

FOREVER BY THE SEA

TRIBUTE FUNDS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012–13
Issue 8



Lifeboats



Photo: RNLI/Christopher Taylor

SPECIAL PEOPLE

Welcome to the Winter edition of the newsletter which honours those whose lives are commemorated through Tribute Funds.

In this edition we feature three incredible people who are remembered with RNLI tribute funds. We hear through the words of the loved ones they have left behind. One of our lifeboat crews received a special award in October so you can find out more about that too.

In the Winter, when the weather is cold and the sea unpredictable, we also think of our crews past and present who have braved the conditions to go out and

rescue people in trouble at sea, even on Christmas Day. They couldn't continue to do this without the support of people like you.

In the accompanying letter you will be able to see how your fund is doing. Thank you again for your generosity.

Seasonal good wishes to you all.

Gemma

Gemma Nightingale, RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator



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REMEMBERING ADAM HUNT

Adam was born on 9 May 1988 in Sidcup, Kent. Even as a 3-year-old he was adorable – he was the first boy to feature in a Fairy Liquid advert, winning the casting directors over with his cheeky smile and good looks. He was a kind, loving son and brother, a true, loyal friend; an inspirational and gifted sportsman. He achieved so much in his short life, pushing himself to the limit whether it was as captain of his grammar school's most successful rugby 1st XV, studying for exams, or at work – he always tried his best and was loved by everyone. Being a typical teenager he was never happier than when out partying with his friends, playing his heart out on the rugby pitch, or chatting up the girls!

Despite all this, he'd been a bit low, and when he announced he was going to work the Summer on the Greek island of Zante, we thought it was a good move as he could relax and have some fun before starting 'proper' work – he'd recently applied to the Army for officer training at Sandhurst. He texted us regularly to say what an amazing time he was having. He kept a diary which was returned to us later. In it he'd scrawled 'BEST SUMMER EVER!!!' He had only been on the island for 6 weeks when we received a devastating phone call early on the morning of Sunday 1 July 2007 telling us of his tragic death by drowning in the bay at Laganas. No words can explain how I felt, or still feel, 5 years on. But his death shocked and broke the hearts of not only our family, but of all his friends. From day one, Adam's friends comforted each other and us, keeping us in touch with their lives.

Around the end of last Summer, a small group of his closest friends asked if we were planning anything to mark the 5th anniversary. We had been thinking about this, as it is an important milestone. But they took all the worry away from us and arranged a big fundraiser in his memory at Sidcup Rugby Club, where most of Adam's team were now playing together. The actual anniversary of his death was too painful to consider but 12 May, being close to his birth date, was perfect and allowed for a birthday celebration as well as all the fundraising events. We sent out invitations far and wide and the evening was an incredible success.



The early evening sun was shining as everyone started arriving and the hall was full of beautiful people determined to party!

The DJs gave their services for free, there was a fantastic auction run by the fundraising committee and a raffle. Also all the lovely mums had put together a fantastic buffet. For my small family, it was hugely uplifting and extremely moving to see just how loved Adam was. The fundraising was to be divided equally between three charities, and just over £6,000 was raised.

We chose the RNLI as one of our charities because the lifeboat crews and lifeguards risk their lives trying to save others at sea. We already had a Forever by the Sea fund set up in his memory. We do not know if there was a lifeboat in Zante that could have saved Adam, but with our donation to the RNLI we can be sure that it will be helping in a small way to save lives around the UK coastline in his memory, and I am sure that my dear son would be very proud.

Chris Ford, Adam's Mum

PAUL RAYMOND JACKSON

Paul Jackson was an extraordinary man who not only protected lives as a serving police officer but tragically lost his while diving off the coast of Donegal in 2007.

His career had been varied and he had always put people first, in particular spending his last posting with the Counter-Terrorism Team. In December 2004 as we watched the Tsunami disaster in southern Asia, I knew that he would want to do everything possible to help, and within weeks he was sent out as part of a team from Humberside Police to help identify and repatriate bodies to their loved ones. For this work he was always modest, but received a commendation in recognition of his dedication.

Paul had a fascination with the sea from an early age. His mother Beryl remembers him always wanting to visit RNLI lifeboat stations when at the seaside, and he was an avid supporter until he died.

His love of the sea took him into the sport of diving, and he particularly liked exploring deep wrecks, especially U-boats. While on a diving holiday in July 2007, he failed to surface and it was then that a 2-day search took place. The Arranmore and Lough Swilly lifeboat crews played a crucial part in his recovery, along with other vessels and helicopter crews.

Shortly after Paul died I reflected on the work of the RNLI and wondered how I could 'pay back'. I found a local fundraising group in Hessle, which I joined, and I have since recruited family and friends to. We contribute by collecting money, serving at fairs, and attending quiz and musical events. We've even held an Auction of Promises where my brother-in-law Allan was brought in to be the official auctioneer!

I set up a Forever by the Sea online page and this has been a wonderful way to keep Paul's memory alive. We have done lots of sponsored events – firewalking, runs, the Great North Swim and have even asked for donations in lieu of presents.

Earlier this year I heard that there may be an abseil from the Humber Bridge and a representative of the RNLI asked me to turn detective to find out who owned the land.



This I did, never thinking that I would take part as I'm terrified of heights. I decided to conquer my fears and asked my brother-in-law Allan, and two friends to do it with me. We called ourselves Team Jacko and set about raising sponsorship. On the day, I asked the organisers if we could all abseil at the same time. We climbed over the railings, all leant back and said: 'Do it for Paul' and we were off! It was a fantastic feeling and we raised over £1,000. Paul would be amazed at what we have achieved and I'm sure, very proud.

