

Grand News



2nd Issue 2007

The newsletter of Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal supporting the Royal Hospital for Children, Bristol.

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Polar Challenge

'Probably the world's toughest race' was the way the organisers described this event – 350 miles across some of the most hostile terrain at the top of the world. All sounds simple until you add in temperatures as low as minus 40c plus wind chill, pulling a sled weighing 9 stone, polar bears, skis and a diet of dried food and sweets!

"I was constantly surprised by the generosity of people and the level of support I got"



My team got to the Pole in 18 days, 2 hours, 9 minutes and 56 seconds after a very eventful race involving falling into crevasses, blisters, putting out other team's tent fires and generally having fun.

I managed to raise around £2000 for The Grand Appeal and the Fire Service Benevolent Fund and I was constantly surprised by the generosity of people and their level of support. I also got to meet some fantastic people including Wallace & Gromit!

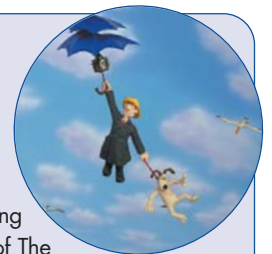
I set out to prove that anything is possible. I am an ordinary chap with a family and a regular job as a firefighter, not a super athlete and in taking this on I think it proves my point. I believe that taking on challenges no matter how big or small leads to better understanding of who I am and would encourage anyone to try as anything is possible!

If Danny Munden's challenge has inspired you to take on your own challenge, see the events calendar enclosed with your newsletter or call Laura on **0800 919 649** to discuss the range of adventure challenges we offer.

Bristol International Festival of Kites & Air Creations

This Autumn, the Grand Appeal is reaching new heights as the official charity partner of The Bristol Kite Festival. We are delighted to be working with this long established event, which takes place over the weekend of 1st & 2nd September 07. There will be some cracking entertainment including Wallace & Gromit competitions and prizes, as well as all the usual aerial antics.

For more info log on to: www.kite.festival.org or contact the festival office on **0117 977 2002**



Dragon Boat Race

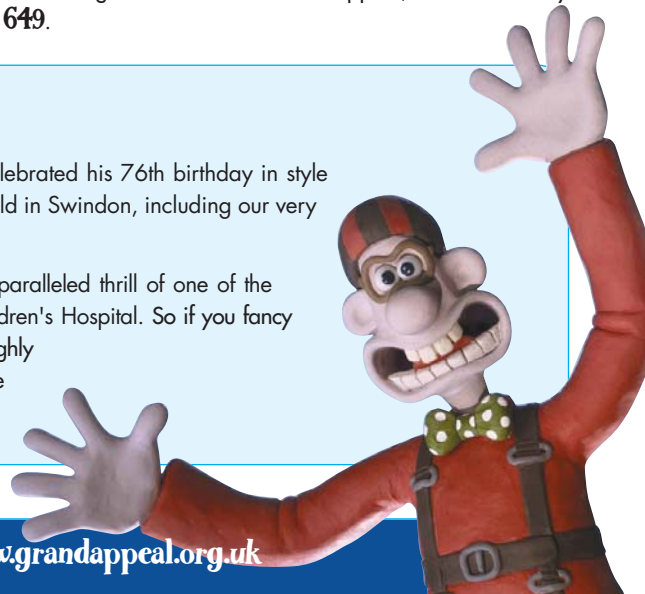
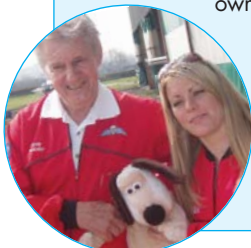
Want to take part in some hilarity for charity? Well here's your chance. Due the success of last year's event, The Grand Appeal will be entering into the Dragon Boat Race again this autumn. You can enter as a team of 17 for your own boat, or if you would like to join 'Team Grand Appeal' the let us know. So if you would like to get wet and wild for the Appeal, call Laura today on **0800 919 649**.



Skydiving Birthday Party

On the 7th and 8th of April, Grand Appeal fundraiser extraordinaire John Wilkins celebrated his 76th birthday in style and jumped out of a plane with 19 other Grand Appeal fundraisers at Redlands Airfield in Swindon, including our very own events Fundraiser Laura Densem.

