

INTRODUCING OUR

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first ever edition of the Alex Hulme Foundation newsletter.



We aim to produce a newsletter on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October of each year. The idea being that we can use the newsletter in conjunction with the website and other information to keep up to date with the latest news, details of recent and future events and most importantly report back on the current status of funds raised and how those funds are being utilised to meet the aims and objectives of the Foundation.

AIM OF THE FOUNDATION

The overall purpose of the Foundation is to aid research into Children's Non Hodgkins Lymphoma (NHL).

Our specific aim is to assist in the improvement in specialist knowledge and expertise into the disease which will in turn improve the treatment clinicians are able to provide.

In simple terms, there needs to be a massive improvement in the level of knowledge about NHL in children. Due to the relatively low number of cases each year, eighty in the UK, and the reasonably high success rate, currently 83%, NHL isn't seen as a high priority for funding therefore, it has been largely non-existent in the past.

The Alex Hulme Foundation aims to make a difference and through raised awareness and donated funds we hope to allow researchers to build on their knowledge base and therefore offer a more individualised and more flexible treatment plan for children diagnosed in the future which will improve their long term prognosis.



OUR BEAUTIFUL YOUNG MAN

A FOUNDATION IS BORN

The Foundation initially came about partly because we were asked where friends and family could give money to in lieu of Alex's Birthday, Easter & Christmas presents but also because we wanted to leave a legacy for Alex in recognition of the courage and bravery he showed during his illness but also because we knew he would want to help others who found themselves in the same position as he did.

Our first thought was to donate money to an existing recognised charity but we wanted to be more specific and give people a sense of ownership so they would know exactly how their donations were being spent and that every penny would go towards making a difference in Alex's name. We set about doing some research which gave us a distraction in our time of grief and we found there isn't a specific non profit organisation looking into why Alex was taken from us. Having discussed the situation with Alex's Consultant we were put in touch with the UK's Lead for Lymphoma, a man who specialises in NHL in Children. Our first conversation with him was distressing but also exciting as we realised we could in fact make a difference and everything he said echoed our thinking into what we wanted to achieve for Alex.

We agreed that he would put together a structured and detailed business plan and effectively tender for the Foundation funds. We expect to have a meeting with him in the very near future which will allow us to give out detailed information and set tangible targets for everyone

Our decision was made. We wanted to create a specific legacy for Alex where funds would be made available in his name and go directly to this particular cause. After agonising over a name, it came to us that we were aiming to lay the Foundation for improving the prognosis for children diagnosed with NHL in future. So having already received a number of donations and with the assistance of Dave's Sister Brenda, the Alex Hulme Foundation was born on the 12th October 2011.

We needed a target and we soon realised after early attempts to raise interest from companies that becoming a registered charity was a necessity so we set about raising the £5000 to apply to the Charity Commission.

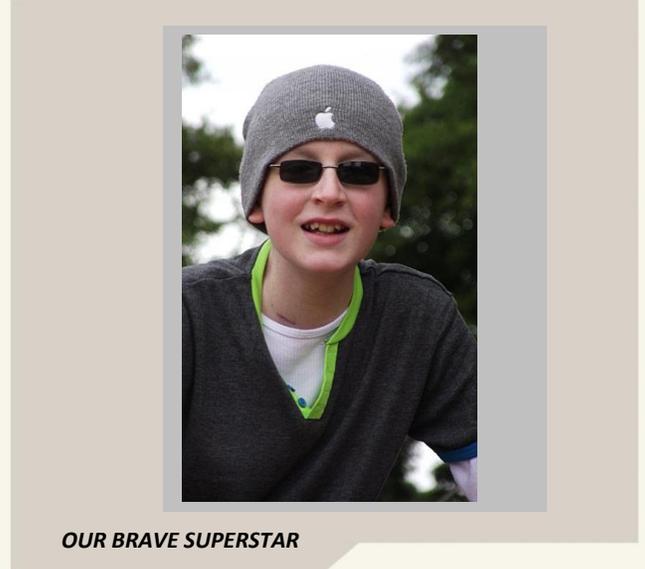
Our initial intention was to commence fundraising in 2012 but we were soon overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of everyone to support Alex. We were carried along by the tidal wave of goodwill from the natural sources of family and friends but also from Alex's schools, from people we only knew in passing and from complete strangers. Everyone rallied round and were desperate to help us. The depth of feeling has been so moving and humbling for us but underpinning all of this was a realisation of how many people Alex had touched in the short time he was with us. We are so, so very proud that Alex Hulme is our Son.

