

# Fundraising NEWS

ISSUE 2 · AUTUMN 2011



Sign up for this  
years Santa Dash

Moonlight Walk  
proves a big hit

## £300,000 raised for the Relative Comfort Appeal!

Supporting Kisizi  
Hospital

# Message from the Chairman

I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank everybody who has made a donation during the past year for their amazing generosity.

Whether or not you have been mentioned in this newsletter (it is impossible to include everybody) and regardless of the size of your donation, please be assured that every single donation is very much appreciated.

We use the charitable income that we receive to enhance and improve the patient experience at our hospital and I know from speaking to staff and patients that providing equipment and facilities that are "over and above" the remit of the NHS really does make a difference.

It has been extremely enjoyable reading about the various reasons for and methods of, fundraising, that many of our patients and their families have been involved in over the past 12 months. I hope you too will find this newsletter interesting, and I would be grateful if after reading it, you could pass it on to a friend, family member, neighbour or work colleague to help us spread the word about fundraising at the Countess. Can I also extend a big 'thank you' to all the volunteers who so generously give their time helping both in the fundraising office and at events.



Sir Jim Sharples  
Chairman

## Hazels Gift

Since 2007 Hazel Ditchfield of Warrington has generously donated £575 to the Children's Ward in memory of her daughter. This has been increased by an extra £143.75 through Gift Aid. The most recent donations have been used towards the purchase of sensory toys.

## Spice night is a great success!

An Indian meal organised by Pippa Virdee of Chester at the 1539 Restaurant at Chester Racecourse raised over £1000 for the Kisiizi Hospital Fund.

## Village talent

Last October, winners of the "Tattenhall & District's Got Talent" competition were given the opportunity to perform at The Barbour Institute, as part of a fundraising event organised by local resident Tiz Corcoran. Tiz, who was treated at the Countess for breast cancer wanted to give something back for the care she received after diagnosis in 2007.

The standard of entertainment was extremely high and one guest was overheard saying 'I had to keep reminding myself that I was in the Barbour Institute in Cheshire and not the West End or Broadway!' The Talent Show and Gala Concert raised £2000 for the Countess which Tiz handed over to breast care nurse Jackie Phillips.

## DHL coffee morning raises over £500

A coffee morning held at DHL in Chester and supported by Boots raised £567 for the Special Care Baby Unit and staff are hoping that it will be matched by the DHL Charity Foundation. The idea for the coffee morning came from DHL employee Lisa Whittingham as her sister's son Luca was born 6 weeks early in May and was on the unit for several weeks. "My sister and her family were very grateful to the staff for their care and support and wanted to give something back as a "thank you" to their local hospital" said Lisa. Pictured are Lisa Reynolds, Barbara Thornton, Lisa Whittingham, Vicky Blamire and Melanie Taylor.



# £300,000 raised for Relative Comfort!



We are delighted to announce that we have now raised £300,000 for the Relative Comfort Appeal.

As many of you will be aware, our original target was £500,000 but following discussions about the additional costs associated with building the first floor unit on stilts we agreed to relocate to an area within the entrance corridor to the Intensive Therapy Unit at a cost of £395,000, subsequently reduced to £300,000.

However, a recent Network initiative now requires us to increase the number of High Dependency beds within the hospital and we are currently in the planning stages to develop a much larger Critical Care Unit. As a result of this all the current space in the ITU, HDU and Ward 41 areas will be needed for clinical use, which means we are unable to locate the Relative Comfort accommodation as planned. It has therefore been agreed by the executive team that as part of the overall Critical Care Project, provision will be made to include the overnight accommodation and kitchen aspect of the Relative Comfort Appeal in a separate area close to the new Critical Care Unit, and that within the footprint of the new Critical Care Unit, space will be included for a relatives/interview/counseling room.

The overnight accommodation will be provided as phase 2 of the overall project and it is anticipated that the project will be completed within two years. The original objectives of the appeal will therefore still be met, albeit in two separate



areas.

Although the delay we now face is disappointing news, the benefits are that the overall cost has been reduced and we may eventually find that we have actually gained a little extra space for use by families of critically ill patients, than originally planned. We anticipate that the refurbishment costs of the accommodation will be met from the £300,000 currently raised but donations to the Relative Comfort Appeal are still being accepted as once the unit is open, we will have ongoing cleaning and maintenance costs to cover.

We do hope you appreciate that the building of a new Critical Care Unit has to be a priority and is part of our on-going commitment to improve patient care. We extend a huge 'thankyou' to everybody who has donated, or taken part in a fundraising event to raise funds for the Relative Comfort Appeal.

Through press coverage, our fundraising website and our next newsletter we will keep you informed of the progress of the project. Pictured above are Liz Williams, Claire Brock and Consultant Richard Nelson.

