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BLUE SKYE THINKING COVERAGE

May 2015



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Pupils add to loom band record bid



updated

16:32 Wednesday 29 April 2015

published

18:14 Tuesday 28 April 2015

Primary school pupils have taken part in a charity's record attempt to make the world's longest loom band.

The Loom To The Moon fundraising campaign was started by five-year-old brain tumour patient Skye Hall, from Oxford, shortly before his death in August last year.

Skye did not live to see his wish fulfilled but his younger brother Jesse carried on his work. He launched an appeal on behalf of the Blue Skye Thinking charity, which was set up by his parents in memory of Skye, to complete the record bid with the help of children and adults from across the UK.

Llandybie Primary School in Carmarthenshire, Wales, has now spent an afternoon creating a 311-metre-long loom, adding to the band's overall length which currently reaches a distance of 25,693m.

Parent Lisa Bryan, 36, who came up with the idea of supporting the charity, said: "I was truly touched by the tragedy this young family was going through. Losing a child is not something I could contemplate in my worst nightmare and the overall love and commitment not only shown by Skye's parents but also his younger brother Jesse to fulfil a promise was heartbreaking - and I wanted to help.

"I approached my own children's primary school and in particular the head master, Mr James, to see if he would allow the children to take part in a loom band chain. He not only agreed but suggested a 'loom day' in school where some of the children took part in creating their own sections and joining them together. Everyone had a wonderful day."

Lee James, head of Llandybie Primary School, added: "Each year the school chooses various good causes to both support and to make the children aware of the need that some people need help and this year when Mrs Bryan came to me I was particularly touched by Skye's story. The day was a great success and the children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and most importantly were very aware of why we were trying to help."

Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking and mother to Skye, said: "Well done to everyone who took part. What a brilliant effort the pupils have made and a great addition to our master loom.

"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."


For more information on the record attempt, visit www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon.

28 April 2015



Families

location



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Grace's Heroes light up in her memory

A team of young people from Berkshire took part in the 2015 Glow in the Park run, on Saturday 25 April at Dorney Lake, Windsor, in memory of a young girl who died from treatment related complications for a brain tumour.

By Assistant TVE 29/04/2015 3:53 pm
Published by: Families Thames Valley East

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Grace's Heroes

Grace Duggan was just eight years old when she died unexpectedly from treatment side effects last December having been cured from a medullablastoma brain tumour, diagnosed in May 2013.

Her best friend Phoebe Stokes, age 8, her brother, Jack, 11, and close friends, ran the 5km glow course at night with glow sticks and hi-viz wear. The aptly named 'Grace's Heroes' chose the event because it's lots of fun and Grace would have loved it.

Phoebe's sister, Imogen, 12, and their mum Anne ran along side her and were also joined by Grace's godmother Karen Clark, her two daughters Yasmin, 11 and Katie 7, Esmee Allan, 12, her mum, Claire and Carys and Grace Allan, twins aged 7, who are from Maidenhead and the surround area.

Phoebe's mum, Anne, who works for British Airways said: *"Whenever Grace was home after spending weeks in hospital undergoing treatment, Phoebe and I would spend time with her. The girls would draw and paint and spend hours with their heads in colouring books. They became very close and loved their time together. Phoebe took care of Grace at school and would help her with her lunch and sat with her at break times. Phoebe adored Grace and I think the feeling was mutual.*

"When Grace sadly passed away, it left us all devastated and we wanted to do something in her memory. Grace's mum Shelley named Blue Skye Thinking as one of the charities that she wanted funeral donations sent to. I read the website and Skye's story and it reminded me very much of Grace. It felt very personal and I knew this was the charity I wanted to help. Phoebe and I talked about what we could do to help other children like Grace. My friend, Claire found this event which sounded good fun but still a challenge for someone as young as Phoebe. So we signed up and then we heard lots more of Grace's friends were running so we all decided to run together."

29 April 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Blue Skye Thinking was set up by Sally and Andrew Hall last year in response to their four-year-old son Skye being diagnosed with medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumor. Sadly on 29 August 2014, Skye died at home from treatment side effects aged just five years old.

The charity's goal is to fund some of the world's best researchers, so that all children diagnosed with brain tumors will have a better chance of survival and a better quality of life post-treatment.

