



*The Huw Thatcher Trust:  
Remembering Huw: fundraising  
on behalf of the Brain Injury  
Rehabilitation Trust, part of the  
Disabilities Trust registered  
charity no. 800797*

## The Huw Thatcher Trust – Annual Report 2014



**BIRT**  
Brain Injury  
Rehabilitation Trust



The Disabilities Trust

## REFLECTIONS ON 2014

By the end of 2014 the Huw Thatcher Trust had raised a total of £100,000; £45,000 was raised in 2011, £25,000 in 2012, £21,000 in 2013, and £9,000 in 2014. Annual reports for each of the four years are available [here](#).

It meant so much that the Trust continued so actively as a tribute to Huw in 2014. While we didn't raise as much as in previous years, £9,000 is a lot of money and reflects a lot of personal time and effort from a lot of people. Friends and family have continued to be inspired to take on challenges, initiate events, and raise funds. This report tells you about the main stories from 2014, but first I want to reflect on the fact that by Huw's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on 25<sup>th</sup> November, funds raised by the Trust reached the amazing figure of £100,000.

I think back to the first thing we did in May 2011. Amid the feeling of disbelief, shock and despair a group of 15 of us - mums, dads, and 15 year old friends of Huw – baked cakes and sold teas and coffees in the church on the weekend of the Holmfirth Folk Festival. We were delighted to raise a few hundred pounds. More important to us was what that afternoon meant, and what it started. We were able to express what Huw meant to us by doing something that felt positive. Amid the sadness was a great sense of camaraderie; the care and effort of Huw's friends and our family and friends, and seeing just how much they were touched by what had happened – was a way for us to comfort each other. It wasn't just Huw's family who were hurting.

Nearly four years later at the end of 2014 the Trust had raised £100,000, after those small beginnings at the church in 2011. The feelings of disbelief and shock appear less often, but we miss Huw every bit as much. Huw means as much to me today as he has at any time in the last 19 years. That will never change, if anything I miss him more as time passes.

The Huw Thatcher Trust saw the same camaraderie, care and effort in 2014 as it did back in 2011, and I want to say a big thank you to everyone who helped with the £9,000 we raised in 2014 and the £100,000 we have raised in total. Every pound helps a brain injured person, and respects an awesome young guy who was adored by us. The £100,000 mark was reported on the [front page of the Huddersfield Examiner](#) on Huw's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014. It was a sad but proud day; I was so proud of Huw that day....like every day.

I continue to hear comments and stories that remind me what a smart, engaging, considerate, talented, and funny young guy Huw was - and I hope the Huw Thatcher Trust reflects this. I can't predict what direction the Huw Thatcher Trust will take in 2015, but Huw's website will continue to show what we are doing through the year – [www.huwthatchertrust.org](http://www.huwthatchertrust.org). There's also a Facebook group [at this link](#).

I hope you find this report interesting and inspiring.

**Nick Thatcher, January 2015**

## WHAT IS THE HUW THATCHER TRUST?

Since April 2011, the Huw Thatcher Trust has been a way for hundreds of us to show love and respect for Huw. Doing something positive and raising funds to help brain injured people has been a great comfort.

The Huw Thatcher Trust is a fund within a national charity called the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT). The Thatcher family and BIRT agree how the money will be spent, and this arrangement has the benefits of a registered charity but avoids any added costs. While BIRT is able to offer a fantastic rehabilitation for people with brain injuries, there are things they can't afford. The Huw Thatcher Trust has helped BIRT provide some of these things - like physiotherapy equipment, and facilities for IT, garden areas, and kitchens.

When the Trust reached the milestone of £100,000 in November 2014 Barrie Oldham the Chief Executive said:

*"I am delighted that The Huw Thatcher Trust has now raised an amazing £100,000 for BIRT. This is a wonderful achievement, for which we are very grateful and I would like to thank Huw's friends and family for their continued commitment to supporting BIRT. Huw was clearly a young man who was much loved and we are privileged that his memory lives on at so many of our centres."*



**In September 2013, we discovered this beautiful photo, taken in December 2010. Huw had just celebrated his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday with the rest of his life ahead of him**

## HUW THATCHER, BORN 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1995

Huw left us at the age of 15 years and 4 months on March 13th 2011, playing in a football match for Hepworth United near his home town of Holmfirth. Huw had a brain haemorrhage as a result of an existing condition that no one could have known about. He was an amazing young guy with everything going for him - playful, sensitive, smart, tall, handsome, and very funny. But Huw always had time to talk, and develop friendships with adults, with his own age group, and also with younger children.

