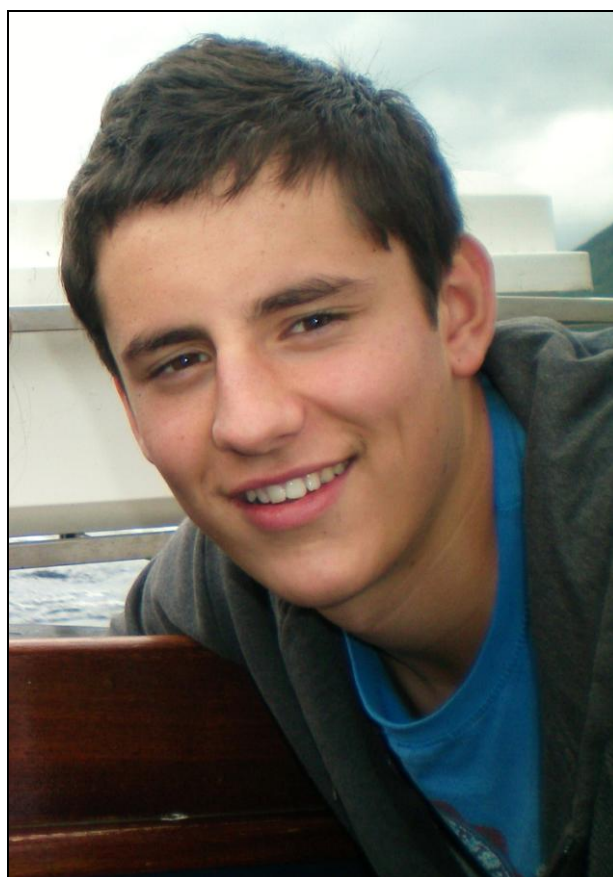


The Huw Thatcher Trust – Annual Report 2011



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



INTRODUCTION

This report explains what the Huw Thatcher Trust is, why it was set up and what it achieved in 2011. It also reviews some of the activities and events and shows how the money is being used.

One of Huw's friends left a message on Facebook in the autumn of 2011 – *'I know you're looking down on us, doing all these amazing things for you.'* There were many amazing things in 2011. I never imagined that we would raise £45,000 for brain injured people in 2011. I never imagined we would see so many people who enjoyed a part of Huw's life taking part in this fantastic achievement. I never imagined I'd see the miles cycled, the miles ran, the goals scored, the cakes baked, the legs waxed, the music played, or the fun, smiles and emotion. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Huw Thatcher Trust and therefore helped brain injured people. Thank you for keeping a light shining for Huw.

The financial contributions have been acknowledged, and many of the events are reviewed below. However, particular recognition should be given to every person who organised an event or helped set one up. Many of these people really gave something of themselves in terms of effort or personal commitment and others took some kind of risk. In the event everything has been successful, well supported, and fulfilling for those who took part.

Huw will never be forgotten. He will be remembered in a positive way. Huw will shine on forever. At the heart of the Trust is the love and affection for a beautiful 15 year old teenager. Huw was always an active boy with a great spirit, a sense of fun and a creative streak; it is natural and important that the Huw Thatcher Trust captures that spirit. The fund raising activities have been fun, creative, moving and appropriate in every way. These are the things that are at the core of the Huw Thatcher Trust.

In October 2011, Huw and Carys won a joint award at the 'Yorkshire Children of Courage and Achievement Awards' in recognition of Carys' courage, her contribution to the Trust, and of how Huw's personality that has galvanised such a fantastic effort and reaction.

Further information about the Trust, the fund raising events and lots of lovely memories of Huw can be found on Huw's website – huwthatchertrust.org

BACKGROUND

The Huw Thatcher Trust emerged in March 2011 when Huw's family asked people to make donations in lieu of flowers. It quickly grew into a series of wonderful events, organised by a wide range of people, to remember Huw and raise funds. The Huw Thatcher Trust raises funds to support the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT). BIRT is a Division of a larger charity called the Disabilities Trust.

BIRT helps people regain the skills lost as a result of brain injury – whether caused by medical reasons, accident, assault or some other form of injury. BIRT's involvement may begin once someone with a brain injury leaves hospital. BIRT offer a range of services to around 500 service users designed to meet the needs of people at different stages of rehabilitation including long-term housing and care, and community-based support. The Huw Thatcher Trust is a fund within BIRT. All the money raised is paid into this fund and the Thatcher family and BIRT jointly agree how the money will be spent. This arrangement gives the benefits of a registered charity but avoids the administrative burden and costs.