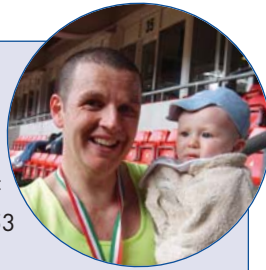
All who jumped had the experience of a lifetime and enjoyed the unparalleled thrill of one of the world's fastest growing sports whilst raising vital funds for Bristol Children's Hospital. So if you fancy falling around 14,500 feet at speeds of up to 120 mph harnessed to a highly skilled instructor whilst raising funds for the Grand Appeal, then phone Ria on **0800 919 649** or email her on ria@grandappeal.org.uk



To support Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal Freephone **0800 919 649** or visit www.grandappeal.org.uk

Running for Ioan

Many congratulations to Dean Williams from South Wales who ran the Cardiff Marathon last October in 3 hours and 53 minutes - not bad for a beginner!



In February 2006, Dean and his wife, Sian became proud parents of Ioan Rhys Williams. Ioan was born with a heart defect known as 'Transposition of the Great Arteries' which meant that oxygen failed to go around his body. He had no chance of survival. As a result, during the first week of his life, he had to undergo two operations – one of which was major open heart surgery.

At the Bristol Children's Hospital, nurses, doctors, consultants and surgeons in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and Paediatric Cardiac Ward took great care of him throughout his treatment..

As well as helping Ioan, the staff at Bristol Children's Hospital also helped Sian and Dean cope with what was a very difficult and stressful time it was reassuring to know that they could either stay at Ioan's bedside or stay in free accommodation nearby.

As a way to say a big thank you to all the staff at the hospital for saving Ioan's life, Dean decided to run the Marathon to raise money for 'The Grand Appeal'. Family, friends and colleagues have been very supportive and very generous with their donations and sponsorship and Dean raised a magnificent £4,625.

Despite a traumatic start to 2006, Ioan continues to grow stronger day by day. He is a happy, pleasant and contented boy who is enjoying life to the full. If it hadn't been for the 'miracle workers' at the Bristol Children's Hospital, it would have been a completely different story!



If these stories have inspired you to take on a challenge then we have Golden Bond places available in the Bristol Half Marathon which takes place on Sunday 9th September. Join the Grand Appeal's Team and everyone who registers by 31st July will automatically be entered into a free prize draw to win some champagne and top Wallace & Gromit goodies!

For more information call Laura on **0800 919 649** or email her at laura@grandappeal.org.uk

Avonmouth Ladies Giving Back to Bristol

The Grand Appeal are thrilled to have been chosen as Avonmouth Ladies Club's Charity of the Year. The group has pledged to fundraise for the Appeal as a couple of members have had relatives who have been treated in the children's hospital and they now want to give something back to the community. The ladies plan to generate money from the many events they have lined up throughout the year.

If you belong to a community group, why not chose the Appeal as your Charity of the Year? Laura, our Community Fundraiser is more than happy to attend one of your meetings to tell you how your support will make a world of difference to the lives of patients being treated in the children's hospital.

Run With Rupert

I was told that I would learn a lot about myself running the London Marathon and although I didn't think it would be easy, after four months of daily training I was prepared and set myself a target of 3 hours.



Everything was going well until with only seven miles to go I hit 'The Wall' and a combination of the heat, dehydration and 19 miles at a fast pace left me drained of energy, with unbelievable pain in my thighs and hamstrings. I ground to a halt and could see my ambitions slipping away.

But there was so much to keep going for - not least the knowledge that I had raised thousands of pounds for my charity of choice, The Grand Appeal. I eventually crossed the line in 3 hours 37 minutes - the last seven miles were done at half the speed I had managed for the first three quarters of the race.

Would I change anything? Not a bit of it. I went for broke and, although it didn't pay off, I made it to the finish line and found out a lot about myself in the process.

Would I do it again? Sure, why not? It's been an amazing journey and one which I've learned a lot from - not only about myself but also about humanity in general. I would definitely recommend it.

PICU Consultants swap their stethoscopes for cycling shorts in The Grand Bike Ride!



From 15th to 23rd September, a team of consultants from the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) at Bristol Children's hospital - are gearing up for the 950 mile end-to-end cycle ride from Lands End to John O' Groats as part of a fundraising challenge to raise money for the ward. The Grand Ride team aims to raise over £20,000 in sponsorship to help fund life-saving equipment to treat young patients in intensive care.

The money raised will help fund new medical equipment for the ward, including a new transport monitor that can save lives by providing critical information on a patient's condition at the scene of an emergency, enabling immediate and life-saving decisions to be taken. It will also go towards a new baby life support machine to treat babies following open heart surgery and other critically ill babies in need of life support.

