

Press Release

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Embargo: For Immediate Release

Making a Song & Dance about it!

Local girl hosts Underground Concert in memory of her Grandad – Parkinson's UK

Poppy Hulse, age 16, from Rotherhithe, has put together an exhibition and performance at the Brunel Museum to raise awareness of Parkinson's, in memory of her Grandfather, Henry Pluckrose, who died of the disease, age 79, on 6 April 2011.

Henry, a well known writer and teacher, was diagnosed with Parkinson's over 16 years ago. The event describes Henry's life with Parkinson's, but also remembers his love of music and his sense of fun. He was a former Southwark Cathedral chorister, and as well as a prolific writer, worked in the education department at the Royal Opera House.

In the London area alone there are approximately 15,000 people with Parkinson's, which is 1 in 500 of the population. Poppy worked with Parkinson's UK, the support and research charity working to find a cure, which put her in touch with local support groups that helped to form the research for the exhibition.

Poppy said:

"This event is a celebration of my grandad's life. I thought an exhibition and performance would not only be something special in his memory but also help to raise awareness of how devastating Parkinson's can be for sufferers and their families.

"Before I began the project I did not know that much about Parkinson's. Through speaking to other people living with this illness I have learnt so much more about the disease. I was very close to my Grandad and the project has helped me to understand what he went through. I hope that this will be a fitting tribute. He would have loved fire hula hoops..."

The event at the Brunel Museum Rotherhithe from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 March, is in three parts:

- A short presentation explaining about Parkinson's, its symptoms and affects.
- A collection of photographs, drawings and texts exploring Poppy's family's experience of Parkinson's
- A short performance, with singing, dancing and LED hula hooping in recognition of Henry's work with young people

Tickets (£8) for the event will be available on the door. All proceeds from the event are to be donated to Parkinson's UK.

To find out more about the work of the South London branches of Parkinson's UK, call Norma Elliott on 0844 225 3705 or email: bvso.slondon@parkinsons.org.uk. New members are always welcome.

Because Parkinson's UK is here, no one has to face Parkinson's alone. To find out more about Parkinson's visit: www.parkinsons.org.uk or call the free confidential helpline on 0808 800 0303.

Ends

Notes to editors

Further information about Henry Pluckrose's life and career can be found [here](#) in the obituary that appeared in the Guardian education section (3 May 2011).

Event details

Date: 23rd, 24th and 25th March 2012, **evenings only**
Tickets: £8 available on the door
Venue: Brunel Museum (Underground Chamber)
Railway Avenue
Rotherhithe
London, SE16 4LF

LED Hula hoops are battery power hula hoops lit up from the inside with LED (light emitting diode) lights. In the dark the moving hula hoops create a beautiful light show.

Note: Access to the underground chamber is severely restricted. Visitors with any concerns should contact the museum beforehand.

Picture – Poppy Hulse

Poppy is currently studying **English Literature, Philosophy and Ethics, History and Extended Project** at AS Level at Bacons College, Rotherhithe. The fundraising event is the outcome of her work towards her Extended Project.

Media enquiries

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About Parkinson's UK

Every hour, someone in the UK is told they have Parkinson's.

We bring people with Parkinson's, their carers and families together via our network of local groups, our website and free confidential helpline. Specialist nurses, our supporters and staff provide information and training on every aspect of Parkinson's.

As the UK's Parkinson's support and research charity we're leading the work to find a cure, and we're closer than ever. We also campaign to change attitudes and demand better services. Our work is totally dependent on donations. Help us to find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's. Visit: parkinsons.org.uk