

"The future of Stand-by-me is very bright"

AFTER 8 YEARS AT THE HELM IAN COTTERILL IS STANDING DOWN AS CHAIR OF TRUSTEES. HERE, IAN REFLECTS ON HOW THE HARD WORK OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND TRUSTEES MEAN THAT THE CHARITY IS IN GOOD HANDS FOR THE FUTURE.



Ian Cotterill: Outgoing Chair of Trustees

In 2014 when Stand-by-me was formed, a meeting was held to explain its objectives and what was needed in terms of volunteers and trustees. The next thing I knew, I received a phone call asking if I would consider being Chair! Why did I say yes?

The main reason was that our daughter, Hannah, had died just before her 4th birthday and I knew how difficult it had been for her brother who was 5 at the time to deal with his loss. My wife and I had also volunteered for 10 years at the Child Death Helpline at Great Ormond Street Hospital and we realised how little help was available to children and young people in coming to terms with the loss of a loved one.

What have the main challenges been over the last 8 years? The basic clinical model was in place but we had to get Stand-by-me widely known in the community.

This has taken time but we can all be proud that by 2022 Stand-by-me is well known and highly regarded for the help it provides.

This is very largely due to the tremendous commitment of our staff who always go above and beyond their duties, supported by a team of dedicated volunteers. The dedication of Trustees has also been a critical factor – each one has a specific area of responsibility and, as I hand the baton on, I would like to thank them for their enthusiasm and hard work.

The future of Stand-by-me is very bright. We have wonderful support within the community and from organisations such as Children in Need. This has enabled us to steadily widen the range of our activities so we now have developed Contact-me within schools, our Young Ambassadors programme, Uniting Families as well as our core Group Programme for children and young people. We know that there are more youngsters and families who can benefit from our work and I see Stand-by-me progressively widening its support programme as resources permit.

I feel proud to have been a part of the development of a charity which does so much good within our community.

...and a warm welcome to our new Chair of Trustees

CAROL READ STEPS INTO THE ROLE OF CHAIR OF TRUSTEES, BRINGING A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE TO THE TEAM.

I am a retired secondary school teacher, living in Royston, who worked in the pastoral system for many years helping young people with behavioural problems. I have also been involved with Stand-by-me since it started both as a volunteer and as trustee responsible for safeguarding.



The Young Ambassadors play a very important role in the work of Stand-by-me and I feel this is an area that could be further developed as there is no better advert for an organisation than the families and young people who have benefitted.

As a charity we face many challenges. Funding is an ongoing problem and it is important that we continue to look at new areas to fund Stand-by-me. I am adamant that I do not want my role as Chair to impede the hands-on approach that I have had at the coal face within Stand-by-me since I started.

On behalf of everybody at Stand-by-me I would like to sincerely thank Ian for all the work he has done in the past setting up Stand-by-me and supporting the work of Karen, Lisa and Helen in the day-to-day running of Stand-by-me. I will endeavour to continue this support. Ian will be a hard act to follow.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS





REMEMBER-ME DAY 2022

Friends, families, trustees and volunteers joined together on 27th August to celebrate our first Remember-me Day since 2019. The event, held at St Christopher's School in Letchworth, was a chance for everyone to get together, after a challenging few years, to remember loved ones and to have fun together in the late summer sunshine. Although he was unable to join us on the day, Stand-by-me Patron Billy Byrne sent a special message to say: "Sorry I was unable to be with you on such a special day, sending lots of love and hugs to you all."



PLEASE SIGN UP TO MAKE A MONTHLY DONATION

By doing so, you'll be helping us to continue all the vital work featured on these pages.

Making a monthly gift, via Direct Debit, also helps us to plan ahead and ensure we can continue to support bereaved young people and their families long into the future.

So, if you can, please go to the webpage below, fill in your details and select the amount you'd like to give – it's quick and easy to do.

On behalf of all the children and young people we work with: thank you. Together, we can give them a brighter future.

standbyme.enthuse.com/donate

To support Stand-by-me with a monthly donation scan the QR code or go to standbyme.enthuse.com/donate





Making a noise to make a difference

We are delighted to announce that this year Stand-by-me will be supported by Global's Make Some Noise, a national charity linked to UK radio stations that fund and support small charities across the UK that are making a big difference to people's lives.