Sport was a big part of Huw's life – he played for Hepworth United in football, Upperthong at cricket, and was a member of Thongsbridge Tennis Club. Huw had lots of other interests and aspects to his personality. He loved music, being a comedian, and most of all being a friend. Huw was a natural entertainer, but at the same time perceptive, and sensitive. Huw was getting excellent academic results, was ready to take his Grade 5 exam on the drum kit, and planned to go to university. Huw was a free spirit with a beautiful smile, who is a sadly missed and much loved son, brother, grandson, cousin, nephew and friend.



**15 year old Huw's sense of fun is captured perfectly in this photo at school**

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Funds were raised from the following key events in 2014.

- January – seasonal performances; Colne Valley Mummers
- June – Coast to Coast cycling; a group of Upperthong parents
- 12<sup>th</sup> July - five a side football tournament; Huw's friends
- 19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July – 19forHuw cycling challenge incorporating the Upperthong Cricket Club cycling challenge
- 12<sup>th</sup> October – Boot and Shoe pub harvest festival

There were various other donations throughout 2014 too; a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made a donation, baked a cake for an event, donated an item for auction or a raffle, or contributed to an event in some other way.

**Total raised in 2014**

**£9,000**

## THE MAIN EVENTS FROM 2014

### Coast to Coast cycling in June; a group of Upperthong Dads

In June a group of friends involved with Upperthong Football Club (including a teacher from Huw's school) completed a sponsored cycle covering the cross-Pennine Coast to Coast route at the end of June, raising funds for two charities. This resulted in a donation of well over £600 for the Trust. It was a superb effort doing the 150 mile route in 2 days which also has memories for my family. Carys, me and other members of Huw's family were part of a large group who completed the same route in 2011. Seeing another group completing the route 3 years later was superb; people still remembering Huw and supporting the Trust. Pictured below are the 2014 Coast to Coast cyclists Andy Bullingham, Ian Woods, Chris Douglas, Andy Hallas, David Horne, Charlie Wilson, Allan Gates, Simon Procter, and Shaun Mabey.



**The 2014 Coast to Coast group at the half way point – the Hartside Pass**

### 12<sup>th</sup> July - five a side football tournament; Huw's friends

The fourth Huw Thatcher five a side football tournament was held on 12<sup>th</sup> July – sandwiched between the Tour de France weekend and the start of 19forHuw (see below). It was a mad time – preparing for the football, preparing and training for 19forHuw, and taking in the excitement of the Tour de France. We have now run the football tournament 4 times – raising £1,000 each time and most importantly having fun doing something that Huw loved. We won't be running the tournament again as I want the event to go out on a high; trying to run it when Huw's friends have left the area or are away at Uni wouldn't work, and the last thing I want to do is to push something regarding Huw and the Trust that isn't going to hit the highs of previous years.

The event in 2014 was again superbly organised by Huw's friends and included mini tournaments covering 10 year olds up to 18 year olds with over 200 players taking part. The evening session included the 18-year olds – and again with a guest vets team. Over the years the older lads added colourful names for their teams which this year included: Tekkerslovakia, the Crucifiers, New Doss, and of course the Bluebirds. The vets were represented by Oldmen Pathetic but not even the might of Tekkerslovakia and the guile of Oldmen Pathetic could stop the Bluebirds winning the competition for the third year out of four and for the second year in succession on penalties!

I think back to the first tournament in 2011 organised by Huw's friend Sam Briggs. The 15 year old players who had been with us that day at Brighthouse on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 came together in support of one of their best mates. They were young, and shocked, but came together (with lots of other young people) in an act of support and resilience. It was a great thing to do and in each of the years I have loved to see Huw's friends at the football event, and hear fondly remembered stories about him.



**In 2011 the girls joined in; it was moving to see some of them in Cardiff City shirts for Huw**



**Here are the 15 year old lads back in 2011; putting on a brave face.**



**Some of the same lads looking a bit different 3 years later but still in blue for Huw**



Huw's friends look so young as 15 year olds, and when I see these photos of them growing up, I wonder every time, how Huw would have changed in those 3 or 4 years.



**Here he is on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Huw was grown up, handsome and popular in 2011; he would have been even more so in 2014.**

Had Huw been at the five a side football in July 2014 he would have been in his element. Controlling things on the pitch and having plenty to do with what happened off it. He had the ability to transcend age groups; he was comfortable with adults, and young children alike and would have fitted in perfectly at all the Huw Thatcher Trust events. He was there in spirit on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and his picture as a happy 15 year old was looking over us where it stays on the wall of the PE block at Holmfirth High.



