



The Peter and Paul Press

Chloe and Liam Together Forever Trust
Pink and Blue Day special edition

Pink and Blue Day 2020

Friday 22nd of May marks three years since the tragedy that shook the world. The day our community will never, ever forget. The day that two of our brightest stars were taken from us with no warning. The day that Liam Curry and his love, Chloe Rutherford, were placed in God's care.

Their families used their pain and channelled it into creating a charitable trust. From devastation grew a source of hope and optimism for the talented youth of South Tyneside. Read on to learn more about the trust and the work they do.



Hello everyone

I hope you are all well.

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week and we are focussing on a special gift we all have- the gift of kindness.

We can share that gift with ourselves and with others; sharing kindness makes everyone feel good!

Get sharing everyone!!

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Butt

Please visit the school Facebook page to see how you can get involved with our 'Mental Health Week' meets 'Pink and Blue Day' art project. The project offers us a chance to put kindness and love into action at a time it is needed most.



TOGETHER FOREVER
Trust





The families of Chloe and Liam established the trust in 2017 to honour them through what they loved to do most. The aim is to offer hope and support to youth to help them follow their dreams. They offer financial grants to individuals and organisations to support them with a wide variety of sport and performance related dreams. Money granted by the trust has been used to pay for travel costs, exams, qualifications, instruments and equipment, tuition and even a mini bus. Several hundreds of thousands of pounds have been granted to over one hundred applicants in the two and a half years since it was established!

Have you fundraiser or have plans to fundraise for the trust? Would you like to make a donation? Here are the bank account details:

Sort code: 20-80-47

Account number: 73181251

Bank: Barclays

Cheques can be made payable to "Trustees of Chloe and Liam Together Forever Trust" and posted to Chloe and Liam Together Forever Trust, c/o Westoe Travel, 120 Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 3PF.



Did you know that if you book travel with Westoe Travel they will make a donation to the trust from your booking? Tell the staff member you book through and they will arrange a donation at no extra cost to you.

Contact details for the trust.

Email: candlft@gmail.com

Facebook: Chloe and Liam Together Forever Trust

Twitter: @candlft

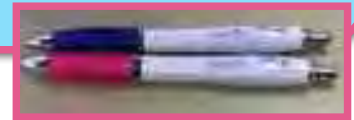
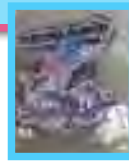
Instagram: @candlft

Website: www.togetherforevertrust.co.uk

Grant applications are available on the website if you think they can help you.



Year round the trust release a range of merchandise. Here is a selection of the products available around this time last year. The products are produced by Ice Print and Design in South Shields. See the trust's Facebook page for ways of ordering. The most popular product that are most easily recognised are pink and blue wristbands. They have been worn by a whole host of well known figure including: Ed Sheeran, Stormzy, Jason Cook, Chris Ramsey, Simon Cowell, Jade Thirlwall, Helen Flanagan, Jordan Pickford and Rafa Benitez. The wristbands are available in adult and children sizes for £1 each.



Pink and Blue Day 2020

This year we are celebrating and remembering from home. To show your support dress in pink and blue, decorate your windows and raise a toast at 10:31pm.

One of the ways we will be celebrating the lives of Chloe and Liam this year is by decorating our windows in their memory. Please send us photos of your window displays. School staff will select a winner (most likely several as we're sure to love them all) and a prize will be delivered to your home.

Competition time!

Now is the time to let your creativity flow. I would like our readers to design a key ring that celebrates the work of the trust in memory of Chloe and Liam. The designs can be landscape or portrait but must be A4. Bear in mind that the design will be reduced in size dramatically so small detail/writing may not be visible. The winner will receive a family set of key rings featuring their design and some sweet treats! There will then be a limited number of key rings on sale for £1 each with all proceeds being donated to the trust.



Ordinarily the school newsletter features an interview with a member of staff. However, this issue is not ordinary and I thought it best to find a new interviewee. Who better than the chairman of the board of trustees for the trust?



Meet... Ray Spencer MBE

You may know him as Tommy the Trumpeter, Arbuthnot's Mother; Dame Bella Ballcock, Executive Director of the Customs House, or Ray; friend to local stars and most importantly, a South Shields resident, husband to Trish and father of four.



We asked Ray a range of questions relating to the trust to begin with. We then moved on to seek answers for the questions I'm sure the residents of South Shields are desperate to ask. Read on to hear from the man himself...