While BIRT is able to offer a fantastic residential rehabilitation, there are things that aren't available due to financial restrictions. The Huw Thatcher Trust has helped BIRT provide things like physiotherapy equipment and facilities for IT, gardens and kitchens. Barrie Oldham the Chief Executive says: *'The funds raised by Huw's Trust are enabling us to go the extra mile, by funding things we couldn't normally provide. Your help enables us to provide facilities we couldn't normally provide and they are making a real difference to people's lives.'*

The Huw Thatcher Trust therefore makes a big difference to brain injured people.

ABOUT HUW



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 a pre existing condition that no one knew about, or could have known about. People who suffer brain haemorrhages and survive, can experience brain injury and subsequent disabilities. Huw was a lovely young guy with everything going for him.

During his life, Huw's larger than life character, playfulness, talents and sensitivity were expressed to the full. But Huw always had time to talk to people, and develop his friendships with adults as well as young people and 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 also 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, though at the same time, perceptive, sensitive and a great friend and family member. Huw was getting excellent academic results, was ready to take his Grade 5 exam on the drum kit and had 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.



FINANCIAL STUFF

Funds have been raised from the following events. The amounts are not included because a lot of money has been raised so far and it is the thought, love and care that counts. Some people are more able to pay than others, but the strength of the Huw Thatcher Trust has been the thousands of individual purchases (of wrist bands / cakes / T shirts etc,) donations and sponsorships. Behind the amounts listed below are thousands of donations from kind people in 21011 - thank you! It has not been possible to list every single thing but here are the main events.

7th May - Tea and Coffee Stall at Holmfirth Parish Church

8th May – Sheffield fun run; Simon and Daniel Bateman

17th May – non uniform day at Kirkburton Middle School; Sue Charlesworth

Spring 2011 – selling Cardiff City football programmes with a ‘Huw’ article; Jake Clayton

18th June - 24 hour five a side football tournament; Sam Briggs

19th June – Black Belt Academy demonstration fights; Jordan Craven

21st June – Tea and coffee party in Cardiff; Mary Phillips

25th June – Upperthong Cricket Club tournament; Rob Oakley

1st July – Cycling from Cardiff to Huddersfield in one day; Steve Thatcher and Doug Wilson

2nd July – Gig at the Picturedrome with Age of Paranoia and Speedweasel; Dave Brennan

6th July – leg waxing event at Holmfirth High School; Huw’s friends

9th July – sponsored bike ride round 15 cricket grounds; Joy Oakley

Early August – sponsored Coast to Coast bike ride; Huw’s friends, Dave Brennan and Jane Travis

16th August – charity football match Brighouse Town vs Holme Valley X1; BTFC

30th August – sponsored walk; Graeme Hoyle and Molly Jowett

11th September – Para10 endurance run; Anuschka Kruger

18th September – Great North Run; Andy Thompson and Liz Blezzard

25th September – cycling event; the Cullaigh family

16th October – Majorca marathon; Andy Ackroyd and Steve Taylor

October 2011 – tea and cake sale in Somerset; Nick and Penny Edwards

Early November - Mega cake sale at school in Hampshire; Kate and Lauren Hawkrige

12th November – Holme Valley Business Association ball; Paula Moss and Liz Wood

16th November – non uniform day at Holmfirth High School

19th November - Hepworth Football Club under 15s annual ball; Simon and Gaynor Hough

26th November – wine tasting event presented by Paul Franklin and Clive Jones; Oliver Constance and Shona Atkinson at Thongsbridge Tennis Club

March to December 2011 – collections at various sporting and other events; by Huw's friends and their families in all types of weather!

March to December 2011 – hundreds of kind donations and sponsorship of events and activities given with love and generosity from a few pence up to 4 figure sums. Donations and sponsorships have been given from individual people (sometimes children from their pocket money), from local companies and organisations, and from major national companies. Donations have been received from sports clubs, community organisations and profit making companies. The amounts have varied enormously, but each one has been received with equally gratitude as a demonstration of love for Huw, and care for people who need support.

Total raised in 2011

£45,000

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2011

It's hard to pick out highlights because every single event and donation meant so much. But the following are worthy of specific mention.

7th May - Tea and Coffee Stall at Holmfirth Parish Church

People were just doing lots of things to remember Huw in the early spring like an impromptu football match at Sands and a school assembly. But the tea and coffee stall meant a lot to all of us because it was the first fund raising type of event. It was a day that was incredibly moving as well as fulfilling. A group of us raised £531 at Holmfirth Parish Church mainly through sales of hot drinks and cakes over the Folk Festival weekend - thanks to the inventiveness and efforts of Huw's friends (young and less young)!

