

The Archie Foundation

We're here for you



The Archie Foundation Newsletter May 2024

Dear Friend

Can you believe we're half way through May already? The year is flying by with a couple of big wins, and some significant changes afoot for the charity. It looks very much like 2024 will be another record breaker for Archie and this increasing demand brings mixed emotions. Sadness that so many families in our communities are struggling, whether that's financially, emotionally, practically or a combination of all three. Humility that Team Archie can be here for them during the toughest of times. And most importantly gratitude for our incredible supporters and volunteers who fundraise, donate and gift their time to help make the difference for others in their time of need.

The fact we can keep delivering more for babies, children and families and for the NHS teams who care for them is all thanks to people like you, getting involved to help make the difference. Thank you so much for caring.

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

Best wishes

Paula Cormack

Chief Executive

We Scooped The "Making the Difference" Award At The Northern Business Star Awards!



We were thrilled to receive the "Making The Difference" award at the Northern Business Star Awards last month and really honoured to later host a personal visit to Archie HQ from Chief Executive of Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, Russell Borthwick and trophy sponsor Willie McPherson of ATPi who dropped by this week to meet some of the team and snap a quick photo! This award is fabulous recognition of a team who live and breathe "Making the difference". It really should sit on the mantelpiece of every single member of this amazing collective - staff, trustees, volunteers and supporters. Please

do drop by to snap your own photo - it is after all YOUR trophy just as much as it is ours!

Archie's Inaugural Variety Show Was A Resounding Success With Cries of 'Encore'!

Our first ever Variety Show took place at Aberdeen's Tivoli Theatre on Saturday 4th May and we're all still absolutely buzzing about it! This was an incredible team effort with support from headline sponsor TEXO and a whole host of gift-in-kind sponsors including the Tivoli Theatre, show band Glitz, compere Alan McHugh, voice and dance coaches, hair and make-up artists and many more who supported behind the scenes to help bring this event to life. The show encompassed 18 acts of song, dance, music and magic and the children and young people all shone like the true stars they are.



For their final act they performed "Proud". The lyrics couldn't be more fitting - "What have you done today to make you feel proud?". These amazing children (and the adults supporting them) made everyone around them feel proud and privileged to have witnessed something truly magical. There are calls for an encore... watch this space!

Changes and Growth Within Archie's Neonatal Counselling Service

May Gilchrist was instrumental in establishing Archie's Neonatal Counselling Service and has supported hundreds of families and staff at Aberdeen Neonatal Unit during her years of service. May is taking a step back to enjoy a very well-earned retirement and we are delighted to welcome in not one but two new counsellors to continue her important work.

Tina O'Boyle (left) and Heather Ironside (right) will join May (centre) for a little "tea party" at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital this Sunday afternoon - 19th May - to mark the official handover, explain a bit more about the service and so we can deliver a heartfelt thank you to May

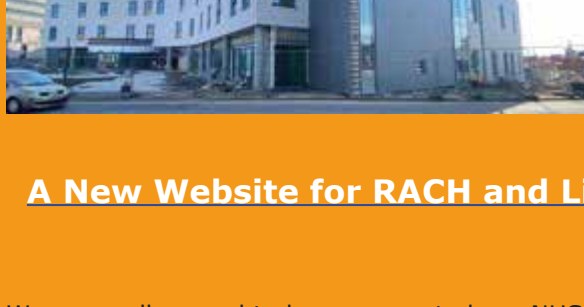
for her many years of service and support. We hope that families May has helped over the years and supporters who have made this vital service possible will be able to join us

- please help us spread the word by [sharing this invitation](#).

[Click here to read more about Archie's Neonatal Service](#) and/or to book in with our counsellors.



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. This week some of the hoardings were taken down as landscaping works around the perimeter of the site continue, giving our best view "inside" yet. Summer 2025 has been mooted for commissioning works to begin and our ["Baird Appeal"](#) continues in readiness for this.

A New Website for RACH and Linked Children's Services Across Grampian

We are really proud to have supported our NHS paediatric colleagues in Grampian with the creation of a new, [stand-alone website for RACH](#) and linked sites and services. The project was championed by Major Trauma Coordinator, Nina Currie, who initiated the project in 2021, gathering together a group of colleagues and later enlisting support from Archie to help deliver their ambition. The aim was to make it easier for patients and carers to access information about paediatric services in Grampian and to provide NHS staff with a professional platform and system to share healthcare advice and guidance. Nina is currently on maternity leave but happily joined us with baby Sophie as we [celebrated the launch of the new site](#).



