



PROJECT LINUS UK
(West Midlands Region)
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104,744 quilts delivered across the UK since 2000, **7,757** quilts delivered across the UK so far in 2009, **1,836** delivered by me in the West Midlands since 2004

Hi Everyone

Its summer holiday time but you wouldn't think so by looking at the weather. Makes you wonder where all that rain comes from.

The Festival of Quilts is almost upon us and as ever there will be a Project Linus stand - do stop by to say hello and see what's happening. I've been steadily receiving blocks for this years challenge and I'm looking forward to seeing them all put together.

Now you will know that I am a believer in making quilts that are practical rather than of show standard. However, that is not to say that I support sloppy workmanship!! Far from it - I simply encourage people to make Project Linus quilts as a way of practicing and trying out new techniques, safe in the knowledge that if it isn't perfect then that's acceptable.

The phrase 'It's only a Project Linus quilt' is not an excuse for not trying your best!! Years ago I found a slip of paper with a motto on it in my Christmas cracker which reads '**a bad workman always blames his tools**'. I keep it on my sewing machine to remind me that when it all goes wrong it's my fault not the machines!! Another motto I found on a postcard that I keep pinned to the wall is '**I've learnt so much from my mistakes - I think I'll make another one!**'

Since I last wrote I have been busy delivering quilts and two bumper bundles have gone to Barnados and Heartlands hospital. As ever they were well received and Christine Morrell from Heartlands paid a visit to my group to thank us in person. She told us about a number of children suffering from Cystic Fibrosis that are regular visitors to the ward and brought some photos of them with their quilts.

I have also been to a couple of groups to do talks and will be going along to a new group tomorrow. Hopefully, I will be able to inspire them to make some quilts in the coming months.

For those of you interested in the progress of the Quilt Block Orphanage (QBO) I have received **3672 orphan blocks** and to date **151 quilts** have been completed with another **30** or so in various stages of construction. The Patchwork and Quilting magazine featured the QBO in a two page spread in the April issue which was really nice. So that people can see what's happened to their blocks I have now set up a site on the internet where you can see photos of the quilts as they are made. Do have a look if you can and

let me know if you spot one of your orphan blocks!! The web address is www.flickr.com/photos/orphan_block/

The hot news this time though is that I have actually made a quilt top for myself – from scratch!! I saw a lovely curved patchwork quilt on the front cover of an American magazine made in beautiful pastel 1930's fabrics. It was quite a novel experience working with fabrics bought to go together and following a pattern!! All I have to do now is sandwich it together and do the quilting – perhaps I'll include a photo next time.

I recently took my 10 year old grand-daughter Lauren to Euro Disney and whilst there I took lots of photos – mainly a variety of Disney characters etc. Walking through one of the arcades I noticed the tiled floor pattern and said that I was going to take a picture of it. Lauren put her hands on her hips and said 'I suppose you're going to make it into a quilt when you get home'. Out of the mouths of babes and innocents!!

Finally here is a lovely thank you drawing I received this week – this is for all of you.

Joy

PS: Don't forget, if you belong to a quilt group please share this and help spread the word.