The Doctors will also be joined by a group of over 30 cyclists from property agency Savills who have nominated the Appeal as their charity of the year. Savills aim to raise £10,000 for the ward.

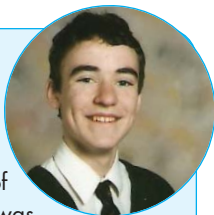
The team includes: Professor Andy Wolf, Dr David Grant, Sandra Batchelor, Richard Downes, Dr David Grier and Dr James Fraser.

Andy and his team are urging people to show their support by sponsoring the challenge. They are also seeking sponsorship in kind to provide essential items including a van to transport supplies en route. You can follow the progress of the hospital team and sponsor them at www.justgiving.com/thegrandidride

(The intensive care unit at Bristol Children's Hospital treats some of the most critically-ill children in the country, providing specialist care for around 700 patients each year. Babies and children from across the region are looked after following open heart surgery and other major operations, following accidents and treated for life threatening conditions including meningitis, asthma and other chest infections. PICU also provides a 24 hour rapid response team that can be dispatched within just 20 minutes of an emergency call being made from anywhere in the South West. The team answers an emergency call almost daily.)

Star Tribute Funds

Daniel's story



'Our Daniel liked computers and gadgets, he often visited Laserquest Swindon and he had lots of friends. But sadly, in October 2006 he was diagnosed with cancer and was admitted to Bristol Childrens Hospital where he spent his 18th Birthday for which he received a Laptop Computer, but the internet signal was poor. So he had to rely on TV'S/DVD'S for entertainment but these were in short supply.

So when Daniel lost his fight against cancer, we decided to raise money in his memory, to fund Ward 35 the Adolescent Ward with comfort items like DVD's and to improve the internet reception.

We know Daniel liked the staff who were more than helpful to him and all the family, we think our fundraising will help to make patients feel comfortable, so monies raised in his memory will benefit others who have to spend so much time in the ward.

So far, we've raised £3000 towards Daniel's Star Tribute Fund at the Bristol Children's Hospital and we're planning more fundraising all the time.'

Judith Chiles

Daniel's Mother

Charlee's story



Our Daughter, Charlee Joanne was a beautiful happy little girl who always had the time for a cuddle. Charlee became ill with flu like symptoms and after taking her to the doctor, she was no better so we took her to Southmead Hospital where an Ear infection was confirmed. She was very sleepy and dazed and the next day our Daughter had a fit. Within 2 hours of this our baby was on life support with pneumococcal meningitis. Charlee was transferred to Bristol Children's Hospital Intensive Care Unit for urgent care. As soon as we got there we were told that after a brain scan our daughter was extremely ill.

All the staff at the hospital were so caring towards me, my husband Douglas and all our family. At the time I was 7 months pregnant with Charlee's baby brother Alfie. They kept us well informed and even gave us a bed for the night. The next day tests were carried out on Charlee to discover that she had nil chance of survival.

Our baby girl was with my Husband and I when she passed away on Monday 23rd October 2006, she was 11 months old. All the staff there deserve huge medals and two of the Intensive Care team even came to Charlee's funeral.

So this fundraising we are doing for the Grand Appeal and Charlee's Star Tribute Fund is our way of saying thank you for giving our daughter the dignity she deserved. We've raised around £6,000 so far and we're not stopping there.

Our baby was too special for this world so a star in the sky sounds perfect. She will always be remembered by a lot of people.'

Emma George

Charlee's Mother

if you would like any further information on our Star Tribute Fund please contact Ria on 0800 919 649

How you can help

Make a difference - donate now! Your donation will help us continue our vital support for the Bristol Children's Hospital

I wish to donate to the Grand Appeal

A **monthly** / **quarterly** donation of:

Please debit my account (please tick one of the following)

£10 £20 £30 £50 £100 £1000

Other £

A cheque made payable to The Grand Appeal is enclosed
I have donated online at www.justgiving.com/grandappeal
and my justgiving reference is:

I am a UK Tax payer and I would like The Grand Appeal to Gift Aid my Donation plus all future donations:

giftaid it (this means we can claim back 28p for every £1 you donate!)

Please complete your details here so that we can thank you for your kind donation.

