

Three-year labour of love quilt to boost hospice

Published on **Tuesday 28 September 2004 09:28** in the **Lynn News**

A DEDICATED band of quilting enthusiasts has completed a special quilt that will be auctioned next month to raise money for Swaffham and Litcham Home Hospice Support Group.

The labour of love started three years ago after a lady who had started on the quilt realised she would not be able to complete it herself.

She contacted Jane Atkins, of Greenhoe, Norwich Road, Swaffham, who decided to seek help from fellow quilters in completing the pattern so that it could be sold to help the home hospice.

Mrs Atkins advertised the project at a crafts exhibition in the Assembly Rooms as part of Swaffham Arts Week, and initially got the names of about 20 people willing to help.

"It settled down to about eight of us doing the quilt. We met once a month and it has taken three years to finish as it is all hand-sewn," she explained.

Mrs Atkins estimated that she and her fellow quilters, Liz Nally, Margaret Routledge, Barbara Alexander, Christine Wright, Janet Blackburn, Helen Pease and Sylvia Dudbridge, had put more than 300 hours' work into the project.

"That's what quilts are like. They are very difficult to cost because they involve hours of work," she said.

One of the ladies made the backing, another put the binding on and a third made the label.

Most of the work was carried out at Mrs Atkins's home.

"It's a hexagon quilt based on an old American design, and we are calling it the Home Hospice Friendship Quilt," she said.

The finished quilt is on display at Curtains Complete in London Street, Swaffham. It will go to the highest bidder at an auction forming part of a fundraising night at Cockley Cley Hall in October for the hospice group.

Mrs Atkins said that making the quilt spawned the Icení Stitchers sewing group about a year ago.

The 15-strong group meets in Our Lady of Pity Churchrooms on the last Thursday of each month.

"People take their own work along and we have the occasional workshop," she said.