

# The Huw Thatcher Trust – Annual Report 2012



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



## BACKGROUND

The Huw Thatcher Trust emerged in March 2011 when Huw's family suggested that people could 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.

Huw's family decided that the Huw Thatcher Trust would support a national charity for brain injured people called the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (BIRT). BIRT is part of a larger charity called the Disabilities Trust.

BIRT helps people regain the skills lost as a result of brain injury; BIRT's involvement usually begins once someone with a brain injury leaves hospital. BIRT offer a range of services to over 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. The money raised is paid into this fund and the Thatcher family and BIRT agree how the money will be spent. This arrangement has the benefits of a registered charity but avoids administration 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.'*

During 2013 the Trust will also support Richard Ford from Holmfirth who was a coach with Huw's football club, Hepworth United. Richard had a brain stem stroke in June 2011 and his family will need financial support to help him when he leaves hospital. We are delighted that we will be able to support this much loved local family.

## LOOKING BACK ON 2012

In total by the end of 2012 the Trust has raised a total of just over £70,000 – of that total £45,000 was raised in 2011 and £25,000 in 2012. The annual report from 2011 is available on Huw's web site and can be downloaded here – [2011 Annual Report](#).

We're absolutely delighted that this tribute to Huw has continued so actively in 2012 and the funds raised have exceeded expectations.

One of Huw's friends left this lovely message on Facebook in March 2012:

*'I remember this day last year so well, because it was the last time I ever saw you. Every single day you have been in my thoughts, memories and my dreams. You are my inspiration Huw Thatcher. It feels forever since I've seen you, yet only yesterday when we were all together. I still don't want to believe that you've gone but I guess you have never left you're still a part of me and you will be a part of me forever. I love you ♥'*

This message sums up what Huw means to so many of us, and the inspiration that he is for the charity that he is at the heart of.

A big thank you from Nick, Jenny and Carys to everyone who has supported the Huw Thatcher Trust - and helped to build a lasting legacy to a wonderful young guy. Particular recognition should be given to every person who organised an event or helped set one up.

Huw was an active guy 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.

Whatever direction the Huw Thatcher Trust takes in 2013, it will be positive and productive. However much money it raises, it will continue to represent what is good about the world.

Further information about the Trust, the fund raising events and lots of lovely memories of Huw can be found on Huw's website – [www.huwthatchertrust.org](http://www.huwthatchertrust.org)

There is also a Facebook group which is updated regularly with Trust news and reflections about Huw.

## 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. 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 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 in 2012. The strength of the Huw Thatcher Trust has continued to be the hundreds of individual contributions. Behind the amounts listed below are a great many donations from kind people in 2012 - thank you! It has not been possible to list every single thing but here are the main events.

27<sup>th</sup> January – band / gig at Upperthong Village Hall featuring Huw's friends

3<sup>rd</sup> March - a 1970s disco at Upperthong Village Hall; Steve Harris

24<sup>th</sup> March – Sports night featuring Jan Molby at the Cedar Court Hotel, Huddersfield

1<sup>st</sup> April – Reading half marathon; Johnny Thatcher and Joe Fish

22<sup>nd</sup> April - London Marathon – Steve Harris

22<sup>nd</sup> April - Holme Valley Triathlon – Dave Briggs

May – 1<sup>st</sup> Upperthong Brownies sponsored cycling event

24<sup>th</sup> June – Hepworth Dryad 5 mile multi terrain running event

30<sup>th</sup> June – Gig at the Picturedrome with Age of Paranoia and HTT

7<sup>th</sup> July - 24 hour five a side football tournament

21<sup>st</sup> July – Tea, coffee and cakes in Upperthong; Jane Travis

28<sup>th</sup> July – Upperthong Cricket Club cycle challenge round 15 cricket grounds

16<sup>th</sup> December – Karate charity challenge; Holme Valley Karate and Judo Academy

Throughout 2012 there have been various other events too including collections, cake sales and raffles. There have also been other donations from individual people as well as local companies and sports clubs. Individual thank you letters or messages have been given to all known contributors so we have not listed them all here. But suffice to say, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has made a donation, suggested the Huw Thatcher Trust as a good cause for their employers, baked a cake for an event, donated an item for auction or a raffle, or contributed to an event in some other way.

