# Southport community honours Elsie Stancombe with blood drive and charity initiative



The tragic loss of seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe, who was murdered in the Southport mass stabbing attack during a Taylor Swift-themed dance class last summer, continues to resonate deeply within her community. In a remarkable display of solidarity and compassion, her parents, Jenni and Dave Stancombe, have spearheaded an initiative aimed at raising awareness and inspiring actions that honour Elsie's legacy. Recently, they organised a blood donation drive at St John Stone Church in Southport, an event attended by nearly 100 people.

Jenni Stancombe expressed profound gratitude towards the blood donors, describing them as “inspiring.” Their contributions not only served as a heartfelt tribute to her daughter but also played a crucial role in ensuring that lifesaving blood was available during the initial emergency response to the stabbing incident. Referring to the NHS Blood and Transplant's efforts, Stancombe acknowledged that while Elsie’s outcome was tragically different, the timely delivery of blood greatly aided many who were injured that day.

This event was part of a broader initiative by Elsie’s family, who have established a charity named Elsie’s Story. The charity seeks to honour Elsie's "positivity, love for others, and energy of life" by providing grants to support local young people and community initiatives. The aim, as articulated by her family, is to ensure that the tragedy is transformed into a promise of hope and resilience for others.

The blood donation session was supported by NHS Blood and Transplant, whose personnel included members of the transport team that responded on the day of the attack. Among them were Stephen Kuypers and Dave Oxton, who made multiple emergency deliveries of blood supplies to hospitals, including Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Their rapid response ensured that patients received the best possible care during a critical time. Kuypers recalled the urgency of that day, where he and his team made several blue-light deliveries, an extraordinary feat that underscored the gravity of the situation.

Dr Jo Farrar, chief executive of NHS Blood and Transplant, conveyed her admiration for the turnout at the donation event, noting that every donation could potentially aid multiple patients. The ongoing need for blood is underscored by alerts, particularly for O negative blood type, which remains crucial in emergencies where a patient's blood type is unknown. As the NHS continues its widespread appeal for donors, there are growing concerns about potential shortages, especially with multiple bank holidays approaching that traditionally see a dip in donations.

In the wake of the Southport tragedy, community spirit has emerged as a defining characteristic of the local response. Events such as Elsie’s Special Day, which commemorated her life and celebrated the joy she brought to those around her, have brought together not only family and friends but also a broader community united in grief and remembrance. This gathering was marked by vibrant colours and lively tributes, rather than the traditional sombre attire typically seen at funerals, embodying a commitment to remembering Elsie in a manner that reflects her joyful spirit.

While the somber memories of the event linger, the family's initiative serves as a beacon of hope, fostering resilience and urging the community to move forward with love and compassion—principles they hope will define Southport in the future, rather than the tragic events of that fateful day.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/mother-of-southport-victim-praises-inspiring-blood-donors/a726712569.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gqgvz5298o> - The family of Elsie Dot Stancombe, a seven-year-old girl killed in the Southport stabbing attacks, has established a charity named Elsie's Story. The trust aims to honor Elsie's 'positivity, love for others, and energy of life' by making grants in her name to assist young people and support the community. Elsie's family expressed their commitment to ensuring that the tragedy does not go in vain and view the creation of this trust as the beginning of that promise.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/southport-royal-mail-david-merseyside-police-taylor-swift-b1178046.html> - A special day was held to celebrate the life of seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe, who was killed in the Southport knife attack. The funeral, referred to as 'Elsie’s Special Day,' took place at St John’s Church in Birkdale, near Southport. Mourners were invited to wear pastel or bright colors instead of black. The service was attended by those who knew Elsie best, and the community gathered to honor her memory.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/southport-bobby-st-johns-church-david-taylor-swift-b1178131.html> - The funeral of Elsie Dot Stancombe, a victim of the Southport stabbing, was marked by balloons, bubbles, and bright colors. The service at St John’s Church in Birkdale was attended by members of Elsie's cheerleading squad, who formed a guard of honor. The church was decorated with pastel-colored flowers and pink ribbons, and attendees were asked to wear bright colors instead of black. The ceremony celebrated Elsie's life and the joy she brought to those around her.
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/parents-of-southport-stabbings-victims-pay-tribute-to-daughters-and-describe-moment-they-were-told-something-awful-has-happened-13305399> - The parents of the victims of the Southport stabbings have paid tribute to their daughters and described the moment they were informed of the tragedy. Jenni Stancombe, mother of seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe, recounted receiving a call from another mother informing her of the stabbing. She immediately rushed to the scene, leaving her house open. The article provides insights into the parents' reactions and the impact of the attack on the community.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2024_Southport_stabbings> - The 2024 Southport stabbings occurred on 29 July 2024 at the Hart Space, a dance studio in Southport, Merseyside, UK. Seventeen-year-old Axel Rudakubana killed three children and injured ten others at a Taylor Swift–themed yoga and dance workshop attended by 26 children. The article details the background of the attack, the perpetrator's profile, and the subsequent legal proceedings, including Rudakubana's arrest, charges, and trial. It also covers the community's response and the impact of the incident.
7. <https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2024-08-23/hundreds-gather-for-elsies-special-day> - Hundreds gathered to celebrate the life of seven-year-old Elsie Dot Stancombe, a victim of the Southport knife attack. The event, referred to as 'Elsie's Special Day,' took place at St John’s Church in Birkdale, near Southport. Mourners, including members of the emergency services and local community, wore bright and pastel colors as per the family's request. The service featured performances of Elsie's favorite songs, including Fleetwood Mac’s 'Songbird,' and was a tribute to her life and the joy she brought to others.