The funding will enable us to continue to run our Uniting Families Project run by our Bereavement Support Manager. The project supports parents/carers through our 7 week groupwork programme that runs alongside the group for children and young people. The group gives parents/carers the confidence to support their child with the grieving process and is a safe place to share their own experiences and learn from each other. Uniting Families also provides support for schools through our Contact-me programme.

Bereaved children and young people tell us that they feel isolated in their grief and we know that school can be particularly difficult for a bereaved child. Contact-me offers training for school staff and a structure of support to implement when a student is bereaved.

We would like to thank Global's Make Some Noise for all their hard work in supporting small charities like Stand-by-me. Thank you also to Rebecca, Jack and Owen for sharing their stories on national radio to help raise awareness of Stand-by-me as part of Global's Make Some Noise launch day.

Visit our website at www.stand-by-me.org.uk to see our Young Ambassadors share their stories



We take to TikTok for Children in Need

CHILDREN IN NEED RECENTLY APPROACHED US TO ASK IF WE WOULD LIKE TO PRODUCE A SHORT 'TIKTOK UNPACKS' VIDEO HIGHLIGHTING THE BENEFITS OF CHILDREN'S BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT.

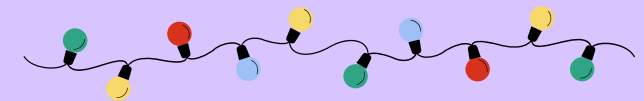
Our Clinical Service Manager, Karen, got on board with this great opportunity, along with Hugo, one of our wonderful Young Ambassadors who talked about his personal experience of Stand-by-me and becoming a Young Ambassador. Do look out for the video which we hope will be launched later this year.



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Hugo said, "I have really enjoyed my experience working with Children in Need. It opened my eyes to how things work and what it's like to be a producer and the hurdles they come across."

It also goes without saying how extremely grateful we are to Children in Need. Their support not only gives us the opportunity to raise awareness of childhood bereavement and Stand-by-me, but also for their generous grant which allows to us to continue to provide our psycho-educational therapeutic bereavement groupwork programme to children and young people across North Herts and Stevenage.



#dontsendmeacard

For an innovative way to support us why not send Stand-by-me Charity Christmas ecards and donate the cost of printed cards and stamps to us. Everyone will see that you donated and you can feel good about not wasting trees!

Visit: <https://dontsendmeacard.com/ecard/G2ns>



Best friends tee off for Stand-by-me

STAND-BY-ME SUPPORTER PAUL MCKENNA HAS FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE OF THE IMPACT OF BEREAVEMENT. HERE, PAUL EXPLAINS HOW STAND-BY-ME MADE A DIFFERENCE TO HIS FAMILY AND WHY HE CHOSE US TO BENEFIT FROM THIS YEAR'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD IN MEMORY OF HIS FRIENDS.

We were just lads growing up on a council estate, The Jackmans. Then, in one year our lives would be changed forever. Two of our group who were best friends, Stephen Lee (Ski) and Brendan Heavey (Benny), took their own lives within months of each other.

But we didn't forget them and in 1995 Jeff Fitts organised a golf day with a cup to the winner and 'The BenSki Cup' was born. Now, 27 years later, the same guys, now with sons included, still gather each year to remember our friendships. We have 60 players each year and we raise a glass or two to Benny and Ski.

Then, my stepsons lost their dad to pancreatic cancer in 2020 and the support given by Stand-by-me then and now cannot be spoken of highly enough. I'm immensely proud of how they have both coped without their dad who was their hero. So, everyone agreed to hold this year's cup in aid of Stand-by-me. We hoped to raise £500 but amazingly we raised £1,192.97

So, for Harry and Hugo and everyone that Stand-by-me supports, we hope our little contribution helps.

All the boys from Jackmans x

THANK YOU

We are so grateful to all the friends of Stand-by-me for their generous support. Because of you we are able to help even more bereaved children, young people and their families in North Herts and Stevenage look forward to a more positive future.

FAMILY OF
PAUL
AGGARWAL

MARTIN POPE - BRIAN
CANNON MEMORIAL
GOLF DAY

HITCHIN
YOUTH
TRUST

DACRE
LODGE

CAROL ALLEN
SCHOOL OF
DANCING

HERTFORDSHIRE
BRIDGE
ASSOCIATION

BALSTOCK
FESTIVAL