Christine Ware, Paul's partner

GRANDDAD JIM

I have always been very close to my granddad Jim (James Walker) and he meant a lot to me and my family. We were not told straight away when he got cancer because they didn't want us all to worry. My Granddad was never one to make a fuss about things and didn't want to make too much of a big deal about it. But, then it got worse and we were told. We were all devastated. He started to spend a lot more time in hospital and was getting more care around his house.

Since he got the disease and from then on, we were round at my grandma and granddad's house a lot more. It was always really sad to see my granddad that way because he had always been a talkative and bright, happy person but he was getting more and more tired and it wasn't like him at all. But he never lost his sense of humour and when he saw us he would always be making us laugh; like he would always be making jokes about my curly hair and calling me Shirley.

Sadly, he passed away in January and at his funeral all the donations were for the RNLI. This was my granddad's favourite charity. When my granddad was younger he spent a lot of time in Whitby fishing on his boat, he also used to volunteer for Withernsea lifeboat.

My granddad said that if he was ever to win the lottery he would buy a lifeboat, so this had got me thinking about raising money in his memory, and it only seemed right to do it for the RNLI.

A year ago I started running for Beverley Athletics Club and in May last year, at 15, I was old enough to do my first 10k, which was in Beverley. That is where my love of running started. Since then, I have trained Mondays and Wednesdays and each weekend have been entering races all over Yorkshire and getting great results.

I knew that a lot of people raised money in races for causes such as breast cancer, so I thought I should do it as well. We went onto the RNLI website and found out about the Tribute Fund, and I got in touch with Gemma Nightingale. She took me through every step of what I had to do to get the sponsor forms and how to collect the money, and she was a great help. She also sent me some boxes for small change and other money to be put into.

I took the sponsorship forms into my school, talked to the class about what I was doing and asked if they were interested in sponsoring me. They were all up for it and I almost filled in the full sponsor sheet in one day! My mum and dad took the forms to their work places and got even more sponsors, which was fantastic.

The race came, and it went brilliantly. My grandma Brenda, Mum, Dad, brother and friends were there to see me run the race. They were all really proud of me and I raised over £230. It feels great to be able to fundraise in memory of my granddad and I know that he would be proud of me. We are, and always will be, thinking about him.

Harry Powell, 15



YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION

Volunteer RNLI crew members from Hartlepool were the very proud winners of a Pride of Britain Award in October

The crew learnt that they had won Daybreak's Emergency Services Award when presenter Gethin Jones surprised them at the lifeboat station, breaking the news to them live on TV. The award was officially presented at the Daily Mirror Pride of Britain Awards ceremony on 29 October in the Grosvenor House on London's Park Lane.

The Hartlepool volunteers won the award following a dramatic rescue which took place on 30 September last year. They had a race against time to save Peterlee teenager Neil Robson, who was trapped in sand with the tide coming in quickly. The 17-year-old had become stuck on the beach while trying to rescue his little brother, who escaped unharmed.

The RNLI crew was first on scene in an inshore lifeboat under the command of Helm Clare Gibbin. Other volunteers from Hartlepool Lifeboat Station travelled to the beach by car.

Despite the risk of being trapped in the sand themselves, five RNLI crew members entered the water to help free Neil.

With sand and water levels reaching their chests, RNLI crew Liam Dunnett and Mark Barker fought to keep Neil's head above water while Darren Killick, Rob Archer and Matthew Adams dug sand away from Neil's legs. During the rescue operation they had to remove their lifejackets to enable them to work under the surface of the water.

Coastguard Rescue Officers also arrived to help dig Neil free from the sand. The ordeal lasted 75 minutes and with just moments to spare, he was freed from the sand with the help of a high-pressure hose supplied by the fire service.

Neil, who escaped with mild hypothermia, cuts and bruises, said: 'The RNLI and Coastguards did an amazing job. I'm very grateful for what they did for me under terrifying circumstances.'



Photo: RNLI

TV presenter Gethin Jones with Hartlepool RNLI volunteers and coastguards after the announcement they had won the Daybreak Emergency Services Pride of Britain award



LOVED ONES REMEMBERED

We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate all the Forever by the Sea funds opened since our last newsletter. We are proud to commemorate:

- Adrian Jenkinson • **Adrian Moseling** • Albert Williams • **Ann T Horsewood** • Anthony Williams
- **Barbara Smith** • Brian Hirst • **Carolyn Wright** • Chris Walker • **Clive Whittaker**
- Darren Timothy Mannering • **David Brownlee** • Donald Schofield • **Dorothy Joyce Jobbins**
- Eileen May Taylor • **Eva Hornby** • George Haughton • **Harry Evans** • Harry Perry
- **Jade Ashleigh Anderson** • John Roberts • **John Dermot Hegarty** • Matthew Neil Campbell
- **David MacKay** • Philip Laughton • **Plamen Petkov** • Robert David Orr • **Robert Redmond O’Fallon**
- Roger Thornley Platt • **Ruth M Bradford** • Stephen Quiller • **Trevor Norman Bryant**

The A-Z of fundraising ideas

J

Jumble sale
Jenga tournament
Jam making

K

Kite flying
Kayaking
Karaoke

L

Line dancing
Lawn mowing

More to follow ...



CONTACT ME

If you would like to include your story in this newsletter, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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