Before the race Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking and mum of Skye said: *"Skye and Grace were friends on the ward as they were a similar age and like Skye, Grace was always very concerned about the well-being of the other children on the ward. I also grew close to Shelley, Grace's mum, as she was very kind and gave me a very practical talk about what was to be expected and needed for high dose chemotherapy as Grace was about one month ahead of Skye in terms of treatment. This kind of mother to mother chat is so very important when you don't know what lies ahead for your family and are constantly scared and thinking the worse.*

"Skye and Grace met up again at a wonderful holiday hospice called Bluebells and although the side effects of the treatment had started to take serious toll on Skye, Grace was doing really well and it was encouraging to see. You become a tight knit community of the ward and we all care deeply what happens to each other's children so when I heard Grace too had passed away just before Christmas having beaten the cancer, you can imagine how devastated I was for the family. We had lost Skye in August then just a few months later Grace was taken too - it was just heartbreaking to lose another child so young. I know how much taking part in this race means to the Duggan family and Grace's friends and hopefully together we can raise enough money for research so other families are spared what we both are now going through."

Families cont...

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 the money raised will go into much needed research into new treatments for childhood cancer.

The team managed to raise a massive £9406 for Blue Skye Thinking!

Claire Allen commented *"It was an amazing evening and really fun. Everyone was literally glowing at the end of the event and that glow has remained because we raised £9406 for Blue Skye Thinking in memory of Grace."*

Can you help Grace's Heroes get to £10,000? Visit
www.justgiving.com/Graces-hero

29 April 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

BBC South


BBC
SOUTH TODAY





Interview with Andrew and Sally re reaching the £120k target

29 April 2015





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Addysg	Arian a Busnes	Gwleidyddiaeth	Iechyd	Rhyfeddodau	Gwasanaethau Brys	Cefn Gwlad	Gwyddoniaeth	

Ysgol Gymraeg yn rhan o ymdrech i dorri record byd

Ebrill 29, 2015 11:24

Bu ysgol gynradd yn Sir Gaerfyrddin yn treulio'r diwrnod yn creu cadwyn 311metr o fandiau rwbwr *loom bands*, fel rhan o ymgyrch i dorri record byd a chefnogi elusen ganser.

Cafodd ymgyrch *Loom To The Moon* ei hysbrydoli gan y bachgen pum mlwydd oed, Skye Hall, o Rydychen, cyn iddo farw o diwmor ar yr ymennydd ym mis Awst y llynedd.

Y bwriad yw creu'r gadwen *loom bands* fwyaf yn y byd gyda chymorth gan blant a phobol ledled Prydain a chodi pres ar gyfer elusen Blue Skye Thinking.

Fe wnaeth disgyblion Ysgol Gynradd Llandybie ger Rhydaman, Sir Gar ychwanegu at y gadwyn, sydd bellach yn mesur 25,693m.



Plant Ysgol Llandybie gyda'r gadwen 'loom bands'

Codi ymwybyddiaeth

"Bob blwyddyn, mae'r ysgol yn dewis sawl achos da i gefnogi, ac i wneud y plant yn ymwybodol bod rhai plant mewn angen," meddai pennaeth yr ysgol Lee James.

"Roedd y diwrnod yn llwyddiant mawr ac fe wnaeth y plant fwynhau mas draw. Ar ben hynny, roeddem ni'n ymwybodol iawn o pam ein bod ni'n rhan o'r ymgyrch."

Bydd yr ymgyrch yn dod i ben ym mis Mai.

Straeon Diweddaraf

75 yn trio am swyddi hefo Bryn Williams

Cyhoeddi enw dyn fu farw mewn damwain car

Carcharu pennaeth ysgol am ddwyn

Cyhoeddi perfformwyr Gŵyl Gomed Machynlleth

Carchar am oes i ddyn am lofruddio ei wyres



The Herald

THE HERALD

ABINGDON DIDCOT WALLINGFORD WANTAGE & GROVE

Video: Woman inspired by tragic Skye Hall to run 500 miles in his memory



Andrew, Sally, Skye and Jesse Hall in the hot tub installed in their garden the day before he died

THE woman who helped fulfil one of five-year-old Skye Hall's dying wishes is running 500 miles in his memory.

Lisa Ruggles, from Fringford near Bicester, is running 100 miles for each year of Skye's short life after he died following his battle a brain tumour.

Before Skye died in August last year his final request was to go swimming.

Too ill to go to a traditional pool, Skye's family – parents Andrew, Sally, and brother Jesse – put out an appeal in the Oxford Mail to have someone help him swim at their Abingdon home.

Along with her husband Keith, Mrs Ruggles runs the Jacuzzi hot tub retailer Ruggles Leisure and came to the family's aid by installing a hot tub in their back garden for free. The 36-year-old said: "I will never forget that day for the rest of my life.

"Skye told me how he was going to take the seal flippers we gave him to his next swimming lesson.

"Every so often he would cry out in pain because he couldn't stretch his fingers. It was heart-breaking. He did get to go in his hot tub. He seemed relaxed and even managed a smile."