Each contribution has been received as a demonstration of love for Huw, and care for people who need support.

**Total raised in 2012**

**£25,000**

## SOME OF THE MAIN EVENTS FROM 2012

27<sup>th</sup> January – band / gig at Upperthong Village Hall featuring Huw’s friends

A group of Huw’s friends got together late in Autumn 2011 and performed in public for the first time in January 2012 in front of over 100 people, giving the proceeds to Huw’s Trust. They have since played at the Picturedrome (see below) and on a number of other occasions. To be honest, they are excellent and despite spreading their wings, they still make contributions to the Trust when they perform – which means a lot to us.



**HTT (aka ‘Hiding from Olive’) in action on 27<sup>th</sup> January**



24<sup>th</sup> March – Sports night featuring Jan Molby at the Cedar Court Hotel, Huddersfield

This was a highlight of the year raising around £7,000 for the Trust and £2,000 for cancer charities. In particular Jeremy Hoyle, John Lee, Pete Emmett, Jan Molby, Mike Stevenson and an amazing auction - made it one of those special nights. It was a mixture of fun, amusement, entertainment and fantastic fund raising – as well as a most appropriate reflection on Huw. The backdrop of sport, general amusement and mickey taking – with a serious side – was a fitting mixture.



### Spring 2012 – Running events

A number of people took part in running events, in the spring. Johnny Thatcher and Joe Fish completed the Reading half marathon, Steve Harris the London marathon, and not to be out done Dave Briggs completed the Holme Valley Sprint triathlon. We still can't quite work out why a triathlon event should be called a 'sprint triathlon' but Dave completed it in good time considering it was his first event. Well done too these 4 lads for working hard in training and raising funds for the trust. I know it meant a lot to them to be doing this in honour of Huw Thatcher – particularly Huw's cousin Johnny. They were all proud to put themselves through some pain for such a great cause.

### May – 1<sup>st</sup> Upperthong Brownies sponsored cycling event

The effort put in by around 20 Brownies in May to raise £400 from a sponsored cycle at Sands in Holmfirth was a lovely gesture. It meant a lot as some of the girls knew Huw through their elder brothers or sisters, and some of Huw's school friends were also leaders at the Brownie pack. Here they are on the night of the event.



**Young cyclists from 1<sup>st</sup> Upperthong Brownies in May 2012**

### 24<sup>th</sup> June – Hepworth Dryad 5 mile multi terrain running event

This annually held local event raises funds for different causes each year. In 2012 organiser Paul Moss, who is a great supporter of the trust, chose to support the Huw charity. Nick and Carys took part in the event along with a few of Huw's friends and scores of runners who take part in this event regularly. It's a great local event - and thanks to the efforts of the organisers, sponsors and helpers – it succeeded in raising over £1,500.





### **The Hepworth Dryad – a well supported local event**

#### 30th June – Gig at the Picturedrome with Age of Paranoia and HTT

In a repeat of the 2011 event, local band Age of Paranoia performed in front of a near full house at the Picturedrome at the end of June. HTT (a band made up of Huw's friends) were the support act and helped make it a night to remember. Everyone was a star that night, but one star shone brightest of all - Huw's star will always shine bright. With heartfelt thanks to Peter Carr at the Picturedrome, the bands, and the ticket sellers for another great night which will be repeated in 2013 - probably for the last time.



#### **'Age of Paranoia' on stage above in front of 550 people - and HTT overleaf**



### 7<sup>th</sup> July – the second 24 hour five a side football tournament

We were very grateful to George Oakley, Callum McLoughlin and Louie Barbie for their work in organising the second give a side football tournament. The word obviously had spread from last year because we had people contacting us asking to join in. Highlights were: seeing a team all with Huw's number 2 on their backs; spending the day with young people enjoying themselves (especially Huw's friends); raising over £1,000; enjoying the home made food from the food stall; and seeing a team dressed as bananas slip into the final - only to be beaten at the last hurdle.



