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BLUE SKYE THINKING COVERAGE February 2015



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News Local News Southam

3rd Southam Guides loom large for charity

Girls contribute to giant loom band for Brain Tumour Research in memory of five-year-old boy



3rd Southam Guides who have joined a loom band world record attempt for charity

Guides in [Warwickshire](#) have been taking part in a world record attempt to make the longest loom band for charity.

The girls from [3rd Southam Guides](#) worked together to make a loom band which measures just over 108 metres.

The band has been sent to the '[Loom to the Moon](#)' fundraising campaign which was set up to raise money and awareness for [Brain Tumour Research](#).

Five-year-old [Skye Hall](#), from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for an aggressive brain tumour but wanted to raise money to "help doctors make other children better".

The band was sent to the [Blue Sky Thinking](#) charity – which was set up to raise money and awareness for Brain Tumour Research – and will be joined to Skye's master loom band which currently measures more than 25,600m.

Louise Beale, guide leader, said: "A friend of mine posted a link to 'Loom to the Moon' on her Facebook page as her daughter went to the same school as Skye, and I thought this was the ideal opportunity for the girls to achieve their goal and also raise awareness for a good cause.

"The girls continued with the loom in their own time and everyone really enjoyed being part of the process."



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Swindon Advertiser

Letters to the Editor

Help us loom to moon

I'M writing to appeal to your readers to get involved in Blue Skye Thinking's 'Loom to the Moon' campaign from February 16 to 20, which aims to raise awareness of brain tumours – the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers in the UK.

My son Skye died last August from medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour when he was just five years old.

Skye suffered hugely over the last year but his enduring strength and good humour in the face of such adversity is a testament to his strength of character.

Before he died he launched a 'Loom to the Moon' fundraising campaign to break the Guinness World Records for the longest loom band. This idea was inspired by his favourite past time whilst sitting in a Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber which he thought was very much like being in a space rocket.

His younger brother, Jesse, is now trying to finish this in memory of his big brother. We currently have 1,390 looming for us across the UK.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter and share the #LoomtotheMoon and other fun content during the week to help spread the word. You can also text LOOM66 to 70070 to donate £5 Visit <http://www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon> to see which city we'll be visiting nearest to you and for more information on the fundraising campaign.

SALLY HALL
Founder of Blue Skye Thinking
Abingdon
Oxfordshire

2 February 2015



Telegraph and Argus

LETTERS & WEB-POSTS

Join Skye's Loom to the Moon campaign

SIR – I'm writing to appeal to your readers to get involved in Blue Skye Thinking's Loom to the Moon campaign from February 16 to 20 which aims to raise awareness of brain tumours – the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers in the UK.

My son Skye died last August from medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour when he was just five years old.

Skye suffered hugely over the last year but his enduring strength and good humour in the face of such adversity is a testament to his strength of character. Before he died he launched a Loom to the Moon fundraising campaign to break the Guinness World Records for the longest loom band.

We're asking everyone, of all ages, to come along during the week to your local shopping centre and meet me, my husband, Andrew, and my son Jesse, as we travel from Aberdeen back to our home in Oxford via different cities.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter and share the #LoomtotheMoon and other fun content during the week to help spread the word. You can also text LOOM66 to 70070 to donate £5 Visit www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon.

**Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking,
Hendred Way, Abingdon**

2 February 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Coventry Telegraph

Record is looming for Guides

IDES in Warwickshire have been taking part in a world record attempt to make the longest loom band for charity.

The girls from 3rd Southern Guides worked together to make a loom band which measures just over 108 metres.

The band has been sent to the 'Loom to the Moon' fundraising campaign which was set up to raise money and awareness for Brain Tumour Research.

Five-year-old Skye Hall, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for an aggressive brain tumour but wanted to raise money to "help doctors make other children better".

The band was sent to the Blue Sky Thinking charity - which was set up to raise money and awareness for Brain Tumour Research - and will be joined to Skye's master loom band which currently measures more than 25,600m.

Louise Beale, guide leader, said: "A friend of mine posted a link to 'Loom

friend of mine posted a link to 'Loom to the Moon' on her Facebook page as her daughter went to the same school as Skye, and I thought this was the ideal opportunity for the girls to achieve their goal and also raise awareness for a good cause.

"The girls continued with the loom in their own time and everyone really enjoyed being part of the process."



■ The 3rd Southern Guides have joined a loom band world record attempt for charity

2 February 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

The Journal

Views of the North

Child cancer support plea

I'M writing to appeal to your readers to get involved in Blue Skye Thinking's 'Loom to the Moon'

campaign from 16 to 20 February which aims to raise awareness of brain tumours - the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers in the UK.

My son Skye died last August from medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour when he was just five years old. Skye suffered hugely over the last year, but his enduring strength and good humour in the face of such adversity is a testament to his strength of character.

Before he died, he launched a 'Loom to the Moon' fundraising campaign to break the Guinness World Records for the longest loom band. This idea was inspired by his favourite past time whilst sitting in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber which he thought was like being in a space rocket. His younger brother Jesse is now trying to finish this in memory of his big brother. We currently have 1,390 looming for us across the UK.

We're asking everyone, of all ages, to come along on during the week to your local shopping centre and meet myself, my husband, Andrew, and my son Jesse, as we travel from Aberdeen back to our home in Oxford via different cities. You can collect your free loom bands to become part of the campaign and help raise awareness of this awful illness.

- Currently less than one per cent of cancer funding goes towards research into children's brain tumours.
- More than 350 children a year facing the devastating news that they have this disease.

