



# CHRIS DONOVAN LEGACY

17TH SEPTEMBER 2021  
18:45 – 21:30

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
MALDON ROAD  
WALLINGTON  
SM6 8BL

# A MESSAGE FROM RAY AND VI



**Ray and Vi Donovan**  
Founders of  
The Chris Donovan Trust

*To all our family and friends,*

*Thank you all for coming, not to a memorial night, but a celebration of the legacy of Chris Donovan.*

*Tonight is special – it is about the lives that have been changed since we lost our dear son Chris twenty years ago.*

*A lot of you in this room tonight are here because of his legacy and we hold you all dear to our hearts.*

*We would have liked to have invited more people to this event but we would have had to book Wembley stadium.*

*We would like to thank our family for all the support and love they have given us over the years, time has flown by and so much has been achieved in Christopher's name. And so many of you have been part of our story and also our journey, thank you for allowing us into your lives.*

*Vi and I are amazed by all the love shown here tonight just by your turning up to honour Christopher, he is looking down on this event with that funny smile on his face he always had.*

*But this is not the end, it is only the beginning as there is still so much work to do, and his legacy will live on in others.*

## PROGRAMME

Your host for tonight will be **Marty Dee Donovan** from Medway Sounds UK

Our main Guest speakers are

**Sian West**  
Chair of Chris Donovan Trust

**Ray and Vi Donovan**  
Founders of The Chris Donovan Trust

**Mr Christopher Goodwin**  
Deputy Lieutenant for the borough of Sutton & Cheam

**Paul Scully**  
MP for Sutton and Cheam

**Trish Fivey**  
Madam Mayor councillor

**Elliot Colburn**  
MP for Wallington and Carshalton

**DCI Colin Sutton**  
DSI Murder Detective / Author / Rally Driver

**Daren Way**  
Streets of Growth

**Dr Gerrard Drennan**  
Head Chair of the board of Trustees at the Restorative justice Council.

We will be having an open mic if any of you would like to say something

Entertainment will be provided

**Sian West**  
Chair of the Chris Donovan Trust

&

**Wayne Woodward**  
a local Sutton boy who was Runner up in Britain's Got Talent 2016





## CHRISTOPHER'S STORY

Christopher was born in Kings College Hospital south London on the 4th June 1982.

The first thing we noticed was his piercing beautiful blue eyes.

Chris was the third of our four children.

He had a very placid nature and was a very good baby. A year later his brother Phil was born and you couldn't separate them.

Chris was definitely the leader of the two, they went to the same schools throughout their growing years.

Chris would make friends very easily; he was like a magnet to people, and everyone loved to be in his company.

At 16, he was the best man at his brother Louis' wedding in Scotland; he thought he was the bees' knees for the day.

At the reception after the wedding, Chris was welcoming everyone into the bar and offered them a drink – it was a free bar.

As the evening went on, Chris was still getting drinks for everyone. Ray noticed this and thought he would play a joke on him.

He went to the bar staff and asked if they could make out a bar bill for four hundred pounds; he did inform them he was playing a joke on Chris and they were only too happy to join in the fun.

Ray went over to Chris while he was getting some more drinks and asked him what he was doing? To which he answered "my job as the best man – making sure everyone had a drink."

I said "who is paying for the drinks?" He replied "it's a free bar." I said "no, it was for the first drink only" and gave him the bar bill. Then, to make matters worse, the bar manager who was part of the prank came over demanding payment. His face just hit the floor in shock; he turned to the manager and asked if he would take a cheque. Ray looked at him and said "you don't have any money in the bank and I spent all my money getting here."

Then Louis' father in law, who was also in on it, came over and said "you are showing my family up, what are you going to do about this."

We all could see Chris was on the verge of a heart attack. We all started laughing. Then the penny dropped and he didn't know whether to laugh or cry but took it like a sport. The good thing was two girls behind the bar said they would dance with him for being a great sport.



Christopher's 18th Birthday





Chris was a fun-loving young man and you could bet something would always happen around him.

