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The vibrant city of London is set to host its largest Tall Ship event in 25 years, when a wave of carnival entertainment sweeps through the Royal Borough of Greenwich for the grand finale of the 2014 Tall Ships Regatta. Up to 50 of the most spectacular ships in the world will gather here, so join us for what is set to be one of the biggest events of the year!

**Price includes**

- Private coach travel from your local area • Two nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visits to Henley-on-Thames & Royal Windsor
- Visit to Royal Greenwich for the Tall Ships Regatta

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# PM's high praise for epic fundraiser Ivan

**Helen Rae**  
Health Reporter  
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**A** CARING dad has become the first in the region to receive a special award from Prime Minister David Cameron.

Yesterday, Ivan Hollingsworth was given the Point of Light accolade, which recognises volunteers who are making a change in their community and inspiring others.

The prestigious award has been developed by the Prime Minister and Ivan has been honoured for the money he has raised for Newcastle Freeman Hospital's Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF).

The 38-year-old of Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, said: "I feel honoured and privileged to have been recognised for my fundraising for CHUF by David Cameron."

"It feels a little surreal to read the Prime Minister talking about you and your family, but the increased profile it brings to CHUF and the children's heart unit at the Freeman is amazing."

"I want to recognise the surgeons, doctors and nurses at the Freeman, everyone who has helped our fundraising for the last five years, and most importantly my wife Nadine and son Seb for giving me love, support and fuel to continue. Their names should be on this award also."

Father-of-one Ivan was inspired to

help the Freeman's children's heart unit after staff saved his young son's life.

Little Seb was born in 2009 with a congenital heart condition. This resulted in him undergoing six hours of open heart surgery at only 16 weeks old to save his life. Since then Ivan and his wife Nadine have tirelessly campaigned to raise funds to purchase much needed equipment, aftercare and research.

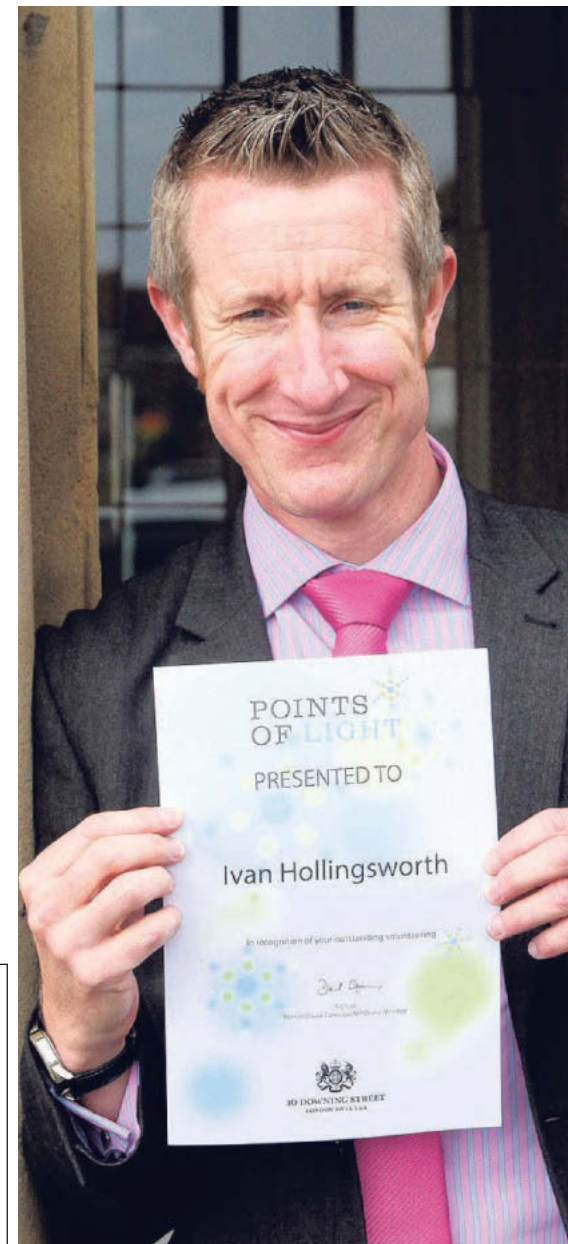
Ivan has raised a staggering £343,000 to fund the rebuilding of a play room and outside play area at the Freeman's children's heart unit.

That was achieved by events such as running 100 miles in 24 hours, organising a fundraising ball and multiple marathons. He became a YouTube sensation after he skied 10 kilometres down a mountain wearing only a mankini.

Mr Cameron said: "Ivan is an extraordinary fundraiser, capturing the imagination with challenges that many others would not even dare to attempt. He has done a fantastic job raising money and awareness - and helping to lessen the suffering of sick children."

Ivan was presented with the award by Tynemouth MP Alan Campbell at a special award ceremony at North Shields.

Mr Campbell said: "Ivan and Nadine have gone beyond raising money, important though that is, to raising the profile and importance of the children's heart unit. He has given so much of his time and effort and it is fantastic that he is being given this recognition."



**Ivan Hollingsworth with his Point Of Light Award**  
Tim McGuinness



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## Operating theatre is a first for North East

THE North-East's first operating theatre dedicated to treating people with vascular disease, one of the UK's biggest killers, has opened.

NHS bosses have invested £1.9m in the new 'hybrid' endovascular operating theatre at the University Hospital of North Durham in Durham City.

The new facility includes equipment that allows clinicians to treat patients with diseased veins and arteries in a more efficient and patient-friendly way.

Patients with blockages in their blood vessels are treated in the theatre using endovascular (X-ray based) keyhole techniques. This type of treatment is usually easier and better for the patient in terms of comfort and recovery time.

William Moody, 81, from Coxhoe in County Durham, was the first patient to receive life-saving treatment at the new theatre.

He said: "I've had chest problems all of my life - ever since working as a miner.

"When a scan of my chest revealed that I had a life-threatening condition linked to an artery that had swollen and was at risk of rupturing, the hospital booked me in for treatment immediately."