

## Talented performers sought for summit

Young Bradford-based musicians, dancers, singers or actors are being urged to audition to perform at a major business event next month.

Entertainers up to the age of 24 can audition for a slot at the E3 Bradford Summit on November 28 at Bradford City's Valley Parade stadium.

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, November 6, and successful entrants will audition on Wednesday, November 13. The performance should fit the theme of the event which is Delivering our Future and performances can be by individuals, schools or community groups.

All applications must include written details of the performance with an attached Mp3/video or script of the performance. Applications can be made via the E3 website at e3bradford.co.uk/e3-factor-entry-form.

## Disabled group needs volunteer

Musicians in Keighley are looking for an extra pair of hands to help with their popular group.

The Bandwagoners are a Bradford District Care Trust Champions Show the Way music group which offers people with mental-ill health and learning disabilities the chance to learn how to play an instrument and meet new people.

Shanaz Begum, community health officer, said: "We are looking for an understanding volunteer to help with the weekly group."

To find out more, call (01274) 321911 or e-mail champions@bdct.nhs.uk.

## Craft group exhibits art

Otley Courthouse plays host to textile arts next month.

Decora, a group of City & Guilds students, will be exhibiting their work on the walls and in cabinets at the arts centre and running workshops.

The exhibition runs from Monday, November 4, for a month, open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

To book, call (01943) 467466 or visit the website at otley-courthouse.org.uk.

# New treatment to beat baby's cancer



**CHAMPIONS:** Mum Lucy Deakin with baby Eliza, and sisters Megan, centre, and Freya

## ShIPLEY girl first patient to receive new cancer treatment at top London hospital to save her eye

by Julie Tickner T&A Reporter

A baby from Shipley will be the first patient to undergo a new type of chemotherapy at one of the country's leading hospitals in a bid to save her eye.

Little Eliza Deakin was diagnosed with bilateral retinoblastoma (Rb), a form of eye cancer, when she was two-months-old.

One eye has responded well to treatment, but the other has not and so next month consultants at The Royal London Hospital will start intravitreal chemotherapy. It involves weekly visits to the hospital where the chemotherapy drug will be injected directly into Eliza's eye.

Weekly hospital visits are now routine for the Deakin family, but mum Lucy said the support of Eliza's sisters Megan, seven, and Freya, five, has helped them cope.

She nominated the Saltaire Primary School pupils for a bravery award which they have collected from the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust.

"Hearing that your baby has got cancer is pretty devastating, but Megan and Freya keep us going. They keep us really grounded and get us through each day doing the things we need to do for them," Mrs Deakin said.

Megan wants to know everything about her baby sister's condition and when Eliza has red swollen eyes after treatment, Freya tells her how beautiful she is.

When Eliza was six-weeks-old, Mrs Deakin, who lives with her husband Jamie and family in Melbourne Street, noticed a white flash in her daughter's eye.

She took Eliza, now 11 months, to the doctor and two weeks later a specialist at Bradford

### FACTFILE

- Eliza Deakin will be the first child to be treated using intravitreal chemotherapy at the Royal London Hospital.
- The treatment involves directing the chemotherapy drug directly into her eye, behind the iris, once a week for six weeks.
- Consultant ophthalmologist Ashwin Reddy, who is overseeing Eliza's treatment, said a very short specialist 0.2mm needle would be used for the delicate procedure. "We have to be very careful if giving it directly in the eye," he said.
- Mr Reddy said the treatment had been used in Japan for more than 20 years, but Eliza was the first patient in London to receive it. He is confident it is safe and, if successful, it could become more commonly used in this country.

Royal Infirmary confirmed it could be Rb.

Eliza is currently having treatment on her left eye, where the artery is injected, at Great Ormond Street. That ends on Wednesday and the following week the new treatment will start at the neighbouring Royal London Hospital on Eliza's right eye.

Mrs Deakin, a nurse, does not know how the treatment will effect Eliza's sight long-term, but the cancer has developed in such a way that the only alternative treatments are radiotherapy – which carries the risk of further cancer developing – or the removal of her eye.

"Really, it's one of our last hopes to save that eye," Mrs Deakin said.

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## Youngsters hand over donation



The selfless contribution of two girls paid off when the fun day they arranged generated £800 for an Airedale Hospital stroke ward. Event organisers Ellie Dowse, ten, from Riddlesden, and Hannah Dowse, 12, from Denholme, raised the cash to support ward five at Airedale. Their great uncle was cared for in the ward for 12 weeks earlier this year.

Ellie's brother Cameron, 12, and Hannah's brother Josh, 15, also helped out during the fun day. The girls presented the proceeds to ward five staff this week.

Their grandmother, Ingrow resident Tina Dowse, said: "They put in such a lot of effort, they worked really hard."

The event in Broomhill, Keighley, included a bouncy castle, refreshments and a tombola.

Pictured above are Dr Sam Mawer receiving a cheque from fundraisers, from left, Josh Dowse, Frankie Bridge, Cameron Dowse, Ellis Dowse and Hannah Dowse with ward five staff



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The vote is open from 00.01 on 1 October and closes at 23.59 on 31 October 2013. Voting terms and conditions apply. The Sovereign Health Care Charitable Trust: Registered charity number 1079024. Registered office: Royal Standard House, 26 Manningham Lane, Bradford BD1 3DN.