18th June - 24 hour five a side football tournament – organised by Sam Briggs

Huw's long-time friend Sam Briggs organised this amazing event that raised around £2,000 from a reasonable priced entry fee and from the sale of food and drinks generously provided, and lovingly homemade. Around 240 players from the age of 7 to 50+ took part in the event, the highlight of which was to see Huw's friends and their families doing something positive and having fun at a time when they were still in disbelief about losing such a great friend. So many of Huw's friends were involved that day; it felt like Huw was carried along with us. He will always be carried along with us - never left behind or forgotten - never left on his own.



One of the girls teams at the 5 a side tournament – in Cardiff City shirts.

A group of tired cyclists after the event in July 2011



June / July – events organised by Upperthong Cricket Club

Two events saw hundreds of cricketers play a tournament at the end of June and 40 cyclists complete a tough 44 mile cycle ride. The events were organised by Rob and Joy Oakley, who were so supportive of Huw from a young age. The Upperthong and cricket communities were at the heart of these events, which between them raised around £4,000. The sponsors and donations from these events were particularly impressive, but the highlight was seeing 40 cyclists from the age of 11 to nearly 60 visiting 15 cricket grounds – one for each of Huw's happy years. Visits to so many beautiful cricket grounds where we had seen Huw play over the years were a highlight of this day. Huge respect to everyone who completed such a testing ride and the support team who kept us going – everyone loved the day and rightly felt fulfilled, if a little sore at the end of the day!

June and July 2011 – leg waxing and fight demonstration events

June 19th saw an event organised by Jordan Craven along with the Holme Valley Black Belt Academy. This event raised £500 which made the effort put in by Jordan and other friends well worth it. Huw's friends were also behind a leg waxing event at Holmfirth High that gave them all great entertainment for a modest entry fee. Huw's Trust benefitted from the generosity and imagination from Huw's friends Ella and Tom who were 2 of the organisers of the event – along with the male victims (including a teacher) - and of course the willing female beauty therapists who applied the wax strips with care.....and removed them with much enthusiasm!

1st July –from Cardiff with love – Steve Thatcher and Doug Wilson

In a feat of endurance and determination 46, year old Steve (Huw’s uncle) rode a bike 192 miles from the Cardiff City Stadium to Sands in Holmfirth in 19 hours. Huw’s 13 year old cousin Doug rode 110 miles that day too. They were supported by Doug’s family and Steve’s pal, Dave Stockwell. The two lads completed their last 10 miles in double quick time, taking on the 1300 feet of Holme Moss as if it wasn’t there – that was quite a sight late at night in the dark. They raised over £1,000 between them. It is a fantastic achievement for a 13 year old to cycle that distance, requiring both courage and strength. The same was required by Steve, who carried a flower with him for the whole journey and placed it on the fence at Sands on his arrival – it was blue of course.....blue for Huw, with love forever.



Above: Doug early in the day (left) and Steve showing great courage in the Peak District (right). Below: ‘Age of Paranoia’ on stage at the gig on 2nd July



2nd July – Gig at the Picturedrome with Age of Paranoia and Speedweasel – Dave Brennan

Family friend Dave Brennan organised this event, that saw 2 fantastic local bands sing their hearts out at local venue ‘the Picturedrome’. 550 people moshed the night away with Huw in their hearts, and smiles on their faces. It was an astonishing effort, selling that many tickets and raising over £4,000 in around 6 weeks and the event was such a success that it will be repeated in June 2012.

Early August – sponsored Coast to Coast bike ride – Huw’s friends, Dave Brennan and Jane Travis

The Coast to Coast bike ride was organised by two family friends who knew Huw since he was a toddler. It was completed by nearly 30 of Huw’s family and friends ranging from 12 to 51 in age, and was supported by a lovely ‘crew’ who had food, smiles and words of encouragement at every stop. The group climbed over 10,000 feet and travelled over 140 miles across England’s northern wilderness in 3 days. Over £3,000 was raised, but the highlight was the humour and friendship that was evident from the start along with a great deal of determination that ensured all the riders finished together at Tynemouth on the East Coast.