## Jennifer's first birthday party raises £80

Peter and Alison Griffiths of Newton were really grateful for our Special Care Baby Unit when their daughter Jennifer contracted an infection following her birth in January 2010.



She spent 5 days in the unit and as a thank you when Jennifer celebrated her 1st Birthday they asked friends and family to donate to the hospital instead of birthday gifts. Jennifer is pictured with 5 year old sister Lydia.

## Sign up for the SANTA DASH

Sunday 11th Dec at 9.30am



You can enter online at : [www.chestersantadash.com](http://www.chestersantadash.com) or complete the separate application form available from the Fundraising office.

EVENT SPONSORED BY

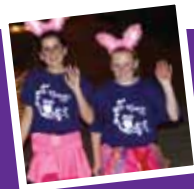
M&SMONEY

# Another successful Moonlight Walk

Hundreds of ladies took part again in this year's 10 mile Moonlight Walk on Saturday 2nd July.

The weather was perfect and the warm and balmy evening combined with a reversal of part of the route due to the Chester Rocks event, meant that the first walkers back completed the walk a little quicker than usual. Despite the supplies of bananas and various chocolate refreshments along the way, everybody still appreciated the traditional bacon butties and hot drinks on completion.

All participants were presented with their medals by the Roman soldiers of 'Roman Tours' who helped to marshal the event again this year. "Many other volunteers helped out on the registration desks, in the kitchens and marshalling the route and we are extremely grateful to them all for their continuing support" said events coordinator Kathy Kenney.



## Car boot sale set to hit £1million next year

Currently in its 23rd year, the Sunday Countess car boot sales are proving as popular as ever. Please remember that no plants, livestock or new items can be sold. Funds raised from the car boot sale are used to support various projects throughout the hospital including the purchase of equipment and items to enhance and improve the patient experience at our hospital. It's not always about buying expensive items, for instance a Wii Fit and TV monitor was recently purchased for the Therapies Department which patients have found really useful.

## Merci beaucoup!

Joan Cundy lives in central France but happened to be in Chester the weekend of the Moonlight Walk visiting her brother, so decided to sign up for the walk! Barry who lives in Chester has bowel cancer and was a patient at the Countess in July following surgery.

Joan said "With one in three of us likely to be diagnosed with some form of cancer during our lifetime taking part in the Moonlight Walk seemed to be a good way to support the hospital". Joan raised £155.

## Fabulous prize courtesy of Medic Care Ltd

A holiday for 2 in a luxury villa in Marbella with flights and car hire included was generously donated by Medic Care Ltd to help increase the amount raised from this year's walk. Every walker raising £100 or more in sponsorship had the chance to win, and Carol Fullwood was the lucky winner drawn on 30th September.



## Three generations walking together

A grandma, a mum and her daughter joined forces and took part in this year's walk together to raise funds for the Relative Comfort Appeal and the Breast Care Unit.

Sylvia Terry from Northwich, was joined by her daughter

Alison Bate, PA to Head of Facilities at the Countess and Alison's 15 year daughter, Candice.

This was the third year that Candice, a year 11 pupil from Upton High School had taken part, and was the fourth year for Alison. "It was ace, just a really enjoyable way to spend time with

your mum and daughter, and it was a real focus for Mum who is currently recovering from cancer, so we are all really proud of her" said Alison.



## Supporting Kisiizi Hospital in Uganda

We are currently working in partnership with Kisiizi Hospital in SW Uganda.

As part of our ongoing programme, teams of Countess staff from the Radiology, Nursing and Pharmacy departments make regular visits to advise, teach and support change to improve healthcare.

The hospital has an Outpatient Department, a surgical ward, operating theatre suite, maternity unit, a children's ward and medical and isolation wards. There is a resident general

surgeon and groups of specialist surgeons visit from time to time.

The Countess organised "Uganda Day" on 8th July to raise awareness of the partnership amongst staff, patients and visitors. Ribbons were sold for £1, there was a second hand book sale, a raffle to win a bike, a cake sale and an information stand. In total £1500 was raised.

Pictured is Countess Sonographer Janet Galley who is teaching Richard Okullo and Anaesthetist to use

the Logic 9 ultrasound machine that was donated by the Countess and shipped out to Kisiizi in 2009. It has transformed the quality of the ultrasound examinations done at Kisiizi hospital. On every visit our sonographers teach new and more advanced scanning. We have also donated a logic notebook ultrasound machine that is very portable and can be used on wards and at outreach clinics.



### "C Factor" returns

Countess staff are invited to show off their talent at our 2nd "C Factor" taking place at the Mollington Banastre on 11th November at 7pm. Application forms are available from the fundraising office.

If you would like to join the audience tickets are available at £12.95 to include a hot pot supper and glass of wine from Angie on 01244 366240.