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter and share the #LoomtotheMoon and other fun content during the week to help spread the word. You can also text LOOM66 to 70070 to donate £5 Visit <http://www.blueskythinking.org/loom-to-the-moon> to see which city we'll be visiting nearest to you and for more information on the fundraising campaign.

SALLY HALL, Founder of Blue Skye Thinking, 59 Hendred Way, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2AW

3 February 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Sussex Express

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Father to take on ultra-marathon

A father is to compete in an ultra-marathon to raise money for a children's charity set up by one of his colleagues.

Nick Smith, 46, will take on the 35-mile Two Oceans Marathon in Cape Town - which takes in both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean - on April 4.

Nick, who is the director of music at St John's School in Leatherhead, Surrey, hopes to raise at least £1,000 for cancer research charity Blue Skye Thinking.

The charity was set up by Andrew Hall and his wife Sally in memory of their son Skye who died last year at the age of five after being diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a cancerous brain tumour.

Nick said: "I have known Andy for over 20 years when we initially both started our careers at Glenalmond College in Perthshire, however I lost contact with him after moving south 10 years ago.

"Recently a new colleague who had worked with him in Abingdon School mentioned the charity and what him and Sally had tragically gone through with Skye. Having three children myself, I felt I needed to show my support and chose the Two Oceans challenge as a way of doing just that.

"I haven't set a limit as I want to raise as much as possible but it would be great to raise £1,000."

Andrew added: "It was great to hear from Nick after all this time and we really appreciate the effort he is going to to support the charity. New and better treatments are being found through research every day so we rely on friends, family and members of the public to help us raise much-needed funds to ensure that future children are given a better chance of survival.

"So far we have raised £87,000 but need to hit £120,000 to get a researcher in place."

To sponsor Nick visit www.justgiving.com/schmidtnicky.

5 February 2015



Leek Post and Times



Get involved in Loom to the Moon campaign

By [Leek Post and Times](#) | Posted: February 03, 2015

 **Comments (0)**

I'M WRITING to appeal to your readers to get involved in Blue Skye Thinking's 'Loom to the Moon' campaign from 16 to 20 February which aims to raise awareness of brain tumours – the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers in the UK.

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5 February 2015



Kent pupils help Skye reach loom band World record with a 145 metre loom

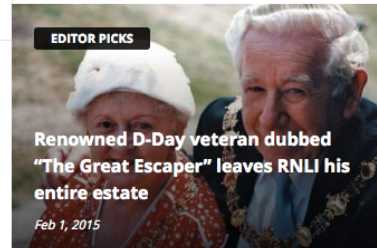
Feb 4, 2015

SHARE



PUPILS from Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School have taken part in a charity's world record attempt to make the longest loom band – and raised £50 in the process.

EDITOR PICKS



Renowned D-Day veteran dubbed "The Great Escaper" leaves RNLI his entire estate

Feb 1, 2015



Youngster left isolated by school after fundraising haircut

Jan 30, 2015

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Charity Today cont..

The Dover school wanted to support the charity Blue Skye Thinking's effort after hearing about Skye Hall's attempt in the newspaper.

Five year old Skye Hall, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for an aggressive brain tumour but wanted to raise money to "help doctors make other children better". The charity was set up to raise money and awareness for Brain Tumour Research for children.

Before Skye died, he launched a 'Loom to the Moon' fundraising campaign to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest loom band. This idea was inspired by his favourite past time whilst sitting in the Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber (which mimicked a space ship) for hours each week, looming.

Angela Matthews, Head of Temple Ewell Church of England Primary said: "The school council select different charities to support each year and this year they were particularly touched by Skye's story. As a Church school we feel it is particularly important for our children to think of other people and especially other children who may not be as fortunate as themselves. Looming is popular at the moment in the school so this fundraising idea excited all the pupils too!

"We ran a 'Loom to The Moon' competition with all the children in the school invited to make the longest loom band, working individually or in a group. To enter the children were asked to pay £1 each. The winning loom band was 38 metres long and was made by a group of Year 5 girls and the total loom created was 145 metres. We were very proud of all the pupils for their effort and they really enjoyed themselves too."

More than 350 children a year in the UK alone, face the devastating news that they have a brain tumour but less than one per cent of cancer funding goes towards research into brain tumours, the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers.

Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking and mum to Skye said: "Well done to everyone who took part in the competition. What a brilliant effort the pupils have made and a great addition to our loom, which currently reaches a distance of 25,693m. 'Loom to the Moon' is coming to an end this May and new attempts are coming in all the time to try and break the record, so we still need all the support we can get in ensuring Skye's last wish comes true over the next few months."

All money raised from 'to the Moon' will go towards the charity's goal of getting as much money as possible into the hands of the world's best researchers, so that all children diagnosed with brain tumours will have a better chance of survival and a better quality of life post-treatment.

To take part in the campaign please visit <http://www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon/>



Dance group aiming to raise £2,000 for Skye

February 5, 2015 | Filed under: Abingdon, Community, Latest, Slider | Posted by: Oxfordshire Guardian

An Oxford dance group is hoping their new show will raise £2,000 in memory of a five-year-old Abingdon boy who died from a brain tumour last year.

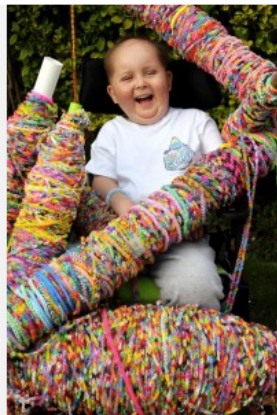
Skye Hall passed away on August 29 after being diagnosed with medulloblastoma – an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.

