

Vote for your favourite good cause

Here are the details of the ten groups or charities in the running to be the 2013 Jam Jar Army beneficiary. Read about what they do before casting a vote for your favourite.

SPECIAL FEATURE

BRIGHT RED

Bright Red is a charity established to improve the lives and treatment of people in the north who are dealing with blood cancer.

Through care, research and education, we are striving to beat illnesses such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

We are based at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care (NCCC) at the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, and support patients and their families as far south as the Yorkshire borders, up to the Scottish borders and stretching across each coast.

Most recently, we have funded a £250,000 Cytometer to be housed at the Newcastle University research facility which will be a great addition. We have also recently launched our Patient Care Grant scheme, which allows patients struggling financially to apply for a one-off grant to help them through this difficult time.

We would like to purchase an ECP machine for use within the NCCC which will help treat people with life threatening GHVD.

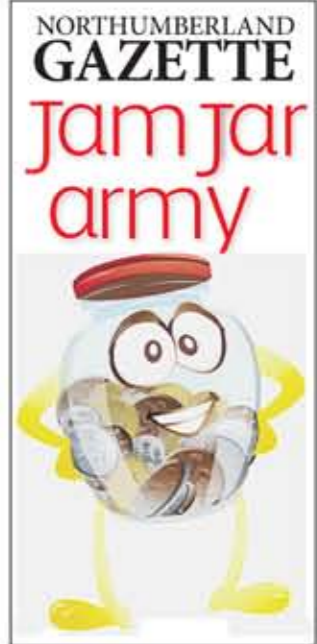
Our ultimate goal is to build a patient hotel to help accommodate our patients and their families while they are receiving treatment.

STEPHEN CAREY FUND

The Stephen Carey Fund was set up in memory of 21-year-old Stephen who died after collapsing during a football match last summer. Stephen, from Alnmouth, was representing the village side in a game in July when the tragic incident happened.

Desperate attempts were made to resuscitate him at the match before paramedics arrived, but neither they nor doctors at Wansbeck Hospital could save him.

Stephen had been born with a heart problem, but no one ever suspected it and he might never have suffered



Judy Tribe and members of Alnwick Playhouse Youth Theatre after they were announced as the 2012 Jam Jar Army beneficiary.

where the whole family can spend quality time together away from the often stressful routines of living with disability at home.

Without short breaks, children and their siblings can be denied what non-disabled children are able to take for granted – the freedom to play, to experiment and to fully engage with the joys of their childhood. It is proven that short breaks are a preventative tool to stop families reaching crisis point in the home.

Our project gives families the opportunity to make networks and friends, supporting each other's needs and being able to talk freely about their experiences.

Children are able to make friends and relax knowing that they, or their siblings are not being judged and they can enjoy our activities and events just like any non-disabled person.

We have been providing this project to families in Northumberland since 2010 and 135 families have accessed our service to date.

FORGET-ME-KNOT

The Forget-me-Knot project at The Alnwick Garden supports children with disabilities and their families by providing regular short breaks.

The children who we work with demonstrate challenging behaviours and disabilities which affect the whole family. Our project provides a safe environment for families to relax and feel at ease in a setting where disability is accepted and supported and

BUILD!

Warkworth and Acklington Pre-school, rated good by Ofsted, operates from a mobile building in the grounds of Warkworth First School.

It's a fantastic place where children aged two to four from Warkworth, Acklington and Amble can play, stretch their imagination

and get a really good start to their education.

Run by a voluntary parent committee and by dedicated and inspiring staff, the waiting list for places is always long.

However, mobile classrooms only last so long and the building is looking increasingly dilapidated.

It was never designed to be used by very young children; storage is a problem, there is no office space and the bathroom and kitchen areas need updating.

A building survey showed there are problems with the roof, it's cold and draughty because the windows no longer fit very well and the woodwork is rotten.

In 2012, we set up a dedicated committee to look at the possibility of replacing the mobile classroom with a new purpose-built pre-school and permission has been granted by the school.

In 2013, we shall be launching our Build! campaign. Estimates show that a new, purpose built pre-school could cost £200,000.

LIONHEART RADIO

Steered by a board of six volunteer directors, Lionheart Radio is the only community radio station serving Alnwick and the surrounding villages, an area traditionally under-represented in mainstream broadcast media, most of which are based more than 30 miles

away. With the recent announcements of budget cuts in local news broadcasting, we believe it is essential to maintain a locally-driven news, events and entertainment service to cater specifically and responsively to the needs of our district.

Lionheart Radio provides relevant local content and entertainment seven days a week all year round, for a potential audience of more than 10,000 people in and around Alnwick. All of our programming is created, presented and produced by volunteers, many of them under 18.

We provide these volunteers with comprehensive training so that they can get the best out of their volunteering time. This equips them with the skills and experience they need to build self-confidence, fosters community spirit and gives them an advantage in an increasingly competitive job market.

Around 120 volunteers are involved during the course of a year, with 50 to 55 active at any one time.

SHAK

SHAK (Safe Home and Kindness) is a charity that was set up in June 2006 by local man Stephen Wylie with the aim of helping the dogs that nobody else will help, large breed dogs.

