

Going with the flow



Northwest
Human Milk Bank
A Bank for Life

Reflections on the first 14 years of Milk Banking in Chester 2000-2014

In 2000, Lynda Coulter, a senior neonatal nurse practitioner on the Countess of Chester's neonatal unit, proposed an initiative to open a Human Milk Bank in order to improve the care of sick and premature babies.

Following three years of fundraising, enough money was raised to set up and launch the first Human Milk Bank in the northwest in the new millennium.

During the following eleven years charitable donations have funded this service and enabled it to grow to become the largest milk bank in the UK. Over 1500 donor mothers (without whose free donation of their excess milk we would not exist) have enabled the Milk Bank to fulfil every request we have ever had for donor milk. An ever increasing number of hospitals have, and continue to come to us for donor milk and literally thousands of babies have benefited from this unique nutrition, particularly premature and sick babies.

Having outgrown its accommodation at the Countess of Chester Hospital, the Milk Bank will transfer its

operation to the new NoWFood Innovation Centre on the University of Chester's Parkgate Road campus from 1st April 2014 and will be joined by Wirral Milk Bank to form a unified milk bank service for the northwest to be called, Northwest Human Milk Bank. This operation will be hosted by the Countess of Chester Hospital and continue to operate under NHS governance and will be overseen by a Consultant Paediatrician.

While catering for our continuing expansion, these ultra-modern facilities will also offer fresh opportunities for further research into human milk in a dedicated setting devoted to furthering our understanding of nutrition and food generally.

Please visit our website, www.chestermilkbank.org.uk which will be updated from 1st April to reflect the above changes and will be continually revised to keep everyone informed of our progress and further developments.

Lynda Coulter MBE
Human Milk Bank Manager
Countess of Chester Hospital

The future for Northwest Human Milk Bank Comments from the health professionals involved

'This is an exciting time for human milk banking in the Northwest. The excellent milk banks at the Countess of Chester and Arrowe Park hospitals are amalgamating into what promises to be a truly outstanding milk bank facility - the largest in the UK. The combined service will benefit from the expertise of the highly experienced professionals from both services and will be housed in purpose built space within the new state of the art Food Innovation Centre at the University of Chester. This new location offers impressive facilities and the potential to collaborate with scientists on selected projects to add to existing research on the benefits of donated breast milk.

Sick and premature babies across the northwest and much further afield will continue to enjoy the advantages of receiving donor breast milk during the most vulnerable time of their lives. The establishment of milk banks in the northwest has been crucial in securing the availability of donor breast milk and the new combined service remains dependent on the kindness of women prepared to donate freely, this highly valuable and at times life-saving form of nutrition for newborn babies'.

Dr. John Gibbs
Consultant Paediatrician
Countess of Chester Hospital

'We are extremely pleased about the collaboration of our milk bank with that from Chester, to become the new Northwest Human Milk Bank. We are extremely positive about this new venture and sincerely wish that this will bring new opportunities and developments into these two already renowned milk banks. The support we have received from our milk banks has always been exceptional. I am sure that this new venture will continue to deliver high profile support not only to our neonatal units but also to other regional network neonatal units in the northwest and beyond.

We are excited about the potential opportunities which are going to be available in promoting active research into breast milk and thus positively influencing the future for preterm babies.

We wholeheartedly wish every success to all the staff at their new human milk bank.

Dr Shri Babarao
Consultant Neonatologist
Wirral Women and Children's Hospital

Donor mothers	20	20	71	65	74	94	101	109	169	184	215	200
Volume pasteurised Litres	Nil	94	286	388	395	520	575	786	1011	1023	1140	1200
Number of hospitals supplied	Nil	5	6	9	10	22	17	29	29	25	34	36
	2000 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014

Snapshots of our history

Key moment



Duchess of Westminster opens the Milk Bank 27/06/03



Footballing for Milk Banking



Grand Raffle C 00701 In aid of COURTESY of CHESTER HOSPITAL HUMAN MILK BANK APPEAL

River Ball organisers



Rita & Ricky special guests



Lynda, Nurse Midwife of the year



Nurse Clare's driving baby fund forward



SPECIAL CARE BABY UNIT 2004 CALENDAR



Angela, our ever present pasteuriser



CHESTER CHILD BIRTH A-P-P-E-A-L



Chester Childbirth Appeal provide new Milk Bank room



International Human Milk Banking Conference



Marathon Santa's Liverpool Santa Dash



Ricky's medicine



In memory of Oliver Newnes



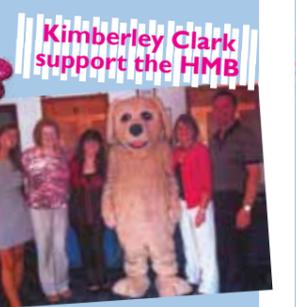
SERIOUS RIVER RATS



Milk Bank Team



Kimberley Clark support the HMB



The Newnes family



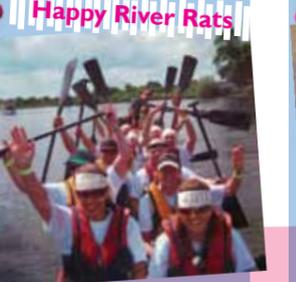
Family's fundraising tribute

The Newnes family continue to raise more money for the Milk Bank Appeal

Eve's fundraiser



Happy River Rats



HMB Conference Stand



Snowden conquered



Mrs Gould donated £1349 for Blast Chiller



Lynda zip slides into retirement



Money raised	£46,170	£26,721	£30,134	£4,933	£212,435	£22,286	£34,596	£17,236	£21,421	£9,485	£12,200	£10,420
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Continuing the flow

Across the globe thousands of sick and premature babies have improved health from the efforts of breastfeeding mothers who not only feed their own babies but who altruistically make provision for others in need.

The new Northwest Human Milk Bank at Chester University will provide opportunity for greater capacity, development and research opportunities to support the existing unequivocal medical evidence regarding its contribution to improved health. As we become more enlightened about the still many unknown qualities of this unique mammalian food we can become increasingly proactive in moving towards having available safe donor breast milk from a truly equitable national service for all.

Lynda Coulter MBE
Human Milk Bank Manager
Countess of Chester Hospital

Northwest Human Milk Bank

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Wirral Mothers' Milk Bank has been operating for 10 years. Opened in 2004, the service has recruited almost 900 donor mothers from Wirral, Liverpool and other parts of the region. The demand from neonatal units for pasteurised human milk has increased year on year and during 2013/14 over 500 litres of milk has been dispatched for feeding to preterm and sick babies across the northwest.

We look forward to further developments in milk banking as we merge the two established northwest milk banks to create a new regional service. Wirral milk bank staff, volunteers and donor mothers are embracing this positive transition to become part of the first regional milk bank service in England.

Annie Atkinson & Gill Brady
Human Milk Bank staff
Wirral Mothers' Milk Bank

