

The Archie Foundation

We're here for you



The Archie Foundation Newsletter June 2022

Dear Melanie

What a whirlwind first half of the year! The last couple of months in particular have been especially exciting, with the long awaited opening of the new Children's Theatre Suite, the expansion of our Child Bereavement Service into Tayside and Highlands, the epic "On Top of Scotland" challenge, our fabulous Battle of the Badges fundraiser and lots more besides!

I really hope you enjoy this update and would love to hear your thoughts and feedback.

With best wishes

Paula Cormack

Chief Executive

P.S. please feel free to pass this newsletter on to any friends or family who you think will find it of interest.

Shouting From The Hilltops About Archie's Achievements in Tayside!

On 9th May a decade of planning, fundraising and preparation came to a very positive conclusion when the new Theatre Suite in Tayside Children's Hospital opened. Wards 29 and 30 now feel very much like a "hospital within a hospital" with really positive feedback received from staff, patients and families about the new-look Ward 30. You can read more about it here.



On 4th June Paul Fettes (one of the paediatric consultant anaesthetists at Tayside Children's Hospital) led the charge in the epic "On Top of Scotland" challenge. The aim was for Team Archie to summit all 130 of the "Archie's" (Scotland's 1000m mountains) in one day. That goal was well and truly smashed with over 300 participants collectively raising over £33,000 to help fund our next projects in Tayside and beyond! We are so grateful to everyone who took part and especially to the amazing committee who worked so hard behind the scenes to make it all possible.



So much has been achieved to improve experiences and outcomes for children with healthcare needs in Tayside but there is still so much more to do. We are working with our NHS Tayside colleagues to scope the next projects for Archie's support. Watch this space for further updates!

So Many Opportunities to Make The Difference for Children and Families in The Highlands



This is a really exciting time for Archie in the Highlands, with a number of key projects in their early stages and fantastic opportunities for the charity and our supporters to truly make the difference for local children and families.

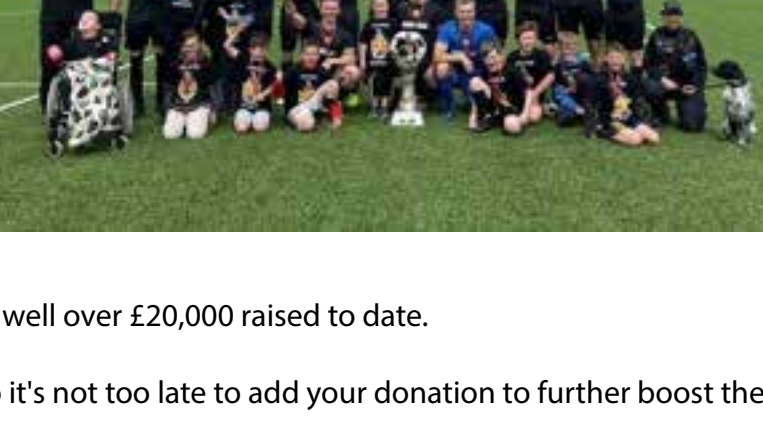


Our Fresh Air Project, which provides much needed outdoor play and garden areas for young patients, is nearing completion. Our Journey To Theatre project, which will make a significant difference for children receiving surgery at Raigmore, is well underway. We are scoping a significant project to transform the Birnie Centre, which houses paediatric outpatients and we have just appointed a new Bereavement Coordinator to lead or Child Bereavement Service in the Highlands.

All we need now is a new Fundraising Officer to lead the charge in the Highlands, raising the funds needed to deliver these ambitious projects! If this sounds like your dream job (or if you know someone else who might be interested) click here to read more about this important role and to apply.

A Hat Trick for Team Police at Archie's Battle of the Badges But The Real Winners This Year Were Our Amazing Mascots

We were thrilled to be able to welcome mascots and spectators back to Battle of the Badges this year. The stadium was packed and the atmosphere tense! Team Police may have made it a hat trick this year but the real winners of the day were our amazing mascots and, of course, the charity itself. All mascots and players played a stormer in their fundraising, with well over £20,000 raised to date.



Funds are still coming through so it's not too late to add your donation to further boost their total.

The money raised is helping fund our ongoing services including Archie's parent accommodation at RACH and our vital emergency grants which help ensure no child faces a financial barrier to accessing the healthcare support they need and deserve.

The Archie Foundation On Tour - This Time At Aberdeen Highland Games



If you call the Archie office, chances are either Elaine (right) or Nicola (left) will answer. They work mostly behind-the-scenes, ensuring all donations received are thanked and banked in line with donors' wishes. They love opportunities like the recent Aberdeen Highland Games when they can get out and about and meet our supporters in person. Volunteers Sue and Lorraine joined them and the foursome did a brilliant job raising an impressive £1,681 and just as importantly spreading the word about the vital support Archie provides and how to access it.

Archie's Child Bereavement Service Activity Days - So Much More Than A Fun Day Out

Our most recent activity day was at the Scottish Dolphin Centre in Speybay where we learned about whales, dolphins and porpoise around the Moray Firth, enjoyed a tour of the largest icehouse in the UK, carried out a beach clean and learned about Spey Bay's salmon fishing heritage. We also enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch and, of course, some fun and games.



Even DIY, simple-fun activity days like this come at an average cost of £100 but the benefits for bereaved children are so much more than just a day out. Could you help fund an activity day for child who has lost a loved one?

We have successfully recruited three new Bereavement Coordinators in Tayside and Highlands. Our new recruits are completing their induction and training right now and we will introduce them in a future newsletter, once they have their feet fully under the desk!

