



Keep Smiling!

Newsletter of the Smile4Rich Appeal

for the Wessex Neurological Centre Trust

Registered Charity Number 286277

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Welcome & Appeal Update...

Welcome to the latest edition of **Keep Smiling!** As predicted in issue 2 earlier in the year, work on the construction of the Paediatric Video Telemetry (PVT) Suite is due to get under way in October. As this newsletter went to press we were still a little way short of the £145,000 total needed to build and equip the suite, but we're confident that with continued public support these funds will be secured in time to see the facility in operation early in the New Year.

Once operational, the PVT Suite will dramatically increase the Centre's capacity and capability to assess children with severe Epilepsy for life-changing corrective surgery, and provide improved facilities for all our paediatric patients.

And we're determined to continue to identify and fund projects that will further the capabilities of the Centre to care for all those in need of its specialist services. To this end, we're currently working with management and staff to finalise the specification for the subject of our next major appeal, a project that will aim to put some of the most advanced technology available into the hands of the Centre's neurosurgeons. We expect to make an announcement on this exciting new project very soon, and details will be provided on the appeal web site and in leaflets/posters around the Centre.

In the meantime, I'm also delighted to report that the charity has been able to make two awards (each of £10,000) to support research projects at the Centre, and thanks to a truly amazing fundraising effort by Katie Wiggin & Jane Kimmins (see story on page 6), to fund a vital piece of research that offers the prospect of being able to help the thousands of patients who suffer a brain haemorrhage each year.

Of course, none of what has already been achieved, or of what we aspire to accomplish in the future, would be possible without the generosity of our supporters. This newsletter gives details of just some of the events and challenges that have been undertaken by individuals whose lives have been touched by the Wessex. Every penny they've raised really does help to make a difference and hopefully, after reading this newsletter, you'll also be inspired to get involved. If so then we'd love to hear from you.

In the meantime, please - Keep Smiling!

Neil Westbrook - Smile4Rich Appeal Co-ordinator

About Smile4Rich...

The Smile4Rich Appeal is the the public face of charity fundraising for the Wessex Neurological Centre Trust (WNCT). It has previously raised £80,000 to fund the provision of a dedicated Neuro Intensive Care Ambulance for the centre, which has carried over 1,000 patients since going into operation in March 2007. The WNCT also funds numerous research projects into neurological conditions, both at the Wessex Neurological Centre and at Southampton University's world renowned School of Medicine.

Our Sincere Thanks Go...

... to all who have given their support since our last issue. Sadly, there's not space here to list every individual donor, so we hope you will not be offended if your name has been omitted. Please be assured your support is greatly appreciated.

Richard Jones / Worthing Fire Station
The Benham Group
Mr & Mrs M Goodfellow
Copythorne Amateur Theatrical Society
Mr T Clark
Mrs Nikaila Beckett
Mrs V Barwell
Mr & Mrs M Ranger
Scottish & Southern Energy
Meggitt Plc
FCC Paragon
Mr Geoffrey Mann
Mr & Mrs A G Francis
Bartley CE Junior School
Mr Charles Bishop
Chris Neville-Perry
Wessex MX-5 Owners Club
Greenery Nursery, Swanmore
Irregulars CC, Guernsey
Waitrose, Chandlers Ford
Steve Mills, RT Media
Tretowans
Jane Shilton Ltd
Alkoomi Ltd
Pinnacle Asset Management
Viking Kia
Pro-Support Services Ltd
Servian Fire & Security
Quindell Golf Club
Hendy Ford, Fareham
Simplyhealth, Andover

... and to the staff/customers of
Currys (Hedge End)
The Talisman (Park Gate)
The Victory Inn (Hamble)
Co-op (Warsash)
Plaice on the Green (Sarisbury)

023 8079 8882

BIG SMILES... FUNDRAISING NEWS

Brain Tumour Soldier Raises Almost £8,000 ON HIS 'LONGEST DAY'

When 22 year old L/Cpl Dan Mason, a serving soldier with 17 Port & Maritime Regt RLC based at Marchwood, was diagnosed as having a Glial Brain Tumour the natural reaction might have been to concentrate on his own welfare. But Dan decided to focus on achieving something that would be of positive benefit to others, and set about the goal of raising £5,000 for the Smile4Rich Appeal.



But far from taking a soft option, Dan devised a challenge that most athletes would have thought twice about attempting, and which would test him to the limit. Dubbed 'The Longest Day', it saw Dan and seven of his colleagues set out from Lepe Beach to kayak the 2.5 miles across the Solent to Cowes. They then cycled a 60-mile route around the Isle of Wight, before kayaking back across the Solent

and, finally, running a 12-mile route back to their Marchwood barracks.

