



BLUEBIRD  PR

**BLUE SKYE THINKING COVERAGE** December 2014



# Faringdon Folly

## Loom to the Moon with Longcot and Fernham Primary

SKYE Hall from Oxfordshire was diagnosed with a brain tumour last year. It was while he was in hospital that he had the idea – would it be possible to loom to the moon?

He thought that if you could join enough loom bands together, would they be long enough to get to the moon?

This gave his parents a brilliant idea, if they could collect enough chains of loom bands, they could join them up and try to get into *The Guinness Book of Records* for the longest

loom band.

It is fantastic publicity for the charity that they have set up, called Blue Skye Thinking, named after their son. The money raised will go into funding research into treatment for children with brain tumours.

The children at Longcot and Fernham Primary School were all recently involved in making a huge loom band and on Friday 19th September they took it right around the outside of the main school

building.

They estimated the length was about 150 metres, which is pretty impressive when you think that there are only 118 children in the whole school.

The loom band was then sent off to help the charity achieve its aim of entering *The Guinness Book of Records*.

If you would like to know more about the charity, please go to their website 'Blue Skye Thinking'. You can also send loom bands directly to them.



Children from Longcot and Fernham Primary School with their Loom Band creation

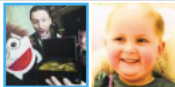




# The Herald

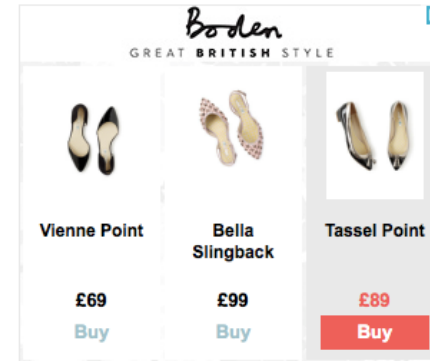
ABINGDON

## Dickens of a good cause to support



ABINGDON'S newest theatre troupe has sold out its very first production and raised hundreds of pounds for a local charity in the process.

The LAMPS collective of writers, actors and producers is putting on its own interpretation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, with puppets.



The two-man comic show, *Scrooge*, opened at Abingdon's Unicorn Theatre last night and runs until Sunday.

Organisers have pledged to give 20 per cent of their profits from Friday, Saturday and Sunday to Blue Skye Thinking, the child cancer research fund set up by the parents of five-year-old Abingdon boy Skye Hall. He died after a battle with a brain tumour in August.

Actor and puppeteer Chris Matthewman, of Kennington, said: "It's a madcap, musical, two-man variation on the classic Dickens tale, presenting what we hope is the true spirit of Christmas."



## 1st Ilminster join in on loom band record



THE 1st Ilminster Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have been taking part in a world record. Photo: Submitted

First published Saturday 13 December 2014 in [Somerset](#)

BEAVERS, Cubs and Scouts in Ilminster have been taking part in a world record to make the longest loom band for charity.

The band is to help Skye Hall's 'Loom to the Moon' fund-raising campaign, which was set up to raise money and awareness for Brain Tumour Research.



The 1st Ilminster have been helping the charity and worked together to make a loom band which measures just over a whopping 74 metres.

The band will be sent to Blue Skye Thinking and it will be joined to Skye's master loom band which currently measures more than 10km.

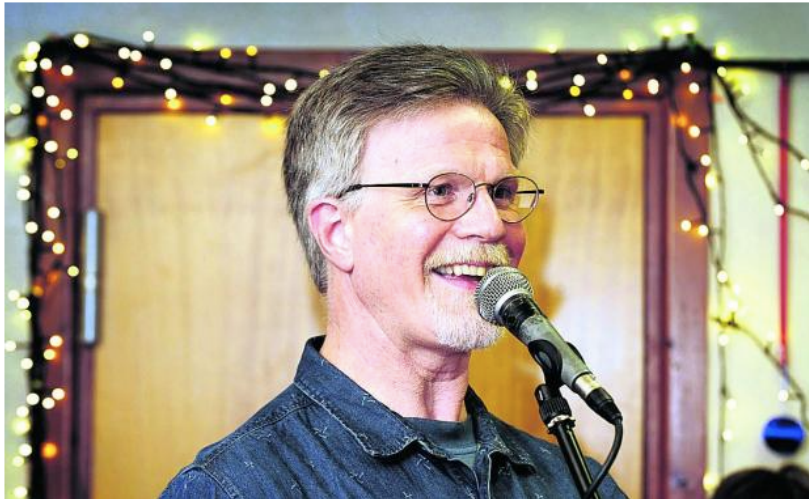
A donation to aid the research will also be sent. For more information, see [www.blueskyething.or](http://www.blueskyething.or)



## NEWS

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### Picture special: We're all getting in a festive mood



THERE was no rest for merry gentlemen – and women – as singers from Abingdon took part in a Christmas carol marathon.

Members of Christ Church Long Furlong and the Long Furlong Community Centre spent 24 hours singing more than 500 carols from noon on Friday.

Money raised during the carol marathon went towards local charities the Archway Foundation and Blue Skye Thinking.

The latter was set up by the family of Abingdon boy Skye Hall, who lost his battle against a brain tumour in August aged five.

He said: "It has been packed here. Even in the middle of the night there has been people coming in and singing. I think we have sung more than 500 carols in total."

Christ Church assistant vicar Keith Dunnett was at the community centre in Boulter Drive for the whole 24 hours.

He said: "I was praying through the summer about what to do during Christmas and the idea came to me.

"I think we have had 1,200 people through the doors and more than £600 raised. I have been here the whole time and I am very tired but I have loved every minute."

The event finished on Saturday with mince pies and mulled wine at the community centre provided by volunteers from the association.