Skye's mother Sally said: "Skye loved watching the process of installation nearly as much as going in it."

29 April 2015



The Herald cont...

Skye's wish was fulfilled just in time, as he died the next day at home.

Mrs Hall said: "We offered to give the hot tub back but Lisa said she couldn't do that to Jesse on top of losing his brother. We now go in and Jesse often says Skye has 'hopped down' for a dip in the tub with him."

Mrs Ruggles, who has two step-daughters and three children, said: "As a mother I honestly couldn't imagine the pain Andrew, Sally, Skye and Jesse were going through."

"When I learnt he passed away after we installed the hot tub, I couldn't stop crying."



"I was so touched by Skye's will power and words of wisdom 'make the most of what you've got' that I decided to learn how to run and put myself through this challenge."

Having never run before, she is now running 500 miles in one year to raise money for Blue Skye Thinking, the charity set up by Skye's parents to fund research into children's cancer treatments.

Having run more than 300km (approximately 186 miles), her next race will be the Blenheim Palace 7k Run on May 17.

She said: "My initial challenge was to run 500km but I am already more than halfway, so have decided to push it to 500 miles in 2015."

With a target of £500, Mrs Ruggles said the runs were challenging, but worth it.

"Anyone who knows me knows how much I hate exercise. But Skye opened my eyes to see I could do much more."

- To donate visit justgiving.com/lisa-ruggles and for information on Blue Skye Thinking visit blueskyethinking.org

29 April 2015



Oxford Mail

Oxford Mail

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Oxford Mail cont...

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29 April 2015



Bicester Advertiser

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Oxford Mail cont...

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29 April 2015



29 April 2015 at 7:53pm

Tragic loss sparks battle to beat childhood cancer



Skye Hall, who died last year. Credit: Blue Skye Thinking

The mum and dad of a young boy who died from side effects of his treatment from a cancerous brain tumour have raised £120,000 to fund a four year PhD research position at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research at Newcastle University.

Sally and Andrew Hall, from Oxfordshire, hope new research will ensure other families don't have to go through what they did.

The couple set up the charity Blue Skye Thinking last year in response to their four-year-old son Skye being diagnosed with a medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour. Skye died peacefully at home on 29th August 2014.

“At the very start, it was beyond what we thought might be possible in the first year, but it is because of the overwhelming support and determination of so many people to help us achieve the target, that it has become a reality. The majority of drugs currently used to treat children were developed for adults and have been adapted for children, which is not acceptable, and Skye's death due to treatment toxicity highlights this. Advances have been made to identify pathways at a molecular level in the hope that new treatments will eventually 'do away' with outdated chemo- and radiotherapies. The money raised by the Charity will have a very significant impact on this and we can get that one step closer to unlocking the science behind this devastating disease and one step closer to a cure.”

– SALLY HALL, SKYE'S MOTHER

“The last year has been such an emotional roller-coaster for our family from Skye's death last August to now. By reaching this first goal, something positive has emerged from such an awful situation. It is heartening that commercial organisations are getting on board and raising valuable funds for tangible outcomes.”

– ANDREW HALL, FATHER OF SKYE

“Recent years have seen major advances in our understanding of the biological mechanisms that underlie children's brain tumours; our challenges are now to translate these discoveries into new treatments. We are inspired by Skye's story and the fundraising efforts of Blue Skye Thinking, and are looking forward to beginning this new research project.”

– PROFESSOR STEVE CLIFFORD, NORTHERN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH,



Oxford Mail

NEWS

Hopes go Skye-high as Hall family's cancer charity fund hits £120k



Andrew and Sally Hall with Skye and his brother Jesse



First published Thursday 30 April 2015 in [News](#)



by [Alex Wynn](#), Reporter covering Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys. Call me on 01865 425403

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THE charity set up in memory of Skye Hall has raised enough money to pay for four years of research into childhood brain cancers.

Five-year-old Skye, from Abingdon, died last August after battling a brain tumour for a year, but passed away from radio-chemo neurotoxicity.

It meant healthy cells in his brain and spinal cord were damaged by a regime of radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

His parents, Andy and Sally, set up the charity Blue Skye Thinking to help research into alternative cancer treatments for children.

Less than a year later, they have reached their goal of £120,000, enough to fund a four-year PhD research postn at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research.

Based at Newcastle University, the researcher will work on finding new treatments for childhood brain tumours.

Mrs Hall said: "At the start, £120,000 was beyond what we thought might be possible in the first year. It is because of the overwhelming support and

determination of so many people to help us achieve the target, that it has become a reality.