### Sponsor a Mattress

We are currently aiming to replace all 200 of the damaged and badly stained mattresses at Kisiizi Hospital. Joyce Wake of Hawarden was the first individual to respond to our appeal to sponsor a mattress.

If you, or your company or group would like to sponsor the cost of a mattress for £75 please complete the donation form and ensure you mark it "sponsor a mattress".

# Manchester 10k run raises £1500

Nick Hatton of Chester took part in this year's Manchester 10k in May.

Raising funds for the Special Care Baby Unit where his daughter Molly was cared for earlier this year, Nick told us "I wanted to do something to say thank you

for the excellent care that Molly received". Nick was delighted that together with a £250 donation from his employer PwC and gift aid on sponsorship from friends and family, the total raised was just short of £1500.



# In memory of Oliver

Craig and Barbara Newnes have been raising funds for our hospital in memory of their son Oliver, who died of a rare brain abscess in October 2007.

Craig and Barbara have organised several events and their lat-

est event was a Golf Day at Pryors Hayes Golf Club on 16th July when they raised around £10,000, to be split between our hospital and Alder Hey. They also raised £1500 by taking part in the Chester to Liverpool bike ride.



# Rotary donation of £10,200

The Rotary Club of Chester Deva may only be a small club but their members had really big ideas last year when they set about raising funds for our Breast Care Unit.

They organised several bag packing days at local supermarkets as well as holding a couple of members events during the year and were delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for more

than £10,000 to the hospital in April.

Pictured left to right are Jess Roberts (Sainsbury's) Simon Bartley (Morrison's) Melissa Barritt (Sainsbury's) Gerry Pachter (President Rotary) Kathy Kenney (Countess) Allen Jones (Rotary) and Angie Lopez (Countess).

The Rotary Club of Chester Deva



have pledged their support for a further year and will be donating 50% of the funds raised this year to our Children's Unit.

## Celebration of Tony Newall's life raises over £500 for Relative Comfort

Tony Newall, a retired architect lived in Chester for 25 years and was no stranger to the Countess having had two hip replacements and other medical conditions that required regular check ups.

In August 2009 Tony had two life saving operations within 36 hours and the family experienced the difficulties of waiting around in the HDU and ITU corridors. They remember thinking about how much of a sanctuary it would be to have a Relatives Room and therefore were delighted to learn about the Relative Comfort Appeal.

In May 2011 Tony was rushed to the hospital once again, and sadly died on May 30th. Friends and family made donations of more than £500 in his memory.

## 'Special baby' Darren celebrates 21st

Although Darren Tucker was 21 in April, he waited until June to celebrate his special birthday - the actual month he should have been born 21 years ago.

Darren, from Malpas, asked friends for donations to the

Special Care Baby Unit instead of giving him presents and raised an amazing £700!

Darren was born 10 weeks early, weighing just 3 pounds 11 oz with loads of hair and was wrapped in tin foil which was the procedure for premature babies at the time! Darren recently graduated from Brighton University and is now training to become an auctioneer and valuer at Byrne's Auctioneers in Saltney.

Pictured left to right Paul Ray, the entertainer for the evening, Darren, the birthday boy, Adrian Byrne of Brynes Auctioneers



# SANTA DASH

This year we are aiming to have the biggest ever Chester Santa Dash (4km) on Sunday 11th December.

You can walk or run and it's a real family affair, so please bring along the children or grandchildren and well behaved dogs are welcome too! Proceeds from this year's event will be used to support our Children's Unit.

Entry is just £10 and includes a Santa suit (or antlers for the children), a medal/Christmas tree decoration and festive

refreshments generously sponsored by Starbucks and Hickory's Smokehouse.

Can you volunteer to help at this event? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Angie on 01244 366240. The Countess 2010 Santa Stroll was a great success and despite the weather we raised more than £7500 for the Relative Comfort Appeal, the Breast Care Unit and the Children's Unit.

Our "blue santa" Everton supporter, Ted Garland, was a superstar and raised £601.85.



# Think Pink day at Chester FC - 29th October

Last year Chester FC supported the Countess Breast Care Unit with a very successful "Think Pink" day raising £3,300.

As October is breast cancer awareness month, the club have generously agreed to organise a similar event on Saturday 29th October when they play Frickley FC. Kick off is 3pm. They hope to attract a crowd of 3000 and raise even more than they did last year!

Activities will include a bucket collection, pink drinks in the bar, and 50% of the half time raffle will be donated. The team will play in a new pink strip on the day, also available for fans to purchase.

Last year many supporters (male and female) really embraced the event and arrived wearing pink wigs, pink tutus and some even dyed their beards pink! For further information on this event, either to buy tickets or to sign up as a volunteer contact Kathy on 01244 366672.



## Brotherly love

Fifteen year old William Ellis of Upton-by-Chester undertook a gruelling 3 day coast to coast bike ride from Morecambe in Lancashire to Bridlington in Yorkshire to raise £600 for the Coronary Care Unit.

