

Pansy the calf is a selfie star



Ida and Ralph Henderson with Parkhouse Pansy 11

A THROWAWAY remark at the Royal Highland Show in 2015 provided the inspiration for an idea to raise money.

People of all ages were taking selfies with a calf from Weardale, so the following year a collecting bucket for donations to The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh was placed near the calf. In four years, £975 has been raised for the hospital's toy fund.

This year, farmer Dennis Craig of New Park, Westgate, decided to do something similar at three local shows.

The calf, called Parkhouse Pansy 11, was trained by his daughter, Victoria Bowman, of Stanhope, for 22-month-old Ida Henderson with a little help from her big brother Ralph, aged four, who live at Old Park Farm in Westgate.

Pansy was shown at the Weardale Show, at St John's Chapel, and Wolsingham Show. Although Stanhope Show does not have dairy cattle classes, the committee welcomed the idea of raising money for the Great North Children's Hospital, Newcastle.

Pansy was a great hit and a total of £475 was raised.