

# Every baby step counts towards our **£3 million**

By Natalie Barnett  
natalie.barnett@nwn.co.uk

**THE Chester Standard has joined forces with the Countess of Chester Hospital in a bid to help raise a massive £3million for its Babygrow Appeal.**

Each week the *Standard* will feature updates on the progress of the huge fundraising challenge and bring you pictures and articles on a number of different charity events as part of the appeal.

The fundraising target of £3million in three years will help bosses at the Liverpool Road hospital create a brand new neonatal unit – double the size of the current facility – providing improved facilities and a more spacious environment for the babies being cared for and their families.

So far the Babygrow Appeal has raised about £375,000, but more help is needed to raise the remaining £2,625,000 to cover the costs of the new build.

The hospital's current neonatal unit, often referred to as the Special Care Baby Unit, was built in 1974 and is now fairly outdated in terms of the décor and design. Despite this, the



dedicated medical team provide the highest standards of care and treatment.

One in every eight babies born in the UK will spend some time in a neonatal unit.

Last year the Neonatal Unit cared for about 450 babies, many of whom were very poorly, either in intensive care or on ventilators. Some babies stay in the unit for just a few hours, for others it can be weeks or even months.

Fundraising manager Janet Ratcliffe said: "Understandably this can be a very anxious time for parents who are

**// We need as much help as possible to realise target**

often spending a lot of time in the unit, and currently the restricted size of the unit means they can't always be provided with the space and privacy they would like.

"There is no separate room where siblings can be entertained or play freely and there is no dedicated counselling room for when bad news has to be given. The Babygrow Appeal will provide all this and much more, in a brand new purpose built Neonatal Unit.

"We need as much help as possible to help realise our £3million target and are calling on communities, businesses and organisations to support this important appeal."

A number of charitable organisations have already pledged their support to the appeal including the Chester Lions charity, schools and other local groups.

Mrs Ratcliffe added: "We are putting together a programme of events we hope will appeal to all sectors within our local community

and we hope everybody will feel able to get involved in this appeal in some way, no matter how small."

The charity is currently looking for people to take part in events, or organise their own fundraising activities, and would also be pleased to hear from anybody who would like to sign up as a volunteer or an Ambassador for the Babygrow Appeal.

Events fundraiser Kathy Kenney said: "Not everybody realises that at the Countess of Chester Hospital we have a separate registered charity which exists to generate and manage charitable income which is used to enhance and improve patient facilities at the hospital.

"The charity does not use donations to replace government funding, instead it focuses on areas not covered or fully supported by central NHS funds. At the Countess they believe that patients and their families deserve the very best, and charitable donations allow them to provide the extras over and above the basic provision of the NHS."

In recent years the fundraising team at the hospital has spearheaded several major appeals to improve facilities for patients and their families and thanks to the generosity of the local community, each appeal has been successful.

Projects have included raising £1.2 million to build a new breast care unit, almost £600,000 to extend and refurbish the Haematology and Oncology Unit, and more recently £300,000 was raised to provide overnight accommodation and a day lounge for families of patients being cared for on the Critical Care Unit.

The new accommodation is due to be completed in October. The charity now hopes that once again the local community will join forces with them as they endeavour to meet the challenge of raising £3million to build a fantastic new neonatal unit.

For further information on the Babygrow Appeal call the fundraising office on 01244 366240 or go to [www.coch.nhs.uk/babygrow](http://www.coch.nhs.uk/babygrow)



Supporters at the launch of the event.

WINDOWS

DOORS

CONSERVATORIES

ROOF LINE

GARAGE DOORS

GLASS & GLAZING

*New*  
**CONSERVATORY**  
*showroom*

WITHIN  
  
**LIVING FLOORS**  
BUMPERS LANE  
SEALAND ROAD  
JUST BEHIND SCREWFIX

**FREE**  
GENUINE UPGRADE TO  
A RATED WINDOWS WHICH  
COULD SAVE YOU  
**£694** PER ANNUM

**LOOKING FOR QUALITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES?**

With over 5,000 satisfied customers in over 18 years of successful trading, Fortress Windows give you complete peace of mind.

**THE BITTERNESS OF POOR QUALITY REMAINS LONG AFTER THE SWEETNESS OF THE LOW PRICE IS FORGOTTEN!**

**FORTRESS WINDOWS** 4 High Street, Saltney Chester CH4 8SE

**01244 682110**

[www.fortresswindows.co.uk](http://www.fortresswindows.co.uk) • [admin@fortresswindows.co.uk](mailto:admin@fortresswindows.co.uk) • follow us on facebook

Fortress Windows are proud to be backing...  
"The Anya Bentham Appeal" You can support Anya's appeal by going to [www.facebook.com/anyabenthamappeal](http://www.facebook.com/anyabenthamappeal) and donations can be made at [www.justgiving.com/appeal4anya](http://www.justgiving.com/appeal4anya)

LETS GET ANYA TO AMERICA FOR PIONEERING TREATMENT.