William was motivated having seen his 16 year old sister Vanessa struggle with two major heart defects discovered when she was 10. William is pictured with Dad Graham who accompanied him on the 170 mile journey.



## Superfit Santa visits Countess

Last Christmas Santa managed to spare time to distribute 'Secret Santa' presents amongst staff in the Clinical Coding team at festive lunchtime buffet!

Santa was delighted to learn that the team had raised £100



for the Breast Care Unit to be used toward the purchase of equipment.

Pictured left to right are Nicky, Rana, Jools, Vania, Santa, Tracy, Andrea, Ruth and Rachel.

## Conrad impressed with efficiency

A patient who had an operation in our Ophthalmology Department in April was so impressed with the efficiency and professionalism of our medical staff that he donated £100 to the Chester Eye Fund. "The friendliness, care and interest shown by all the staff and the ambience within the unit helped to dispel my natural anxieties when facing surgery" he told us.

## Elvis night raises over £1200

For the second year running, Belinda Lawrenson of Ellesmere Port organised an Elvis night at The Groves. Last year she raised £1200 for the Haematology and Oncology Unit and expects to raise at least the same for the Special Care Baby Unit. Marcus Hallows entertained the audience as Elvis and everybody had a great time!

This page has kindly been sponsored by...

**ARJOHUNTLEIGH**  
GETINGE GROUP

## £1700 raised to date!

Nick Goold, a porter for 12 years decided that he wanted to do another parachute jump, having experienced the first thrill of falling 10,000 feet through the air around four years ago!

He decided to get sponsorship to purchase new sensory equipment for children with special needs. Nick, from Ellesmere Port, has astounded the fundraising team by revisiting several times to pick up sponsorship forms.

"So far I have £1700 committed from family and work colleagues and I am grateful for their generous support" he



said. Nick plans to do the skydive in October and is pictured with his sponsorship forms and Angie Lopez, fundraising administrator.

## In brief...

### Liverpool to Chester cycle ride

Six members of staff from the Countess took part in the Liverpool to Chester sponsored cycle ride this year and raised a total of £589 for the Children's Unit.

### Unilec Collection tins raise £5000

Deeside based Unilec Supplies have managed to raise almost £5000 for the Special Care Baby Unit just by collecting loose change in collecting tins on their counter! Could you take a collecting tin? Call Angie on 01244 366240.

### 100 Easter eggs donated

Mike and Claire Bell generously donated 100 Easter eggs to the Children's Unit and also organised for players from Chester FC to visit our young patients.

### Car boot success

Wayne Tunna of Great Sutton raised £200 by having a table at the car boot sale and donated the proceeds to the Haematology and Oncology Unit.

### Toy donation

Earlier in the year Saughall Rotary kindly donated toys for our Children's Unit. Members of the Cheshire Jets also came in to cheer up the children.

### Bowled over with donation!

The Cherry Tree Bowling Club in Waverton donated £350 to the Special Care Baby Unit from their annual Alderman Weston competition.

### Student Cake Sale

Students from West Cheshire College had a cake sale and raised £25.12 for our Special Care Baby Unit.

### Thanks for flowers

Sainsbury's Caldley Valley have generously been providing bunches of flowers to brighten up our wards and waiting areas.

### Chester Lions

Regular supporters of the Countess, Chester Lions donated £5000 to the Relative Comfort Appeal.

## One Million thanks to Chester Childbirth Appeal!

This charity is registered separately to the Countess of Chester Hospital with the sole purpose of raising funds to support women and children's services. It aims to provide amenities over and above those funded by the NHS for patients, relatives and staff.

Profits from the shop and 'Comfort Zone' café have been spent on numerous amenities, such as the extension to the Special Care Baby Unit with its en-suite bedrooms, kitchen, dining/lounge and the attractive courtyard. The Adolescent Unit, also funded by the appeal, is where young people can be cared for in their own special place and is well used.

Pat Daniels worked as a midwife tutor from October 31st 1971 when the Maternity Unit opened, until her retirement in 1989. She and six fellow midwives started Chester Childbirth Appeal in 1991 and



have raised over £1 million during that time. Since December 2010 the Comfort Zone, managed by Heather Smith

has been totally refurbished and was officially re-opened by Michael Owen's wife, Louise. On April 20th staff were visited by His Grace the Duke of Westminster who officially re-opened the updated Christopher Wing which provides en-suite accommodation for the parents of ill children being nursed on the ward.

Visit [www.chesterchildbirthappeal.org.uk](http://www.chesterchildbirthappeal.org.uk) for further information. Volunteers able and willing to help fundraise in any way are welcomed. The next project is to update the outdoor play area outside the Children's Unit.

