

'Our Boys'

Danny and Sam lived worlds apart

But both had music and words in their heart

Working hard and having fun

Chilling out in rain or sun

But their bodies were thinking a different way

As they were told on that fateful day

December the 8th 2004

Changed our lives for evermore

Tests then followed, with biopsies and scans

Results, discussions and treatment plans

Side effects, transfusions and infections were rife

As they both bravely continued on with their life

Loyalty reigned and friendships grew

With some not knowing what to do

Normality is what our boys desired

Though sometimes their bodies were just too tired

Hair fell out, but their smiles remained

As the roller coaster ride took its strain

Good news and bad came interspersed

Joy and tears were well rehearsed

Remission for a while we're full of joy

But it was just waiting to redeploy

The cancer returned and took its grip

Ding Ding, there started the round two trip

More plans and discussions with the team
And another gruelling treatment regime
Pump in the poison and fire the rays
Keep positive amidst the fog and daze

Christmas and birthdays we celebrate
With uncertainty looming over future dates
Gathering around our family and friends
Appreciating the love and warmth it sends

The cancer's still there, but seems at bay
Maintenance is now the only way
Their bodies were tired, the road was tough
All in all they'd had enough

Acceptance was hard as everyone's told
There is no more, you're at the end of the road
Chats and hugs allaying fears
Trying to smile amidst the tears

Music helps soothe Sam's final days
Jack Johnson and Bob Marley float through the haze
Ethereal Sigur Ros and Damien Rice we play
All being grateful for another day

The June sun sees Sam breathe his last
The pain and suffering now in the past
Our hearts are broken but we try to be strong
To be angry or bitter would be so wrong

August sees Danny have another op
To keep it at bay there's no time to stop
In and out of Uni, keeping a routine
To those looking on, just a normal scene

In mid-October we head off to London
At Radio 2's Studios we see Jack Johnson
We're unaware of his thoughts on that day
As across the ocean Danny was slipping away

Two weeks later the fight is lost
Danny's battle is over at such a cost
More hearts broken, more empty lives
Faith and memories help you to survive

Mothers Day's hard, but Ross looks out for me
Giving me Jack's 'Sleep Through the Static' music CD
"In loving memory of Danny Riley" I spied
After an e-mail or two our families are tied

Our boys were so similar and so strong
What on earth caused it all to go so wrong?
Support we share with poetry and song
As the grieving path we all tread along

Tickets for Jack in Cornwall you sent
The weather was rough and wouldn't relent
Waterproofs on we all went with the flow
Singing along with Danny's guitar on show

Time goes on, yet seems to stand still
Each morning having to swallow that bitter pill
But we smile and know that our boys are fine
Singing and rocking in a land divine

Music helped their journeys along
Whether a heavy tune or a joyful song
'The Danny Riley Fund' you set up for your son
So others suffering could escape and have fun

While we chose to support 'Teenage Cancer Trust'
To improve the cancer journey had to be a must
Sam's dream was to provide appropriate care
So young people with cancer could chat and share

On different latitudes our grief's the same
Losing our sons brings such pain
But as the earth rotates through day and night
We cling to love with all our might

Eight years on and we meet at last
Looking to the future and talking of the past
Sharing our stories, our music and love
Listening for "Hallelujah's" floating above

Jane x