**The bananas proved to be slippery opponents, despite their unusual attire!**

28<sup>th</sup> July – the second Huw Thatcher cricket cycle challenge

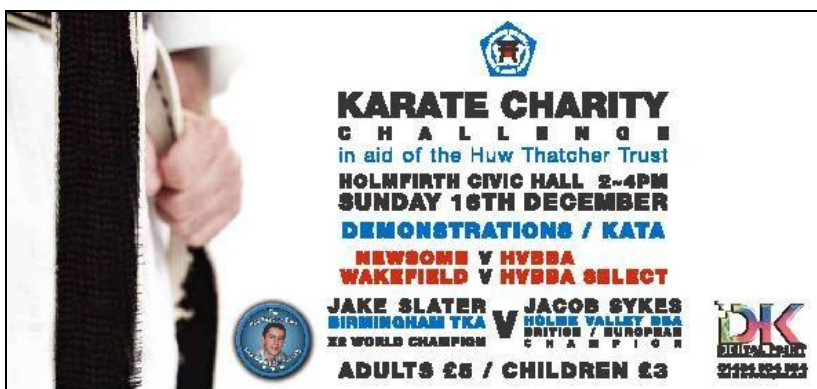
The second event organised by Upperthong Cricket Club was just as good as it was in 2011 – with nearly 50 cyclists having a lot of fun – although there were plenty of tired legs after 4,200 feet were climbed during the day! Nearly £1,000 was raised and once again Rob and Joy Oakley ensured we had a good day out as we visited 15 cricket grounds – one for each of Huw’s happy years. Huw’s sister Carys, Dad Nick, Uncle Rob and cousins Michael and Johnny were particularly pleased to be able to take part with Huw’s friends and their families of all ages. The effort put in by the cricket club and all the cyclists was absolutely superb – as always.....



**The cyclists getting ready for the cricket cycle challenge – wearing blue for Huw**

16<sup>th</sup> December – Karate charity challenge; Holme Valley Karate and Judo Academy

This event was the perfect way to round off the year. Tony Sykes who runs the academy, remembers Huw from karate lessons in the past and put a great effort to get this event on – involving young people from Huddersfield and Wakefield in a series of keenly contested demonstration bouts. With homemade cakes again provided by so many kind people, hundreds of pounds were raised and we had a great afternoon. Many thanks to Tony Sykes and his family - and to Tracy Hawley for the fab cake stall.



## Other events

Steve Harris organised a 1970s disco in March 2012 – the revellers apparently had a good time despite having to wear cravats, flares, sequins and shirts with weird collars that we once thought were so cool. Thanks Steve for organising a successful event and raising funds for the Trust. With the marathon in April and the disco in March, Steve and his family contributed so much in 2012. Incidentally if anyone under the age of 30 wants to know what a ‘disco’ is, Steve will gladly explain. Apparently it’s some kind of place a bit like a Night Club where people used to go to in the old days to dance!

On a different note, unfortunately the weather got the better of a planned cricket event in July, but the lucrative raffle was rescued – the first prize of a signed Alistair Cooke bat was a particularly valued prize given his rise to be captain of England. Another successful raffle was held at Thongsbridge Tennis Club at the annual open day during the summer. We should also mention a second Coast to Coast cycle event. The 2011 event was a major fund raiser and such was its success that it was repeated in 2012. The 2012 event was more of a leisure event that grew from the original one in 2011, but nevertheless several of Huw’s friends raised good sums in sponsorship and to their credit it was the furthest many of the cyclists had cycled in their lives before. Huw’s cousin Doug and sister Carys did well, alongside a group of cyclists who should all be proud of a great achievement – covering 190 miles in 3 days! With many thanks to Dave Brennan and Jane Travis for organising it and all the support crew for helping everything run so smoothly.



**A group of the riders many of whom were new to cycling – on the beach at Bridlington**

## HOW THE FUNDS RAISED HAVE BEEN USED SO FAR

Here's a summary of how the funds of £70,000 from the Trust have been allocated.

