

The Archie Foundation

We're here for you



The Archie Foundation Newsletter December 2024

Dear Friend

Advent already! Festive planning started many months ago for Team Archie so we're off and running with a really special advent calendar of activities to make the difference for the babies, children and families we're here for. Each day throughout December we will spotlight an Archie-funded service, activity or treat (both one-offs and day-to-day support) that really make the difference for young patients and our NHS colleagues who care for them. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#) for regular updates throughout and to find out how you can be part of the fun.

None of what we do would be possible were it not for generous Archie supporters, like you. Thank you so much for helping us to make experiences and outcomes in healthcare and bereavement the best they possibly can be for local babies, children and families. I hope you enjoy this little round up of the difference you're making.

Best wishes

Paula Cormack

Chief Executive

PS - one of the more mundane jobs we've undertaken recently was updating our privacy policy, which you can find [here](#)

Archie's Child Bereavement Service Annual Conference 2024 - A First For Tayside



Last month we held our first conference in Tayside at Dundee's iconic V&A. The topic for this year's event - Supporting Pupils Following A Sudden Death - was hard hitting but very warmly welcomed by education professionals. Conference was opened by Lord Provost Bill Campbell and supported by highly experienced and respected sector experts, including CEO of Includem,

Martin Dorchester, co-founder of Archie's Child Bereavement Service, Anne Bone, and teachers from Harris Academy. Archie Bereavement Support Workers led afternoon workshops demonstrating some of the practical tools and activities they use to encourage children to open up about their grief. Feedback was extremely positive and we're already seeing an increase in referrals from the Tayside education sector.

Stalwart of Archie's Child Bereavement Service Crowned Woman of Inspiration 2024!



We were over the moon when our very own Rona Grimmer was crowned Woman of Inspiration 2024 at the Business Women Connect Aberdeen Awards. One of the key factors in the judges' decision was Rona's outstanding commitment to Archie's Child Bereavement Service. We are keeping it in the Archie family as Rona receives the baton from the inaugural winner of this award, Archie trustee Anne Bone! Rona gave an inspirational acceptance speech at the Awards Lunch on 15th November, outlining some of her career highlights and motivations and encouraging women across the region to be the change they want to see. Well done and huge congratulations Rona!

Breathe Intensive Therapy Programme Works Magic For Tam!



Many of the funding applications we receive open our eyes to new ways Archie can make a meaningful difference for children and young people. Some are truly magical. 12 year old Tam lives with dystonia which causes him to have right side mobility disability. He receives therapy support from a number of health specialists across NHS Tayside, one of whom put him forward for a specialist intensive bi-manual occupational therapy summer camp delivered by Breathe Arts Health Research. The 60-hour long programme is grounded in world-class medical research and uses specially designed magic tricks to deliver intensive therapy to develop hand and arm function, cognitive abilities, self-confidence and independence. Specialist occupational therapists work alongside Magic Circle magicians to provide 1-to-1 therapy in a group setting, delivering interventions tailored to suit each young person's particular needs. This short and uplifting film explains far better than I ever could the magic this course worked for Tam and his course mates. I really hope you feel the same pride I do for the small part we played in making this possible.

RACH Pioneer of Play Recognised by Children's Health Scotland



Play is vitally important for children's wellbeing and development and arguably nowhere more so than in a hospital or healthcare setting. At RACH we are privileged to work alongside and support a terrifically talented and tireless Play Team who make the most incredible difference for young patients and their families. That is why we were so thrilled to see RACH Play Service Manager, Heather Beattie, recognised at a national level when she recently received the Children's Play Award from Children's Health Scotland. Heather was the first person to train as a health play specialist at RACH 33 years ago and since then she has developed the play service to meet the needs of children, families, and staff. As well as managing the service and team, Heather personally supports children and young people as they get ready for clinical procedures. Well done and congratulations Heather, from all of us at Archie and from the thousands of children and families you've helped over the years!

Variety Show Returns In April 2025 And We're Auditioning Now!



Earlier this year 18 amazing acts took to the stage for Archie's inaugural Variety Show. The night was filled with singing, dancing, music, and magic, all seamlessly introduced by the inimitable Alan McHugh. There were calls of "encore" before the final curtain had even come down and we are thrilled to announce that The Archie Foundation Variety Show will return to the Tivoli Theatre on 19th April 2025, bigger and better than ever as we celebrate 25 years of Archie! The hunt is on to find the star acts for next year's show and are inviting inspirational youngsters who have been supported by NHS Grampian or The Archie Foundation to take their rightful place on stage. From well practised entertainers who regularly tread the boards all the way through to children who are yet to discover their particular talent, we're here to help every step of the way.