"It's heartening that so many people are now choosing us as their charity to support and that commercial organisations are also getting on board and raising valuable funds for tangible outcomes."

30 April 2015



Oxford Mail cont..

Also mum to three-year-old Jesse, she said: "The majority of drugs currently used to treat children were developed for adults and have been adapted for children, which is not acceptable, and Skye's death due to treatment toxicity highlights this.

"Advances have been made to identify pathways at a molecular level in the hope that new treatments will eventually 'do away' with outdated chemo- and radiotherapies.

"Now is a crucial time for funding new research so that current findings can be converted into frontline treatment.

The money raised will have a very significant impact on this, and we can get that one step closer to unlocking the science behind this devastating disease and one step closer to a cure."

Mr Hall, head of sport at Abingdon School, said: "The last year has been such an emotional roller-coaster for our family from Skye's death last August to now. By reaching this first goal, something positive has emerged from such an awful situation.

"This is just the beginning for us, there is still such a long way to go."

Blue Skye Thinking now wants to raise £200,000 to fund a post-doctoral researcher for three years.

Mr Hall added: "In the past four months, three other children that we got to know on the ward at the [John Radcliffe Hospital](#) in Oxford have died after brain tumours.

"It reiterates the desperate need for better treatment protocols, and the way they are monitored."

The couple will now work with the institute to advertise the new research position, which will start on September 1.

Prof Steve Clifford, childhood brain tumour research team leader, said: "We are inspired by Skye's story and the fundraising efforts of Blue Skye Thinking."

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HOME » LATEST » SKYE'S CHARITY UP TO £120K TO FUND CANCER RESEARCHER



Skye's charity up to £120k to fund cancer researcher

Posted By: Loughlan Campbell on: April 30, 2015 In: Latest, Oxford No Comments

The parents of four-year-old Skye Hall, who died from side effects of his treatment from a cancerous brain tumour, have raised enough money to fund a PhD position to work on childhood brain tumours.

Sally and Andrew Hall, from Abingdon, set up Blue Skye Thinking last year in response to Skye being diagnosed with a medulloblastoma.

Medulloblastoma is an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour, which sadly ended Skye's life peacefully last year on August 29.

Over the last nine months, the charity has been working to raise money to fund a post at Newcastle University's Northern Institute for Cancer Research.

Sally said: "It was beyond what we thought might be possible to achieve this, but it is because of the overwhelming support and determination of so many people that this has become a reality.

"It is heartening that so many people are now choosing us as their charity to support."

The majority of drugs used to treat children with conditions like medulloblastoma have been adapted for children as they were developed for adults, which Sally finds 'unacceptable'.

Andrew added: "This is just the beginning, there is a long way to go.

"In the past four months, three other children we knew from the Oxford ward have died as a result of tumours or the result of the treatment.

"The last year has been such an emotional roller-coaster for our family, but by reaching this first goal, something positive has emerged from such an awful situation."

Professor Steve Clifford, of the Northern Institute, said: "We are inspired by Skye's story and the charity's fundraising efforts.

30 April 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Oxfordshire Guardian cont..

"We are looking forward to beginning this new research project."

The charity's next big goal is to raise £200,000 for a postdoctoral researcher for a full three years, which was kick-started by a recent fundraiser in Nairobi by Sally's brother, which has already raised £18,000.

Blue Skye Thinking has informed the institute that the funding is available and will be working closely with them to start the selection process of the position, which will start in September.

More than 350 UK children face the news that they have a brain tumour each year with only one per cent of cancer funding going towards research into the tumours.

Brain tumours are the number one cancer killer in children and teenagers in the UK.

For more information about the charity or to donate, go to blueskyethinking.com.

30 April 2015



The Advertiser, April 30, 2015

7

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Running in Grace's memory

MAIDENHEAD: A husband and wife running team are taking on eight half-marathons in aid of a children's cancer charity.

Gayle Bullivant, originally from Maidenhead, and her husband Paul took up the challenge in memory of eight-year-old Grace Duggan, who died in December as a result of complications following treatment for a medullablastoma brain tumour.

Gayle, a close friend of Grace's mother, started the gruelling round of races in March at the Adidas half-marathon at Silverstone to fundraise for Blue Skye Thinking, a charity that

supports research into brain tumours in children.

Over the coming months they will compete at events in Bosworth, Rugby, Kimbolton, Maidenhead and Windsor (twice), before running their final race in Peterborough in October.

Speaking about the challenge, Gayle said: "We are both keen runners and have taken part in a number of marathons and half marathons in the past but none which have meant as much to us as completing this challenge in memory of Grace for each year of her life. We have a fundraising goal of £8,000 for the charity."



