

THE WOKINGHAM TIMES

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Ollie inspires art initiative

➤ Mural plan to raise funds for foundation

BY SALLY BRYANT

A RENOWNED street artist will put the face of a boy who died from a brain tumour in a public mural to raise funds for the foundation in his name.

Pistol, whose graffiti art took Wokingham by storm Banksy-style, will be painting late Wooshill schoolboy Ollie Young's portrait in Wellington Road in a 'paint jam'.

He and fellow artists, from as far afield as Belgium, will be covering what he sees as "hideous hoardings" over August Bank Holiday weekend. The charity effort, which will run alongside Wokingham Festival, will be in aid of the Ollie Young Foundation.

And Wokingham artist Pistol is appealing for more sponsorship to help cover the cost of the event and back the foundation's vital research and support.

Pistol explained: "I have Zappas on board as main sponsors, but I am looking for more small businesses to step forward and we will put their names on the boards."

Ollie died in February, 2012, just a day before his sixth birthday and 12 weeks after the first symptoms had shown.

Brain tumours kill more children than any other form of cancer and the foundation, set up by Ollie's parents Sarah and Simon, is striving to spare others their pain.

It funds targeted paediatric brain tumour research, helping the Helen & Douglas House hospices and

national children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent. At present it is sponsoring a Phd student at the University of Portsmouth.

Mrs Young is overwhelmed such a talented artist is going to put her son's picture in the public eye.

She said: "It's hard to put it into words, what he can do just blows me away - it's just amazing."

"It will be just marvellous to have Ollie's picture in the centre of

Wokingham and his face seen by everyone. I just thought it was a lovely touch, it goes beyond many things."

The artist championing the cause burst onto the Wokingham art scene five years ago when a stunning picture of a girl's face, called 'Seven', appeared on a wall behind Halifax building society in Market Place.

Inspired by Jamie Reid's artwork, used by the Sex Pistols, and the

idiosyncratic Banksy, he hasn't looked back since he seized his aerosol cans.

His works are on walls at The Redan in Peach Street, The Corner House in Windsor and in underpasses and skateparks. He has painted at many festivals, including Glastonbury and Henley's Rewind.

Anyone wanting to sponsor the 'paint jam' can do so via www.pistolart.com or www.ollieyoungfoundation.org.

INSIDE

Ollie in a mural

A STREET artist will depict a boy who died from a brain tumour in a public mural to raise funds for the foundation in his name.



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Artwork by Pistol painted at Hop Farm Festival this month. Inset, Ollie Young who has inspired Pistol's latest project.