

The Archie Foundation

We're here for you

The Archie Foundation Newsletter August 2024

Dear Mel

What a difference a couple of weeks make! Schools are back and there's a distinctly autumnal feel about the weather which has sadly impacted on a couple of our recent fundraising events, including last weekend's abseil which had to be postponed due to 70mph winds! It takes more than a bit of bad weather to dampen Archie supporters' spirits, however, and new dates being scoped as I write.

Rain or shine, Archie's support continues and this has been another record month in terms of funding applications received, approved and fulfilled. I've included a couple of stories below to give you an insight into the difference your support means for local children and families. Thank you so much for making all of this possible, it really does make the world of difference when and where it is needed most.

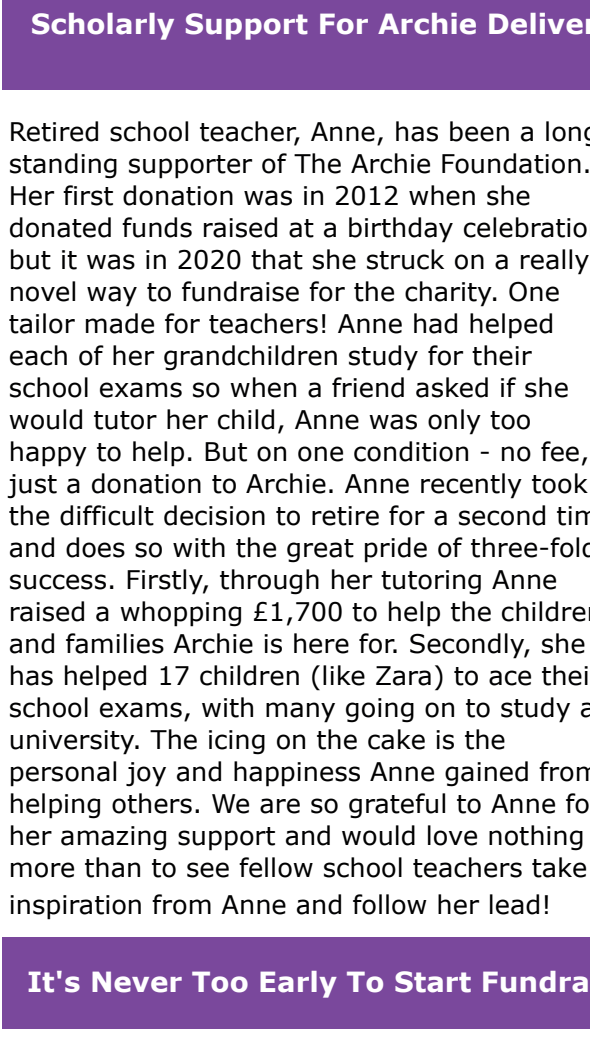
Best wishes

Paula Cormack

Chief Executive

PS - we've recently updated our privacy policy, which you can find [here](#).

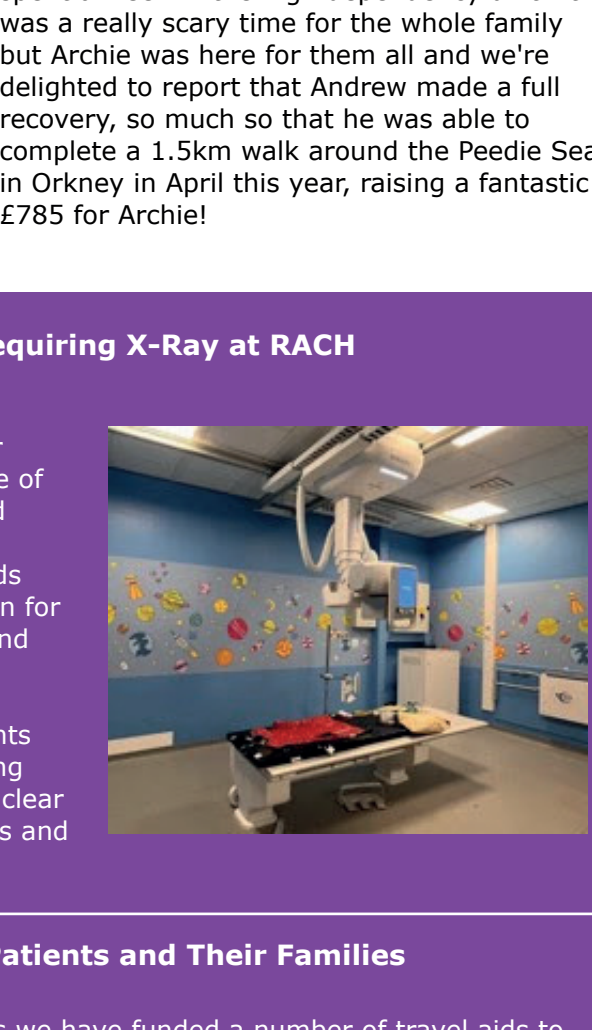
Brightening The Outlook for Young Patients & Families in RACH Medical Ward



