given to children who had the same kinds of complex conditions as members of the group.

Lots of different techniques were used to help the members assist with the quilt making – using an Accuquilt for cutting the squares, chalk stitching lines, extra adhesive spray, speed machine settings and adaptive switches.



Joanne and Rachel



Audrey and Elouise



Julie and Mason

Jane Charlick – PLUK Area Co-ordinator for Chelmsford, Billericay, Maldon

In November, Jane was awarded a volunteer of the month certificate from Kids Inspire, Essex.

@projectlinusessex have been weaving magic into the form of beautiful blankets and quilts for our therapy rooms and the children and young people we support.



Kim Wood – PLUK Area Co-ordinator for East Staffordshire

Linus Day at Shenstone Quilters The aim for the day was to make quilt tops to distribute in our area. I cut out kits, made scrappy elephants, and provided wadding, backings and bindings for the ladies. We had a lovely few hours, with tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits aplenty! Also in attendance was a little Therapy dog who was absolutely golden, except when he saw a squirrel through the high window! There was lots of fun and laughter



during the day and lots of 'idea' swapping. Thank you to all the ladies who attended and produced such lovely quilts.

Afternoon Event East Staffordshire PLUK held its first "Afternoon Tea Thank You" for Volunteers in October. I thought that it would be a good idea for my



volunteers to meet up and exchange ideas and, of course, to chat to others. About thirty volunteers attended for drinks and sweet treats. One of our volunteers had donated a vast amount of sewing haberdashery which was sold to raise funds for wadding. This was a big



hit, as were the home made cakes on offer. There was an amazing "show and tell" of beautiful quilts. I received a total of 50 quilts that afternoon. Due to its success, bi monthly 'Thank You Afternoons' are planned for the coming year. As a Co-ordinator I love to meet volunteers and hope to meet many more next time. No event can be successful without the help of volunteers. Thanks to my Linus Group ladies who served, washed up, sold goods and cut wadding.

Project Linus Quilt Making Day East Staffordshire PLUK group are working collaboratively with a local fabric shop. They offered us the use of their workroom and provided fabrics for small quilt. I provided backings and wadding. The day was split into two sessions with 5 stitchers attending each one. It was nice to meet some new ladies who now support PLUK. Lots of 'brick design quilt



tops were made with the ladies taking them home to finish off. Thank you so very much Ladies and our thanks to The Fabric Vault for your continued support of Project Linus UK

Liz Villalobos – PLUK Area Co-ordinator for Northumberland



Suzanne Austerberry and her husband John dropped in to our December meeting to collect 26 quilts for Ukranian children living in the Morpeth area. Suzanne is chair of 'Morpeth for Ukraine' and told us a little about the work in which she is involved, providing safe accommodation for these refugees from their war torn homeland. John took photographs of our group members holding the donated quilts. We hope their quilty hugs will provide comfort and pleasure to these little ones, particularly over Christmastime when many will be missing their daddies.

Find us at: www.projectlinusuk.org.uk or Facebook: Project Linus UK

We love to hear from recipients of our quilts as well as from our Co-ordinators. If you would like to submit an article or have a thank you message included in the next issue of Stitching Together, please email information to: contactus@projectlinusuk.org.uk by 30th May 2024. (If photos are included please confirm that permission has been received for us to use the photograph. This is essential if faces of people are visible.)