His parents Sally and Andrew set up the charity Blue Skye Thinking shortly before his death to raise money for research into brain tumours in children.

And all female dance troupe Raw Diva are hoping their rendition of 'Once Upon A Dream' at Abingdon School's Amey Theatre on May 30 will raise thousands for the charity.

Jenni Middleton, founder of Raw Diva, said: "We'd seen a piece on Skye and his family in the news and also had Blue Skye Thinking suggested to us by a member of staff at the school Andrew teaches at.

"We took a vote in class as to who we'd like to support and it was a unanimous decision.



Skye Hall

"What the family has been through is unimaginable and Skye was so brave to endure all that he did whilst trying to make a positive difference to others' lives – it's an inspiration to us all."

As well as the dance show, the group has also raised almost £250 by staging car boot sales, fancy dress days and cake sales since the start of the year.

It comes as more than 350 children a year in the UK are diagnosed with brain tumours, but only one per cent of cancer funding is spent on research for the disease in children.

Skye's mum Sally Hall said: "We are so grateful to Raw Diva for supporting our charity – everyone has made such a brilliant effort so far.

"Research is key to our charity's goals and we know that with better treatments in place, other families won't have to go through what we did.

"So far we have raised £87,000 but need to hit £120,000 to fund a researcher so encourage everyone to dig deep and come along to what I am sure will be a wonderful show."

Tickets can be bought from Abingdon School for the May 30 performance. For details, email theatre@abingdon.org.uk.

To donate to Raw Diva's fundraising page, go to justgiving.com/rawdiva.



All female dance group Raw Diva are raising money for Blue Skye Thinking, set up in memory of Skye Hall



2. HEADLINES

FirstNews ■ ISSUE 451 ■ 6 - 12 FEBRUARY 2015



American football touches down in UK

The Super Bowl is among the most-watched sporting events in the world. The 2015 Super Bowl on Sunday, between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks, was watched by 114.4 million viewers per minute, becoming the most-watched event in American TV history

PLANS have been announced for six American football teams to join up with six London schools to grow the popularity of the sport here in the UK.

by Ben Pulsford

American football is very different to English football, and more like rugby. It is an incredibly popular sport in the US and has a huge following, but it seems now the American NFL (National Football League) wants to create as large a following for the sport here in the UK.

Six major American football teams are partnering with six London schools to start encouraging young people here in Britain to play the sport.

This news came ahead of Sunday's Super Bowl in Phoenix, America, the biggest annual tournament in American football. The New England Patriots beat the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 in front of a packed stadium of 70,000 fans and another 114 million people across the world, who

watched the game on TV or on the internet.

The popularity of American football here in Britain continues to grow more and more.

Just last season, three major NFL matches were played at London's Wembley Stadium and another three are set to take place later this year.

It's no secret that we're a nation of footie fans, but are we ready to welcome another type of football onto the pitch? You tell us.

Would you like to play American football at school? Head to firstnews.co.uk to vote in our Poll of the Week.



NEWS IN BRIEF

■ Three-year-old's mission to break record

Three-year-old Jesse is asking the UK to get behind his world record looming attempt in memory of his brother.



Jesse's older brother, Skye, died from cancer treatment last year. Skye's final wish was to break the world record for the longest loom band - and Jesse is determined to make it happen! See firstnews.co.uk for more info.

■ Songwriters wanted



Singer Tom Odell joins this year's judging panel recording studio. Singer Tom Odell and our very own Nicky Cox are among those on this year's judging panel. Head to songacademy.co.uk for more info.

This year's Song Academy Young Songwriter Competition is now open for entries from across the UK and Ireland. Winners will have their single recorded at a professional London recording studio. Singer Tom Odell and our very own Nicky Cox are among those on this year's judging panel. Head to songacademy.co.uk for more info.

■ We asked you - do you ever worry about climate change? You said...

YES! Last week's poll results are in and a lot of you (69%) said that you were worried about climate change. Almost 3,000 of you voted in this poll.

Magna Cartas together

THE four surviving copies of the Magna Carta, one of the most important documents in history, were brought together for the first time this week.

The documents were in the same room to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta in June this year. Following a public ballot, 1,125 people got the chance to see them on display at the British Library in London from 2-4 February.

The Magna Carta, which means 'great charter', was written in Latin and authorised by King John of England in Runnymede, Surrey, in June 1215. The document stated that everyone was subject to the law, including the king.

King John had been using his powers harshly and agreed to the Magna Carta in order to keep the peace with a group of rebel barons. This is considered to be the beginnings of Parliament and the voting system we have today.

It is thought that around 250 copies of the document were originally made and sent to officials all over the country. The Magna Carta was re-drafted over the years, but only four copies of the 1215 version survive to this day. Following the display, the Magna Carta was taken to the House of Lords, before being returned to their usual homes. Two are housed in the British Library, one in Salisbury Cathedral and the other in Lincoln Cathedral.

An original copy of the Magna Carta on display in New York City



An illustration showing King John signing the Magna Carta



PM sums up



ALL primary school children will have to learn times tables, up to 12, before they begin secondary school.

They must be able to read a novel and write a short story, too.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, said he would be declaring war on schools that don't do well enough, if he wins the General Election in May and keeps his job. He is hoping to lead the Government for another five years after the nation votes in the polls.

The Prime Minister said new leaders could be moved in to replace head teachers in schools that could do better.

At the moment, around a quarter of secondary schools and 16% of primary schools are rated as needing improvement.