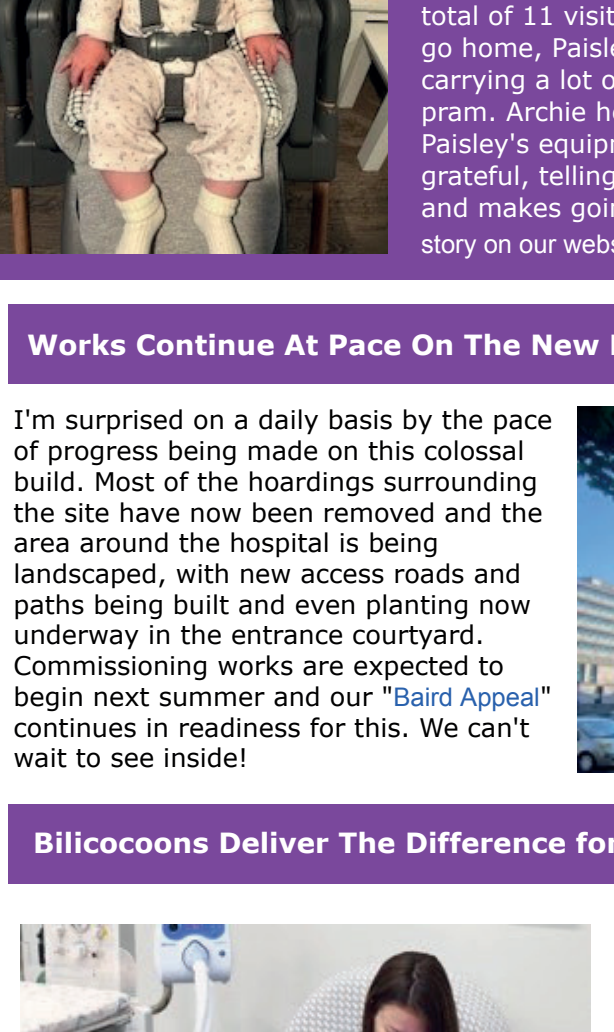
Thanks to a very generous donation, in recognition of the wonderful care and treatment delivered to a young oncology patient, we have been able to fund significant improvements within the medical ward at RACH. This includes new reclining chairs in each of the rooms, to help make the long hours that parents spend sitting by their child's bedside as comfortable as possible. We have also funded new blinds on the doors into each of the rooms, which can be carefully raised by nursing staff to check on patients overnight without disrupting the child or parent's precious sleep. Best of all, the colours chosen by nursing staff are bright and uplifting, bringing some much needed cheer to the ward.

Scholarly Support For Archie Delivers Win-Win-Win Results

Retired school teacher, Anne, has been a long standing supporter of The Archie Foundation. Her first donation was in 2012 when she donated funds raised at a birthday celebration, but it was in 2020 that she struck on a really novel way to fundraise for the charity. One tailor made for teachers! Anne had helped each of her grandchildren study for their school exams so when a friend asked if she would tutor her child, Anne was only too happy to help. But on one condition - no fee, just a donation to Archie. Anne recently took the difficult decision to retire for a second time and does so with the great pride of three-fold success. Firstly, through her tutoring Anne raised a whopping £1,700 to help the children and families Archie is here for. Secondly, she has helped 17 children (like Zara) to ace their school exams, with many going on to study at university. The icing on the cake is the personal joy and happiness Anne gained from helping others. We are so grateful to Anne for her amazing support and would love nothing more than to see fellow school teachers take inspiration from Anne and follow her lead!



It's Never Too Early To Start Fundraising For The Archie Foundation!



