

Wokingham News

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£100,000 RAISED IN MEMORY OF OLLIE

Exclusive

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A WOKINGHAM charity is celebrating after raising more than £100,000 in just 14 months.

The staggering sum has been achieved by the Ollie Young Foundation – which was set up in June 2012 in memory of the five-year-old boy who died from a brain tumour.

The amount means the founders of the charity have reached their first goal – to fund three years of dedicated research into the specific type of paediatric brain tumour that affected Ollie – who died in February 2012.

Simon Young, Ollie's dad, set up the foundation with his wife Sarah, in memory of Ollie – who died the day

Foundation funds tumour research

before his sixth birthday. Mr Young, from Woosehill, said: "We've said it before so many times, but 'thank you' just doesn't cover what we want to say.

"We have had support from far and wide but the people of Wokingham have been our heartbeat, they have been wonderful.

"And we couldn't have a more dedicated committee than those at the foundation, they have all worked so hard at events and behind the scenes too.

"They're a great bunch and we look forward to continuing to work together going forward."

The foundation is now focused on achieving the

second phase of fundraising required to continue the research and also support Helen & Douglas House Hospice in Oxford and the CLIC Sargent children's cancer charity – organisations that provided vital support to the Young family during Ollie's illness.

Supporters of the charity this year have included Sainsbury's Winnersh, which has named the foundation as its charity of the year.

Wokingham photographer Shaun Edwards also memorably ran his 100-mile ultra-marathon along the Thames earlier this year, while Wokingham and Bracknell residents

have been busy running, swimming, holding cake sales and much more.

Sarah Young said: "We are stunned to find ourselves at this milestone point with the Ollie Young Foundation in such early days of our organisation and we are so proud to be able to put wheels in motion to start research in Ollie's name.

"The fundraising is a testament to the compassion of all those who have put money into our collecting tins, participated in sponsored activities, bought tickets to one of our events or supported us by wearing or purchasing our merchandise.

"Everyone can share in the success of what we have done to help fund brain tumour research. I'm just overwhelmed."

For more, visit www.ollieyoungfoundation.org



Inspiration: Ollie Young died of a brain tumour, aged five, last year. Since then his family and friends have been fundraising for research and to support a children's hospice.