He said: "Our aim is this: the best start in life for every child, wherever they're from - no excuses."

Teaching groups and head teachers have reacted angrily to suggestions that primary schools could be failed or heads replaced if a single pupil fails to pass a times table test.



Dover Express



Temple Ewell pupils' Loom to the Moon

By [Dover Express](#) | Posted: February 08, 2015



B-LOOMING SUCCESS: Temple Ewell pupils with their loom bands

A PRIMARY school in Dover have raised £50 for charity by taking part in a world record attempt.

Temple Ewell Church of England Primary was supporting the Blue Skye Thinking's effort after hearing about five-year-old Skye Hall.

Skye, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications during treatment for an aggressive brain tumour but wanted to raise money to "help doctors make other children better".

Before he died, he launched a Loom to the Moon fundraising campaign to break the world record for the longest loom band.

Temple Ewell head teacher Angela Matthews said: "We were very proud of all the pupils for their effort and they really enjoyed themselves too.

"The school council selects different charities to support each year and this year they were particularly touched by Skye's story."

Children at Temple Ewell were asked to pay £1 each and collectively raised £50.

The winning loom band was 38 metres long and was made by a group of Year Five girls. The total loom created was 145 metres.

7 February 2015



Banding together in attempt to set new world loom record



ye's brother Jesse, three, and mascot on a 'Loom to the Moon' road trip



A CAMPAIGN to build the world's longest loom band in memory of a five-year-old boy is hitting the road.

Skye Hall from Abingdon died in August after battling a brain tumour for a year.

His parents Andrew and Sally and younger brother Jesse, three, launched the Loom to the Moon campaign to raise money for the charity named in his memory – Blue Sky Thinking.

They will travel from Aberdeen in Scotland back to Oxford's [John Radcliffe Hospital](#) via 12 other cities.

The first leg of the journey will be during half term, from February 16 to February 20.

As well as going around children's cancer wards, the family will be visiting city centres to raise awareness.

Mrs Hall, 36, said: "We will fly to Aberdeen and work our way back down the country, visiting all the paediatric oncology hospitals and their city centres on our way back to Oxford.

"Zoom, the looming raccoon mascot, will be handing out free packets of loom bands and inviting children to join Skye and Jesse in making the world's longest loom chain."



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Oxford Mail cont...

The Loom to the Moon campaign has more than 14,500 'likes' on Facebook and the family has already received more than 15km of loom bands.

Originally due to finish in December, the scheme has now been extended to Easter due to popular demand.

Teen accessory shop Claire's has donated thousands of loom bands for the tour. But the family are still looking for people to donate gifts to hand out on the wards, cheap accommodation and car hire.

Mrs Hall said: "We don't want children in oncology wards to be left out of the world record.

"We know first-hand how boring it can be spending days in hospital so we wanted to take them an activity to pass some of the time. We also realised how much fun children from Oxfordshire have been having looming for Skye's mission. We believe that loomers countrywide will join us if we can just spread the word."

Mrs Hall added: "We're funding this out of our own pockets. If any readers have any unwanted toys from Christmas we would be grateful for them to take to the wards."

While Skye had cancer, he died from radio-chemo neurotoxicity, where healthy cells in his brain and spinal cord were damaged by the traditional treatments of radiation therapy and chemotherapy. Blue Skye Thinking funds research into alternative treatments to child cancers.

The charity now has £93,000 but wants to raise £120,000 by May to fund its own science researcher.

Mrs Hall said: "Every penny counts. We currently still need £25,000 to get our researcher in place so we are hoping that we get some generous donations between now and May."

There is currently no existing record for a team-built loom band but any attempt would have to beat the current individual record length is 753.39 metres.

- To donate, text LOOM66 £2 to 70070 or visit justgiving.com/skye-hall. For more information visit facebook.com/loomtothemoon

7 February 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser

Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser

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Leatherhead teacher to run 35-mile marathon in South Africa for kids' cancer charity

By Leatherhead Advertiser | Posted: February 09, 2015



MARATHON MAN: Leatherhead resident Nick Smith who will run 35 miles in South Africa for charity Blue Skye Thinking in April

A TEACHER from Leatherhead is to run a 35-mile ultra-marathon in South Africa for a children's cancer charity.

Nick Smith, director of music at St John's School, is taking on the Two Oceans Marathon near Cape Town on April 4 on behalf of Blue Skye Thinking.

The organisation was founded by his former colleague Andrew Hall and his wife Sally in response to the death of their five-year-old son Skye last August from an aggressive and cancerous medulloblastoma brain tumour.

The 46-year-old said: "I have known Andy for over 20 years when we initially both started our careers at Glenalmond College in Perthshire. However, I lost contact with him after moving south ten years ago.

"Recently a new colleague who had worked with him in Abingdon School mentioned the charity and what he and Sally had tragically gone through with Skye.

"Having three children myself, I felt I needed to show my support and chose the Two Oceans challenge as a way of doing just that.

"I haven't set a limit as I want to raise as much as possible, but it would be great to raise £1,000."

Blue Skye Thinking aims to raise money to enable the world's best researchers to improve the survival chances and post-treatment quality of life of the 350 UK children diagnosed with brain tumours each year.

Mr Hall said: "It was great to hear from Nick after all this time and we really appreciate the effort he is going through to support the charity.

"New and better treatments are being found through research every day so we rely on friends, family and members of the public to help us raise much-needed funds to ensure that future children are given a better chance of survival.

"So far we have raised £87,000 but need to hit £120,000 to get a researcher in place."