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

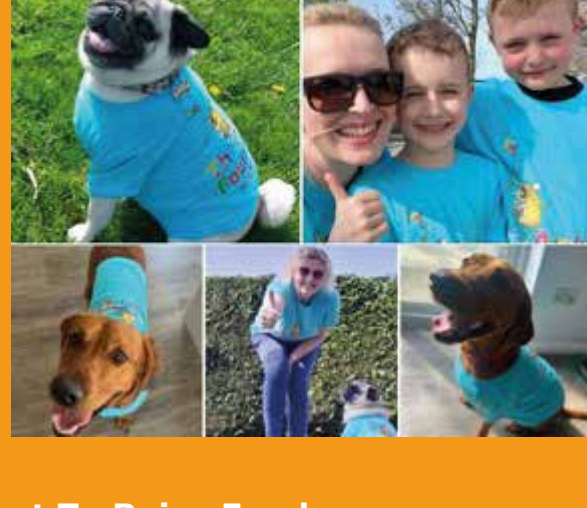
To celebrate International Nurses Day we organised a little pamper session at RACH. Volunteers Rachel and Heather donated their time and skills to provide massages for some of our NHS colleagues. Feedback from staff really blew us away - "the massage was absolutely AMAZING. The best thing that has been provided for me throughout the whole of the pandemic and beyond."



We're keen to offer more of these kind of sessions and activities 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.

Archie's Child Bereavement Service Team Are Going The Extra Mile

Our Child Bereavement Service Team have set themselves an incredible challenge this year. They aim to walk 1 Million Steps in May on a virtual journey that will take them to each of the locations our service supports. They set off from Archie HQ on 1st May and have already reached Inverness! Their aim is to raise funds and, through regular social media posting, to raise awareness of the service they provide to help ensure that any child who has lost a loved one knows who they can turn to for support. [Click here to read more](#) about their journey and the work they do.



Archie Trustees, Past & Present, Cycle Coast 2 Coast To Raise Funds



Paediatric surgeons Mike Reidy and Chris Driver work across all three of the Children's Hospitals Archie supports and see on a daily basis the difference the charity makes. Both boast the title of Archie Trustee on their extensive CVs (Mike is currently serving on our Board, Chris served for a full six year term before stepping down in 2020). At the end of the month they will truly be going the extra mile for Archie when they take on the [BP Coast 2 Coast Challenge](#), pedalling 225 miles from Dumfries to Aberdeen.

They even managed to rope in another surgical team colleague - recently-retired consultant anaesthetist Graham Wilson. And me! Last week's training ride included the infamous Cairn O'Mount where I took the opportunity to grab a photo with Mike and Chris to evidence our endeavours! [Click here](#) to read more about the various reasons our 15-strong Archie peloton signed up for the challenge and/or to sponsor any one of us.

Not One, Not Two, But Three Battle of the Badges To Enjoy This Summer

For the first time ever we will be [hosting Battle of the Badges events in all three regions](#) we support.

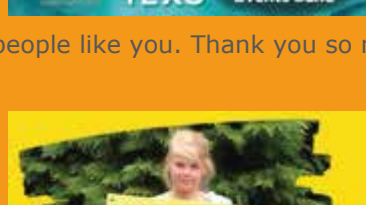
First up is [Tayside](#) on Sunday 26th May where Teams Fire and Police will battle it out at Brechin FC. They will be supported by a full team of mascots who are already showing their competitive spirits as they vie for top spot on the fundraising leader board!

Next up is [Grampian](#), on Saturday 8th June where the event is now a 4-team tournament featuring Teams Fire, Police, NHS and SAS. Last but not least comes [Highland](#) on Saturday 22nd June at Ross County FC where the decider matches will be played between Teams Fire and Police. Applications for Highland mascots remain open - [click here to find out more](#).

These events are about much more than football, they are filled with family fun. They are an opportunity to celebrate the difference The Archie Foundation makes for babies, children and families and to raise funds to ensure we can continue to be here for many years to come.

And If Football's Not Your Thing.... We Have Many More Events & Activities On Offer

There are [many other opportunities to get involved](#) in supporting Archie this year including the ever popular [Kiltwalks](#), which will see record numbers of Archie supporters this year, and the already-over-subscribed [Ride The North](#) cycle event (only fundraising places available now!).



Please donate today



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