

## *Chloe Charlton*

Chloe Charlton 14 June 2003 – 18 July 2006

Chloe was born a healthy 8lb 9oz on a sunny day in June. We enjoyed every minute with our perfect daughter as first time parents. She developed normally and was so bright and beautiful, she melted our hearts as well as those of our family.

After learning to crawl we thought there would be no stopping her, but sadly one Friday evening Chloe started to have a fit down one side of her body. She was rushed to A & E, where upon arrival the seizures were intensifying so much, she was sedated to rest her little body. This was the beginning of our nightmare.

After been sedated for a few days, Chloe was back with us but not the Chloe we had had before. She deteriorated quickly, lost all movement in her limbs, suffered relentless seizures and was unable to eat or communicate in any way. We spent time in the high dependency unit and intensive care as Chloe's condition was critical. Chloe was fed via a naso-gastric tube and suffered test after test to determine the cause, all of which came back negative. Life was just unreal watching our daughter suffer in this way.

We spent an agonising 3 months in hospital, whilst more tests were carried out and medication levels were adjusted to control the seizures to a satisfactory level.

After a short period of two months at home with Chloe, we returned to hospital for a week of scheduled tests. During this period, an MRI scan showed some deterioration in Chloe's brain and we were devastated to learn that the most likely cause was a condition known as Alpers Disease; that she would rapidly deteriorate and that it was a terminal illness with no hope of a cure.

We immediately decided that what time we had left with Chloe would be spent at home, so I, 'Mum', finished work and became Chloe's carer. At home, she amazed not only us but also the doctors and seemed to blossom surrounded by the love and support of family and friends.

We feel so lucky to have had this amazing time with Chloe, going on holidays to Scotland and Devon, having days out in York and the Lake District and spending evenings out with family; memories that we will cherish forever. There were many times during our time in hospital when we thought we would not have any more happy times with Chloe, but with fantastic support we made sure Chloe's illness never stopped us from doing anything.

Sadly, Chloe fell into a deep sleep and died in my arms on 18th July 2006, one month after her 3rd birthday. She never got to meet her brother Alfie, who was born in January 2007, but we will tell him all about his special sister one day.

She was just loaned to us for a short time but one day we hope to be with her once more and in the meantime hope the angels are looking after her.

*Tara and Neil Charlton*



Total Raised so far:

£3,270.59

Star Status