To support Mr Smith's challenge, visit www.justgiving.com/schmidtnicky

9 February 2015



Worcester girls help fulfil young boy's dying wish by weaving loom bands



Ruby Thomas and Amelia-Jayne Thomas having helped create loom bands to honour Skye Hall's dying wish. Picture by Naomi Thomas.



THE people of Worcester are being asked to help fulfil a young boy's dying wish this half-term holiday.

Five year old Skye Hall, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.



Before Skye died he launched a 'Loom to the Moon' fundraising campaign to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest loom band.

Skye didn't live to see his wish fulfilled but his little brother Jesse, aged three, is determined to continue his mission and finish this record-breaking attempt with the help of children and adults from across the UK.

Sisters Amelia-Jayne Thomas, aged eight, and Ruby Thomas, aged six, from Worcester created a 5.7m loom for the cause. They said: "We heard about Loom to the moon when Mummy showed us a picture of Skye on [Facebook](#). We wanted to help Skye and we are very good at looming. We were all sad when Skye died, and so we were very glad he received our loom."

Skye's family will be at Birmingham Children's Hospital on February 20 to spread the word and collect bands.

To find out more or to donate visit www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon.



Harrogate Advertiser

Harrogate Advertiser

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Bid to set new loom band record

People are being urged to help fulfil a young boy's last wish by supporting an attempt to make the world's longest loom [band](#).

Skye Hall, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.

The five-year-old launched the Loom To The Moon fundraising campaign just before he died in a bid to break the Guinness World Record for the longest loom band.

Skye did not live to see his wish fulfilled but his three-year-old brother Jesse hopes to complete the record bid with the help of children and adults from across the UK.

Updated on the
12 February 2015 12:39
Published 12/02/2015 11:40

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G+1 0
Share 0
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The record attempt is backed by Britain's Got More Talent presenter Stephen Mulhern. He is the patron of Blue Skye Thinking, which was set up in memory of Skye and aims to raise money for research into brain tumours.

He said: "I am urging everyone to support Jesse in his attempt to create the world's longest loom [band](#) and fulfil his brother's wish this February half-term.

"We are still seeking all loomers out there to join in this incredible challenge and would mean so much to the family who are doing such great work in raising funds and awareness for childhood brain tumours."

Skye's family will go on a road trip across the UK between February 16 and 20 and will be stopping at hospitals and shopping centres in Aberdeen, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham to spread the word.

His mother Sally, 36, said: " People across the UK have already been very generous in showing their support, our 'Looming army' is currently more than 1,300 people. Between us we have reached a distance of 25,693m of looms but need to keep looming as new attempts are coming in all the time, so we want to be able to hold the record for as long as possible.

"Loom To The Moon is coming to an end this May so this road trip really is the final push for us to make our little boy's last wish come true. We would love as many people as possible to join us in creating loom bands and learning more about the charity's work in the process."

For more information on the family's road trip and the record attempt visit www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon/



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Bid to set new loomband record

People are being urged to help fulfil a young boy's last wish by supporting an attempt to make the world's longest loom [band](#).

Skye Hall, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.

The five-year-old launched the Loom To The Moon fundraising campaign just before he died in a bid to break the Guinness World Record for the longest loom band.

Skye did not live to see his wish fulfilled but his three-year-old brother Jesse hopes to complete the record bid with the help of children and adults from across the UK.

The record attempt is backed by Britain's Got More Talent presenter Stephen Mulhern. He is the patron of Blue Skye Thinking, which was set up in memory of Skye and aims to raise money for research into brain tumours.

He said: "I am urging everyone to support Jesse in his attempt to create the world's longest loom [band](#) and fulfil his brother's wish this February half-term.

Updated on the
13 February
2015
09:32
Published 12/02/2015 11:40

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"We are still seeking all loomers out there to join in this incredible challenge and would mean so much to the family who are doing such great work in raising funds and awareness for childhood brain tumours."

Skye's family will go on a road trip across the UK between February 16 and 20 and will be stopping at hospitals and shopping centres in Aberdeen, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham to spread the word.

His mother Sally, 36, said: " People across the UK have already been very generous in showing their support, our 'Looming army' is currently more than 1,300 people. Between us we have reached a distance of 25,693m of looms but need to keep looming as new attempts are coming in all the time, so we want to be able to hold the record for as long as possible.

"Loom To The Moon is coming to an end this May so this road trip really is the final push for us to make our little boy's last wish come true. We would love as many people as possible to join us in creating loom bands and learning more about the charity's work in the process."

For more information on the family's road trip and the record attempt visit www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon/



day, February 13, 2015 **METRO** 37

IN BRIEF

Band together to break loom record

PEOPLE are being urged to help fulfil a young boy's last wish by making the world's longest loom band.

Skye Hall, who died last year after complications from his treatment for a brain tumour, wanted to break the Guinness World Record. The five-year-old, from Oxford, did not live to see his wish come true, but his brother Jesse, three, hopes to complete the bid in aid of Blue Skye Thinking, a charity set up in memory of Skye to raise money for research into brain tumours.



St Albans and Harpenden Review

Review ST ALBANS & HARPENDEN

NEWS

St Albans mother urging everyone to get looming to fulfil young boy's dying wish



St Albans mother urging everyone to get looming to fulfil young boy's dying wish

A mother from St Albans is urging everyone to get looming in a world record attempt to fulfil a young boy's dying wish.

Five-year-old Skye Hall died in August last year from complications of his treatment for medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.

Before Skye died he launched a 'Loom to the Moon' fundraising campaign to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest loom band - inspired by his favourite past time whilst sitting in the Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber for hours each week, looming.