A Vital Link That Bridges A Forty Year Gap For Neonates in the North East



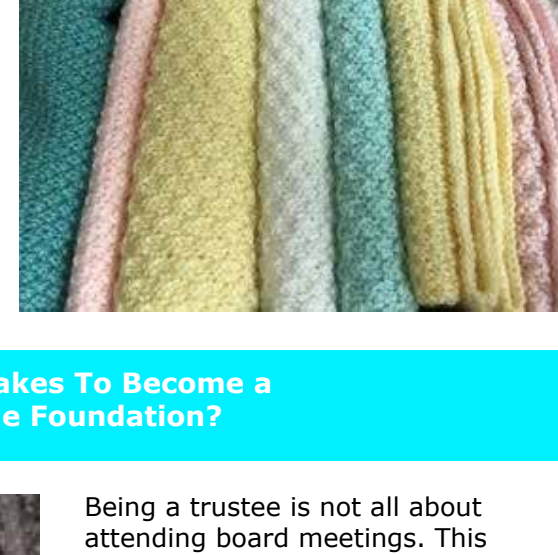
The Baird Family Hospital has reached a significant milestone with the installation of a link bridge that will enable the near instant transfer of neonates in need of surgery from the Baird to RACH. Currently babies and mothers requiring surgery are transported by ambulance from Aberdeen Maternity Hospital to RACH or ARI. Professor George Youngson (pictured right, on a recent site tour) has a long history and vast experience of neonatal care and has long advocated the need for a link bridge like this. His smile says it all!

Also pictured is Jackie Bremner, Project Director for the Baird and ANCHOR projects, who led the tour of the facility, showcasing the impressive progress being made on the build.

Archie's £2m fundraising appeal will deliver enhancements above and beyond the significant investment being made by NHS Grampian. This will include the "patient hotel", state of the art equipment and a number of key art and design elements that will truly "make the difference". If you would like to find out more about this project and how you can support its delivery, please get in touch.

Archie's Support at Aberdeen Neonatal Unit - Your Feedback and Suggestions

Earlier this month the Neonatal Unit re-opened its doors to grandparents and siblings for the first time in a long time. This easing of restrictions has also enabled the Archie Team to return to the Unit, helping make our support and services more visible and accessible to families in the Unit. Archie-funded counsellor May has provided vital emotional support for families and staff throughout the pandemic and the difference she has made is (almost) immeasurable. "Almost", because we're gathering feedback to help us assess the impact this support. Click here to complete our survey.



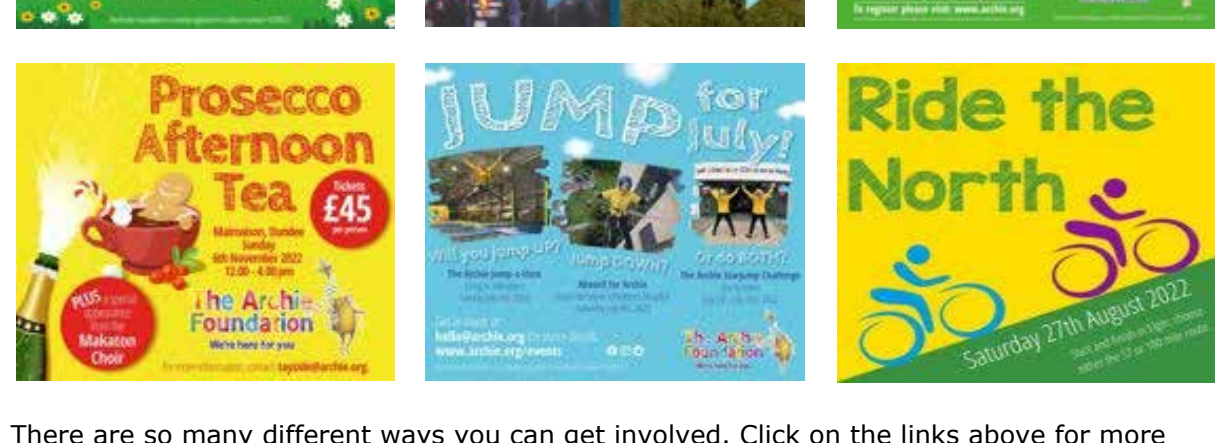
Do You Have What It Takes To Become a Trustee of The Archie Foundation?



Being a trustee is not all about attending board meetings. This photo from one of our trustee teambuilding days sums up beautifully just how challenging, exhilarating and rewarding the role can be! We are looking for skilled and passionate individuals who would be willing to offer their time and expertise to help manage and develop the charity so we can help even more babies, children and families. Click here to find out more about our Board of Trustees and to apply

Get Involved and Make The Difference for Local Babies, Children and Families When They Need It Most

We couldn't achieve any of this without the fantastic fundraising efforts of amazing people like you. We need your help to ensure we can continue to be here for babies, children and families. Can we count on you? There are many different ways you can support - from the sublime to the crazy! Missed out on our absails earlier this year? Don't worry - you can launch yourself off Dundee Uni Tower on Sunday 28th August! Or how about claiming the 50% top-up to your fundraising efforts on offer through the Kiltwalk? Looking for something to keep the kids busy during the holidays? Get them fundraising for Archie! Click on the links below for more information about these activities and more. We hope to see you soon!



There are so many different ways you can get involved. Click on the links above for more information or get in touch with us directly - we love chatting to our supporters! - by emailing us on hello@archie.org or calling 01224 559559. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Please donate today



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