### **Eyes Alight**

'Eyes Alight' gifts for brain injured people - £10,000

### **Daniel Yorath House, Leeds**

IT equipment - £7,000

Bikes etc - £1,000

### **Osman House, Scholes, Leeds**

Garden equipment and stocking - £5,000

### **New residential service at Swindon**

Occupational Therapy kitchen - £1,500

IT equipment - £15,000

Garden equipment and stocking - £3,000

Physio equipment - £9,000

**Total** - £51,500

**Remaining funds** - £18,500

The remaining funds of £18,500 will be allocated soon, and are likely to provide similar things for another new service to be opened later in 2013. We will also to provide funds to support Holmfirth Dad and football coach Richard Ford, who had a brain stem stroke in June 2012.

Scores of people think about Huw every day, and he has touched people's lives forever. It is fitting that he continues to touch the lives of others through the Huw Thatcher Trust.

## THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST AND PLANS FOR 2013

A number of events have been planned for 2013 and other ideas are being developed. Here are some of the things that we know will be happening in 2013:

1. Non uniform day at Holmfirth High School - early 2013 date to be confirmed;
2. Great North West Run – Blackpool half marathon - 4 participants - 24<sup>th</sup> Feb;
3. Five a side football competition for all age groups - Saturday 29th June or Saturday 6th July 2013;
4. The Huw Thatcher cycle challenge, organised by Upperthong Cricket Club - summer 2013 date to be confirmed;
5. Gig at the Picturedrome featuring teenage band (Average Content) plus Age of Paranoia - Saturday July 13th 2013;
6. Coffee morning and cakes hosted by Jane Travis - a Saturday in summer 2013 date to be confirmed.

We will report on the above events and everything else from 2013 on Huw's web site ([huwthatchertrust.org](http://huwthatchertrust.org)) and in another annual round-up in January 2014.

There has never been any target for the Huw Thatcher Trust. It will be what it will be, and it will raise as much money as it raises! Every penny raised is valuable – but it is much more than raising funds, it is about hundreds of amazing people remembering Huw and responding to a tragedy with heart, commitment, compassion, effort and of course with a sense of fun.

No one should feel under pressure to sponsor anyone, or take part in events and we realise that people may have other charities that are close to their hearts. Having said that, please get in touch if you would like to do anything for the Trust.



The Huw Thatcher Trust will endure into the future – and thank you for your past and future support to remember Huw Thatcher, our boy with his beautiful smile.

## REFLECTIONS

We all remember Huw in our own ways, but there are some areas like the benches at Digley and Sands that are special for a lot of people. We are particularly touched how these areas are respected and taken care of by people who enjoy those areas – whether it be for leisure, a rest or just reflection.

November 2012 saw Huw's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and it was also particularly touching when Ella and Heather arranged for balloons with flashing lights to be set off by Huw's friends from Cliff in Holmfirth. It was a heartening evening on a day in the year that is particularly sad – but the kindness and sensitivity of Huw's friends made a great difference that day. It was astonishing that around 85 of them turned up to send off a balloon with their own personal message tied to it – it was wonderful to see every single one of them and it was a pleasure for Nick to provide them with homemade chocolate flapjacks and to give them a photo of Huw with these words written on the back:

*'The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen, nor touched, but are felt in the heart.'*

It also meant a lot to present the Spirit of Huw Thatcher football award to Nelson Nunez from Hepworth under 15s and the Huw Thatcher Pride and Passion cricket award to George Oakley for Upperthong under 15s. These two were worthy winners following in the footsteps of George Richardson and Sam Briggs who won the awards in 2011. These awards will continue to be awarded each year and mean a lot to those who receive them. These days the recipients are young guys who knew Huw – in future there will come a time when this is not the case. But the recipients will be told that the awards are there to remember a fine young guy from the Holme Valley represent who excelled in these sports – and who represents so much that is good about local sport.



Huw will always be remembered in a positive way, because he is adored by everyone who knew him.

*No one can ever take your place  
When everywhere I look I see your face  
There are reflections*