

Sew and Sew's quilt at the Verbal Arts Centre



While visiting a quilt exhibition in Cultra, based on the shirt making industry in the North West, Castlerock Sew & Sew quilting group were approached by the Curator, Valerie Wilson, who animated them to make a quilt to go on display in one of their upcoming exhibitions.

One of the quilt makers of the group said: "It was our own design but based on traditional quilt patterns. Each of us took home shirt fabric which had been donated to the group and we made our own patch".

The quilt is made from shirt and pyjama fabrics, embellished with cuffs, collars, tie pins, cuff links, shirt and pyjama buttons and ties. Another participant added: "Some members of our group also included bits from shirts we had at home."

The front of the quilt is made up of these traditional pieces while the back is made from squares of stack and whack. On the back are the names of the shirt factories that were based in the North West and also the names of all those involved with the making of the quilt. One of the participant's last comments was: "We all enjoyed making the quilt especially when we were together as a traditional quilting bee for the quilting and binding of the quilt"

This quilt on display at the Verbal Arts Centre, from Monday 6th April until Tuesday 5th May 2009, is part of a continuous series of quilt exhibits curated by Roberta Bacic in Derry which started March 8th 2008 and are an ongoing live project.