Incredibly, Dan and his colleagues completed the 77-mile route in just ten and a half hours, a quite amazing time. To Dan's delight, the event has easily surpassed his fundraising target, and most of the team joined Dan, his wife Kat, and 3 month old son, Caleb, to present Prof Liam Gray, head of the WNC's Epilepsy Surgery Service, with a cheque for £7,934.

Commenting on the success of the event, Prof Gray said, "It is a remarkable challenge for anyone to have completed, but for someone in L/Cpl Mason's condition it is a truly outstanding achievement, and one of which he and his colleagues should be immensely proud."

Appeal Boosted by £2,500 Donation from SWANWICK LIONS CLUB

It's well known that Lions Clubs International do some tremendous work for charity, but members of the Swanwick Lions Club certainly pulled out all the stops in support of club president Vic Smith's chosen charity. A variety of fundraising activities over the year, including the ever-popular Christmas collection that sees the Lions' Santa & Sleigh tour the area, resulted in a total of £2,500 being raised.

This was presented by Lions President Vic at a meeting of Swanwick Lions on June 4th, and our picture shows the cheque being received on behalf of the charity by Appeal Co-ordinator, Neil Westbrook.



To make a secure online donation, please visit...



Cindy West and friends take a "refreshment break" during their New Forest cycle ride



Left to right; Grant Bennett, Lloyd Cavill and Joe Magraw pause at the Wessex before riding back to Hayling Island



Cast & crew members who Smiled 4 Sophie with a production of Cinderella in Poole, present a cheque for over £6,400



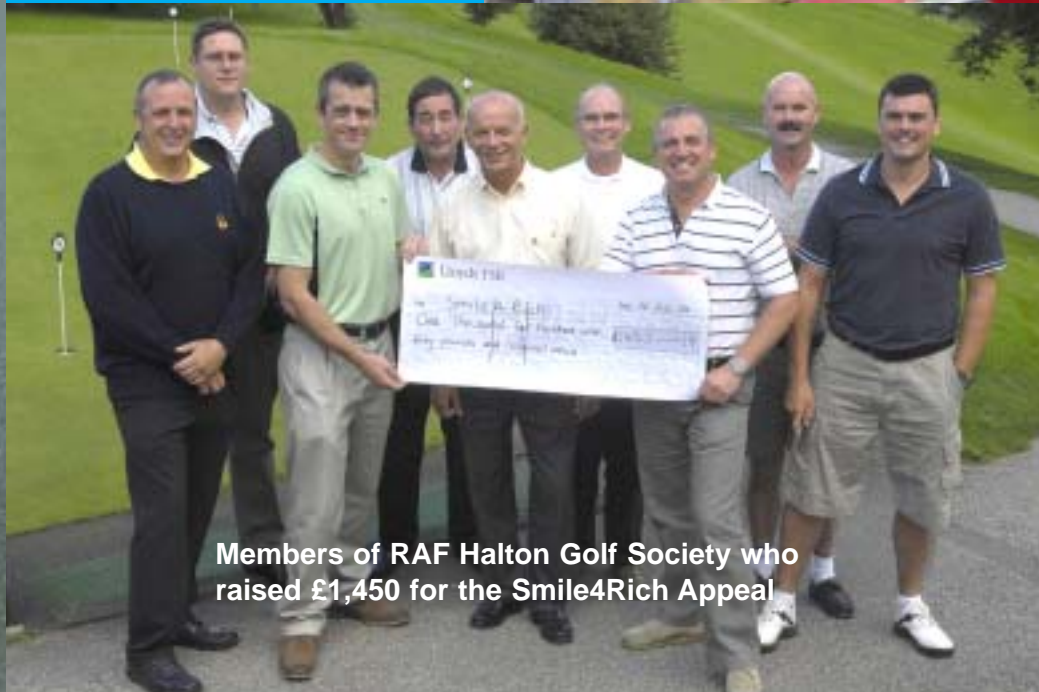
Kyrstie Duncan surveys the queue for the Co-op Charity Car Wash



L/Cpl Dan Mason discovers that the Isle of Wight is far from flat!

**FUN
FUN
FUN**
FUNDRISING
FUN

Our grateful thanks go to all for helping to raise thousands of pounds for our appeal, and for helping to put the **FUN** into fundraising!



Members of RAF Halton Golf Society who raised £1,450 for the Smile4Rich Appeal

Guernsey Golf Day & Dinner 'Chips In' with £14,000

TEE FOR 92 & DINNER FOR 138!

Our second annual Guernsey Golf Day & Dinner, organised by islanders Glyn Smith, John Southwell and Paul Wheatley, was another resounding success. Held in June, and building on the great support for the first such event a year earlier, the golf competition attracted 92 players, including two teams of four who flew in from the mainland to participate.