We talk a lot about the Together Forever Trust, can you explain why it was established in September 2017?

Because of the circumstance that surrounded the Manchester atrocity, we lost two fine people from our community. Chloe and Liam's families together with the community felt that they had to mark their loved ones passing and in particular that they had been robbed of their potential. Their potential was both in sport and performance. We wanted to give an opportunity for other people to live a life that was taken so sadly from Chloe and Liam. We want people to be able to live their dreams and be the best that they can be.

How were you approached about becoming chair of the board of trustees for the trust?

It was shortly after the tragedy that Lisa (Chloe's mum), who I'd known for a number of years, contacted me. I knew the family through dancing and my daughter's childminder for some time was a friend of their family. The call was out of the blue and Lisa said, "Look, can we see you about an idea we have got." What else could I say but yes? They came and told me about their ideas for the trust and I was blown over that they wanted to involve me. I think they wanted someone who could articulate their feelings and could be trusted. Somebody they felt comfortable with and who already knew our community and how it would react. I kind of share the same values as them which is important. The other members of the board do all the hard work, I just wear a suit and smile!

How does the process of applying for funding work?

It's very easy. As someone who works in the charitable sector and running a charity myself I'm very familiar with applying for funding and this is easily one of the simplest processes I've ever seen. You go on the website and you say, this is my dream, these people whoever those people are, whether they're a coach, or a teacher or a fellow performer, believe in me. They then have to tell us, this candidate has potential and we think they could become great in whichever field it is they want to be great in. Once they've shared their ambition they have to tell us what they've done themselves to try and fulfill their dreams. Then they must tell us what help they need to get them to living their dream. The help that is asked for covers a great variety of things. We've helped someone who had to train in Leeds but lived in Newcastle. Travelling backwards and forwards costs a fortune and we eased that worry. We've also had people get in touch who had an opportunity to represent Great Britain in gymnastics. The problem was they had to travel to Mexico and didn't have the funds. We've also supported a hopeful paralympian. They needed two wheelchairs, one for competing and one for getting around. Shipping them around the world costs a lot of money so we stepped in to help. We can't help everybody, but we help as many people as we can.

What impact have the decisions you and your team have made had?

I think the direct impact it has on those people who are struggling to achieve their dreams is that they know some people believe in them. That's not a monetary thing necessarily. It's just that these people and their families know that somebody believes in them and their dream. The impact it has depends on who are funding. For example we funded a boxing ring at Horsley Hill boxing club. That will have a huge impact on the whole community of Horsley Hill and beyond. Many many people will use and benefit from that. We also bought a minibus for a group of people who had the club and the trainers. The thing that was paralysing them was getting to competitions and events. That was one of the biggest costs, travel is always a big cost. By paying for this minibus we enabled them to take sixteen people to a whole host of events and compete across the country. People who have bursaries to go to train in performing arts colleges often have the funding to help pay for their fees. The stumbling block for them is living arrangements. The commitment those courses require prevent them from having a job and an income. If you're going to be very very good you have to put in so many hours that sometimes you are held back from being able to earn and pay rent leaving you wondering where you're going to live. One of my favourite examples is somebody who said, "Look, I'm a great singer but I want to fund myself through college so please can you buy me a portable buskers set up?" We did that and now that person is often seen around Metro station and I now believe Tube stations busking. All they needed was a portable set up and we provided that and it enabled them to provide themselves with an income.

If you could give any aspiring sports stars or performers one piece of advice, what would it be?

That's really really hard, but I think it would have to be follow your heart. What we are talking about balances on a pinhead. To be the best at anything, to get to the top of the tree for anything is very hard. Very few people get to the top. To are her the top with any sort of sport and field of performance is the pinnacle. You don't always end up where you want to be. Lessons learnt along that path shape how you are as a person, even if you never reach that pinnacle. You may become many other things associated with your dream. The door is wide open to you. Having an inner strength is bolstered by people believing in you. That goes back to what I said earlier about the trust believing in youngsters dreams and aspirations. All young people setting out on a journey must find something they enjoy and believe in because it makes things much easier makes life a lot easier.

Believe in yourself and follow your heart, it's not a bad bit of advice is it?



You visited our school to unveil our fantastic 'Hopes and Dreams' stained glass windows project. Why do you think legacies like these are so important?

