# Family's fight against sepsis in memory of brave Alfie Jones



Alfie Jones, a 14-year-old boy from St Helens, tragically passed away from sepsis on May 9, 2024, after a lifelong battle with health challenges. Born on March 15, 2010, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour at just three months old, which led to numerous hospital visits throughout his young life. This diagnosis also resulted in hydrocephalus, a condition causing the accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain.

Alfie's communication abilities were notably affected by his medical conditions; while he could only say small words, he developed alternative methods to express himself, including sign language. His parents, Craig and Rachel Jones, actively participated in learning sign language alongside him. Despite the obstacles he faced, Alfie enjoyed aspects of a typical teenage life, sharing moments with his two brothers, Oliver and Jude, as well as his beloved Labrador, Lola, who understood Alfie’s specific needs.

The family often engaged in everyday activities together, creating cherished memories. Craig reflected on their close bond, indicating that they spent quality time together shopping and relaxing at the beach. During a family outing on the day of his death, Alfie even won a bowling match. Upon returning home, however, he went straight to bed, and by the following day, his health had dramatically worsened.

Upon being taken to the hospital, Alfie was diagnosed with an infection, leading medical staff to induce a coma in an attempt to combat the illness. Unfortunately, Alfie's immune system, weakened from years of chemotherapy, was unable to withstand the severity of the infection, resulting in sepsis. This condition occurs when the body has an extreme response to infection, causing damage to its own tissues and organs.

Craig expressed the family's concerns about the lack of information provided by healthcare professionals regarding the risks associated with sepsis. “As parents we have been in and out of hospital with Alfie since he was just three months old and we cannot remember a single conversation with any hospital or member of staff, regarding the dangers of sepsis and what exactly sepsis is," he stated. His family now aims to raise awareness about sepsis through advocacy and educational efforts.

The family is particularly advocating for Martha's Rule, inspired by the tragic story of Martha Mills, who died in 2021 from complications following an injury related to sepsis. This rule aims to empower families to seek urgent reviews of a patient’s condition if they believe it is deteriorating, with the intent of recognising the early signs of sepsis to prevent further tragedies.

On March 15, the Jones family gathered to honour what would have been Alfie’s fifteenth birthday, commemorating his courageous spirit throughout his life. They reflect on the challenges Alfie faced and the profound impact he had on their lives. Craig stated, “I will never forget how bravely he took on the challenges that he was met with. He will always be my hero.” The Alfie Jones Foundation has since been established to continue raising awareness and advocating for improved understanding of sepsis.

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

## References

* <https://www.cdc.gov/sepsis/index.html> - This URL provides general information on sepsis, including its causes, symptoms, and prevention strategies, which relates to the overall issue of sepsis awareness advocated by the Jones family.
* <https://www.braintrust.org.uk/brain-tumour/what-is-a-brain-tumour/> - This site offers information about brain tumors, which is relevant to Alfie's condition, although it doesn't directly mention Alfie's case.
* <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/hydrocephalus> - This resource explains hydrocephalus, a condition Alfie experienced as a complication of his brain tumor.
* <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/sepsis/> - This NHS webpage provides information on sepsis, including its diagnosis and treatment, which aligns with the Jones family's advocacy for better understanding and recognition of sepsis.
* <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hydrocephalus/symptoms-causes/syc-20372604> - This page from the Mayo Clinic discusses hydrocephalus, its symptoms, and treatment options, though it is not directly related to Alfie's story.