La Grande Mare Golf Club, on Guernsey's west coast, provided a superb setting for the event, which was played over 18 holes and contested by a total of 23 teams. The golf competition, which was sponsored by RBS and Lombard, was followed in the evening by a dinner attended by 138 people.



After an excellent meal, a charity auction was held. Among other items, memorabilia donated by Guernsey sporting heroes, Matt Le Tissier and World Touring Car Champion, Andy Priaulx, was snapped up by bidders. The auction raised over £5,000 and swelled the total generated by the event to a magnificent £14,000 total. Our picture shows the winning team receiving their prizes from the organisers and sponsors.

Teenager's Ride Remembers 'Larger Than Life' Dad

LLOYD RIDES MEMORY LANE

When Lloyd Cavill's father, Geoff, passed away in January, you could have forgiven him for feeling that he'd been let down by those who'd treated his dad, but the then 15-year old from Hayling Island has nothing but positive things to say about them. In particular, Lloyd wanted to thank staff of the Wessex Neurological Centre who'd cared for his father during his 19-month battle with a brain tumour. "The staff were fantastic and did everything they could to help my dad through his illness" says Lloyd, "and treated him with great love and respect, which he deserved."

He also wanted to undertake a challenge that would demonstrate that he has the strength of character to channel his sadness to create a positive legacy in his father's memory. His father was a keen cyclist, as is Lloyd, so with help from family and friends he set about planning a cycle ride from his home in Hayling to the Wessex Neurological Centre in Southampton, and back – a total distance of over 60 miles!

He also persuaded two friends, Grant Bennett and Joe Magraw, to join him on the ride, which they were determined to complete in a single day. With a support team comprising of Lloyd's mum (Rachel), brother (Samuel) and family friends, the three lads set off on a route that took them via Portsdown Hill, Wickham, Botley and West End, arriving at the centre by lunchtime. After a well earned lunch in the hospital restaurant, it was back on the bikes for the return journey.

At approaching 6pm they arrived back at their start point, tired but elated, having covered a total of 61 miles, a tremendous effort for the three 16-year olds. Rachel is justifiably proud of her son, whose efforts will see just over £2,000 donated to the Smile4Rich Appeal.

or visit the Smile4Rich Appeal web site at

Christmas is coming....

Yes, it's almost that time of the year again when Postman Pat's sack is bulging with festive greetings cards

Like many charities, we produce Christmas cards to sell. The common belief is that charities make a lot of money from such means, but the truth is, certainly for a small charity like ours, that the profits are extremely small. In fact, the main benefit for us is the simple fact that for every card you send, somebody else will hopefully learn a little about our work.



Each pack contains 5 each of two designs, plus envelopes, and costs £3.50 per pack.

However, if you're one of those people who's considering saving on cards and postage, but thinking of making a donation to charity instead, then you may like to know that if you're a UK taxpayer and you make an online donation through our web site, your donation will have an additional 28% added by the government. Now that really is a great gift to give!

smile4rich.co.uk

EVENT DIARY

OCTOBER - MARCH

Friday 21st November 2008 - Victory Hall, Warsash

ELVIS PARTY NIGHT



Those who attended our Elvis Party Night in November 2007 will be delighted to hear that Elvis Tribute Artist, Craig Jefferson, from Whiteley, will once again be rolling back the years to the golden age of Rock 'n Roll. Victory Hall in Warsash is again the venue, and this year Craig will be performing both his 50's Elvis set and his award-winning 'Vegas' routine.

Tickets, priced at £10 (£9 concessions), are sure to be in big demand as last year proved so popular that we could have sold twice the 160 tickets available. The price includes a Ploughman's Supper and tickets can be obtained by calling Carla on 01489 605335 or by emailing elvis@smile4rich.co.uk

Saturday 21st March 2009 - St Mary's Stadium

'KICK4RICK' DINNER

On 11th August 2007, Ricky Fernandez's life changed in an instant. Ricky, a community coach with Southampton Football Club, was involved in a road traffic accident whilst riding his motorcycle. On arrival at the Wessex Neurological Centre it was clear that the injuries he'd sustained were among the worst that had ever been seen at the centre. His medical report details the most serious as being; a severe fracture to the skull that resulted in bleeding and swelling of the brain, multiple fractures to the spine, a ruptured spleen, a collapsed lung, a broken pelvis, compound fractures of the leg, a dislocated shoulder and a broken nose. Suffice to say his condition was critical and several operations alone were required to stem the bleeding on his brain, and a total of 48 platinum coils were inserted.

Despite all his injuries, Ricky is making a remarkable recovery and in August 2008, almost a year to the day after his accident, he married his fiancée, Michelle.

Now, by way of thanks to the staff at the Wessex Neuro Centre who saved his life, Ricky, his family and his friends are planning a 'Kick4Rick' Dinner which will be held at St Mary's Stadium and will raise funds for the Smile4Rich Appeal. At the time of going to press, details are still being finalised, but full details of the event, which will include a dinner, auction and entertainment (provided by soul & Motown diva, Diane Shaw) can be found at www.kick4rick.com



Or join in with the fun at...

24th October 2008
Smile4Rich Gala Dinner

Our annual gala dinner is again taking place at NV Restaurant and Cabaret Lounge in Southampton. Just a few tickets remain available. For details, please visit the appeal web site.

25th October 2008
Mini Great South Run

If you're in Southsea then please give a cheer for a mini hero, Lewis Hine, who'll be running with his sisters Jessie & Chloe. You won't be able to miss them as they'll be dressed as their favourite super heroes!

November 2008 - Date tbc
Quiz Night

We'll be holding a charity quiz night at The Victory Inn in Hamble. For confirmation of date and details please email quiz@smile4rich.co.uk

Get Involved!

There are many ways in which you can get involved with the Smile4Rich Appeal, and by doing so you'll be helping us to provide support to the Wessex Neurological Centre.

You can come along to one of our events, or organise your own (we'll be glad to help out). Alternatively, you could take part in events such as the London Marathon or Great South Run, though if that sounds a little too energetic for you, then there are a thousand other ways in which you could help us raise funds.

Of course, if you simply wish to make a donation then you can do so either by post or online. For full details please visit www.smile4rich.co.uk or call the appeal office on....

www.justgiving.com/wessexneurological/donate/

01489 582259

About The Wessex

The Wessex Neurological Centre provides a dedicated, integrated 24-hour acute neurosurgical and neurological assessment, investigation and treatment service. It is one of the largest neuroscience centres in the country, serving a population of around 3 million across Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, West Sussex, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands.

Each year the centre, which was first opened in 1966, treats approximately 4,000 inpatients and 13,000 outpatients.

Want to be kept informed?

If you've enjoyed reading *Keep Smiling!* and would like to receive future issues and other news about the Smile4Rich Appeal then please email news@smile4rich.co.uk

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100MILESMILES

WALK WILL FUND VITAL RESEARCH

When father of three Rupert Wiggin suffered a subarachnoid brain haemorrhage in mid-2007, he was rushed to the Wessex Neurological Centre. Understandably, it was a difficult time for his family but, to their great relief, following treatment at the centre he has made an excellent recovery. Sadly, of the 8,500 or so people who suffer a brain haemorrhage each year in the UK, many do not have such a positive outcome. Realising just how fortunate Rupert had been, his wife, Katie, contacted Smile4Rich in an effort to identify an appropriate project to benefit from her plans for a sponsored walk. Coincidentally, Mr Antonio Belli, a Senior Lecturer in Neurosurgery at the University of Southampton, and a Consultant Neurosurgeon at the WNC, had recently undertaken some very promising preliminary research. It indicated that it may be possible to use chemical markers to predict which haemorrhage patients are vulnerable to a secondary stroke, and hence give preventive care.



(L-R Tony Belli, Katie Wiggin, Mr Owen Sparrow & Jane Kimmins)

The detailed research needed to prove this is expected to cost around £40,000 to complete, but offers the potential to save many lives. Katie was so determined to support this project that she set about scaling up her plans for the walk. Together with her mother, Jane Kimmins, they plotted a 100-mile route along the paths that hug the south coast, from Charmouth in Dorset to the Wessex Neuro Centre. "I'm not

exactly sure why we chose 100 miles" commented Katie, "but it sounded a long way to us, so we hoped it would sound a long way to potential sponsors too."

Katie and Jane then set about writing to friends, family and acquaintances to detail their plans, and to explain how vital this research could be. To their huge surprise, but eternal thanks, they soon exceeded their initial target of £10,000 and, incredibly, by the time they set off on Friday 19th September they had already raised all of the money needed for the project. "The generosity has been quite remarkable and truly humbling" commented Jane, and funds have continued to flow since. The total now exceeds £61,000 and the extra money raised will be used to fund an additional headset, a 40-channel wireless version, for the Paediatric Video Telemetry Suite.

As for the walk itself? "It was at times gruelling" says Katie, "but it was an amazing and inspirational experience." The research project is now set to start in November and will take around a year to complete. Tony Belli is thrilled and commented, "Subarachnoid haemorrhage affects all age groups and carries a devastating mortality and disability burden. When I learned that Katie and Jane had raised the entire amount needed for our research, I was completely blown away. It has the potential to benefit literally thousands of future patients."



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