Like the day we all went to Greenwich Park with our daughter and our granddaughter Rena who was around two at the time.

Ray and Chris decided to go on the boating lake, Vi shouted "can you turn around as Rena can't see you."

So without thinking ,Chris said "let's change seats and face the other way" and then he got up out of his seat in the rowing boat, and it capsized. Ray and Chris were standing in the lake up to their waist in dirty pond water.

You had to be there it was so funny; they waded out of the water and laid on the grass in the sun to dry off. Everyone was laughing – that's how funny it was.

We got the bus home and you could still smell the stink from the pond on their clothes.

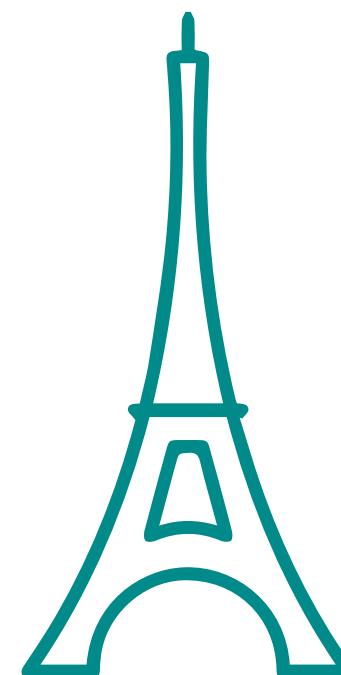
You could see people on the bus pulling faces because of the smell.

A few years later, Chris was working in a pizza shop with his sister and brother-in-law in South Croydon and opposite the shop was a tattoo shop; he asked his sister if she would go with him.

Well the tattoo artist just put the needle into his arm and he just went limp and felt faint his sister had to take him out for air and walked him up and down the high street till he felt better. He recovered and was able to get the tattoo on his arm.



Chris and Phil



Chris drove a pizza delivery bike and broke the record for delivering the most pizzas in his fourteen hour shift. He won a cheap watch.

Another time, Chris entered a radio show phone in contest and won a long weekend in Paris and two hundred pounds spending money. He rang Ray and Vi and said "I want you two to have the holiday because you both deserve a break." That is the kind-hearted person he was ( But he did keep the money)

He was always mindful of others  
That's why we know he would love all that has been achieved in his name over the past twenty years.

He would love our logo Changing Lives Making a Difference



# YOUR HOST FOR TONIGHT

## MARTY DEE DONOVAN



Your Host for tonight is the great Marty Dee Donovan

Marty grew up in Stockwell after moving from the Vauxhall end of Lambeth in 1975, leaving school a tad early when he hit 16 he started a bakery apprenticeship which he passed after 4 years, running his one-man bakery for 'Broomfield's' up at the top of Acre Lane Brixton South London.

As much as he loved baking, he was drawn into the entertainment world starting off by helping his Dad with his mobile Disco and later going on to run his own disco throughout the '80s and early '90s. 1993 saw Marty transition over to the nightclub world, compering, also stand-up comedy. Running alongside Marty's work-life was his first love, "Radio".

After being 'Busted' (caught) on his father's pirate radio station 'Radio Gemini' Marty was taken to Horseferry Magistrates Court and given community service by an understanding judge as he sent him to work at St Thomas' Hospitals 'Radio Beckett'.

After networking through radio Marty got himself invited along to Pat Sharps radio show at Capital radio and from there the world was his oyster, Invicta Radio beckoned after that then into commercial radio and some program 'time' reading for BBC on the other side. From there was the natural progression to Voice overs, and Voice acting too.

These days Marty has a daytime radio show that tries to brighten people's days by playing feel-good music and giving the listeners a chance to take part in the show and choose the music direction. Marty aims to bring together a radio community in real-time that spreads joy and brings people together – The Station is Medway Sound ([www.MedwaySound.Uk](http://www.MedwaySound.Uk)) and Marty can be heard weekdays from 3 to 7 pm through the afternoon.

He also is a compere for Hire and Mobile Disco DJ – Who wouldn't want to Party with Marty.

