

## Family Update - 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Some days it feels like yesterday that the house was full of chatter and commotion, with Ross & Jamie running around, having fun, racing to and from the school bus – and of course squabbling as all children do!

And then reality hits home – we are tragically a man down and have been now for 5 long years since this photo was taken at Forest Holidays (Keldy) in 2015.

We are amazed how the three of us have each managed to cope since that live-changing moment in 2015 - most

especially Jamie's brother Ross, who continued at

school, initially to complete his GCSE exams and then continued onto Sixth Form, 'A' Levels and subsequently his three year apprenticeship with Audi UK, based at Hull Audi. He's turning 21 this year and heading towards the end of his apprenticeship. Who knows where his career will take him, but the word 'proud' is an enormous understatement.

The loss of Jamie wasn't just about us though; it affected our family and friends too. And more importantly it had a massive impact on many of Jamie's friends, as well as those who only knew of him through social media. Jamie had made a lasting impression on, and was loved by, so many people – something he probably never realised; he was a kind and sensitive soul, but full of energy and just loved to entertain people and make them laugh. We are so proud of and grateful to all of you for everything you have done in Jamie's memory and showing such strength and dignity through adversity.

We sometimes wonder what we've done in these last five years, because it's all been such a blur really. But when we stop and think about it, quite a lot has happened.....

We've seen some amazing charity fundraising in memory of Jamie and we've now hosted five Annual Coffee Mornings. There have been cycle challenges (UK and European) as well as Total Warrior events, annual football matches and the associated bun sales, to name a few.

We've supported the installation of three defibrillators in the village of Swanland and continue to oversee them to ensure they are kept up to date. A couple of memorial benches have been installed (by the Pond and up at the Playing Fields); a new climbing frame at the Playing Fields was also dedicated to Jamie – 'Jamie's Jungle'.

Ross passed his driving test in 2016 and loved his first VW Polo, but that was upgraded in March 2017 and we've almost lost count of how many cars he's owned since then!

**#JamieRemembered** ♥

**#GoneButNeverForgotten**

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Jenny took the decision to retire in late 2019, which has allowed her to take on a few unpaid roles with local organisations. Graham recently joined his former Company on a part time basis, to assist with their website and social media updates.

We've managed a few holidays in the UK and Ross even bagged a couple of trips to the USA with school..! The first to New York and Washington and the other to Vermont for a week of skiing!! He's also been to the Alps skiing with his life-long friend and his family in early 2019.

But, perhaps the most important thing we've managed is to create Jamie's Legacy - Heart Screenings for young people, with the charity **Cardiac Risk in the Young**. All of our fundraising is now focused on CRY (over £150,000 raised to date) and 1,404 young people have been screened through Jamie's Fund at CRY with another 800 places booked covering 2020 and 2021 already, with more to come in the years after we hope.

Back in 2015, we created a website and social media accounts in Jamie's name to post updates, memories and notifications. We've occasionally uploaded videos to Jamie's old YouTube page too. However, this five year milestone will perhaps mark the point where we ease back on uploading posts and you will see a little less from us on these platforms.....

But **please** don't think that this means we don't appreciate the support and following we have, nor that the loss of Jamie is any less painful – it just means we have to look after ourselves as we continue to adapt to life without Jamie. Important information will be shared with you and anniversaries and birthdays will always be marked with updates.

And now, here we are in March 2020 and we see Jamie's cohort of friends finishing their 'A' Levels. Many have also passed their driving tests and others are now 18 and legally drinking alcohol! It's bittersweet seeing them grow up, but we love hearing how they are all doing and we know that Jamie would be encouraging them to dream big and make it happen!

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We regularly see our little 'Jamie' robin jumping around the garden and know he'll be keeping an eye on all of us, especially in these current uncertain times of the Coronavirus pandemic.

We took a short break over the weekend of the anniversary and took a photo to reflect the memories we have from many of the Forest Holidays sites.

We miss Jamie with all our hearts and know that when it's our turn, we will all be reunited.

Thank you for your love and support. x



#JamieRemembered ♥

#GoneButNeverForgotten