

Helping hand for baby

A BABY born with a rare condition requiring weekly treatment in London has received a helping hand from an Abergavenny-based enterprise.

As reported previously in the *Free Press*, Thomas Batten, of Victoria Street, Abergavenny, was born with bilateral anophthalmia, a condition affecting just 35 babies in the UK a year, meaning his parents, Chris and Anna, must take him to Moorfields Hospital, in London, for treatment.

Ashish Poddar, founder of the FreshTies website, has now donated £100 to cover the cost of one weekend's travel after reading the *Free Press* story.

Grateful father Chris said: "Due to the distance and the fact we have morning appointments, we travel the night before, stay in a hotel and catch the train to the hospital."

FreshTies is a not-for-profit website where people can help make positive things happen by sharing advice.

It donates half its website membership fees from individuals and businesses to good causes in the area where they join.

Chris added: "It often takes hours to fill in a grant application, then you wait weeks to hear."

"With FreshTies there were no forms and we received a cheque within days."

Ashish Poddar said: "We make it easy for individuals or businesses to make real positive changes to their community, and for themselves."

"The fund has just started but good ideas grow and I hope people get in touch to help decide how the fund should continue to grow."

For more details about FreshTies visit www.freshties.com, e-mail Ashish Poddar at ash@freshties.com or call 07845 574453.