Tired but proud cyclists at the end of the ride in Tynemouth

16th August – charity football match Brighouse Town vs Holme Valley X1 – BTFC

Friends at Brighouse and from the local clubs at Huw's home in the Holme Valley turned out to play football in front of nearly 200 spectators in August to show heartfelt support for Huw and his Trust. The support from our friends at Brighouse Town FC, the Holme Valley clubs who were joined by three former Huddersfield Town players showed the local football community at its best. The football was played in a great spirit and it was an entertaining game, edged 2-1 by a Brighouse Town side containing a large number of first team players from the Northern Counties East League, Premier Division. The event raised a fantastic amount of nearly £1,000.



The line up at Brighouse on 16th August

Autumn 2011 – Running, walking and cycling

A number of people took part in running events, a sponsored walk and a cycling event in the autumn. The runs were all endurance events that the participants trained hard for and decided to complete in aid of Huw's Trust. Over £4,000 was raised in completing these events, as a result of hard work in training, during the events and equally in finding generous sponsors.



Above - Steve & Andy after completing the Palma Marathon in October

28th October

Huw and Carys were jointly awarded with a fundraiser and sports award at the 'Yorkshire Children of Courage and Achievement Awards' dinner at Harrogate on Thursday 28th October. Sam Bellas and Heather Smith were presented with the award as Carys was on school sports trip in Barcelona. Heather and Sam said they were 'honoured' to receive the award on behalf of Huw and Carys at a positive yet emotional evening. While the award was presented in recognition of Huw and Carys, it also recognised the efforts of their family and friends who have showed compassion and sensitivity, given their time, and much more for Huw's trust.

November events

Just when we thought it would be quiet, a number of generous people organised events in the Holme Valley in November. Three evening events and a non uniform day at Holmfirth High raised around £6,000 and involved thousands of people who again put their hands in their pockets and most importantly gave their time and efforts to remember Huw – who may have been their friend, team mate, opponent and even customer!

Tea and cake sales

As listed above, so many people wanted to bake a cake for Huw! There's something about baking a cake that is simple, but personal and generous. Equally generous were the customers who bought and enjoyed the goods, and those who organised the events and made the sales. A highlight was the £600 raised by Kate and Lauren who along with their friends baked and sold 600 cakes for sale at their school in Hampshire. Kate and Lauren were good friends of Huw in school before they moved to Hampshire a few years ago. In fact all the events were highlights – including the efforts of Huw's Granny, the Edwards family in Somerset, and the staff (particularly Sue) and pupils at Kirkburton Middle School who combined a cake sale with a non uniform day in May.



Kate and Lauren selling hundreds of cakes at Thornden School, Chandlers Ford

What would you be?

What would you be our Huw, what would you be Big Man?

What would your passion be, what would you want?

What would your job be Huw, what would you do?

And who would your lover be, what is her name?

What would you be good at Huw, what would you like?

Who would you play for, how good would you be?

Where would you live Huw, where would you go?

And who would your lover be, who would you hold?

There's things that you won't be, but some that you will,

The warmth of your smile, is what you will be,

The noise in the playground, the grass on the pitch,

The sand on the beach, the waves in the sea,

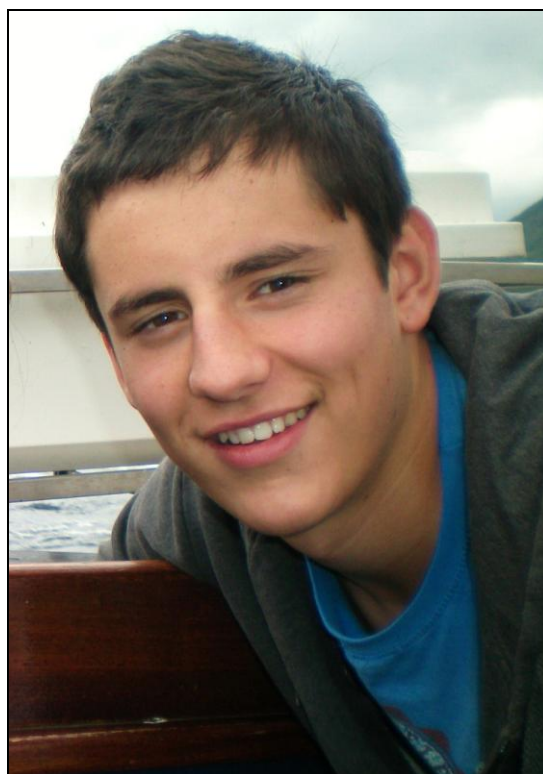
The smile on your face, the hug and the wink,

The love of your friends, and the things that they do,

The love in our hearts will always be yours,

A place you will be, is deep in our souls.

Nick Thatcher: December 2011



The warmth of your smile is what you will be