

£100,000 to carry out Guy's wishes

Funds raised in honour of city graduate

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THE family of a 25-year-old who was killed in a paragliding accident have raised more than £100,000 in his memory.

Newcastle University graduate Guy Joseph died in the Spanish Pyrenees after turbulent winds caused him to crash-land.

Guy travelled the world to participate in extreme sports but he lost his life when he strayed into a treacherous part of the mountains near the Spanish town of Organya.

After his death in October 2011, his mother, father and two sisters set up a charity organisation called Guy's Trust, aiming to create opportunities for young people around the world.

Thanks to massive support from friends and those who were touched by Guy's passing, the charity has raised more than £100,000 in 12 months.

These funds are set to benefit the causes that Guy was passionate about - particularly improving educational opportunities for disadvantaged young people in developing countries.

Guy's father, Tony Joseph, 67, who lives in London, said: "People are very sympathetic and have been very supportive, both emotionally and financially. I think Guy would be amazed and very proud."

After he graduated from Newcastle University with a first class degree in Marine Biology, Guy travelled the globe teaching scuba diving in Indonesia and paragliding in Nepal.

His proud father said: "He did what he wanted to do and he made it happen."

But while Guy was courageous in his thrill-seeking, he was also compassionate, and during his time in Nepal, he fell in love with the country and its people. The



POPULAR Guy Joseph, a Newcastle University student who died in a paragliding accident

Joseph family paid tribute to their son on the Guy's Trust website.

They said: "Guy was intelligent, warm, compassionate and non-judgmental; a gentle, caring and wise son and brother

and dear friend to many people all over the world.

"Despite his youth and legendary sense of fun and zest for life, he had a reputation as a responsible and gifted teacher with a talent for developing friendships with anyone, whatever their background, nationality or age."

For Guy's parents, setting up the charity was a way of carrying on Guy's good work and benefiting those who he had strived to help.

Tony said: "We felt we had to do something. We thought 'what could we do to make a tribute to Guy?' Then one thing led to another. Part of our mission is to keep his name and his memory alive."

Fundraisers have toiled throughout the year completing marathon runs, grueling cycle races and even a trek to Everest base camp - all of which have helped to raise £105,966.

The first project to benefit from the charity's work will be the building of two Guy Joseph Early Development Centres in the Kashi district of Nepal.

Thirty of Guy's friends and family will be going to Nepal on March 28 2012 to work with locals to build the centres, which will offer deprived children a

chance for an education.

With the backing of Action Aid, the centres will provide a desperately needed resource in one of the world's poorest countries.

Tony said: "The children have no chance in life and we are giving them a key to get out."

The Guy Joseph MantaWatch Awards have also been set up.

Guy was instrumental in the creation of MantaWatch during his time in Indonesia - it aims to protect endangered manta ray.

Guy's Trust is carrying on where their inspiration left off and will award two internships per year to enthusiastic and motivated marine science students from that part of the world.

It's clear that Guy had an impact on many people, but perhaps his friend Will Clark, summed up what kind of person he was.

Will said: "He was truly, brightly alive, turned right on, bright as the brightest. Everyone loved him. What a man."

To get involved with Guy's Trust, either by donating money or fundraising, visit: www.guystrust.org/donate.html

You can also donate a maximum of £10 by text, by texting: GUY\$10 £10 to 70070.

Road safety scheme set to get the green light

A SCHEME aimed at improving road safety for families in a Northumberland market town is expected to be given the green light next week.

It is proposed to create a 20mph speed limit zone on the Stobhill Farm and Stobhill Manor housing estates in Morpeth in a bid to tackle safety concerns sparked by current traffic speeds.

Residents have requested a 20mph zone, and have been backed up by local councillors Ian Lindley and David Towns, who have agreed to use their personal budgets for local schemes to fund the work required.

Next week members of the county council's planning and environment committee will be recommended by highways officers to implement the scheme, which will cover a number of streets on the estates.

A report to the committee says a consultation exercise was carried out with more than 300 letters sent out to residents asking for their views on the traffic calming measure. It resulted in 81 households backing the 20mph limit and 24 opposing it.

Those in favour said the move would help prevent accidents, and there were calls for the limit to be cut to just 15mph. Those against claimed the 20mph limit is unnecessary and a waste of money, said proposed signs would be unsightly and questioned how the limit will be enforced. Committee members are being recommended to note the objections but agree to introduce the new limit. Assistant engineer, Stefan Bell, says the council could hold a public inquiry into the proposal, but this would be unlikely to bring any fresh information to light and is not considered necessary.

Campaign group slams rail fare rise

THIS week's rail fare rise comes at a time of "no perceptible improvement in services", a campaign group said.

The average season ticket increase of 4.2%, which takes effect on Wednesday, is the 10th above-inflation increase in a row, said the Railfuture group.

For example, a Morpeth-Newcastle season ticket will go up to £1,008, a rise of 5%.

The Association of Train Operating Companies (Atoc) has said the overall average rise, including non-season tickets, will be 3.9% on Wednesday, with some fares not going up as much as this.

But with some non-season-ticket unregulated fares allowed to be increased by an unlimited amount, Railfuture said that some fares could be going up by around 11% or 12%.

Railfuture spokesman Bruce Williamson said: "Yet again, rail fares go up with no perceptible improvement in service."

"Over the last 10 years, fares have increased by more than 50% - much more than people's incomes."

Transport Minister Norman Baker said: "Family budgets are being squeezed, so that is why this coalition Government has taken proactive steps to cut the planned fare rises from 3% to 1% above inflation until 2014."



ACTIVE LIFE Guy Joseph, who died in a paragliding accident