The annual fundraising concert by the Royal Northern College of Music will be held on 26th November at 7.30pm at St Mary's Centre, Chester. Tickets are £10 and include light refreshments. Contact Mrs Daniels on 01244 350755 or the Comfort Zone shop 01244 365012.

# Ship Victory well on way to reaching target of £100,000

December 2011 will mark 10 years of fundraising by regulars at The Ship Victory pub in Chester for the Angela Gildea Memorial Fund to benefit the Breast Care Unit at the Countess.

Over £92,000 has already been raised and there is currently a real push on at the pub to try and reach their target of £100,000 before the 10th anniversary of Angela's death in January 2002, aged just 32.

Their annual 'Turkey Trot' takes place on Sunday 18th December at Chester Racecourse and entry forms and further information on this fun event can be obtained by contacting the Ship Victory on 01244 376453.

Countess Nursing staff organised a 'Singathon' at The Ship Victory a few months ago to raise funds for Ward 34 and they were delighted to be supported by Vauxhall Motors, North Wales Auto Grass Racing, Boots and Tesco amongst others who generously made cash and prize donations. Pictured are Fay Morgan, Helen Kelly, Liz Pickett, Lisa Myers, Gill Stamp and Mickey C.

Some of the regular fundraisers at The Ship Victory who have 'gone the extra mile' have been branded "heroes" by licensee Joe Gildea and his partner Helen Moroney. They have been honoured by having a special beer brewed in their name by local brewery Blakemere with a percentage of the selling price of each pint donated to the fund.



The first beer was brewed for 80 year old Ralph Jones who has already undertaken a sponsored walk up Snowden, a sponsored Coast to Coast walk and has just undertaken a Parachute Jump to celebrate his 80th Birthday! Other beers have been brewed for regulars Maxine Henderson and Martin Critchley with many more in the pipeline!

## Hospital collection tins

In the last 12 months collection tins in our reception shop and the coffee shop have raised just short of £1000! Thanks to all hospital visitors for donating their loose change!

## Cheshire Cats

In April, sell-out audiences at The Forum Theatre in Chester watched seven performances of the comedy play "Cheshire Cats" written by local playwright Gail Young.

Tip Top productions put on the play raising almost £9000 which was split between the Breast Care Unit and the Relative Comfort Appeal. Gail from Upton in Chester, wrote the play in 2004 after she took part in the 2004 London Moonwalk to raise funds for breast cancer research.

The play, about a team of walkers from Chester travelling to

London for the night time event was first performed by Guilden Sutton players at The Gateway several years ago, raising funds for the "B Positive" Appeal. Gail took the play to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2006 and earlier this year she received the fantastic news that international publishers Samuel French had agreed to publish Cheshire Cats.

The play could now be performed by many amateur dramatic groups throughout the country and hopefully we will see it again before too long in the North West!



**PS Cheshire Cats goes global!**  
At time of going to press, we are delighted to learn that a professional company want to put on a 2 week production in Cape Town, South Africa and take it to the National Arts Festival (their version of the Edinburgh Fringe).

# Over 1000 cupcakes sold in one day!



The Countess went cupcake crazy in June when more than 1000 cupcakes were baked and sold, raising £1000.48.

The event was suggested and organised by Sinead Wilkinson, a University student on work placement in the fundraising office. The effort that people put into baking and decorating

their cupcakes was incredible, and the event was so popular that the fundraising team have been asked to make it an annual event.

The winner of the best cupcake recipe was Liz McElligot from Ward 52 with her 'Caribbean dream' flavour. Best decorated prize went to Jenni Ross from Medical Photography, whose creation featured a patient in bed! The winner of the draw was Sue Cotgreave who chose to donate the proceeds to the Stroke Unit.

## Trees of Light

Now in its 13th year we are delighted that this year the lights will be switched on by Archdeacon Michael Gilbertson.

We are also pleased to welcome back the Chester Wind Band and for the first time the Chester Music Society Choir will be joining us. You are invited to sponsor a light and to attend the service on Friday 2nd December at 6pm.

Our Trees remain in a permanent position near to the hospital entrance. After the lights have been switched on they remain lit 24 hours a day until January to celebrate the lives of people who hold a special place in our hearts. Even if your loved one was not a patient at our Hospital, you are welcome to support the Trees of Light Appeal. All names also appear in our Books of Honour.

The proceeds of this appeal are used to improve the care and support we offer to families at the time of bereavement.

If you would like any further information on our bereavement counselling service please contact Liz Taylor on 01244 364948.

To sponsor a light please complete and return the form below. If you wish to sponsor more than one person you can either download a form from our website ([www.coch.nhs.uk/fundraising](http://www.coch.nhs.uk/fundraising)), collect one from the fundraising office or phone 01244 366240.

Sponsored by



### Donation to the Trees of Light Appeal

I enclose my cheque of £ ..... as a donation in memory of

.....  
Please debit £ ..... from my

Switch  Mastercard   
Visa  Barclaycard

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

Telephone No .....