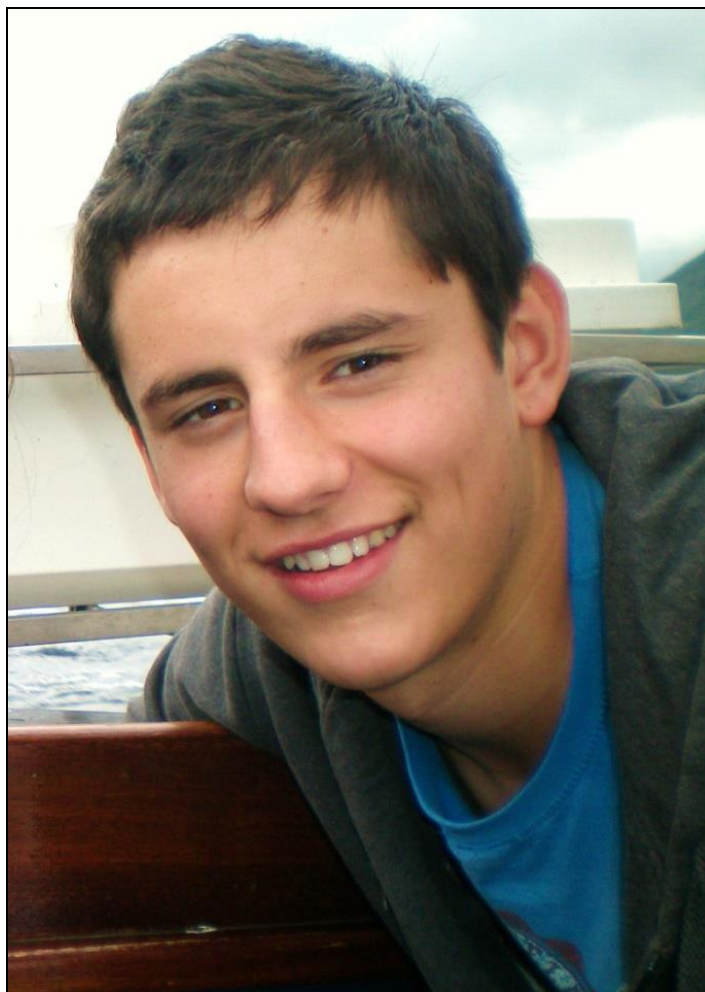
**Photos and a replica of his Hepworth United number 2 shirt at Holmfirth High – Huw Thatcher - a beautiful guy with a magical left foot.**

Thank you to all the young people and parents who helped organise and took part in the 4 Huw Thatcher football tournaments – days I will never forget – days that will always make me smile.

19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July – 19forHuw cycling challenge incorporating the Upperthong Cricket Club cycling challenge

19forHuw was a real highlight of the year. 960 miles and 45,000 feet of climbing on bikes in 9 days - powered by our beautiful boy in the sky. I won't repeat the whole story because in the summer [I wrote it up on Huw's website here](#) – but below are some brief reflections from me 6 months later:

- A greater distance cycled than Lands' End to John O Groates
- Visits to all 19 football grounds I went to with Huw to see Cardiff City play football
- 3 of us completing the whole 9 days and nearly 1000 miles
- A further 2 completing 5 days and over 500 miles
- Another 5 completing 2 days and over 200 miles
- A further 14 cyclists completing one day (around 100 miles) of the challenge
- Another 18 cyclists completing the last 25 miles from Sheffield Wednesday FC
- A total of 42 cyclists involved altogether and around 16 of them cycling the furthest in one day they had ever done in their lives
- 8 fantastic support crew
- £5,000 raised for the Trust
- Time with old friends
- Making new friends
- A lot of fun
- Lots of calories consumed
- Tiredness and commitment
- Both laughing and crying
- Creating new memories
- Reflecting on old memories
- Both sadness and pride
- Gratitude
- What might have been
- All of it for a beautiful boy - our perfect 15 year old in the sky.



**The perfect boy we gave so much effort for in 19forHuw – he was worth every bit**

12<sup>th</sup> October – Boot and Shoe pub harvest festival

We received a fantastic donation from the proceeds of the Boot and Shoe Inn harvest auction in October. Customers at the Scholes pub were asked to choose the charities the auction would support this year, and they chose Huw's trust as one of the main recipients with a superb £1,000 going to the Trust. Lots of people who go to the Boot knew Huw and thank you so much to Debra Whitely and everyone who was involved - donating or who put in fantastic bids for the items. This event reminded me of 14 year old Huw paying a visit to the pub with a pal of his to shelter from a thunder storm, only to bump into another friend's father who promptly bought them both a drink. That is typical of the Boot and of the community in Scholes and the wider Holme Valley, and typical of Huw to be out and about enjoying being with other people.