Rye and Rattle Observer

RYE & BATTLE
Observer

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updated

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Parent Lisa Bryan, 36, who came up with the idea of supporting the charity, said: "I was truly touched by the tragedy this young family was going through. Losing a child is not something I could contemplate in my worst nightmare and the overall love and commitment not only shown by Skye's parents but also his younger brother Jesse to fulfil a promise was heartbreaking - and I wanted to help.

"I approached my own children's primary school and in particular the head master, Mr James, to see if he would allow the children to take part in a loom band chain. He not only agreed but suggested a 'loom day' in school where some of the children took part in creating their own sections and joining them together. Everyone had a wonderful day."

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Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking and mother to Skye, said: "Well done to everyone who took part. What a brilliant effort the pupils have made and a great addition to our master loom.

"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."

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Matlock Mercury

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For more information on the record attempt, visit www.blueskyethinking.org/loom-to-the-moon.

30 April 2015



Bucks Herald

The Bucks Herald

Pupils add to loom band record bid



updated

13:43 Thursday 30 April 2015

published

18:14 Tuesday 28 April 2015

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Derbyshire Times

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Workshop Gardina



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30 April 2015



Witney Gazette

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Leighton Buzzard Observer



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30 April 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

BBC Radio Oxford

BBC RADIO
OXFORD



Interview with Sally re
reaching the £120k target

1 May 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Jack FM



Interview with Sally re
reaching the £120k target

2 May 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Evening Chronicle



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Skye Hall's memory will live on after parents fund new research post at Newcastle University

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News North East News Newcastle University

Newcastle research post to be created in memory of a battling young boy



Research taking place at The Northern Institute for Cancer Research

A fitting legacy to a little boy who died from the side effects of his cancerous brain tumour treatment has been created thanks to his devastated mum and dad.

4 May 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Evening Chronicle cont..

The parents of Skye Hall have raised enough money to fund a four year PhD research position at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research in Newcastle which they hope will ensure other families don't have to go through what they did.

Sally and Andrew Hall set up the charity Blue Skye Thinking last year in response to four-year-old son Skye being diagnosed with a medulloblastoma, an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.

Sadly on August 29, 2014, Skye died peacefully at home.

The charity has been working tirelessly over the last nine months to raise money so that they could fund a post at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research, [Newcastle University](#), to work specifically on childhood brain tumours.

Less than one per cent of national cancer research funding goes towards brain tumours, the number one cancer killer in children.

Sally Hall, 36, said: "At the very start, it was beyond what we thought might be possible in the first year, but it is because of the overwhelming support and determination of so many people to help us achieve the target, that it has become a reality.

"The majority of drugs currently used to treat children were developed for adults and have been adapted for children, which is not acceptable, and Skye's death due to treatment toxicity highlights this.

"Advances have been made to identify pathways at a molecular level in the hope that new treatments will eventually 'do away' with outdated chemo- and radiotherapies.

"Now is a crucial time for the funding of new research so that current findings can be converted into frontline treatment. The money raised by the charity will have a very significant impact on this and we can get that one step closer to unlocking the science behind this devastating disease and one step closer to a cure."

The charity has informed the Northern Institute for Cancer Research that the funding is available and will be working closely with them in the coming weeks to advertise the position and start the selection process. The Research Post will start on September 1.

Dad to Skye, Andrew Hall, from Oxfordshire, added: "This is just the beginning for us. There is still such a long way to go. In the past four months, three other children that we got to know have died as a result of brain tumours or as a result of the treatment.

"The last year has been such an emotional roller-coaster for our family from Skye's death last August to now. By reaching this first goal, something positive has emerged from such an awful situation."

Professor Steve Clifford, who leads the Childhood Brain Tumour Research Team at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research, said "Recent years have seen major advances in our understanding of the biological mechanisms that underlie children's brain tumours. Our challenges are now to translate these discoveries into new treatments. We are inspired by Skye's story and the fundraising efforts of Blue Skye Thinking, and are looking forward to beginning this new research project."

4 May 2015



Newcastle University newsletter

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Charity raises £120,000 to fund PhD research position



Devoted parents of a boy who died from the side-effects of his cancer treatment have raised £120,000 to fund a four year Newcastle University PhD research position.

Sally and Andrew Hall set up the charity Blue Skye Thinking in response to their son, Skye, being diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour. Sadly the four-year-old lost his brave battle on August 29 last year.

The charity has worked tirelessly to raise money to fund a post at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research, Newcastle University, to work specifically on researching childhood brain tumours.

Steve Clifford, professor of Molecular Paediatric Oncology at Newcastle University, leads the childhood brain tumour research team at the institute based at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital.

