



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Franklins-Star/907436029267895>

[The story of Franklin's Star](#)
[February 2015 – 30 months after diagnosis.](#)

In August 2012 we were happier than we ever knew it was possible to be. Danny and I had just celebrated our 1st wedding anniversary and I was 20 weeks pregnant. On Tuesday 14th August at my 20-week scan we found out we were having a baby boy. We were instantly in love.

Three days later on Friday 17th August my husband was admitted to Hospital and the next day diagnosed with a brain tumour. We were destroyed. Not instantly, it doesn't happen in the same way with a diagnosis like that.

Try to imagine two scarier words than brain tumour. It's difficult isn't it? Two little words which hold such power, such fear. We were scared.

However the thing about my husband is he is remarkable. In the same way those two words 'brain tumour' evoke fear and disbelief, in and around Chester the two words 'Danny Jones' have proven to have an altogether different effect. Danny is so well known in Chester, my friends always joke that when we are with him, we can rarely walk 5 feet without being stopped, chatted too, asked for his opinion on the latest Premiership or local football game. He has been working in local football and primary schools for over a decade. He is a wonderful football coach, not to mention a complete charmer. Is it too cliché to say 'he had me at hello?' He did.

Danny took his diagnosis (a grade 4 cancerous brain tumor) on the chin and sailed through his initial treatment; all credit too to the staff at The Walton Centre and Clatterbridge Cancer centre who are fantastic.

Franklin was born in January 2013. I was convinced after our difficult year we would have an easy labour but alas he was 'stuck' and after an interesting 48 hours he was delivered by Cesarean section into Danny's arms at 6.30pm on the 9th. Danny had to return to Clatterbridge the next morning for his next cycle of Chemotherapy.

We had some very happy months after that. Newborns take up all of your time and we were happy to give Franklin all of ours. He was a character from the get go. He was always going to be. We took family holidays and Danny returned to work coaching, we were both doing what we did best and we felt blessed.

Right now, Danny is struggling as he has just reached the one year point of having *constant* treatment. He has been battling radiotherapy & chemotherapy since his first recurrence in February 2014. His body has taken a hammering, since September he has struggled with reduced movement and he is now confined to a wheelchair. Franklin calls it Daddy's push-push.

So, how can you help support Franklin's Star?

The charity was born out of chance. Just a funny video of Franklin captured on my phone. Franklin had just received a new Gruffalo onesie and we wanted to make a 'scary' thank you message ...but it was Franklin who ultimately got the fright when he slipped over in comedy fashion, reacting to my 'Raaa'. The video went viral. We soon had copycats including Franklins big sister Holly (age 10), I quickly realised I had a 'media moment' and I needed to run with it.

The Facebook page has been a huge success

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And our JustGiving page has now raised just shy of £2,000 but we expect that with the upcoming events and T-shirt sales we will hit £5,000 by the end of March.

Upcoming events:

On Friday 6th March there is a charity evening at **Gin Rickey's & Luke's Eating House** in Chester which Danny hopes to speak at – his only condition being 'I don't have to be serious do I?'

The event, organised by parents of Aldford Primary School - where Danny was a familiar face coaching for years - sold out within minutes. The organisers said they could have sold the tickets 3 times over.

On Friday 27th March many of the local schools where Danny coaches football are supporting '**Wear a hat for Brain Tumour Research**'

On Saturday 28th March Danny's friends and family are **climbing Snowdon** to raise awareness of the lack of funding Brain Tumour Research receives in the UK. Here are some stark facts:

- **Brain Tumour Research is woefully under-funded.**
- **20 % of all cancers spread to the brain.**
- **More people under 40 die from a brain tumour than any other cancer.**
- **Brain Tumour Research receives less than 1% (0.7%) of national cancer research spending in the UK.**

Scary isn't it?

If you want to support and make a difference then you can. Buy a T-shirt (available soon!), join us on our Snowdon climb, or you can donate any amount by texting RAAA94 £..... to 70070. However, in reading this story you have already made a difference and for that we thank you.

The Jones Family.