**Some of the items auctioned at the Boot and Shoe in October**



## HOW THE FUNDS ARE BEING USED

### Income 2011-2014

£100,040

### Expenditure

Richard Ford Trust	-	£3,000
Skate for Isaac	-	£200
Payment in kind to BIRT (garden materials)	-	£2,000
BIRT cash expenditure	-	£94,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>£100,040</b>

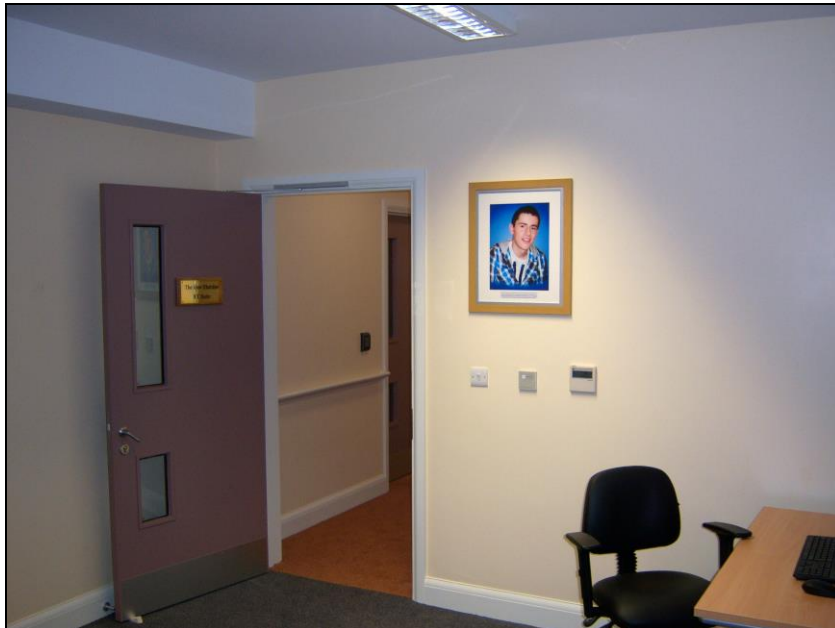
The money raised is being spent wisely and the detail of the BIRT expenditure of £94,840 is shown overleaf.

## BIRT cash expenditure

Item	Cost (£)
<b>Eyes Alight Appeal</b>	£10,000
<b>Daniel Yorath House – Leeds</b>	
Internet cafe and equipment	£7,000
Bikes etc	£1,000
<b>Osman House – Leeds</b>	
Garden	£5000
<b>Heathermount - Berkshire</b>	
Musical equipment for young people	£400
<b>Chalkdown House - Swindon</b>	
OT Kitchen	£1,580
Garden	£3,088
IT suite	£15,551
Physiotherapy equipment	£8,661
<b>New residential rehabilitation service at Llanelli</b>	
IT facilities	£15,550
Garden	£3,088
OT Kitchen	£1,581
Physiotherapy equipment	£8,661
<b>Goole neuro rehabilitation centre</b>	
2 Laptops	£1,000
Physiotherapy equipment	£5,000
<b>Daniel Yorath House – Leeds</b>	
Physiotherapy equipment	£7,680
<b>Total BIRT cash</b>	<b>£94,840</b>

## HUW'S LEGACY - TO HELP OTHERS

The Huw Thatcher Trust is a legacy to Huw. Having mainly supported facilities in Yorkshire, we have more recently support residential facilities at Swindon and Llanelli.



The Huw Thatcher IT Suite at Swindon is one of the benefits provided by the Huw Thatcher Trust.

Huw's legacy was covered in the Huddersfield Examiner on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015; a most appropriate feature about how the money is being used; [you can see it here](#)



## 2014 – THREE YEARS ON

13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 was improved massively by spending time at Sands with Huw's friends, and Carys. About 70 of them came along to plant bulbs in Huw's memory. I hadn't seen some of Huw's friends for a while and it reminded me of how faithful they have been throughout Huw's life and since 2011. Some of them have been with us every time, always there, always missing Huw.



**It was the last March when many of Huw's friends will be in Holmfirth, but every year I'll see these bulbs flower – for Huw and his wonderful, faithful and loving friends and family.**

## THE TRUST IN 2015

As I've said before there's never been any target for the Huw Thatcher Trust and as time passes by and many of Huw's friends have moved away, things will be much quieter in 2015.

I'm comfortable that – we have all done so much already. However, there are things I want to do and I know others want to join in and take part in events too. Some of that will happen anyway in 2015, but other things are dependent on my involvement. As at January 2015 I have a troublesome knee ligament injury and therefore can't yet organise the running challenge I had planned for 2015. I hope to start the challenge later in the year and will do everything I can possibly do to make it happen. 15 half marathons (one for each Huw's years) in a 12 month period remains my next ambition for Huw. I will post details on Huw's website and on Facebook when my knee progresses enough for me to make plans, so watch out.....there's more to come.

You can make a donation to the Trust if you want to [online here](#).

Thank you for reading this report and for your ongoing support, and best wishes to everyone for 2015.

### **Huw chilling out with friends at Little Wembley - where he had many good times**