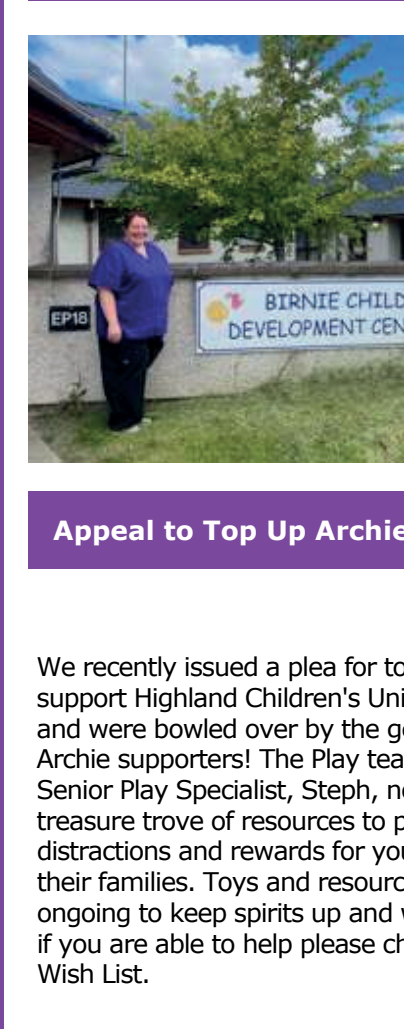
Two year old Andrew and his family had a very special motivation to fundraise for Archie. They wanted to say thank you for the support received from the charity last year when Andrew became very unwell during a visit to his Granny in Orkney. He had to be airlifted to Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital where he spent a week in the high dependency unit. It was a really scary time for the whole family but Archie was here for them all and we're delighted to report that Andrew made a full recovery, so much so that he was able to complete a 1.5km walk around the Peedie Sea in Orkney in April this year, raising a fantastic £785 for Archie!

Distraction, Focus and Fun for Children Requiring X-Ray at RACH

When the X-Ray rooms in RACH were recently refurbished, the team approached Archie to ask for support in adding finishing touches that in their line of work are much more than "extras". Local artist and generous Archie patron, Johanna Basford, worked closely with the team to understand how their needs differed from the previous work she had undertaken for us. In particular the designs needed to be bigger and bolder, with elements for children to find, count or describe. As well as presenting a welcoming environment, being able to focus on certain elements helps calm anxious children (and parents!), reducing fidgeting and helping our X-ray colleagues capture clear images quickly and easily which is good for patients and good for staff.



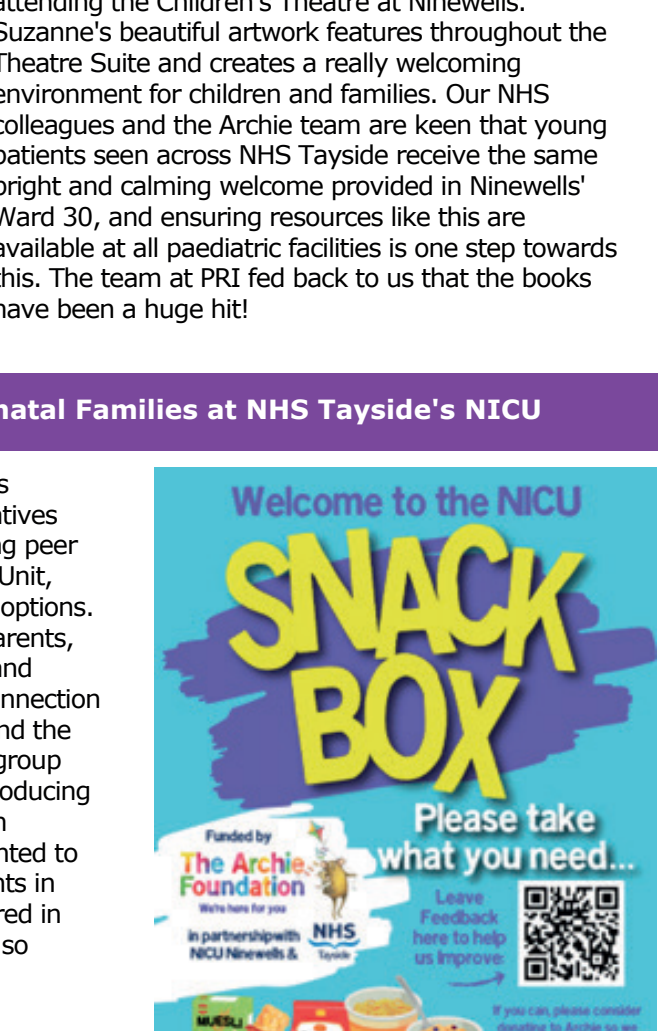
Funding Specialist Equipment for Young Patients and Their Families



