
STITCHING TOGETHER

Festival of Quilts

We had a good, though exhausting, time at the Festival of Quilts. Our thanks go to everyone who came to our stand and made a purchase, and to the Area Co-ordinators who helped out on the stand. An amazing 200 quilts were handed in by our wonderful volunteers. These were distributed among the Co-Ordinators who helped out on our stand over the four days. Below are our three directors, looking very fresh before the show opened in the morning. (Left to right – Heather Russell, Helen Scales, Sarah Smith)



Dear Volunteers,

There is not much time left before the Project Linus UK 2019 Raffle is drawn. We hope that you and your volunteers, friends and families will make haste to buy those last few tickets and help support our work and all the children in need that we donate to. The Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 26th September at 11am at the Newport Patchwork & Quilters Church in Aston. Good luck everyone!

You might notice that this edition lacks a bit of content! Please do let us know how things are going in your different areas, it is great to share good news and hear about all the good work being carried out. I know some of you post on Facebook, which is great, but not everyone has access to this medium. I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Kind regards,

Pam Sawyer, Editor

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

AREA REPORTS

Liverpool

Caroline Fogell

We had a great time at Makefest, held at the Central Library in Liverpool in June. There were makers of many varied crafts, exhibits and workshops - three floors of the library were a hive of activity! We had a display of quilts and blankets and hopefully inspired some of the people we spoke to, to get involved in Project Linus. We also took a sewing machine and managed to put together a quilt top in-between chats - time well spent.



We also held a drop-in day at Abakhan Liverpool and had fun making scrap quilts which were quick and easy to do. Everyone brought their own skills- cutting, sewing, ironing, cake(!) and this is an example of what we made.



Basingstoke and Winchester

Jane Sloggett and Norma Goodwin

Until recently the paediatric and neo natal wards of Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals had not been taking Linus quilts. We are not sure why but think it was an historical decision made by the staff at the time. So, after much hard work we have been positively welcomed by the current staff and have been supplying quilts since April. One of the requests made by neo natal is for six incubator covers for each hospital because the ones they use are getting worn out and cost £300 each to replace! Having never made them before Jane measured up and has made a fitted prototype with four sides, attached to the top, which act as flaps that can be lifted up to check on baby or administer food and medication.

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

Having read the article in the May Stitching Together Newsletter by coordinators Jenny Strong and Elspeth Facer, about their supplying of incubator covers to Kings College Hospital, we emailed Jenny asking if we could have the pattern. Well, not only did she send this but also a completely finished incubator cover! This drapes over the incubator with a small flap for access to the feeding and medicine tubes. Following on she has kindly offered us a dozen ready cut backings and wadding. Not only that but Jenny and Elspeth have offered to personally deliver these. This generosity has been extended to our colleague coordinators in south west Hampshire and Southampton. It seems different hospitals have their favourite models and we will be taking each prototype into our hospitals for them to choose which they feel works best for them.

The point of this article is to say how great it can be for coordinators to help each other. Jenny told me that those in her area meet at least once a year over coffee to connect and exchange information. We are hoping we might be able to arrange this in Hampshire.

Maidstone

Margaret Fletcher

I run two quilting groups in Allington, near Maidstone and I am so proud of the support these groups give to various charities. One of these is Linus. All of my ladies contribute in one way or another such as making quilts, donating fabric or donating money to buy fabric and wadding at our Linus session. At this session we have a raffle, bring and buy table, plus of course coffee/tea and cake!

To date we must have produced well over 100 quilts and lots of incubator quilts, hats and cannular mitts. Oops shame on me I forgot to keep a count. Pam (*PL Coordinator, South East Kent*) gives real support to the groups efforts and I know it spurs us all on to do more. Here are photos of the Maidstone ladies with their Project Linus quilts:



'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

West Sussex

Sylvia Fisher

This first photo shows my visit to Sheddingdean Community Quilt Group near Burgess Hill, organised by Dianne Ward, where I gave a Project Linus UK Talk. Some of the Members are shown with their fun, and beautifully made quilts. (I am far right!)



Below are the Storrington Quilters, of which I am a member, organised by Ann Till, showing donated quilts, finished quilts and 'works in progress' on our recent Project Linus Charity Day.

On both occasions it was wonderful to feel the love and fun, of providing quilts for Project Linus UK. We have some amazing ladies out there!



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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

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.

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)

'A Quilt is a hug you can keep'

THANK YOU LETTERS

'On behalf of our son, we wanted to write to say an enormous thank you to every volunteer who lovingly made his new blanket. We're very, very new to Sick Kids, diagnosed with Leukaemia on Wednesday. As you can imagine, a truly life-shaping diagnosis.

He is five years old and was about to start school in three weeks' time. We are all adjusting to life here in Sick Kids, combined with assimilating what lies ahead in the forthcoming days, weeks, months and years. We are feeling so positive about the future although acknowledge that we've a tough journey ahead. He's made of tough stuff so he's up for the challenge.

We adore his new blanket; it has Mickey Mouse on it and is beautifully stitched. It has definitely helped to personalise our new temporary abode for the next 4/5 weeks.

Sincerest thanks once again for everyone involved in the charity. Our blanket is both functional and incredibly beautiful.

Kindest regards
Parents and 7year old big sister'

'Dear volunteers from project Linus,

Thank you so much for the lovely quilt you've made for my four-week-old daughter. We've just come home today and while looking through the pictures of the last week, all pictures show your lovely quilt.

The blanket distracted from all the tubes and cables around her and made it look less sterile and medical.

When I realised who made it and read about your project, I was so grateful! I've included pictures so you can directly thank the volunteer who made this quilt. Keep the good work up!

Many thanks,
S'



'Hi, my name is Vicky and I am one of the Family Case Workers at Dandelion Time. All of us here would like to say a huge thank you to all the volunteers who make these beautiful blankets / quilts. We have had our breaths taken away with the love and care of these beautiful handmade items. It is lovely for our children, many who have experienced trauma, to be able to take a treasure home with them allowing them to build a connection to positive memories and experiences here at Dandelion Time. The blankets are given with a cuddly toy after completing all their therapy sessions with us. The quilts help to provide the children with warmth, comfort and a sense of safety.

So from the bottom of all our hearts thank you so much for all your hard work!
From all the team at Dandelion Time xx'

For more information about Dandelion Time see here: www.dandeliontime.org.uk

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