Email .....

My card details are as follows:

Name (as appears on card): .....

Card Number .....

3 digit security code\* .....

Switch/solo issue number .....

Valid from: ..... to .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

I am a Tax payer and wish you to claim Gift Aid on this donation.

Signature .....

Detach and send with your cheque made payable to 'COCH Charitable Fund' to:

*Countess of Chester Hospital  
Fundraising Department,  
Liverpool Road, Chester CH2 1UL.*

An acknowledgment and personalised card will be issued.

\*This is destroyed after processing.

# International singer supports Dermatology Unit after treatment for skin cancer

Two years ago Colin Holt of Wrexham was referred to our specialist Dermatology Unit and was successfully treated by Plastic Surgeon Mr Fahmy and his team.

Last October Colin decided to organise a charity show at Llay Royal British Legion to say 'thank you' for his treatment. As well as the funds raised Mr Fahmy was delighted that the event helped to raise awareness of skin cancer and he advised anybody who had anything suspicious to have it looked at immediately.



## Sportsmans dinner a great success

Rugby fans were treated to a great night out in July at Chester Racecourse when guest speaker Jonathan Davies MBE entertained an audience of more than 200.

The comedian was the popular Sean Styles. We are extremely grateful to John Kelly and Trevor Lloyd for organising the event and to all the local companies including Chester Racecourse for donating prizes for the auction and raffle which raised almost £3000 for the Relative Comfort Appeal.

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## Electronic newsletter

We are looking to reduce costs and plan to send next year's newsletter out by email to as many supporters as possible. If you haven't yet given us your email address and would be happy to receive the next newsletter by email, send your details to:

[fundraising.information@nhs.net](mailto:fundraising.information@nhs.net)

Please ensure you give us your full name and address so that we can match the email address to the correct record on our database!

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## Volunteers always needed

We regularly need help at various events and with bag packing days at supermarkets. Whatever time you can spare would be much appreciated. Call Angie on 01244 366240.

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## Donate by text!

Its simple. Just text **COCH01** plus the amount you wish to donate (£10, £5, £1) to 70070 e.g to donate £5, text **COCH01£5** to 70070 - you will receive a text confirming your donation has been processed.

## Bosom Buddies

Bosom Buddies, a local support group for breastfeeding mums undertook a 5km walk in Delamere Forest.

The walk raised awareness of the health benefits associated with breast feeding and raised £325.00 in support of the Bosom Buddies programme.



## Drowned river rats!

The Human Milk Bank Fund entered a team in the Dragon Boat Festival which took place on June 12th.

Although they didn't win (their fastest time was 1 min 30secs) they managed to raise £800 – well done to everybody who took part.



## In brief...

### Scooter riders gifts for children

More than 50 scooter riders from the Chester Scooter Club dressed in Santa Suits arrived at The Countess last Christmas armed with a host of festive gifts for the Children's Unit. The club is based at The Grosvenor Arms in Handbridge although riders came from Wrexham, Deeside and Manchester to take part.

### Beer festival supports SCBU

In June the Chimneys Pub at Hooton held a 3 day beer festival and raised almost £200.

### Bank of America support

#### Neonatal Unit

The Special Care Baby Unit was one of four charities supported last year by staff in the credit and underwriting dept at the Bank of America. In July they handed over £1476 to the hospital.

### Wirral coastal walk

Fifteen members of staff took part in this year's Wirral Coastal Walk and raised a total of £674 for the Kisiizi Hospital Fund.

### Cheshire Country Sports Club

donated £300 to the Special Care Baby Unit from a football tournament that they organised in June.

### Bingo night raises £80

A bingo night held at The Meadow Court Care Home in Frodsham raised £80 for the Special Care Baby Unit. The donation was sent with a note to say "you have worked a miracle on baby Oscar – thank you".

### Score & Save scheme donates £3000

A generous donation of £3000 was made by Shell at Stanlow, Ellesmere Port, to the Breast Care Unit recently.

### Free MOT's

MOT Services of Saltney have generously donated 30 x MOT vouchers each worth £35 for us to use as raffle prizes at fundraising events.

For further information on fundraising at the Countess:  
[www.coch.nhs.uk/fundraising](http://www.coch.nhs.uk/fundraising)

## Murder mystery night

A murder mystery evening held in January at the Springfield Hotel in Pentre Halkyn raised £400 for the Special Care Baby Unit.

The event was organised by Ann and Bob McFerran, parents of 24 year old senior aircraftman Peter McFerran from Connahs Quay who was killed in Iraq in July 2007. Since then more than £25,000 has been raised for the Special Care Baby Unit in Peter's memory. Pictured are Gynette Janney of the Springfield Hotel with members of Level Road – the group who



acted out the murder mystery. The next event is a sponsored walk on 26th November (see forthcoming events section for more information) on what would have been Peters 29th birthday.