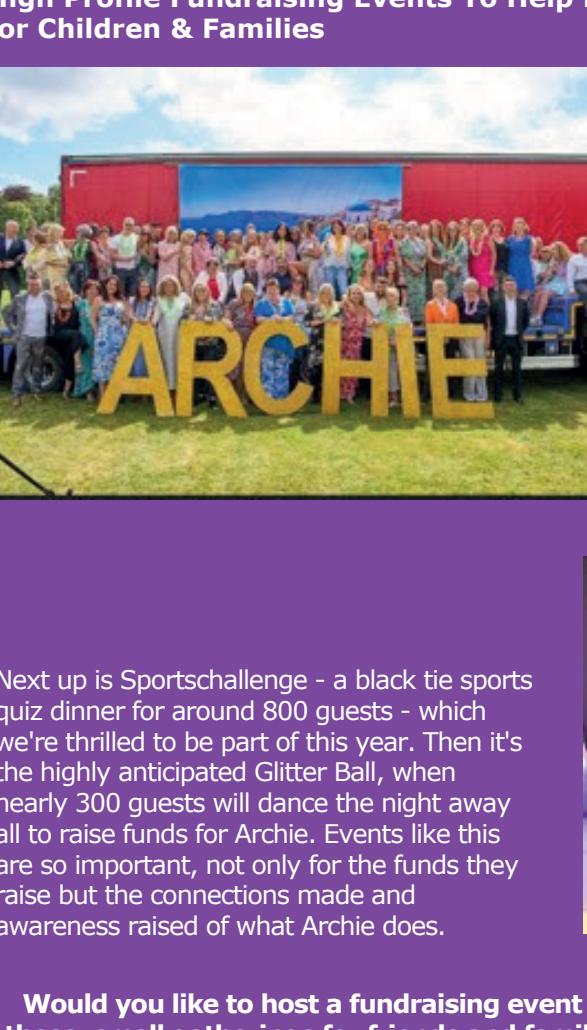
In recent months we have funded a number of travel aids to support children with additional needs, including specialist prams for children like Paisley who leave hospital still on oxygen. Paisley was diagnosed with Down Syndrome before birth. She was eager to explore everything the world has to offer and made an early appearance at 31 weeks and 1 day, however Paisley had a long journey before she was able to go home. She spent 9 months in hospital including trips to Glasgow and underwent a total of 11 visits to theatre. Even when finally strong enough to go home, Paisley still requires to be on oxygen. That means carrying a lot of kit with her 24/7, too much for a standard pram. Archie helped fund a suitable pram that can carry all Paisley's equipment and her mum, Lynne, couldn't be more grateful, telling us that "this pram has been a lifesaver for us and makes going out so much easier." You can read Paisley's full story on our website.

Works Continue At Pace On The New Baird Family Hospital

I'm surprised on a daily basis by the pace of progress being made on this colossal build. Most of the hoardings surrounding the site have now been removed and the area around the hospital is being landscaped, with new access roads and paths being built and even planting now underway in the entrance courtyard. Commissioning works are expected to begin next summer and our "Baird Appeal" continues in readiness for this. We can't wait to see inside!



Bilicocoons Deliver The Difference for Babies at Aberdeen Neonatal Unit



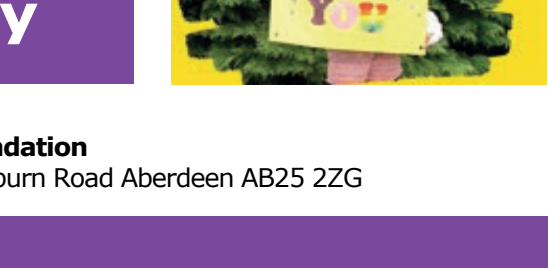
We may have to wait for the Baird but already we're making the difference for neonatal babies and their families. Archie's support for neonatal services is constant and thanks to generous donations we were able to fund two "Bilicocoons" for Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, which are already in use. Phototherapy treatment is generally delivered by stripping babies down to their nappy and placing them directly on a cot under lights - not surprisingly babies often become very unsettled which is distressing for everyone involved.