It's right to be reminded about the fragility of life. It's right to be reminded that you must make a difference today because nobody owns tomorrow. I think every time those children and generations of children to come, walk past those windows and see what people had in terms of hopes and dreams and ask the questions, who was Liam? Who was Chloe? Why were their hopes and dreams robbed from them? It will remind them to make the most of today and be kind caring and supportive of other people. We don't know what tomorrow brings. It's a spectacular work of art, so beautifully lit with natural light. It must be really inspirational for the children. I remember going to do the opening and seeing the children's faces. I remember the people who had their work up there telling me about it with such pride. I also remember being asked to take a photograph with them and one person just wanted to show his mum and dad his work displayed somewhere it could be recognised. He was so proud of what he'd done. Gosh, you've got to be very very special to have your own piece of stained-glass haven't you? Chloe and Liam and many other children from our community had the chance to be captured in stained-glass forever so they are always remembered alongside the importance of having your own hopes and dreams.

If you were to design panel when you were ten years old what would it have included?

There was nobody in my family who ever performed. I didn't go to dance schools or drama clubs when I was ten. Throughout my schooling I performed, from being a shepherd in the nativity to being part of school productions. All of my school life, from infants all the way through secondary school, I was drawn to performing. It always seemed to play a part in my life. Some people were good at kicking a ball or a sensation at using their head. I've always been able to perform. I'm not saying I'm the best in the world, if I was people would be paying money to come and see me in cinemas. But it's always been a big part of me. I was born and bred in Biddick Hall. Literally born in the house. I had two brothers, one who was an electrician and one who was a fitter. My dad worked in Middle Docks, next door to where the Customs House is. People from Biddick Hall weren't performers, but I always had that dream and aspiration! Remarkably I ended up running the Customs House in the town. In the job I'm in, I'm very very lucky that it is linked to my hopes and dreams as a ten year old. The advice I would give to my ten-year-old self creating a panel would be, follow your heart, believe, believe, believe.



Let's move on to talking about you. I'm sure you'll agree, we are part of a fantastic community. What is it about South Shields that makes you proud to live and work here?

How can I best sum this up? We have some new friends who moved to South Shields around three years ago. They had lived in London. Lots of people look at London and think wow that's the place I want to live. When they retired from London they went to the Cotswolds in a rose covered cottage in a little village. It was what they'd always dreamt of. They hated it! By chance they came to South Shields on a Groupon visit. We met them whilst we were on the beach walking the dog. They fell in love with the town? In love with the coastline, the river, our beautiful parks, fell in love with the fact you can easily get good schools, the fact you can get a whole street full of Asian food and all types of food, you can get doctors and dentists and hairdressers. They loved that you can walk most places and have cycle routes. When we live in a town in this borough we don't always see past the end of the street. What we have, our natural resources, are fantastic. When I grew up the whole town celebrated when Westoe Colliery reached milestones. When ships were launched people lined the street. They hadn't all built the ship, but they were proud of the fact that it had been built here. They were proud of the fact that somebody they knew had been part of that. Then there's the parade through the town, when loads of organisations and individuals dress up and march through South Shields, it's just spectacular. I envision the huge concerts and events that we have in the summer at the seafront when I think of our community. There is an expression; "Altogether like the folks of Shields." We love to get together, we support each other. We support people's successes but we are also there when they face challenges and disasters and hurt. So when Chloe and Liam left us, the whole community felt it, the whole community was broken hearted.



Among your many roles you are infamously known as Tommy the Trumpeter. Since retiring Tommy what have you missed about him? Do you regret stepping down as Tommy?

I had 25 lovely summers as Tommy. Until I retired and stepped down as Tommy, I had no idea how much he was really loved. I've had parents say to me, "We've just told the children that they're adopted. Will you tell them that it's alright?" "We're having trouble getting the bairn to give up the dodie. If she gives them to you she'll feel alright about it." I've had a call saying the bairn was knocked over. "Can you go and see them in the hospital please?" I had a really heartbreaking one where a child had been taken into care. I had a call from somebody within the care system who asked if I would go down and see this child. They did an activity where they had to list good things and bad things in their life. I was the only good thing they talked about, it was only Tommy on the good side. That was quite a shock. That connection was there the whole time, but I didn't really understand its importance. I didn't realise the way people thought about him and to what extent they loved him. In the last week people who had moved out of the area took a week off work so they could come up and go to the last two parties. Letters and messages from New Zealand, Italy, Australia, Scotland and Bradford came in for me. I got one of those big boxes that store three hundred and sixty eggs that was absolutely packed full of messages. There won't be any children in the school now who remember Tommy, but the parents do. Last summer we did two shows called 'The Revenge of Tommy' and we planned to do two more this March. They were sell outs. People come along to them to relieve their childhood. To me it was just like going down and seeing friends and families that have grown up together. My own children look back very fondly on that time because they were very much involved. They quite like the fact that we can have a summer holiday together for a fortnight now. The truth is, two other people had been appointed for the job, both of who dropped out. I was third choice and they asked me to do it for a fortnight while they appointed someone new. Then twenty five years later I had to say, "Look, I'm going to go now." I wanted to go when people were still saying "Aww Tommy." and leave on a high. When I started I was able to run up and down and jump up and down but as I was getting older it was just getting harder. So, yes I do regret giving him up and I do miss him. It was an absolute privilege to spend so long with so many families and I felt so so lucky to be able to do that.



M. Rutter



Of all the pantomimes you've written, produced and starred in, do you have a favourite three?

My own personal favourite is the Lambtom Work and the reason for that is, it's so unique to our area. It's not one that can be done anywhere else. The song is so well-known but it was written for pantomime and that's the reason it exists, that's special. It's also the pantomime that my other half Trish appeared in as the brave and bold Saint John. We did a few pantos together, but that was one of our favourites. We brought it back to celebrate one hundred and fifty years since the writing of the song a few years ago. It is something that is particular about the area so would be my top one. The next one is the one that is most perfectly formed as a pantomime, it has a great plot and is very easy to follow. I think storytelling is really really important. I don't like pantomimes where people just come on and do their speciality, singing a song because it's in the chart or when actors tell jokes about the soap opera that they're in. I think it's really important to tell stories. Dick Whittington is the one that has the easiest plot and a lovely resolution at the end, making it my second favourite. Choosing the third one is difficult but I'm going to say Little Red Riding Hood and the reason I'm going to say that one is I love doing that pantomime. Again, a great story. When Graeme Thompson and I wrote it we brought the three little pigs in and in my head the three little pigs were chased by the same wolf who was chasing Goldilocks. Red Riding Hood in that production was played by mime and Trisha's daughter, our Natasha. It was filled with fantastic magic and it worked right from the moment the wolf came out of the box. The children roared and I was hiding behind a four poster and wasn't able to see what was going on, but I could hear them and I knew that they cared. I knew that they bought into it and believed. I always say it to the actors that the young people in the audience are believing every word they say. The other day we were out for a walk, Trish and I, and we walked along the pier. We bumped into a Mam and two children. She said, "This is Tommy the Trumpeter." I told her that they're too young to know Tommy. I said, "How rude? Where've you been? What you been doing and who you been doing it with? The little girl's face lit up and she couldn't believe that Arbuthnot's Mam is a bloke in a dress." That's the magic of pantomime.

What are your greatest achievements, both professionally and personally?

Family! Personally, family. I've always punched above my weight being married to Trish, she is far more attractive and talented than I will ever be. We have four lovely children that are convinced they would like to be in the business that their parents have been in. The joy of seeing them progress through life and their achievements is wonderful. We all know that children give you joy and anxiety in equal measure but we are blessed that we've got the four children we have. Professionally... ask me in six months time. If the Customs House is still open, if we get through this and are still trading, that will be my greatest achievement. For now though, professionally it has to be working at the Customs House. There were many easier routes, but they wouldn't have been as rewarding. Achievements are not always about money, sometimes it's just about feeling you've made a bit of a difference.

Finally, how will you be spending the twenty second of May this year?

We'll be celebrating a lot through social media. The Customs House will be sending messages out reminding everyone that it is pink and blue day. We will certainly have pink and blue in our home and will have it in our windows. I'll be taking two minutes of quiet to remember how lucky we are, given what happened on that awful day. I will of course be sending my love out to Chloe and Liam's families. It will always be a day filled with pride for our community and remembering and loving our children. Of course it is a day filled with horror and pain and loss and always will be. I'll be celebrating the good that came from it not the evil that made it happen.

I'm sure you'll agree, this was a very insightful interview packed full of valuable and touching details. Thank you to Ray for being so generous in sharing his anecdotes with us and for representing the trust so sensitively, professionally and with so much heart. We have also contacted a young performer who has benefited from funding given by the trust. Lily Cooke, an ex pupil of ours, applied for funding from the trust to support her in achieving her dreams. Lily has shared her journey so far with us so we have a greater understanding of the candidates the trust supports and the impact this support has. By reading on you will learn a great deal about Lily, if you would like to know more here, are her social media handles:

Facebook: Lily Cooke Music

Instagram: singerlily260

Lily would like to express her gratitude for the support she has received from the trust. She is proud to represent the trust and be evidence of the positivity that Chloe and Liam continue to spread within our community and beyond.



Since leaving SS Peter & Paul Primary I have continued to sing and perform. When I leave school I would love to have a career as a singer and my ultimate dream is to be on the West End in a musical theatre show. I used to love the shows at SS Peter & Paul and remember playing Annie in the Christmas production & Joseph in the Music Festival.

I am passionate about music, singing and performing and have had some great opportunities to do this. I am a member of Own Your Stage and sing in loads of different venues as part of this group. I am a member of STAMP and we put on shows twice a year. I am looking forward to playing Gertrude McFuzz in Seussical the Musical after lockdown is over. I recently played Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz and previously Jasmine in Aladdin amongst many other roles. I have also been nominated and made it to the final three for South Tyneside's Young Performer award.

Last year was an exciting one and I was part of a touring musical called Wor War. I also took part in lots of competitions and festivals to raise money for different charities including The Chloe & Liam Together Forever Trust. I was invited to sing at South Shields Christmas Market, got to the final in a talent competition at Stack, Newcastle and was placed in The Unstoppable Talent UK competition too.

I am so happy to be part of so many exciting events but I was finding that sometimes I could not sing in places because I did not have my own equipment and this is when I decided that I would apply to The Trust to see if they could help me.

I was absolutely thrilled when I got a letter to offer me a bursary to help me buy a PA so I could use this and sing in loads more places without always relying on other people's equipment. It made me feel really independent and proud.

This year I have been asked to be a support act for a local musician. I have been invited to sing at the Relay for Life and The Crossing of the Tyne Festival too. I have auditioned for the British Youth Music Theatre and have been invited to be part of their production in Plymouth in Summer.

I know some of these things may be postponed because of what's happening at the moment but when they are on I'll be ready. I use my equipment every day to practise, rehearse and even during lockdown I have been singing on live-streams to keep music alive in our community.

On Friday 22nd May I am honoured to be part of a very special live stream with other singers at Own Your Stage to celebrate Pink & Blue Day and remember Chloe & Liam and the victims of the Manchester Bombing. The group will be raising money for The Trust and helping other young people to achieve their hopes and dreams just like they helped me to achieve mine.



Prayer Space

Light a candle if you have one. You might want to bring some pink and blue things into the space: it could be some ribbons or balloons; it could be some soft toys or even some shiny sweet wrappers; or you could make some pink and blue hearts or rainbow shapes with pink and blue stripes.

Spend a few quiet moments together, holding Liam and Chloe and their families in your heart and especially our lovely friends Mrs Curry and Zack, Liam's mam and brother.

A prayer to say if you want to or you could use your own words:

Loving God, we pray for Mrs Curry, for Zak, for Chloe's family and for all the families who lost someone in Manchester. We pray for all the people who still have injuries and for everyone whose lives were changed because of what happened. Bless them, protect them and walk beside them for ever. Amen.

The Together Forever Trust raises money to help young people to use and improve their skills in sport and music. Have you learnt any new skills recently? (I've learned how to use video calling and to be patient!)

A prayer to say if you want to:

Lord, thank you for the lives of Liam and Chloe, which inspired the work of the Together Forever Trust. Bless the people who organise it and the young people who have been helped.

Thank you for the new skills I've learned recently. Help me to enjoy using them, especially if they make other people happy too. Amen.

A reminder of teacher's email addresses

Staff email addresses begin with their names and all use the same domain name which is: @sspeterpaul.s-tyneside.sch.uk

To contact a member of staff simply use the usernames below followed by the domain name.

Nursery: ktodd

Reception: jparker

Y1: ccooke

Y2: leyres and sgraham

Y3: jgregg

Y4: kstephenson

Y5: scoyne

Y6: Inicol

Office: info

Head teacher: mbutt

Useful numbers

South Tyneside Hospital
01914041000

Mental Health Initial Response Team 03031231145

Citizens Advice Bureau Advice Line 0344 4994 715

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247

Samaritans 116 123

S. Tyneside Lifecycle Mental Health Service 01912832937

For details about food banks contact: Hospitality and Hope
on 0191 420 3336

Key 2 Life Foodbank on

07833 613393

Hebburn Helps on

0191 489 9707