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

- Please tick if you would like to receive our newsletter/updates electronically
- Please tick if you do not wish to receive an acknowledgment of your donation

Please return this completed form to:
Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal,
FREEPOST SWB 315, Bristol BS2 8ZZ

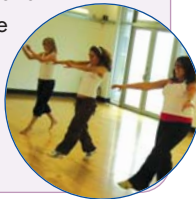
Thank you!

Kids ! Get Creative ! Design Competition

This summer, the Grand Appeal, together with Bristol Creative Glass Guild, are offering 4 lucky children the chance to have their artwork as a permanent display in reception of Bristol Children's Hospital. To celebrate 20 years of trading in Bristol, the Creative Glass Guild is kindly donating a stained glass window to the hospital – but they want YOUR help designing it. Themed 'The Great Outdoors' designs can include countryside, the city, the seaside, space, seasons... the possibilities are endless! To take part in the competition, get in touch today with Laura and request your registration form.

Street Dance World Record Attempt !

Would you like to be part of a brand new world record attempt, whilst raising funds for the Appeal. Well here's your chance! This September, Fresh Vibes Street Dancing Company are attempting to set a new world record, of as many street dancers performing a routine at one time. Fresh Vibes hope to recruit between 500 and 1000 dancers of all ages and abilities, to take part in this amazing opportunity, call Laura at the Appeal on **0800 919 649** or email laura@grandappeal.org.uk



The Grand Appeal's Guardian Angels

Every year the Bristol Children's Hospital treats over 70,000 children from Bristol and all over the South West of England. Patients in the Hospital receive the very best medical care and treatment possible, but NHS funding alone cannot meet the complex and demanding needs of patients and their families, that is why we need your help.

How your support can make a difference...

£25 helps provide a family with a room for 1 week in the hospital's family accommodation unit when their child is sick in hospital and they have no where to stay.

£70 helps provide an anatomical doll to help explain treatments to a young patient, to allow them to ask questions and understand what is happening.

£120 helps provide a play specialist for 1 day. Play is very important to help children adapt to any difficulties they may have resulting from hospitalisation, to make the experience less traumatic.

£500 will purchase an Apnoea Alarm to support babies and children with breathing difficulties.

£2500 will help buy a new temporary heart pacemaker used to treat babies and children immediately following open heart surgery.

To acknowledge your committed support as a Guardian Angel you will receive a Goodie Bag with A Tshirt, Pin Badge, A Guardian Angel Certificate of Support as well as an invitation for an annual VIP event at the Bristol Children's Hospital.

Your support and generosity is vital so please register to become a Guardian Angel today by emailing us at info@grandappeal.org.uk or call us on **0800 919 649**.



Guardian Angels
Supporting the Bristol Children's Hospital

Give it up for the Grand Appeal

Recycling your printer cartridges and old mobile phones is a quick and easy way for you to donate to the Appeal and to be part of the green revolution. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a recycling bag. If you need more bags or regular collections from your office, call us on **0800 919 649** to arrange.



Thank You

SCAD Jump !

The Appeal would like to say a HUGE thank you to all the brave souls that took part in the SCAD Jump in May. 100 valiant supporters leapt 200 feet from a crane, reaching speeds of 70mph before landing in a huge air suspended net to raise funds for the Music Therapy Programme in the Children's Hospital. A special thank you goes out to Kiss 101 for providing entertainment on the day, and to Ant and Matt, the two presenters that also took part in the jump. A top time was had by all.



Tewkesbury School

We would like to say a huge thank you to Tewkesbury School in Gloucester who have so far raised over £3,000 in memory of former pupil Alex Ross. The fantastic fundraisers generated the money from a school disco, assembly collections sponsored events, non-uniform days and a James Bond evening held by the Sixth Form.

If your school would like to get involved with fundraising for the Appeal, please get in touch with Laura, our schools fundraiser who will be more than happy to come and visit your school. Call us now to receive your Schools FUNraising Pack.



London Marathon Support

Thank you to our London Marathon Team: Rupert Janisch, Kate Stone, Ryan Lambourne and David Allen, who between them raised over £6,000 for the Appeal.

If you have a place in the London Marathon and would like to run for the Grand Appeal please contact Laura on **0800 919 649** or email her at laura@wrongtrousersday.org



Kate Stone

Echo Trust

Thank you so much to the Echo Trust for donating £5,000 for the baby life support machine for Bristol Children's Hospital's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit.

The Mall Galleries - You've done us proud again !

Thank you so much to the management team in The Mall Galleries for raising a fantastic £2,000 from their White Water Rafting Charity Challenge! Hope you didn't get too wet!