He said: "Recent years have seen major advances in our understanding of the biological mechanisms that underlie children's brain tumours; our challenges are now to translate these discoveries into new treatments. We are inspired by Skye's story and the fundraising efforts of Blue Skye Thinking, and are looking forward to beginning this new research project."

The Northern Institute for Cancer Research is working closely with the charity to advertise the position and start the selection process. The research post will begin in September this year.

Photo caption: Steve Clifford, professor of Molecular Paediatric Oncology at Newcastle University

7 May 2015



Boy's death leads to uni research job

Craig Thompson

Health Reporter
craig.thompson01@trinitymirror.com

A FITTING legacy to a little boy who died from the side effects of his cancerous brain tumour treatment has been created thanks to his devastated mum and dad.

The parents of Skye Hall have raised enough money to fund a four-year PhD research position at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research in Newcastle, which they hope will ensure other families don't have to go through what they did.

Sally and Andrew Hall set up the charity Blue Skye Thinking last year in response to four-year-old son Skye being diagnosed with a medulloblastoma – an aggressive and cancerous brain tumour.

Sadly, on August 29, 2014, Skye died peacefully at home.

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Skye Hall, who lost his battle with brain cancer

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SALLY HALL



The Oxford Times



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The Oxford Times » News

NEWS

Urban dance divas step up for Skye cancer research charity



Urban dance divas step up for Skye cancer research charity

Oxford Mail

AN URBAN dance group from Oxford is hoping a performance of [Snow White](#) will help charity Blue Skye Thinking in Abingdon.

Raw Diva, an all-female dance group which practices at St Gregory the Great School in East Oxford, is putting on [Once Upon A Dream](#) to raise cash for the charity.

The dance performance at Abingdon School's [Amey Theatre](#) in Park Road on Saturday, May 30, is loosely based on the story of Snow White.

All the proceeds will go towards Blue Skye Thinking, the charity set up in memory of five-year-old Skye Hall who died last August after battling a brain tumour for a year.

Dance group founder Jenni Middleton said: "Every year Raw Diva raises money for a local charity.

"We'd seen a piece on Skye and his family in the Oxford Mail and also had Blue Skye Thinking suggested to us by a member of staff at Abingdon School, where Skye's dad Andrew is head of sport.

"We took a vote in class as to which charity we would like to support and it was a unanimous decision.



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Oxford Mail cont..

“What the family has been through is unimaginable. Skye was so brave to endure all that he did while trying to make a positive difference to others lives. He’s an inspiration to us all.”

Mr Hall and his wife Sally set up Blue Skye Thinking to help research into alternative cancer treatments for children.

The family’s story first came to light after the couple, along with their youngest son Jesse, three, appealed to the public through the Oxford Mail when they were trying to tick items off Skye’s ‘bucket list’ of things to do before he died. After their request appeared, the family was inundated with offers of help.

In a final message to his supporters before he died, Skye said: “Remember to make the most of what you’ve got.”

As reported in the Oxford Mail, last week his charity reached its goal of £120,000, enough to fund a four-year PhD research post at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research. Based at Newcastle University, the researcher will work on finding new treatments for childhood brain tumours. The Halls now want to raise £200,000 to fund a post-doctoral researcher for three years.

The 18 members of Raw Diva hope to raise a minimum of £2,000 and have already made more than £500 from car boot sales, fancy dress days and cake sales.

Mrs Hall said: “We are so grateful to Raw Diva. Everyone has made such a brilliant effort. 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.”

Tickets cost £15, or £12 for concessions, and can be bought at rawdiva.co.uk or abingdon.org.uk.

To donate visit justgiving.com/RawDiva or text DIVA94 £3 to 70070.

8 May 2015



Skype appeal « Loom to the moon

How far does family love reach? All the way to the moon and back and way, way beyond.

Now is the last call for your help with Loom to the Moon a campaign launched by Abingdon parents Sally and Andrew Hall. Their son, Skye, was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, an aggressive cancerous brain tumour. On 29th August last year, Skye died peacefully at home, aged five. "Despite the circumstances being so very hard for us as a family, we are so pleased Skye's mission has touched the hearts of so many people," says Sally.

Before Skye died he launched a 'Loom to the Moon' campaign to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest loom band. This idea came at the start of July and was inspired by his favourite pastime while sitting in the Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber (made to look like a space ship) for hours each week, looming. Skye's younger brother Jesse, aged three, hopes to finish his brother's attempt, with help from UK children.

The charity Blue Skye Thinking was set up to raise as

much money as possible to fund world-leading research, giving children diagnosed with brain tumours a better chance of survival and quality of life post-treatment.