REALITY CHECK

Aside from all the effort we all put in to set up the Foundation, is the realisation that we are all suffering and grieving for the horrendous loss of a much loved relative and friend.

The support we have all received from so many sources has been wonderful and so welcome.

There have been many instances where Alex has been remembered over the last four months



OUR BRAVE SUPERSTAR

so to summarise:

- Dave, Nicola and Matt attended the Ashton on Mersey School annual awards evening and presented the inaugural Alex Hulme English Star of Year 7 Award to Amanda Davis. It was an honour for us to attend and present the award and it is another example of how the school wish to ensure Alex is remembered in years to come. It was an emotional but wonderful occasion. Our evening was made complete when The Sarah Finney Award for Determination which was awarded to Alex.
- Nicola, Dave, Matt along with family and friends planted a tree and unveiled a reflection bench in the garden at Ashton on Mersey School. The tree, a Pride of India, flowers in July, the month in which Alex and Matt were born and is the same variety to one that was given to Dave & Nic in memory of Alex which is now in the garden of the family home. The beautiful bench has a plaque inscribed with the words:

Alex's Place
In Celebration of the life of Alex Hulme

- The choir from Woodheys Primary School were one of nine schools to participate in the Annual Carol Service in aid of the Children's Society at Manchester Cathedral. The choir sang a song "Christmas in Manchester" which was written and composed by Alex's Year 6 Form Tutor, Mr. John Byrne. Mr. Byrne dedicated the song to Alex with the heading; "For Alex Hulme, whose short life made better people of us all".
- Nicola, Dave and Matt were honoured to be asked by Mrs. Daniels to perform the first ever switch on of the Woodheys Primary School Christmas Lights. During the event Mrs. Daniels along with the Rev. Gerry Foster, staff and pupils from the school held a service in memory of Alex. The school kindly provided two wind sculptures chosen by Dave & Nic, a Cosmic Sun Dancer and Steel Orbits which were placed in the garden in Alex's memory.
- We were honoured that the Mayor of Trafford, Cllr Jane Baugh, included the Alex Hulme Foundation in her list of charities that will receive a donation from funds raised during her Mayoral term of office. A full list of events to be held in aid of The Mayor of Trafford's Charity Fund has been added to the Foundation website.

PROGRESS SO FAR

The support has been so amazing that we had raised **£5001** by midnight on 31st December 2011. To reach this unbelievable amount many events have taken place in aid of the Foundation.

- **Woodheys Primary School** raised an amazing **£353.09** from their "Own Clothes Day".
- **Sam Fuller**, a friend of Alex's from Ashton on Mersey School had a sponsored haircut and kindly donated **£50**.
- **Tameside & Glossop Community Healthcare** took part in a Territorial Army Trust Challenge day and held a cake stall which raised **£129.17**.
- The **Toe Tappers & Tiny Toes Dance School** from Ashton-Under-Lyne presented us with a cheque for **£250** which they had raised at a recent production.
- **Clare Downey, Judith Grigg, Nikki Leach, Jill**



MATT WITH ALEX'S AWARD

- **Pinington, Janet Robson & two friends** walked up Snowden and raised **£100** for their efforts.
- **Hazel Grove United Reformed Church**, held two coffee mornings, The two events along with donations made after the church services raised an amazing **£450**.
- **Jill White**, Sid's Mum and her sister **Debi** held a 'Mince Pie & Christmas Cake' Afternoon Tea. A well attended event including the Mayor of Trafford and her Consort raised a staggering **£1383.25**.
- Alex's friends **Antonio Shoobridge, Jack Waywell, Matthew Leonard** and **Matt** along with **Henry Brownlow** and **Alex Pickford** ran a stall at the Woodheys Primary School raising an incredible **£341**.
- **Chris & Sharon Saunders, Lisa Kean** and **Chris Osmon** entered **Team Alex** into the 10km Tatton Yule Yomp. Their children **Lauren, Hannah & Isabelle** accompanied by Sharon's friends **Chris and Alex** completed the 3km race and raised an amazing total of **£2525.30** for the Foundation.

