



Image: 'The Workhouse Through The Times: Present Use 2022'. Limavady Hen Shed, facilitated by Textile Artist Deborah Stockdale and Conflict Textiles. Photo: Martin Melaugh, © Conflict Textiles

The Workhouse: Present Use 2022

Northern Ireland wall hanging, Limavady Hen Shed, facilitated by Textile Artist Deborah Stockdale and Conflict Textiles, 2022. Limavady Community Development Initiative (LCDI)

This textile depicts the range of community initiatives operating through Limavady Workhouse at present; this iconic building which has been repurposed from workhouse to hospital to a now thriving community space.

In Autumn 2021, women from Limavady Hen Shed gathered in workshops facilitated by Conflict Textiles, to explore the history and current usage of the workhouse through the medium of fabric. Guided by Deborah they created small arpilleras portraying the breadth of community projects supported through the workhouse at present: a Food Bank, Baby Bank Easter/Spring Festival, Lantern Parade, Christmas Lights and Santa Hut and the Jazz & Blues Festival. Deborah then stitched the arpilleras onto a backing panel attached to a workhouse photograph printed on canvas. Arpillera dolls positioned on the various panels completed the piece; symbolising the intersection of people, community and activities in this historic building - refigured for the present era.

Tell us what you think about the textile