Sadly, Skye didn't live to see his wish fulfilled but his little brother Jesse, aged three, is determined to continue his mission and finish this record-breaking attempt with the help of children and adults from across the UK.

More than 350 children a year in the UK alone, face the devastating news that they have a brain tumour but less than one per cent of cancer funding goes towards research into brain tumours, the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers.

Jo Dowding, 43, from Gresford Close, said: "I read about Loom to the Moon and I thought, like many mums, was how quickly Skye's life had changed and how much we all take each other and our health for granted.

"No one has any idea of what is round the corner and when I first read about his prognosis and treatment, I immediately felt compelled to help. It could be me."

11 February 2015



St Albans and Harpenden Review cont...

The mother-of-two added: "Loom bands had hit our house big time, so what better way to help, using the current craze to help a kid in need.

"We talked a lot about Skye, looked at all the photos of him in hospital and how he was dealing with his life, and decided that we would help. We were devastated to hear about Skye's death."



Charlie and Ruby Dowding loom for Skye

Skye's family will be taking a road trip this UK stopping at different cities to spread the word.



Skye's family will be taking a road trip this UK stopping at different cities to spread the word.

Skye's mum, Sally, 36, said: "From the moment that Skye was diagnosed, we were told never to give up hope, as new and better treatments were being found through research every day.

We now understand though, that this lifesaving research is funded primarily from public donations in response to appeals like ours.

"The people of Hertfordshire have already been very generous in showing their support with 'loomers' from across the region taking part in the campaign.

"Between us we have reached a distance of 25,693m of looms but we need to keep looming as new attempts are coming in all the time, so we want to be able to hold the record for as long as possible.

"Loom to the Moon is coming to an end this May so this road trip really is the final push for us to make our little boy's last wish come true."

To take part, [click here](#).

11 February 2015



Help make boy's dying wish come true

RESIDENTS of Nottingham have been asked to help fulfil a five-year-old boy's dying wish by joining in a world record looming attempt.

The parents of Skye Hall will stop in Old Market Square next Friday during a road trip to create the longest loom band recognised by Guinness World Records.

After Skye, of Abingdon, in Oxfordshire, died last August, his family set up the Blue Skye Thinking charity, which supports research and treatment of childhood brain tumours, and the Loom To The Moon appeal to continue his "bucket list" world record attempt.

They have already reached a distance of more than 15,000

metres of looms. Skye's mum, Sally Hall, said: "Loom To The Moon is coming to an end this May, so this road trip really is the final push for us to make our little boy's last wish come true."

Each year, 24 children in Nottingham are diagnosed with a brain tumour, according to the charity.



£39k for charity

A SPONSORED walk by pupils and staff from Abingdon School has raised £39,800 to be shared between three charities.

The walk along the Thames Path in September raised money for Blue Skye Thinking, Emmaus Oxford and Christian charity AGAPE.

The whole school, 964 students and 80 members of staff, took part in the fundraiser in September with the Middle and Lower School starting at Days Lock near Dorchester to walk 10 miles back to school. Sixth formers walked 14 miles from Benson.

Blue Skye Thinking has been set up in memory of Skye Hall, five, from Abingdon, who died last year from a brain tumour.

Emmaus Oxford works to help to get homeless people on the path to independence and offers accommodation and work for those at risk of becoming homeless. Emmaus Oxford development manager Wyon Stansfield thanked the school for its "outstanding" contribution, which he said would make a significant difference to the charity's work. He said: "Every £1 received by Emmaus is worth £11 in savings to the healthcare system, a reduction in crime reoffending and savings to the benefits bill."

Teacher Victoria Pradas, who co-ordinated the event, said the boys chose Emmaus Oxford after hearing about the charity's work from former pupil Robbie Brough who walked from Land's End to John O'Groats for the charity.



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Isle of Man News - POSTED 26 minutes ago

2nd Castletown Brownies help towards b-looming lovely world record

by MT



Brownies on the Isle of Man have been taking part in a world record to make the longest loom band for charity.

The 22 brownies from Castletown took part in Skye Hall's 'Loom to the Moon' fund-raising campaign, part of the Blue Sky Thinking charity, which was set up to raise money and awareness for Brain Tumour Research.

Five year old Skye Hall, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for an aggressive brain tumour but wanted to raise money to "help doctors make other children better".

Before Skye died, he launched a 'Loom to the Moon' fundraising campaign to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest loom band. This idea was inspired by his favourite past time whilst sitting in the Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber (which mimicked a space ship) for hours each week, looming.

The group of 22 from the Isle of Man have been helping the charity and worked together to make a loom band which measures just over 40 metres. They also sent a £15 donation.

Stephanie Harper, is the Brownie Leader, she said: "I read about the campaign on Facebook and thought it was a lovely idea and also something my Brownies would enjoy taking part in so we held a looming event. Each girl made their own loom and the challenge was to see how far across the hall we could stretch them when they were all linked together. The end result was three times the length of the hall! All the girls who took part in this challenge really enjoyed themselves. It was a brilliant idea for a great cause."

The band was sent to Blue Sky Thinking and it will be joined to Skye's master loom band which currently measures more than 25,600m

More than 350 children a year in the UK alone, face the devastating news that they have a brain tumour but less than one per cent of cancer funding goes towards research into brain tumours, the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers. All money raised from 'Loom to the Moon' will go towards the charity's goal of getting as much money as possible into the hands of the world's best researchers, so that all children diagnosed with brain tumours will have a better chance of survival and a better quality of life post-treatment.