Medulloblastoma is the most common form of cancerous brain tumour in children, the biggest cancer killer in children. They are most common in children between the ages of three and eight, and are slightly more common in boys than girls. More than 350 children and their families a year in the UK alone face the devastating news that they have a brain tumour.

You have until May 5th to make loom bands (any style or colour – blue and white are Skye's favourites), share on social media (#LoomtotheMoon) and send it to Blue Skye Thinking, 59 Hendred Way, Abingdon, OX14 2AW. Or you can text 'LOOM66 £2' (or £1/£5/£10) to **70070**. Every donation makes a difference. Visit www.blueskyethinking.com to donate and learn more.

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Students get tough on child cancer



updated

published

15:48 Thursday 14 May 2015

17:12 Wednesday 13 May 2015

A group of 14 students will be getting muddy this May to raise money for childhood cancer charity Blue Skye Thinking.

The team, from University of London Air Squadron (ULAS), is taking on the Tough Mudder Midlands challenge as part of the school's year-long partnership to raise money for the charity set up in memory of four-year-old Skye Hall, who died last year after being diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumour.

The event includes a 10 to 12-mile obstacle course designed to test physical strength and mental grit.

Team member Francesca Edwards, 20, from Surrey, said : "We've chosen to run Tough Mudder for Blue Skye Thinking because we were touched to hear about Skye's incredible attitude throughout his treatment, the battle he fought against this illness and the side effects of his treatment.

"It's a privilege to be raising funds for a charity in its infancy but with big ambitions, which we hope to help with. Everyone taking part is hoping to raise £100 each which we will add to our team pot."

The ULAS team has already raised £11,000 from activities such as London Underground collections and a charity bag packing.

Further fundraising activities coming up this year include a wing walk, a coast-to-coast bike ride, collections at the RAF air shows and the Burghley Rat Race.

Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking and mother of Skye, said: "This partnership aims to raise £10,000 for the charity over the next year which will make a massive difference to our goal of funding a three-year post doctoral researcher.

"Everyone has been so motivated and enthusiastic in all of their activities so far, so we thank them from the bottom of our hearts and wish them luck for the challenge."

To support the team, visit www.justgiving.com/teams/ULASTM.

13 May 2015



Blue Skye Thinking charity Loom to the Moon challenge at Stalbridge garden party

By [Dadcock](#) | Posted: May 13, 2015

 **Comments (0)**

Tea and cakes in a Stalbridge garden will be raising money for Blue Skye Thinking - a charity set up to research brain tumours in children.

It is being held at The Tree House in Duck Lane on Saturday from 2pm to 4pm and there will be a chance to make a record breaking loom band in a Loom to the Moon challenge as well as games and a raffle.

Organiser Jackie Woon, whose cousin's five-year-old son Skye died last year from a brain tumour, hopes people will have a go at the loom band challenge.

Skye came up with the catch phrase Loom to the Moon and loom bands will be available on the day for everyone aiming to making his wish come true.

14 May 2015



Littlehampton Gazette

Students get tough on child cancer



updated

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The team, from University of London Air Squadron (ULAS), is taking on the Tough Mudder Midlands challenge as part of the school's year-long partnership to raise money for the charity set up in memory of four-year-old Skye Hall, who died last year after being diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumour.

The event includes a 10 to 12-mile obstacle course designed to test physical strength and mental grit.

Team member Francesca Edwards, 20, from Surrey, said : "We've chosen to run Tough Mudder for Blue Skye Thinking because we were touched to hear about Skye's incredible attitude throughout his treatment, the battle he fought against this illness and the side effects of his treatment.

"It's a privilege to be raising funds for a charity in its infancy but with big ambitions, which we hope to help with. Everyone taking part is hoping to raise £100 each which we will add to our team pot."

The ULAS team has already raised £11,000 from activities such as London Underground collections and a charity bag packing.

Further fundraising activities coming up this year include a wing walk, a coast-to-coast bike ride, collections at the RAF air shows and the Burghley Rat Race.

Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye Thinking and mother of Skye, said: "This partnership aims to raise £10,000 for the charity over the next year which will make a massive difference to our goal of funding a three-year post doctoral researcher.

"Everyone has been so motivated and enthusiastic in all of their activities so far, so we thank them from the bottom of our hearts and wish them luck for the challenge."

To support the team, visit www.justgiving.com/teams/ULASTM.

14 May 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

The Visitor

The Visitor

Team toughens up for cancer charity



Back row: Francesca Edwards (Capt), Tim Minshall, Alex Allsebrook, Sam Moorby Front row: Harriet Phillips, Robbie Bremner, Sam Karlsen, Alisha Masani.