# A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

## SIAN WEST



It is both a huge privilege to be working with an awesome couple, Ray Donovan MBE and Vi Donovan MBE, within the Chris Donovan Trust – - and also a humbling privilege to be remembering the death of Christopher 20 years ago in this evening's wonderful event along with all our guests.

Sadly, I never met Chris, but I learn something new about that fun-loving teenage lad every time I hear his parents speak about him. However I was blessed to be able to witness first-hand the restorative encounters that Ray and Vi had with each of the three young men convicted and sentenced to life for Chris's murder. Talk about powerful meetings! And also very emotional as well as healing.

I was delighted when Ray and Vi invited me to the Ten Year Commemoration Event in 2011, and so began my own association with their charity, which I chair. We are now a Board of eight, some of us living in the Sutton area, others much further away, and I hold my Trust colleagues in high esteem, they're all fabulous. But tonight we are proud to be updating our supporters with exciting news about local projects, as well as plans for more national initiatives. I do hope that as we roll out these ideas we will continue to count many of you as firm and enthusiastic "champions" of our charity, which exists pure and simply to perpetuate Christopher Donovan's legacy. And I hope you all enjoy this evening's rich and varied programme!

# WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

Restorative Justice (RJ) is a different way of tackling crime, based not on punishment but on healing the harm that's been caused.

It brings offenders into face -to- face conversations with their victims- and sometimes that dialogue is so powerful it can transform the future of each participant.

Victims can get answers to questions about the crime they've suffered, which for many brings new peace of mind, and the person who committed the crime gets the opportunity to try to make amends to the people they've hurt. This has been shown to slow down future offending. Sometimes RJ is used as an alternative to criminal prosecution (very low level crime) but mostly it's used alongside the Criminal Justice System.

But an important principle is that the participants should come to an RJ meeting voluntarily; no-one should be forced to take part if they don't want to. And we at the Chris Donovan Trust believe very strongly that the facilitators should be properly trained and accredited, so that the encounter only goes ahead after thorough preparation of all parties, and as assurance of the safety and total confidentiality.

The Chris Donovan Trust can gladly provide more information on request.



# FIVE MINUTES OF MADNESS

It started with such a fun and beautiful day  
5 minutes of madness ended in such a tragic way

For if I only took 5 minutes to think  
Would have altered the life changes that happen in a blink.

Because of these actions we lost someone so loved now spend  
everyday  
Praying Christopher is safe and looked after in Heaven above.

No Matter how much I regret, or what I do or what I say  
It will never turn back the tragedy that happened that day

I'm really sorry, so torn apart, so heartbroken.  
I wish I had stopped, thought and listened  
To the words that are spoken  
When you're in the community or around those with trust.  
I ask you to stop, think before you act it's a MUST.

It can only take just five minutes of madness to cause such ripples of harm, such hurt such sadness.  
If you're not even stopping, Thinking or taking time to reflect,  
There are so many people that will suffer the ripples of your regret.

It's up to you, take responsibility, no excuses.  
It's not the flip of a coin  
Don't make mistakes, live with a good heart  
To live in society, in the community. To be part of us

So stop and think of the 5 minutes of madness  
Because it causes such ripples of harm and such sadness.  
It's time to change, Start over again and find a new way to live

By Alex McBride



# MY LIGHT

How can a man who has lost so much still walk with his  
head held high?

How can he walk through life with such a smile,  
when he is alone?

How can a man lost so much of himself in the darkness,  
but still stand complete, bathed in light?

How can he be lost for so long but in the end still know  
exactly what direction he wants to go?

See in life man is very much like a planted tree,

All he needs is a good set of roots and a strong light to help  
him flourish,

A strong man like a strong plant will always move towards  
the light and out of darkness.

I am a man who has lost so much, but still hold my head high

I am a man with a smile on my face, even though I am alone

I am a man no Longer in darkness,  
but bathed in a beautiful light,

Light that gives me strength, direction and purpose

Like a strong tree, I owe my life to the light,

Alight that shines like the brightest star in a moon lit sky

A light that shines the way and forever guides me

You are that light

My light





# I WAS WRONG

## 1st Verse

Times in my life, I made excuses  
for the way, things seemed to be  
not taking time to realise that  
the problem was me.  
I found it hard so very hard  
To admit what I had done  
It makes no sense no use pretending  
When you know you've done wrong.