Sally Hall, founder of Blue Sky Thinking and mum to Skye said: "This is a brilliant effort from the 2nd Castletown Brownies, well done. There are a few months left before the end of the campaign this May so there is still time for more groups to get involved and undertake this fun activity in memory of our little boy."

Anyone wanting to get involved can get their free Loom to the Moon Groups Packs by emailing contact@blueskyethinking.org.

Packs include:

1. Short child friendly video to introduce the mission
2. Posters
3. Free Loom Bands
4. Sponsorship Forms
5. Certificate Poster

For more information about the campaign please visit <http://www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon/>

Photo - Skye Hall.

16 February 2015



2

Nottinghamshire **FOCUS**

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IF YOU'VE GOT A STORY

editorial@nottsinfocus.co.uk

Wollaton Robbery

Detectives are appealing for information after two men threatened residents in their Wollaton home on Wednesday 11 February before stealing their valuables. Nottinghamshire Police were called just after 8.05pm to an address in Ringwood Crescent after the masked men entered the kitchen of the house and threatened the two male occupants, aged in their twenties. The occupants were left shaken but otherwise uninjured following the burglary during which two laptops, a wallet, jewellery and two mobile phones – an iPhone 5S and a Nexus – were stolen. Police are now appealing for anyone with information to come forward. Detective Sergeant Pete Hammond from Nottinghamshire Police said: "This was a particularly violent incident where two men have been threatened in their own home, before hundreds of pounds of their belongings were stolen. We need anyone who was in the Wollaton area and who may have noticed anything suspicious to come forward that could help us to identify those responsible."

Loom To The Moon

The people of Nottingham are being asked to help fulfill a young boy's dying wish this half term holiday by joining in his world record looming attempt.

Five year old Skye Hall, from Oxford, died in August last year from complications of his treatment for medulloblastoma, an aggressive and

each week, looming.

Sadly, Skye didn't live to see his wish fulfilled but his little brother Jesse, aged 3, is determined to continue his mission and finish this record-breaking attempt with the help of children and adults from across the UK. Skye's family will be taking a road trip across the UK this February and will be stopping at Old Market Square on Friday 20th February to spread the word and hopefully get local people to take part and donate to the charity. Skye's mum, Sally, 36, said:

"Even after Skye's death, Jesse is still receiving parcels of completed loom bands to add to Skye's super loom. It's so wonderful to know that he touched so many. People across the UK have already been very generous in showing their support, our 'Looming army' is currently more than 1,300 people.

Between us we have reached a distance of 25,693m of looms but need to keep looming as new attempts are coming in all the time, so we want to be able to hold the record for as long as possible. Loom to the Moon is coming to an end this May so this road trip really is the final push for us to make our little boy's last wish

come true. We would love as many people as possible to join us in creating loom bands and learning more about the charity's work in the process." More than 350 children a year in the UK alone, face the devastating news that they have a brain tumour but less than one per cent of cancer funding goes towards research into brain tumours, the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers. In Nottingham there are 24 children diagnosed each year with a brain tumour.



A day out by Steam Train to Chester

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West



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

BBC Radio Newcastle

BBC
NEWCASTLE



Interview with Sally on BBC
Radio Newcastle re Loom
to Moon roadtrip

18 February 2015



Loom to the Moon in memory of Skye

By [Nottingham Post](#) | Posted: February 21, 2015

By Jonathan Ashby



Zoom the Looming Racoon pictured with Sally Hall and her son Jesse, 3. Wrapped in loom bands, far left, is Shay Swaby, 6, from Aspley, who is supporting an awareness campaign in memory of Skye Hall, inset.

THE family of a five-year-old boy who died while battling a brain tumour have been taking his favourite hobby around the country to raise awareness of his illness.

The Loom to the Moon campaign rolled into Nottingham, raising awareness for Blue Skye Thinking – a charity supporting better research into brain tumour treatment.

Skye Hall died in August last year but, throughout his treatment, he kept his spirits up by making loom bands.

His brother and parents have now taken on Skye's challenge of creating the world's largest loom band in his memory, alongside fundraising to pay for a full-time researcher into better treatment methods for brain tumours.



Nottingham Post continued...

Sally Hall, 36, says her son's fighting spirit is driving her on.

"On the day he died, he recorded a message for all his looming fans, telling them to always remember to make the most of what you've got," she said.

"That was one of the last things he said. I find it very difficult to get through each day but I still remember those words. If he could have that wisdom, then I've got to carry on and fight for these kids."

So far, Sally – helped by husband Andrew and son Jesse – has received more than 25,000 metres of loom and raised £95,000.

They have their heart set on a £120,000 target by May, so that they can fund a researcher in time for September.

"Jesse's only three but he's taken on board the responsibility of doing this," said Sally. "We've been travelling around the country and today we're in Nottingham spreading the word. I can't believe how vibrant it is.

As soon as Zoom the Looming Raccoon arrived, there was an entire flock of kids coming to check out the loom bands."

The Halls, from Abingdon, in Oxfordshire, spent the morning at Queen's Medical Centre, entertaining children and handing out gifts, before heading to Old Market Square to raise awareness.

Andrew said that Zoom had been a big hit with the kids. "The outfit is all part of the cause," said the PE teacher.

"We've been on the wards this week and just seeing the children's faces when they see Zoom is a picture to behold.

"If we can bring a little bit of joy to children's faces, then it's all worthwhile."

The Loom to the Moon campaign was born out of Skye's treatment. Sally said: "Part of trying to combat the side-effects was having hypobaric oxygen treatment, where he was in an oxygen chamber that looked like a spaceship.