In Northumberland, every year, hundreds of dogs stray from their owners and most

mothers at the Alnwick unit.

Costs are still being explored/tendered and to install a pool and alterations will cost in excess of £20,000.

This will bring the Alnwick unit to the same level as the Hexham and other hospital units.

Alnwick and district has a proud history of supporting the local hospitals, and treasurer and trustee George Batey believes the charity to be a worthwhile recipient for support of the Jam Jar Army.

The community was involved with a huge fundraising effort when the maternity unit was threatened with closure.

Since then, money has been raised for the relief of the patients at the unit by the provision of the facilities, buildings and equipment which may be required for the care and treatment of the patients or for the efficient running of the unit and to provide amenities for both patients and staff.

COUNTRYSIDE DAY

Sheep, horses, cows, pigs, bees, tractors, cheese, ice-cream and a combine harvester can all be found at the Children's Countryside Day, which is organised by the Glendale Agricultural Society every June.

The day is free of charge and is open to all first schools in Northumberland and invited schools from North Tyneside. More than 1,500 children and 300 teaching staff attend and the aim of the event is to teach children about farming, the countryside and how food actually gets onto their dinner plates at home.

More than 60 local businesses and organisations very kindly give up their time to exhibit at the event and they talk to the children about sheep shearing, vegetable growing, bread making, arable farming and much more.

The children also get plenty of chances to have a go at the activities as well as spending time with the animals. Exhibitors talk to the children in small groups, which gives the kids a chance to take part and ask questions in an informal, fun and relaxed setting away from the classroom.

The Children's Countryside Day is an award-winning event, which has benefited thousands of families in Northumberland and beyond. Every year, the Society

raises a substantial amount of money to put on the event.

GRACE

Grace is a specialist service for women survivors of sexual violence in Northumberland.

We provide a range of services for women who have experienced sexual violence at any time in their lives; raise awareness of sexual violence affecting women; and actively challenge the values, beliefs and behaviour which contribute to the perpetration of sexual violence.

Grace's services are open to all women who are 16 and over and who live in Northumberland.

Grace is for women from all communities including those who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or questioning; black, minority ethnic and refugee women; and women with a physical or learning disability.

Grace would use the Jam Jar Army donations to offer more counselling sessions at our Alnwick outreach facility and to promote the service around Alnwick.

This promotion would take the form of training and discussions on issues related to sexual violence.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Alnwick Christmas Lights Committee is a group of volunteers who work throughout the year, not just in the run-up to Christmas, to ensure that the display goes ahead each year.

From putting them up and taking them down, to maintenance and checking the bulbs, it is all done on a voluntary basis.

They are a group of individuals who work very hard all year round making sure that the lights are ready for not only Alnwick residents to enjoy but also the whole area and our visitors.

By doing this they help local businesses who employ people from all over the county, attracting extra visitors to the town at a time when trade is difficult.

Alnwick Lions nominated the lights committee.

The Lions said: "They bring a lot of joy to many people and we know they struggle with funding so we are sure any financial help that they can be given would be a very popular choice and would result in more lights for us all to enjoy."

Jam Jar Army vote

Vote for your favourite by ticking the relevant box below. Only one vote per person. Photocopies will not be accepted. The reader vote closes on Monday, February 11. Send completed forms to Jam Jar Army, Northumberland Gazette, 32 Bondgate Without, Alnwick NE66 1PN.

Name.....

Address.....

- Bright Red
- Forget-me-Knot
- Build!
- Lionheart Radio
- SHAK
- Hillcrest Fund
- Countryside Day
- Grace
- Alnwick Christmas Lights
- Stephen Carey Fund

Terms and conditions: Standard JP Competition terms and conditions apply. These can be found at www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/compterm. Voting closes on Monday, February 11, 2013. For terms and conditions, plus details about how we may use your information for marketing and how you can opt-out, see our Fair Collection Notice printed on page 21. Overall winner is decided by a reader vote. No responsibility can be taken for any votes that are lost or delayed or anything else that prevents votes being received. By entering the promotion, entrants will be deemed to have accepted and be bound by the terms and conditions.

Win signed copies of A Year of Doing Good

To tie in with the launch of the 2013 vote for the Jam Jar Army beneficiary, we have signed copies of Judith O'Reilly's latest book to give away.

Judith came up with the idea of the campaign in 2011 as part of her latest book, A Year of Doing Good, which describes her attempts to do a good deed every day for 12 months. It follows the best-seller Wife in the North, which described her struggle to settle in north Northumberland after a move up from London.

Since the release of her second book earlier this month, it has garnered rave reviews with the Observer describing it as 'a funny, uplifting and admirable book', while the Daily Express said: 'Fizzing with energy, Judith's writing is open-hearted and funny, and this helps the reader warm to her cause and root for her



throughout."

To win one of the 10 signed copies, just answer the following question, fill in the form below and return it to A Year of Doing Good Competition, Northumberland Gazette, 32 Bondgate Without, Alnwick, NE66 1PN.

● **Question: What was the name of Judith O'Reilly's first book?**

Book competition entry form

Answer.....

Name.....

Address.....

Email.....

Daytime phone number.....

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