## Chorus

I was wrong so wrong for hurting someone  
I was cruel and played the fool  
not thinking about you.  
I was wrong so wrong  
for hurting someone  
I was cruel and played the fool  
for not thinking of you.

## 2nd Verse

I say to myself, you should have known better  
I only have myself to blame  
I lived each day, as if life owed me  
All the fortune and fame  
I'm asking please will you forgive me  
For all the things I've put you thru  
As I will no longer run away  
from the wrong I've done to you

## Chorus

## 3rd Verse

At this time I take a good look  
At what I have become  
There is no pride in being shameful  
But I've got to stay strong  
I can no longer be so blinded  
Cause I need some help  
Now my life is just a melody  
So I wrote this song.

## Chorus

## Letter Two

Dear Ray and Vi

I just wanted to write a few words. Not even sure where I should start. I don't think I could ever understand the pain you went through after the loss of your son. I found it even harder to understand how and why you could forgive all those responsible. I left that room that day feeling more confused than I have ever done in my life.

After all the acts of violence I have committed it could so easily be me that could have been responsible for the loss of someone's son. Does that make sense to you?  
I am so glad it never went that far.  
I truly understand why you had to forgive all those responsible and the reasons why.  
I have lived with hurt and anger and bitterness for so long I could never figure out why it would never leave me.

Also I could never figure out why I could never forgive myself for all my wrongs. The answer was right there in my face the whole time. The anger and bitterness I had inside of my head control of me. And in order for me to move on I need to forgive my Father before I can forgive myself.  
I am still angry but at least I know what it is I got to do, Go and visit my Father grave and talk to him tell him I forgive him and let him go from my life.

I am now where I am in my life because of two wonderful people such as yourself. I have never listen so humbled in my life as I was a few weeks ago on that day I first met you.  
The work you do is truly amazing you really have been and remain to be an inspiration to me.  
So for now I wish you both well as I hope to be myself one day Thank you both so so much.

This is just two of the many letters we receive from inmates from all over the UK



# MEETING HRH PRINCESS ANNE



HRH Princess Anne was very interested in the work of the CDT and wanted to know what happened to Chris.