"We always used to tease him that he was going to go up to the moon in the spaceship, and to pass the time in there he would loom. So he said 'I'm going to loom to the moon!'"

To donate, visit Skye Hall's Just Giving page at justgiving.com/skye-hall.

21 February 2015



Littlehampton Gazette

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Charity flying high over new tie-up

A partnership with a children's cancer charity is already off to a flying start after a London Underground collection raised £1,888.

The University of London Air Squadron (Ulas), made up of more than 90 RAF volunteer reserves, has chosen Blue Sky Thinking as its charity of the year.

The charity was set up by Andrew and Sally Hall in response to their son, Skye, being diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a cancerous brain tumour. In August 2014, Skye died at home aged five.

The first fundraising activity by the squadron took place over three days at Earl's Court, Marylebone and Blackfriars Underground stations, with 15 Ulas personnel volunteering their time for a few hours each day to collect for the charity.

Alex Allsebrook, 19, from Kent, who is second in charge of charities for Ulas, said: "As part of our duties we raise money for one or two charities a year voted for by the squadron.


"This year we chose to raise money for Blue Sky Thinking as we were all very moved by the cause and what Sally and her family have been through over the last year.

Updated on the
24 February
2015
13:41

Published 23/02/2015 15:16

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"We aimed to raise over £1,000 over the three days but the total was nearly double this, which we were incredibly happy with.

"The response from the public and their attitude and generosity towards such a good cause was staggering and hopefully this will set the precedent for our future fundraising activities for the charity."

The Ulas team has a number of activities coming up this year which include a charity bag-packing at Sainsbury's in Cromwell Road, London, in April, a wing walk, a coast-to-coast bike ride, collections at RAF air shows and some of the team will also be taking part in the Tough Mudder event in May and the Burghley Rat Race.

Sally Hall said: "What a fantastic amount raised by the team at the collection, thank you to everyone for giving up their precious time.

"I am sure that the partnership will be a huge asset to the charity in helping us reach our fundraising goals and fund our research."



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CANCER SOCIAL CHILDREN

RAF partnership with children's charity set to take off



CHILDREN'S cancer charity, Blue Skye Thinking, has been chosen by the University of London Air Squadron (ULAS) to be its charity of the year and is already off to a flying start with a London Underground collection at Christmas raising £1,888.

The charity was set up by Andrew and Sally Hall in response to their four-year-old son Skye being diagnosed with medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour. Sadly on 29 August 2014, Skye died peacefully at home aged just five years old.

The first fundraising activity by the squadron took place over three days in December at Earl's Court, Marylebone and Blackfriars Underground stations. 15 ULAS personnel volunteered their time for a few hours each day to collect for the charity.

Alex Allsebrook, 19, from Kent is second in charge of charities for ULAS. He said: " We are a squadron of over ninety RAF Volunteer Reserves pooled from London universities. As part of our squadron duties we raise money for one or two charities a year voted for by the Squadron. This year we chose to raise money for Blue Skye Thinking as we were all very moved by the cause and what Sally and her family have been through over the last year.

"We aimed to raise over £1,000 over the three days but total was nearly double this which we were incredibly happy with. The response from the public and their attitude and generosity towards such a good cause was staggering and hopefully this will set the precedent for our future fundraising activities for the charity."

24 February 2015



Charity Today cont..

Blue Skye Thinking's goal is to get as much money as possible into the hands of the world's best researchers, so that all children diagnosed with brain tumours will have a better chance of survival and a better quality of life post-treatment. More than 350 children a year in the UK alone, face the devastating news that they have a brain tumour but less than one per cent of cancer funding goes towards research into brain tumours, the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers.

The ULAS team have a number of further activities coming up this year which include a charity bag packing at Sainsbury's Cromwell Road in April, a wing walk, a coast to coast bike ride, collections at the RAF air shows and some of the team will also be taking part in the Tough Mudder in May and the the Burghley Rat Race.

Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking and mum of Skye said: "What a fantastic amount raised by the team at the collection, thank you to everyone for giving up their precious time just before Christmas. I am sure that the partnership will be a huge asset to the charity in helping us reach our fundraising goals and fund our researcher."



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Updated on the
24 February 2015
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"I am sure that the partnership will be a huge asset to the charity in helping us reach our fundraising goals and fund our research."



JOAN LOWREY with her loom bands. 190215DD1-5

Record attempt aims for the moon

A WOMAN is urging people to take part in a Guinness World Record attempt to help make the longest loom band in memory of a boy who died from a brain tumour.

Joan Lowrey, 53, of Balderton, started making loom bands because she found it therapeutic.

She made her first loom band chain, measuring 13 metres, in October last year. She then spent three weeks making a 22.5-metre chain using about 7,000 loom bands.

"I was fed up of making normal bands so I started making a loom chain for the charity and it is for a brilliant cause," said Joan.

Loom To The Moon was set up by five-year-old Skye Hall, of Oxford, who died last year.

Skye wanted to raise money to help children suffering from brain tumours by breaking the

Guinness World Record for the longest loom band.

The world record for a loom band chain is 30,500 metres, which was made by school children from California.

Skye did not live to see his wish fulfilled but the charity has pledged to carry on with his campaign.

"When I started making the loom bands for Skye I didn't realise it was for a world record attempt," said Joan.

"I have used just over 1,000 bands to make my third chain and will keep adding to it until I run out."

Once the chains are complete, Joan sends them to the charity.

Money raised from Loom To The Moon goes towards research into brain tumours.

To take part visit www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon