

MWA Home and Overseas Paper - September 2012

The MWA has given £500 to the Alex Hulme Foundation which is dedicated to the life of Alex Hulme, and to enhancing research into Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in Children – (Registered Charity No. 1146012)

Alex was born in Trafford on July 29th 1999 and led a full and fruitful life, endearing himself to all who met him with his fun, easy going and mature approach to life.

In March 2011, Alex was diagnosed B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma which came as a massive shock to all who knew him.

However, throughout his treatment Alex was very brave and positive doing all that was asked of him, believing he would be rewarded with a full recovery.

During this time, he was helped immeasurably by all of his wonderful friends along with the staff and fellow patients at The Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital.

Unfortunately, despite his treatment working well in the early stages, Alex's cancer returned in late June and although he responded well again, he lost his six month battle and left his family and friends on September 5th 2011.

His service took place on September 14th 2011 at Hazel Grove United Reformed Church and he has been laid to rest in Sale Cemetery overlooking the park where he spent so many happy hours.

Alex touched so many people in such a short time and we are so proud of him. All of Alex's family and many friends miss him terribly. Losing Alex has had such an impact on everyone including his friends, his schools and the hospital who have all been supportive.

His family wished to honour Alex by setting up a legacy to help others in future. Many children survive this disease, over 80 per cent, but unfortunately Alex wasn't one of them so there is still a long way to go before the target of a one hundred per cent survival rate is reached.

The **Alex Hulme Foundation** was formed on 12th October 2011 by Alex's Mum and Dad, Nicola and Dave Hulme, along with Alex's Auntie, Brenda Jackson.

Through donations made to the **Alex Hulme Foundation** donors will be helping towards improving the research into and the treatment of this dreadful disease and thus providing diagnosed children with a better prognosis for the future.

The intention is for the Foundation to belong to everyone who supports it as they will become part of Alex's extended family. Also, every penny raised will go towards developing research into Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in Children with none of the money being diluted by administration costs.

The first target of **£5,000** was achieved on 31st December 2011 a mere eleven weeks after the Foundation was formed. Registered Charity status was granted on 21st February 2012.

After much thought and discussion the next target was set at an ambitious **£20,000**,

by 12th October 2012 to mark the Foundation's first year in existence. However, that target was reached and passed on 3rd April 2012 a mere 178 days after the Foundation was formed!

Having held a meeting in April 2012 with Dr Suzanne Turner, a leading researcher in Lymphoma, donations will be spent on B-Cell NHL Research. The research project is expected to take up to five years therefore the Foundation's long term goal is to raise **£100,000** by October 2016. To date, the Foundation has raised **£61,387**.

This will ensure the Foundation can make a massive difference for diagnosed children in the future.

Naomi Hancock

