

# High-flier Aileen doubles target

By Pat Scott

p.scott@huntly-express.co.uk

A MUM who undertook a tandem skydive to raise money for a charity which enabled the family to enjoy a special weekend away while one of her three daughters underwent treatment for cancer more than doubled fundraising the target she set.

Aileen Watt from Gartly decided to raise money for the Make A Wish foundation which paid for the family to have a trip to London while Andrea, now 22, was being treated for Hodgkins Lymphoma, a rare cancer which affects the lymphatic system.

The tandem skydive was also planned as a



A wide smile from Aileen Watt during her sky dive.

celebration of Andrea's five years remission and her first class honours degree in business and management from the University of Glasgow.

The plucky mum had hoped to raise £2000 but far exceeded the goal and had what she described as the most amazing experience.

Strapped to an experienced skydiver, Aileen jumped from the plane at 10,000 feet.

She said: "We had to wait for three hours for the clouds to clear. From the plane, we could see the ground from 10,000 feet. We were in free fall for 30 seconds, travelling at 120 miles per hour then the parachute opened.

"The guy with me had us doing all sorts of manoeuvres,

"We were fast, then slow then upside down. My family watching from the ground thought something had gone wrong and were worried. It was just amazing and even now when I speak about it I am just buzzing."

Aileen says that she is indebted to everyone who donated towards the cause and helped her raise £4042.

She said: "People I had not seen for years donated after reading about me in The Huntly Express and my employers Pipeline Technique and colleagues, family and friends were all just so generous. At work I had a bake sale and that raised £250 which was great."