## 'Santa' plays the clarinet

Local businessman Dr Graham Rideal has been raising funds for the Relative Comfort Appeal over the past few years by entertaining hospital staff and visitors through the playing of his saxophone and clarinet. Last December Graham arrived with his Clarinet dressed as Santa and spent the day playing festive music which was very well received, and since 2009 Graham has raised in excess of £1400. The hospital has helped Graham through both colon and liver cancer and he says he



has "nothing greater than my life to thank the hospital for and using my love of music to raise funds seemed the best way that I could show my appreciation".

## Milk Bank Appeal

We are currently fundraising to purchase a Human Milk Analyser. Donated pasteurised breast milk is mostly given to small and premature babies who often have a slower growing pattern than their more mature counterparts.

We have recognised that it would be helpful to know the exact nutritional value of each bottle of pasteurised donated milk we release from our milk bank. In the UK donated breast milk is pasteurised to meet health and safety requirements and milk analysis during this process would be a simple additional measure if the necessary equipment was available.

All current fundraising will be put towards the purchase of this Human Milk Analyser. The cost is £15,000 for purchase and commissioning. **Total amount raised to date - £11,500.**

## Elderly patients benefit from raffle

When Ward 43 became an all female ward for the elderly, Lynsey Vernon who has worked at the Countess for 11 years realised that the needs of her new patients were very different. Many of the patients are transferred from either a residential or nursing home, and often arrive without any toiletries.

Often with no family to support them Lynsey decided to do something to make their stay just that little bit more comfortable. She started by providing jigsaws and board games to entertain the patients during the day and then organised an Easter raffle to provide toiletry bags and toiletries for patients. She was extremely successful and raised £462 with three fabulous hampers as prizes.

## 100 ladies take part in Pink Walk

Jo Norbury of Shotton organised her 4th Pink Walk on 10th September 2011 to raise funds in memory of her sister in law Lynne Devaney from Connahs Quay, who died of breast cancer in 2005.

Proceeds from the 2005 and 2009 events together with those due from this year's walk have been donated to the Countess Breast Care Unit. "Lynne would have been 42 this September and we released 42 pink balloons just before the start of the walk from Connahs Quay to Shotton" said Jo. Already

over £14,500 has been donated and Jo hopes that with 100 ladies registered to take part this year she will exceed a cumulative total of £20,000. As well as the walk Jo organised an event at The Civic Centre in Connah's Quay with a disco, buffet and live entertainment. "Jo is an inspiration and we are indebted to her for supporting us in this way. In addition to what she has raised for our hospital I know that she has raised a further £6000 for a national breast cancer charity as well. Her enthusiasm and commitment to putting on a great event is just amazing" said fundraising manager Janet Ratcliffe.



### Donation form

I wish to donate £ ..... to the following area of the hospital:

.....  
Mr / Mrs / Ms / Dr  
First name .....  
Surname .....  
Address .....  
.....  
.....  
Postcode .....  
Telephone No .....

Email .....

Detach and send with your cheque made payable to 'COCH Charitable Funds' to:

*Countess of Chester Hospital  
Fundraising Dept, Liverpool Road,  
Chester CH2 1UL.*

An acknowledgment will be issued.

Alternatively please debit £ ..... from my (tick as appropriate)

Switch  Mastercard   
Visa  Barclaycard

Name (as appears on card):  
.....

Card Number

.....

3 digit security code\* .....

Switch/solo issue number .....

Valid from: ..... to .....

Signature: .....

**I am a Tax payer and wish you to claim Gift Aid on this donation**

Signature: .....

\*This information is destroyed after processing.

# Raising funds through walking, running, climbing and even spinning!

## All in a spin!

Seventeen people took part in a sponsored spinathon at the Northgate Arena in April, organised by Alice Frost, a pharmacy technician at the hospital to raise funds for the Relative Comfort Appeal.

## Clair's 10k Run

Clair Gregory of Tarporley took part in the Manchester 10k run this year and raised £400 for the Kisiizi Hospital Fund. She enjoyed it so much she is now planning to do the Flintshire 10k and The Great South Run in Portsmouth, (both in October) and then next year the Greater Manchester Marathon Run and the Manchester 10k again!



## Colin raises £560

Out of 36,000 runners that took part in this year's Manchester 10k run Colin Bonfield of Cheadle managed to finish in position 1313 completing the run in 43 mins and 28 sec – quite an achievement! Colin chose to support Relative Comfort as his mother in law spent 3 weeks on the Intensive Care Unit in January/February. He told us "they saved her life but it was naturally a very traumatic time for my wife and her father and sister and I know that having a facility available like the one you are raising funds for could have made a very difficult time for them a little bit better". £150 of the total raised was donated by Colin's employer, Hewlett Packard.

