

# Helping families is child's play for dad

## £300,000 will fund facilities at hospital

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**A** DETERMINED father has raised more than £300,000 to fund a play room and outside play area at the North East hospital that saved his son's life.

Ivan Hollingsworth has worked tirelessly to raise vital funds for the Freeman Hospital's children's heart unit in Newcastle.

In 2009 the hospital saved the life of Ivan's son Sebastian, now four, and he and his wife Nadine have vowed to raise cash for the unit ever since.

The couple decided to set up a fund - Seb4chuf - and have raised funds to pay for a modern play facility for the young patients, some of whom spend months in the unit.

It is expected that the state-of-the-art facility will be completed by autumn this year.

Ivan, 37, from Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, said: "The money will re-build the unit's play room and outside area.

"It will be about providing a place for children and their family to enjoy and there will also be outside court spaces for parents to sit.

"Children can spend months on the heart unit recovering from life saving surgery. We believe play represents a critical element of their recovery and therefore providing great facilities will make a huge difference to the lives of so many poorly children."

Former professional athlete Ivan, a pharmaceutical rep, has undergone many gruelling challenges to help raise vital funds, and last year he was made a trustee of the Children's Heart Unit Fund.

The father-of-one has skied down a mountain in a mankini, run 100 miles in less than 24 hours and charged through countless marathons and half marathons for the unit.

Last month, dozens of triathletes gathered at David Lloyd Leisure, South Gosforth, to raise funds for the chil-



**PEDAL POWER** Ivan Hollingsworth and Jo Shallcross are looking forward to seeing the play room finished

dren's heart service when they took part in a 24 hour relay, including a 750m swim, 20km on a Watt Bike and a 5km run on a treadmill.

The event was organised by Jo Shallcross, managing director of Reason To, and more than £3,000 was raised, pushing Ivan's total to £301,391.

Mother-of-three Jo said: "I am de-

**“It will be about providing a place for children and their family to enjoy**

lighted with how the event went. The buzz throughout the 24 hours was immense and it was great to be raising money for such a worthwhile cause."

Toby Millar, sports manager from David Lloyd Leisure, added: "To raise money for the children's heart unit at the Freeman Hospital, which is an amazing unit with some incredible staff, was an honour. All of the athletes and the organisers should be extremely proud of themselves."

This July, Ivan will raise even more money with the C2C4 challenge - a four-day epic which will involve cycling, swimming and running from one side of the country to the other. He will have his close friend, TV presenter Ben Shep-

hard, and a team of other athletes with him.

Paddy Walsh, cardiac liaison nurse at the Freeman, said: "The unit is at the forefront of children's heart surgery. We are acknowledged as one of the leaders in children's heart centres and we take children from all over the country.

"It is fantastic that so much money has been raised for a new play room for children at the unit and their siblings.

"Play therapy is essential for youngsters as they can be in the unit for weeks at a time and life can get very monotonous for them."

For more information about seb4chuf or to give a donation visit [www.seb4chuf.org.uk](http://www.seb4chuf.org.uk).

## Hundreds caught in speeding crackdown

MORE than 700 speeding motorists face police action after a week-long operation across the roads of County Durham and Cleveland.

The crackdown started on April 15 and was conducted in support of the European Traffic Police Network.

Road policing crews targeted a number of locations where speeding had been identified as an issue by local people.

Over seven days of intense police activity, a total of 737 drivers were recorded going significantly over the speed limit across the two force areas.

Depending mainly on the speed they were travelling, the offending drivers will be dealt with either by prosecution, given suitable advice or in some cases offered the alternative of attending, at their own cost a speed awareness course.

Insp Ed Turner, from the Cleveland and Durham specialist operations unit, said the results demonstrated the need for the campaign.

He said: "We concentrated our efforts on locations which had been the subject of concerns or complaints from local residents. And the results suggest their concerns are well-founded, as there are clearly too many motorists who believe they can flout the speed limits with impunity.

"Speed is a major factor in thousands of collisions each year, and drivers should be aware there will be more campaigns like this across Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington over the coming months."

Nearly 200 drivers were caught directly by traffic officers and 541 by the mobile safety camera vans.

Picture: John Millard [www.journallive.co.uk/buyphoto](http://www.journallive.co.uk/buyphoto) ref: 00889380

## Recruitment firm helps with charity

TWO North East businesswomen are looking for support for their charity auction which will take place at their business launch.

Danielle Henderson and Kerri Lewis will celebrate the launch of their recruitment agency, White Fox Recruitment, at Revolution bar in Newcastle's Collingwood Street on May 30.

As part of the launch the pair are hoping to raise money for women domestic violence charity, Safe For Life.

As part of this fundraising there will be a charity auction at their launch event and the pair are asking local businesses to support them by donating prizes.

Danielle, who will run the business from Mosley Street in Newcastle with Kerri, said: "We want to auction off some great prizes and all money made will go to the charity."

There will also be a £5 charge on the door for the launch and money will go to the charity.

The launch of White Fox Recruitment and the charity auction will take place at Revolution on May 30 from 6pm-8pm. To donate call 0191 2308111.

## Campaign aims to boost traditional markets

MARKETS across Northumberland are taking part in a national initiative aimed at putting the UK's traditional street markets back at the heart of local communities.

The Love Your Local Market campaign - which is led by the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) and backed by the Government - is now in its second year and runs from tomorrow until May 29.

It aims to attract new market traders and highlight the important role that markets play in local communities, not only as a service to shoppers but also as focal points of many of town centres.

Markets held in Berwick, Alnwick, Morpeth, Hexham, Blyth and Ashington are among those which will be supporting the two-week campaign.

Andy Rutherford, head of highways and neighbourhood services at

Northumberland County Council, said: "We are pleased to be a part of the campaign. Last year was a success and now there is the opportunity to do even more.

"We are always keen to welcome new traders and the Love Your Local Market campaign would be a great experience for them. I would encourage everyone who wants to get involved to get in touch. However, the campaign isn't

only about giving a start to a new generation of retail entrepreneurs. It's about celebrating the role of markets in sustaining town centres and communities."

Graham Wilson, chief executive of the NABMA, said: "This campaign is the biggest market event in a generation. It gives people the chance of a new career and demonstrates how important markets are to local communities."