"It is much less distressing for new parents using the bilicocoon."
Neonatal Nurse

"I feel so lucky to manage to get a bilicocoon as my baby was not settling under the lights at all."
Parent

Get-Togethers Provide Important Connections & Support for Neonatal Families

Throughout the year we host a series of get-togethers or support afternoons for neonatal families, to help connect parents going through similar and often very challenging experiences. Last month we returned to Aberdeen's Bonnymuir Community Green who have previously hosted our World Prematurity Day events. This time we took a chance (and won!) on the weather, opting for a summer picnic, which was a huge hit with the children and parents. We are now planning further events for the remainder of the year and would love to hear directly from families to help us shape these events to ensure we deliver what is needed. Please drop us a line if you have any suggestions.



Mini Massage Sessions to Say Thank You to Hard Working NHS Staff on International Nurses Day

To celebrate International Nurses Day we organised pamper sessions at RACH and Raigmore. This was a first for us in Raigmore and was only possible thanks to the generosity of therapists Catherine and Le-anne who volunteered their time free of charge. They did a fantastic job in helping us transform the clinic rooms in the Birnie Centre and gave the staff the gift of some much appreciated pampering and relaxation time! Activities like this are a really important way to show our NHS colleagues how appreciate they are and we are keen to offer more sessions like this throughout the year, across all three regions, so if you have the skills and time and would like to help, please get in touch. Your support could mean more than you ever anticipated.

Appeal to Top Up Archie Highlands Toy Box Is A Great Success!

We recently issued a plea for toy donations to support Highland Children's Unit at Raigmore and were bowled over by the generosity of Archie supporters! The Play team, including Senior Play Specialist, Steph, now have a treasure trove of resources to provide distractions and rewards for young patients and their families. Toys and resources are needed ongoing to keep spirits up and worries down so if you are able to help please check out their Wish List.

Young NHS Tayside Patients Benefit From A Little Book of Riverside Adventures

Our NHS colleagues at Perth Royal Infirmary got in touch to request copies of this beautiful book, created by local artist Suzanne Scott (also known as WhimSiCAL Lush) as a resource to support children attending the Children's Theatre at Ninewells. Suzanne's beautiful artwork features throughout the Theatre Suite and creates a really welcoming environment for children and families. Our NHS colleagues and the Archie team are keen that young patients seen across NHS Tayside receive the same bright and calming welcome provided in Ninewells' Ward 30, and ensuring resources like this are available at all paediatric facilities is one step towards this. The team at PRAI fed back to us that the books have been a huge hit!

Introducing Archie Support for Neonatal Families at NHS Tayside's NICU

We are really excited to be supporting Ninewells Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with two key initiatives focussed on supporting parents and encouraging peer to peer support. The first is a Snack Box in the Unit, providing a selection of healthy on-the-go food options. This simple provision can be a real lifeline for parents, both practically in regard to the food provided and emotionally in terms of the camaraderie and connection that eating together brings. The second is to fund the tea and coffee trolley for a new "Neo Buddies" group being trialled by NICU staff, with the aim of introducing families so they can support each other through challenging times and experiences. We're delighted to be able to support NHS Tayside staff and patients in this way, rolling out similar support to that offered in Grampian, which has proved so successful and so greatly appreciated.

High Profile Fundraising Events To Help Fund Archie's Vital Support for Children & Families

Everything we do is thanks to voluntary donations and fundraising and we're really fortunate to have so many dedicated supporters who work incredibly hard to ensure that Archie can be here for children and families when they need us most. Over the next couple of weeks we have some high end, high profile and big scale events coming up, all of them led by Archie supporters. This weekend will see the return of the incredibly popular Prosecco Picnic led by our Highlands Fundraising Committee when over 200 guests will enjoy a festival themed garden party with unlimited prosecco!

Next up is Sportschallenge - a black tie sports quiz dinner for around 800 guests - which we're thrilled to be part of this year. Then it's the highly anticipated Glitter Ball, when nearly 300 guests will dance the night away all to raise funds for Archie. Events like this are so important, not only for the funds they raise but the connections made and awareness raised of what Archie does.

Would you like to host a fundraising event for Archie? It doesn't need to be a huge scale event like these, small gatherings for friends and family can be just as successful. Our fundraising team are here to help you every step of the way so please don't be shy and get in touch today!

There are Many Ways To Support Archie - Check Out our Events & Campaigns

Please get in touch if you would like any more information about any of our upcoming events or activities or if you would just like to chat - we're always delighted to hear from our supporters! Everything we do is thanks to the fantastic fundraising efforts and incredibly generosity of amazing people like you. Thank you so much for caring!

The Archie Foundation
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