**16 December 2011**



# Oxford Mail

IN THE face of tragedy, Skye Hall's family have proved a true inspiration to us all. What a testament to the brave young lad, who touched hearts across Oxfordshire, that his family have done so much for charity since their boy passed away in August.

Aged only five, Skye died having spent a year valiantly battling a brain tumour.

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And all through that time, the courageous lad faced it head-on, and with an infectious sunny outlook.

As Mr and Mrs Hall, along with younger brother Jesse, steel themselves for their first Christmas without their beloved Skye, they are ensuring his legacy lives on.



Charity Blue Skye Thinking was launched as tribute to Skye, a foundation to fund research into alternative treatments for

children's cancers.

Inspired by the cheeky youngster's love of loom bands, the Loom to Moon campaign hopes to create the world's longest loom band chain. And it has proved so popular that the family are extending it until Easter.

Mum Sally has bravely spoken out for the first time, revealing her family's heartache as they deal with their loss.

Most of us will be spending Christmas with our families, we should all take a moment to think of those who have lost loved ones.

But let us also take a moment to think of Skye, and the incredible example he, and his family, set us all.

NEWS

## Turning terrible tragedy into an inspiration for every one of us



First published Saturday 20 December 2014 in [News](#)





## Skye Hall's family: Our first Christmas without our brave son



By Alex Wynick

LOOM bands are taking over the house of Skye Hall's family as they prepare to spend their first Christmas without the brave youngster who died in August.

Chains of the brightly-coloured bands have wound their way around their Christmas tree and replaced the presents underneath as the Loom to the Moon campaign continues.

Skye was just five when he died on August 26 after battling a brain tumour for a year.

His parents Andrew, 42, and Sally, and younger brother Jesse, three, appealed to the public to help them make the world's longest loom band chain to raise money for his charity Blue Skye Thinking.



Three-year-old Jesse Hall on one of their daily visits to the grave of his brother, Skye, with mum, Sally, in Bladon

### Our top stories

- Tree falls down in Alma Place off Cowley Road
- UPDATE: Man killed after crash on A420 near Buckland
- UPDATE: Delays between Didcot Parkway and Reading after train hit obstruction
- Council considers fixing parish hall after West Way plan folds
- Police investigate three separate incidents of indecent exposure in Abingdon and Didcot

Due to finish yesterday the scheme has now been extended to Easter next year, due to popular demand.

Mrs Hall, 36, said: "We're still getting bands from all over the place. Just this week we've got chains from Scotland and the Isle of Man."

And in February the family are planning on travelling across the country to visit the cancer wards in 19 children's hospitals across the country.

Mrs Hall said: "We're starting in Scotland and working our way back to Oxford. We'll take presents to all of the kids on the oncology wards."

For Christmas the family made a special appearance at the annual festival party at Kamran's Ward at the [John Radcliffe Hospital](#), where Skye was treated.

# Oxford Mail

Mrs Hall said: "We were only going to pop in but we ended up staying for about four hours. It was so lovely to see those children still smiling, it made me feel closer to Skye."

"Skye loved Christmas. What child doesn't? It was all about keeping the magic alive for as long as possible."



Jesse Hall, three, with loom bands sent in for Skye's Loom to the Moon appeal festooning the family's Christmas tree

Despite the festivities, the family have said life was still hard without the brave youngster.

Mrs Hall said: "The second he was born I felt my life had started. And now I'm just not me any more."

"My soul died the second that he died. I have to live out a life sentence without him."

"But it's my duty to look after Jesse the best way I can now."



# Oxford Mail cont...

She added: "The shock is still there. I still can't believe that my child had cancer, that I'm never going to see my first-born baby again.

"I never thought he'd die because you do always have hope. You have to otherwise you could not possibly endure what you do unless you keep telling yourself there's hope.

"Skye always chose life. Even when he was paralysed he did always believe that he would be able to walk again."

Skye's grave, in The Parish Church of Saint Martin Bladon, near Woodstock, is decorated with toys, pinwheels and plants.

Mrs Hall said: "We wanted to make it a place that Jesse would want to come and play, rather than it being a chore for him. Every time we come we bring something new to decorate it."

Despite being a 90-minute round trip from the family home, Mrs Hall visits every day.

She said: "This was the right place for Skye to be buried. We used to live in Bladon, right up until Skye was born.

"This church is where Andrew and I got married and it's where Skye was christened."

Playing with a bow and arrow in the graveyard, Jesse aimed towards the sky and shouted: "Coming to you Skye."

Mrs Hall said their younger son Jesse talked to Skye a lot.

She said: "He throws toys up in the air and says Skye is throwing them back down again.

"I worry so much about him not remembering what Skye was like.

"He's so young."

When asked what he missed most about Skye, Jesse said: "Playing. "It's not as good now Skye's not here."

## LOOM TO THE MOON

WHILE Skye had cancer, he died from radio-chemo neurotoxicity.

It meant healthy cells in his brain and spinal cord were damaged by the traditional treatments of radiation therapy and chemotherapy.



Skye Hall

Blue Skye Thinking funds research into alternative treatments to child cancers.

More than £72,000 has been donated since the charity was set up in July and will go towards various research projects. It means the charity are half way to funding its first official researcher who will work on frontline research. To have someone in the post by September the charity needs to raise the rest of the money by May. The Loom to the Moon project has more than 14,500 likes on Facebook, and the family have already received more than 24.5km of loom bands - the height of 123 Didcot Power Stations.

- For information about Blue Skye Thinking visit [blueskyethinking.org](http://blueskyethinking.org) and to learn more about its Loom to the Moon campaign [visit here](#)

To donate, text LOOM66 £2 to 70070 or [visit here](#)

**20 December 201**