A man from Lancaster is joining a group of 14 students who will be getting muddy to raise money for childhood cancer charity, Blue Skye Thinking.

Sam Moorby, 20, is part of the team taking on the Tough Mudder Midland's challenge as part of its year long partnership to raise money for the charity which 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.

15 May 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

The Visitor cont..

Sadly on August 29, 2014, Skye died peacefully at home aged just five years old.

The event is on 30 May and includes a 10-12 mile (18-20 km) obstacle course designed to test physical strength and mental grit.

Sam said: " We've chosen to run Tough Mudder for Blue Skye Thinking because we were touched to hear about Skye's incredible attitude throughout his treatment, the battle he fought against this illness and the side effects of his treatment.

"It was shocking to hear that this terrible cancer receives so little research funding, and what minimal progress there has been despite the big advances made in treating other types of cancer.

"It's a privilege to be raising funds for a charity in its infancy but with big ambitions, which we hope to help with. Everyone taking part is hoping to raise £100 each which we will add to our team pot."

The event is on May 30 and includes a 10-12 mile (18-20 km) obstacle course designed to test physical strength and mental grit.

All the money the charity continues to raise will go into much needed research into new treatments for childhood cancer 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.

To support the team please visit:
<https://www.justgiving.com/teams/ULASTM>.

15 May 2015



Mayor chooses charities to help

THE new mayor of Abingdon will use her role to support two charities in the town.

Abingdon town councillor Helen Pighills was sworn into the role at the traditional Abingdon Mayor Making last week at Abingdon Guildhall.

She takes over from Angela Lawrence, and chose fellow councillor Alice Badcock as her deputy.

Mrs Pighills chose as her first charity for the year Blue Skye Thinking, founded in memory of Abingdon's five-year-old Skye Hall, who died in August after battling a brain tumour for a year, but passed away from radio-chemo neurotoxicity.

The charity will raise money for research into childhood brain tumours.

Mrs Pighills, a mother-of-two boys, said: "I read in the local media that Blue Skye Thinking had reached their initial fundraising target of £120,000."

This is enough to fund a four-year PhD research post at the Northern Institute for Cancer Research.

She added: "I was just inspired by what I read – they've started, let's keep it going."

For her second charity Mrs Pighills chose the less well-known Abingdon Breakaway Club, set up more than 10 years ago to give elderly and disabled residents in Abingdon opportunities to get out of the house and socialise.

The club runs monthly get-togethers, days out and museum visits, and Mrs Pighills said its main expense was the upkeep and maintenance of its minibus.

19 May 2015



BLUE SKYE THINKING
SUPPORTING RESEARCH & TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD BRAIN TUMOURS

Bournemouth Echo

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NEWS

Team to take on Tough Mudder for children's cancer charity



Toby Pay, 21, from Lytchett Matravers will join a team of fourteen University of London Air Squadron students to take on the Tough Mudder Midland's challenge

21 May 2015



Bournemouth Echo cont..

A MAN is getting muddy this month to raise money for a children's cancer charity.

Toby Pay, 21, from Lytchett Matravers will join a team of 14 University of London Air Squadron (ULAS) students to take on the Tough Mudder Midland's challenge as part of its year-long partnership with Blue Skye Thinking.



The charity was set up by Andrew and Sally Hall after their four-year-old son Skye was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour, which he sadly died from last year.

The event takes place on May 30 and includes a 10-12 mile obstacle course designed to test physical strength and mental grit.

Toby said: "We've chosen to run Tough Mudder for Blue Skye Thinking because

we were touched to hear about Skye's incredible attitude throughout his treatment, the battle he fought against this illness and the side effects of his treatment.

"It was shocking to hear that this terrible cancer receives so little research funding, and what minimal progress there has been despite the big advances made in treating other types of cancer.

"It is a privilege to be raising funds for a charity in its infancy but with big ambitions, which we hope to help with. Everyone taking part is hoping to raise £100 each, which we will add to our team pot," he added.

The ULAS team has already raised over £11,000 from various activities, such as London Underground collections and a charity bag packing at Sainsbury's. Other fundraisers coming up this year include a wing walk, a coast to coast bike ride and collections at RAF air shows.

Sally Hall, founder of Blue Skye thinking, said: "This partnership aims to raise £10,000 for the charity over the next year which will make a massive difference to our goal of funding a three-year post doctoral researcher.

"Everyone has been so motivated and enthusiastic in all of their activities so far, so we thank them from the bottom of our hearts and wish them luck for the challenge."

To support the team visit justgiving.com/teams/ULASTM