# VI GETTING HER MBE



Vi getting her MBE for services to Restorative Justice from HRH Princess Anne





# GERARD DRENNAN

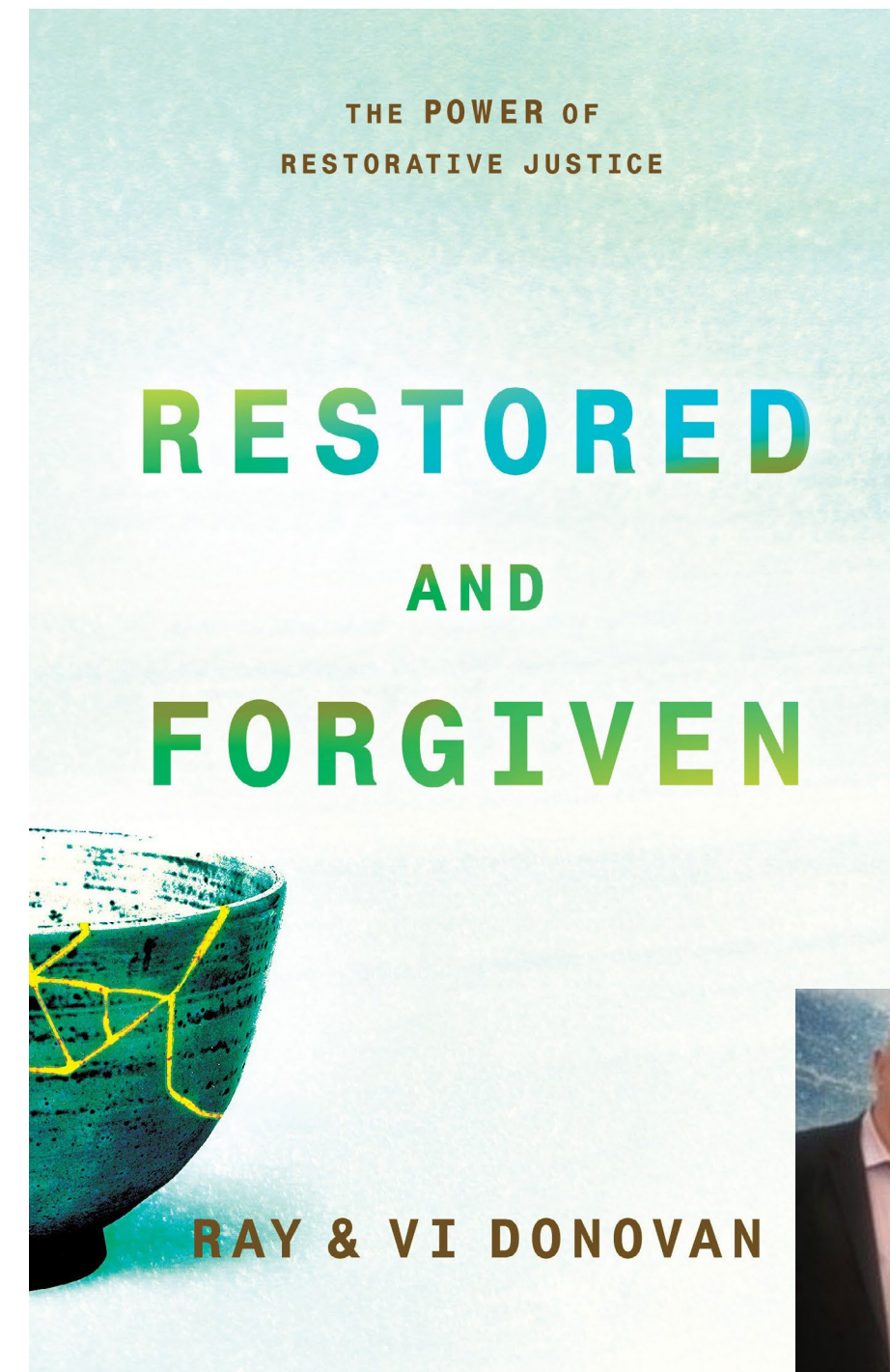


Dr. Gerard Drennan Ph.D. first heard about what happened to Christopher, and the journey Ray & Vi have been on ever since, when they accepted an invitation to speak at a Symposium Gerard organised in Sussex, to begin to introduce restorative justice practices into mental health settings, in 2014. Through their work for the Chris Donovan Trust, Ray & Vi have supported Gerard's efforts to bring restorative justice practice to mental health settings in a myriad of ways since this time. Gerard invited Ray & Vi to speak on the first ever Victim Awareness and Restorative Justice courses ever delivered in a secure mental health setting at the Bethlem Royal Hospital and the success of this meant it was followed by more courses. Ray & Vi brought the Crowded House production, The Listening Room, to the Royal Bethlem and Maudsley Hospitals in 2017 and 2018 to promote mental health

engagement with restorative justice. Gerard was honoured to write the foreword to Restored and Forgiven (Bridge Logos Publications), the book that has brought the Donovan family story to so many people. In recognition of his work, the Chris Donovan Trust made a Pioneering Restorative Justice in Mental Health Award to Gerard in 2018.

Gerard is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist in the NHS and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, and he holds the post of Lead Consultant in Forensic and Offender Health, and Head of Psychology & Psychotherapy in the Behavioural & Developmental Psychiatric Operations Directorate of the South London & Maudsley Mental Health Foundation Trust. Gerard became the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Restorative Justice Council in June 2021.