If you know of an inspiring young person who would benefit from this experience of a lifetime, please encourage them to sign up today at <https://archie.org/events/varietyshow/>

A show such as this relies heavily on support from talented and encouraging adults within our community. If you would like to be part of this extraordinary event, in any capacity, please get in touch at hello@archie.org.

Archie Supporters Got Together To Support World Prematurity Day



On 17th November, people around the world united once again to observe World Prematurity Day and to think of the 13 million babies born prematurely every year and the difficulties they face. Archie supporters gathered friends and family to hold Prematuri-tea events to raise awareness about the support Archie provides for neonatal services across the North of Scotland and to raise funds so we can continue this vital support. We held our own Prematuri-tea event at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital where families gathered to share stories of their neonatal experience and to offer mutual peer support.

Phase 1 Refurbishment At Raigmore's Birnie Centre Now Complete!



There's been a lot going on at the Birnie Centre recently! Phase 1 of the works is now complete with beautiful artworks (stunning designs by Archie patron, Johanna Basford) applied in the waiting room, clinic areas and corridors. Phase 2 is being scoped by the NHS Highland Estates team but already the calming and welcoming environment is making a huge difference in managing anxieties and expectation for young patients and their families. Archie also funded some new toys and resources for the waiting area to help keep children occupied when waiting for their outpatient appointment. Healthcare Support Worker, Issy, told us: "A lot of children are very nervous when they visit, due to the new and different environment and the thought of seeing a doctor, so these improvements give them something else to focus on."

Harrison Celebrates One Year Seizure Free Thanks To Charitable Support

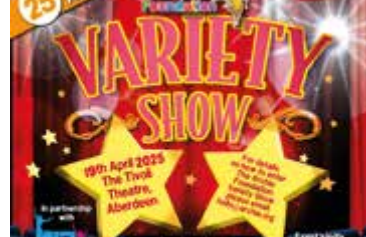


A couple of months back I had the great pleasure of meeting this incovertly young man and his parents who've kindly agreed to feature in a film that was to be shown at the Chester Hotel's Signature Dining Festival. Signature offers discerning diners the opportunity to enjoy exquisite culinary creations by visiting big name chefs, and the film encourages diners to take part in the event auction by showcasing the difference this fund-raising means for the children who will benefit as a result. At the age of four, Harrison was diagnosed with epilepsy. He had multiple seizures every day which severely impacted every aspect of his young life. The stellar treatment and care that Harrison received from the neurology team at RACH is in large part thanks to funding support from the Chester Hotel and its charitable trust, The Ellie Foundation. Ellie donations to The Archie Foundation funded specialist video-telemetry equipment and the software required to analyse data gathered from these brain scans. These investments and enhancements beyond, what the NHS alone can provide, transformed Harrison's treatment paths, meaning he could be put forward for life-changing surgery. Harrison recently celebrated one year seizure free. And counting!

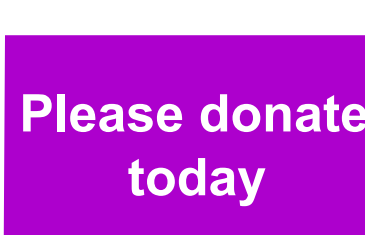
There Are Many Festive Ways To Support Archie and The Children & Families We're Here For!



We've got so much going on over the next month and there are LOTS of ways you can get involved to make your Christmas mean that bit more this year for you, yours and for the children and families Archie is here for. Not got your cards yet? Check out our new range of Christmas cards. Stumped for a Secret Santa gift? Our range of gift vouchers has something for every-one, and every one will make a big difference. Or perhaps it's time to ring the changes by bringing in a giving tree - each tag on the tree suggests a gift for a child, once you've collected your gifts you can make a festive trip to the Archie office to deliver them. Or perhaps you'd rather club together to sponsor one of our Advent treats for young patients and the staff who care for them? Whichever way you choose to get involved you are guaranteed some first class Christmas cheer!



We couldn't achieve any of this without the fantastic fundraising efforts of amazing people like you. Thankyou so much for caring!



The Archie Foundation
Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital Westburn Road Aberdeen AB25 2ZG