- **NHS Tameside & Glossop & Tameside & Glossop Community Healthcare** donated the fantastic sum of **£289** from their "Dress Down Day". The H.R. Department also organised a raffle for staff and were able to donate an additional **£120**.

In addition to the total in the Foundation bank account shown opposite, we have **£3211.59** in our Charity Giving account. This is money either donated online or from sponsorship. Charity Giving pay us a month in arrears for donations and following the completion of a sponsored event with the eligible Gift Aid on those amounts paid a month later.

Thank you to everyone for their efforts

MOVING FORWARD INTO 2012

Saturday 21st January 2012

Jonathan Kettle will compete in the Endurancelife Trail Marathon in Anglesey for the Foundation.

Tuesday 21st February 2012

Carole Coram is holding a Boden Party - 9am until 5pm - 119a Mill Lane, Buckden, Cambs. PE19 5SN. Please visit www.boden.co.uk for details and you'll receive 20% off all categories plus free postage and free returns. If you can't attend in person, you can place an order by e-mailing Carole at carolecoram@btinternet.com.

Sunday 11th March 2012

Liz O'Grady, Elaine Parker-Boyd, Debbie Shaw and friends are taking part in the Trafford 10K starting at 10:30am from Partington Leisure Centre.

Sunday 11th March to Saturday 17th March 2012

Mark and Sheila Simon will be undertaking- "One Hundred Mile Walkies" - 100 miles on the South West Coast Path.

Saturday 24th March 2012

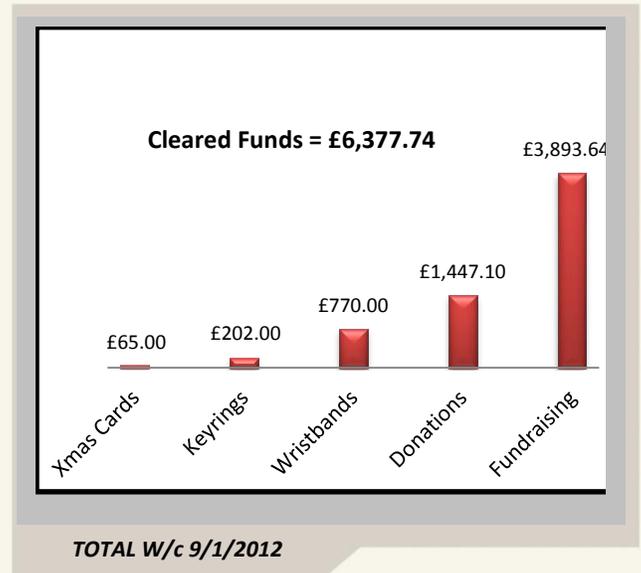
Alan Cook Waxing! Details to follow.

Sunday 25th March 2012

Mike Marn, John Sloan and David Hilliard are taking part in the Wilmslow Half Marathon starting at 10:30am from Wilmslow Rugby Club.

Saturday 14th April in 2012

Hazel Grove United Reformed Church, Short St, Hazel Grove, Stockport. SK7 4AD are holding a Trash and Treasure between 10am to 12pm. There will be no charge if anyone would like to have a stall at these events to help raise money for Alex.



There are many events taking place throughout the year and we will cover them in future editions of the newsletter. In the meantime, if you require any further information on the above events, you wish to sponsor the participants or make a one off or regular donation to the Foundation please visit the website: www.alexhulmefoundation.co.uk

Also on the website – ITEMS FOR SALE

- * **Wrist Straps** * - AHF - Alex Hulme Foundation
 - * **Wristbands** * - Adult & Ladies/Youth Sizes
 - * **Keyrings*** - AHF - Alex Hulme Foundation
- £2 each (+ 50p P&P where applicable)**

As well as the many individuals who have supported the Foundation we would like to thank the following organisations:

Arthur Kershaw Funeral Services, Ashton on Mersey School, ASK Design, CM Services (UK) Ltd., Co-operative Bank Booster Fund, Daydreams Day Nursery, Good Buddies Daycare, HSBC, Nic Nacs, Sale & District Lions Club, Woodheys Primary School.

If anyone has an idea for fundraising or can offer any help to grow the Foundation, please get in touch we will be pleased to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support it is greatly appreciated by us all. **Dave, Nic, *Alex* & Matt xxx**