

## Barrow Evening Mail

### Fundraisers are aiming for million pound mark

A Group dedicated to providing equipment for Furness General Hospital for more than 25 years has launched a campaign to reach the £1m fundraising mark.

The Hospital Equipment Fund for Furness has launched the Million Pennies appeal, which aims to raise a million pennies, or £10,000, by the end of the year to reach the £1m milestone.

The idea came about earlier this year after Raymond Roddie treasurer of HEFF, noticed the group was fast approaching the £1m mark for fundraising.

The group, which formed in 1983 following an appeal for a scanner, then decided to launch a drive to raise the money.

HEFF will sell special chocolate coins at its shop in Cavendish Street, Barrow, but also wants members of the Furness community to organise fundraising events.

Liz Gawne, a HEFF committee member of four years who is leading the Million Pennies appeal, said: "Just before Christmas, the treasurer said we were nearing the million pound mark.

"Then he worked out we'd need about £10,000 to get there, so we came up with the appeal.

"We're aiming to get to the £1m mark, but it's also about getting the public to know who HEFF are and what we do.

"We've been around for a long time and we have raised a lot of money that has benefited people in this area, but we hide away a bit. We want people to get to know us and what we do through this campaign."

Judith Read, Fundraising Co-ordinator for the Morecambe Bay Hospitals Charity, said: "The HEFF committee and all their volunteers work hard to raise funds for a cause that impacts on every family in the area.

"Funds are used to purchase medical equipment for our local hospital that is beyond their budget. HEFF's aim is not to provide day-to-day basics but to enhance patient experience by providing the type of cutting edge equipment medical professionals aspire to."

The catering department at Furness General Hospital will be baking millionaire's shortbread to sell in support of the appeal.

HEFF will end the appeal with a special event which will take place in Barrow in October.

Mrs Gawne said: "We're in the process of planning an end of appeal event at the moment.

"We're in talks. We know it will be in Barrow and we're hoping to get the whole community involved."

If you would like to offer help or support in any way please contact:

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