## Adele's capital attempt to raise £2,000

ADELE Cross, 29, from Chester is taking part in the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday, April 21, and is hoping to raise £2,000 for the appeal.

Adele, who works in the legal department at the Countess of Chester Hospital, said "This will be the first marathon I will have run, as I have previously been more involved in cycling and last year completed 1,000

miles in the Chester-Berlin-Chester event. One of my close friends lost a baby and so this is a cause really close to my heart".

Adele is really looking forward to this new challenge and as part of her training programme is taking part in the Sheffield half marathon.

If you would like to support Adele's efforts you can sponsor her at: [www.justgiving.com/adele-cross1](http://www.justgiving.com/adele-cross1)

■ Adele puts on her running shoes for Babygrow Appeal. (s)

● Childbirth Appeal pledges to support Babygrow. This volunteer-led charity was established by ex-midwife Pat Daniels in 1991 with the aim of enhancing facilities and supporting a range of women and children's services at the Countess of Chester Hospital. The charity is completely separate and independent of the hospital's own charity but Pat has made a commitment that her charity will support the hospital's Babygrow Appeal over the next three years.

## Mum urges people to support the appeal

LOUISE Lawson-Jones certainly got a 40th Birthday present she hadn't bargained for last November when she unexpectedly went into labour at 24 weeks and three days and gave birth to her first baby. After arriving at the Countess, Louise was transferred to Arrowse Park Hospital because the Countess, as a designated Level 2 Neonatal Unit, cares for babies from 27 weeks upwards.

Alice was born weighing just 625 grammes and Louise said: "Obviously it was a real shock for myself and husband Mark. We were actually due to go to Angelsey the following day for a three day cottage break to celebrate my birthday but then Alice decided to arrive which certainly made it a memorable 40th birthday for me. Over the past three months there have been lots of highs and lows and various milestones that Alice has achieved and having her 100 day celebration has been lovely."

The neonatal team make a banner and personalised card, and bake a cake for all babies who are still with them at 100 days old and Cake, based in Seller Street Chester, created a magnificent Babygrow cake to mark Alice's 100 day celebration.

Alice was moved back to the Countess from Arrowse Park and she now weighs 5lbs 6oz.

Louise added: "I just can't wait now to be able to bring her home which hopefully won't be too long now. Alice has received wonderful care at the Countess and I am very grateful to the dedicated medical team for looking after her."

"Having spent time in the unit myself I can see firsthand how a bigger unit will provide a host of benefits for parents who have to spend a lot of time in the unit, and I hope everybody will get behind the Babygrow Appeal and support it in



■ Baby Alice with mum Louise (left) and neonatal practitioner Laura Eagles and Eirian Lloyd Powell, Neonatal Unit manager (right). Alice is 100 days old - and wasn't even due to be born until March 7. (s)

### POINT to POINT RACES

BANGOR ON DEE RACECOURSE

Sir W W Wynn's Sun 10<sup>th</sup> March Flint & Denbigh Sun 14<sup>th</sup> April

**£5 OFF**  
ENTRY FEE WITH THIS ADVERT\*

**Day Out For All The Family including "Own a Racehorse for a Day Prize Draw"**

Admission: **£8.00** per pedestrian **£15.00** per car (one occupant) or **£25.00** per car (two or more occupants) **Concession for coaches booked in advance**

Enquires: **01978 780323** and to book **Premium Parking** visit: [www.bangorpoint2points.co.uk](http://www.bangorpoint2points.co.uk)

\*Advert to be handed in at the gate on entry. Only one advert per car allowed per race meeting. Offer ends 15th April 2013.

**WHEN REPLYING TO AN ADVERT DON'T FORGET TO MENTION THAT YOU SAW IT FIRST IN THE STANDARD**

## Step In India

**SUNDAY SPECIAL £8.95**  
FRESH FOOD NOT BUFFET FOOD

**Early Bird Menu £9.95**

MON TO THURS 5.30 TO 8PM  
DISCOUNTED TAKEAWAY MENU  
- FREE DELIVERY  
PARTY BOOKINGS WELCOME

130 Foregate St, Chester • Tel (01244) 346431  
[www.stepinindiachester.com](http://www.stepinindiachester.com)

## KAYES

THE TRUSTED SOURCE SINCE 1948

Engage with us

Choose an engagement ring from our sparkling collection, or create your own unique ring set with a diamond of your choice at a price that suits you.

View online now or visit us for a free diamond consultation.

[www.kayesjewellers.com](http://www.kayesjewellers.com)

## KAYES

2-4 St. MICHAELS ROW  
CHESTER CH1 1EF  
01244 327149

Finance available subject to status.