## Three Peaks achievement

Stephen Eccles and a group of friends from Connahs Quay are hoping to raise £1000 for the Special Care Baby Unit by undertaking the Three Peaks Challenge

## Another 10k runner

Joanne Cardwell from Manchester took part in the Blackpool 10k run and raised £113, also for the Special Care Baby Unit.



## Brothers run 10K

In June brothers Adam and Kieran Tudor took part in the Liverpool to New Brighton 10k Race. They completed the run in 42 minutes and 52 seconds and came 201st and 202nd out of 3800 runners, raising £950! Adam and his wife Enna had a baby girl, Lily, in September 2007 and due to complications, Lily had to spend some time in the Neonatal Unit. Despite the best efforts of the medical team she sadly died after only a day because of a rare genetic disorder, 'Smith Lemli Opitz'.

Although this was a devastating outcome for Adam and Enna, he told the fundraising team that he was acutely aware that without the support, compassion and personal care of the team in the Neonatal unit he and Enna wouldn't have had the few precious hours that they got to spend with Lily and for that they are eternally grateful. Because of their experience they decided that they would like to give something back to the hospital in memory of their daughter so that the team can continue to provide such amazing support for those babies that need it in future.

## Kilimanjaro

Twenty four year old Jenny Beyer of Hoole recently returned from an amazing expedition to Kilimanjaro. It took five days to get to the summit and two days to descend. Each day they covered quite a distance and were always in bed by 8pm! So far Jenny has raised £400 for the Relative Comfort Appeal. Donations can still be made at: [www.sponsor-me.org/jennyclimbskill](http://www.sponsor-me.org/jennyclimbskill) Jenny is now planning her next adventure.....The New York City Marathon



Why not start training now for a walking or running event in 2012?

Some 2012 dates for your diary include:  
Chester Half Marathon - 13th May  
Manchester 10k - 20th May  
Wirral Coastal Walk - 27th May

# Forthcoming events

## Saturday 29th October

Think Pink Day at Chester Football Club. Kick off 3pm, further details from Angie on 01244 366240. Proceeds for the Breast Care Unit.

## Tuesday 1st November

Bric a Brac sale at the Countess. 10am to 4pm behind the main reception. All proceeds to the Kisiizi Hospital fund.

## Friday 11th November

'C Factor' at the Mollington Banastre Hotel at 7pm with hot pot supper. Tickets £12.95 available from Angie on 01244 366240. Proceeds for the Kisiizi Hospital Fund.

## Tuesday 15th November

Fashion show and 3 course ladies lunch from 11.30am in the Long Room, Eaton Estate. Fashion demonstration by TRIPP of Parkgate Raffle and various Christmas gifts for sale. Tickets £45 available from Lynda Coulter 01244 366416. Proceeds to the Milk Bank Appeal.

## Sunday 26th November

Annual sponsored walk (8 miles) from Connahs Quay Docks to the Maternity Unit at the Countess. Starts at 12 noon at the Ski Club Boat Club, Dock Road, Connahs Quay. For further information contact Ann McFerran on 01244 815110. Proceeds to Special Care Baby Unit.

## Sunday 11th December

Santa Stroll 4km walk or run! £10 per person. Starts at 9.30am, enter online at [www.chestersantadash.com](http://www.chestersantadash.com). Proceeds to the Children's Unit.

## Sunday 18th December

Turkey Trot at Chester Racecourse. Details from the Ship Victory on 01244 376453. Proceeds to the Angela Gildea Memorial Fund.

Editor: Janet Ratcliffe, Fundraising Manager  
Design and layout: Medical Photography and Illustration

# The Flintstones have fun at fancy dress party!

Samantha Rogers' first attempt at organising a fundraising event in May proved to be a great success!

She raised £600 for Ward 60 (Haematology and Oncology) and the Special Care Baby Unit. Samantha who lives in Tarporley has been a patient on Ward 60 for many years and wanted to do something to acknowledge the excellent care and treatment she regularly receives.

Her cousin had twins who were looked after on our Special Care Baby Unit, so she decided to support this area of the hospital as well. About 150 people attended the party which was held at the



Fourways Inn in Delamere. Samantha is pictured with husband Chris and baby Charlie getting ready to have a yabababado time at the party!!

# Amy & friends

A group of friends in Year 10 at Connahs Quay High School undertook a sponsored walk during their school holidays to do something worthwhile that would help others.

Amy Worth organised a walk from Connahs Quay to Chester (about 6 miles), and collectively the friends raised £142 for the hospital. They decided to donate



the money to the Children's Unit as one of the group, Chantelle Keenan has received lots of care on the unit.

Pictured left to right : Catherine Furness, Megan Cairney, Heili Pohill, Chantelle Keenan, Amy Worth, Libby Cunliffe and Katie Flavin.

# How to contact us

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