# RESTORED AND FORGIVEN

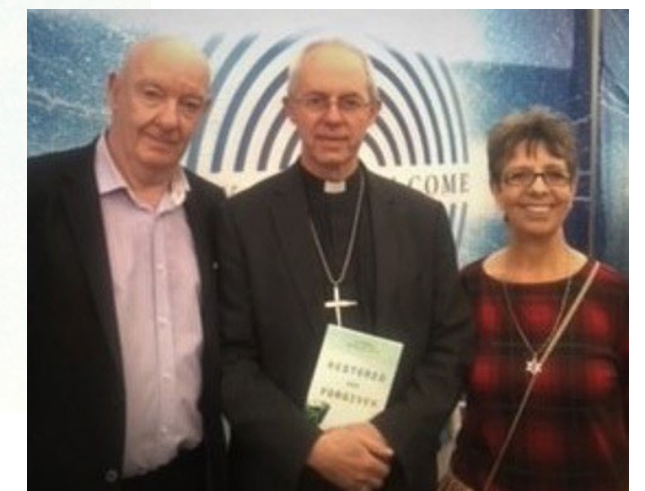


## OUR BOOK LAUNCH

Our Book Restored and Forgiven was published and launched in 2018.



Lambeth Palace used our film "The Absolute Truth" which was shown around the world



The Archbishop of Canterbury Mr Justin Welby, endorsing our book at Thy Kingdom come event in Trafalgar Square in London.



# A RESTORATIVE AWARD...

## AN AWARD FOR JOHN KEBLE SCHOOL

On 29th June, Mrs Allard, Ms Hawker, Ms Harvey and Ms Rau went to an event hosted by The Chris Donovan Trust. During the event, Mrs Allard won an award for her Dedication to the Cause of Restorative Justice. This award recognises the skilled restorative work that all the staff at John Keble School take part in. We are very proud of this work.



Ray and Vi have a very powerful story to tell. Their son, Chris, was murdered by 3 teenage gang members.

Ray and Vi spoke to Years 4, 5 and 6 separately and they held a workshop for parents. They spoke about what it felt like to lose their son. They talked about their Restorative Journey and how they had met their son's killers to find out why the boys had killed Chris. They explained how they found out that the boys were trying to gain the respect of their friends though violence.

Their story demonstrated clearly to us the impact of our actions on others. It also showed us how dangerous bad friendships can be and showed us that they are often these bad friendships are not true friendships.

Ray and Vi spoke about forgiveness and how we need to forgive, even when we do not forget.

# PORTSMOUTH



Ray & Vi Donovan MBE, pioneers of Restorative Justice in the UK, are pictured here between The Lord & Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth at The Guildhall last night. On behalf of The Chris Donovan Trust, they presented Portsmouth with a Restorative City Award. This is the first time the trust has recognised a city. The Lord Mayor received the award on behalf of Portsmouth and thousands of its citizens who have caught hold of the vision to see Portsmouth become established as a Restorative City.

Ray and Vi pursued Restorative justice after a shocking attack by a gang of youths who attacked and killed their son Christopher. Their heart breaking story for the truth has inspired a countless number of people to seek restorative justice and practice, breaking the cycle of hate and revenge. Speaking at the Guildhall they talked about being

'blown away' at the breadth and depth of the restorative culture that was developing within the various spheres of the city. Neither of them are strangers to Portsmouth; they worked closely with John Swindell of PMS helping to develop restorative justice in Kingston prison before it was closed.

Portsmouth Mediation Service has for a number of years been at the forefront of the city-wide restorative vision and is collaborating with a host of partners to help forge and strengthen positive relationships. Partners include Portsmouth City Council and Housing, faith groups, Schools and Colleges and the University. Every week hundreds of new people across the city are being trained and equipped with a restorative tool kit that can help prevent conflict and disputes from breaking out and escalating.



# CANADA



In 2018 Ray and Vi visited Grand Valley institution for women in Kitchener Ontario Canada

They spoke to the women in Low / Medium / and Maximum secure units about victim awareness and how they met the people that killed Chris through Restorative Justice.

A lot of the women were very shocked to hear their story and you could hear a pin drop as they told their story



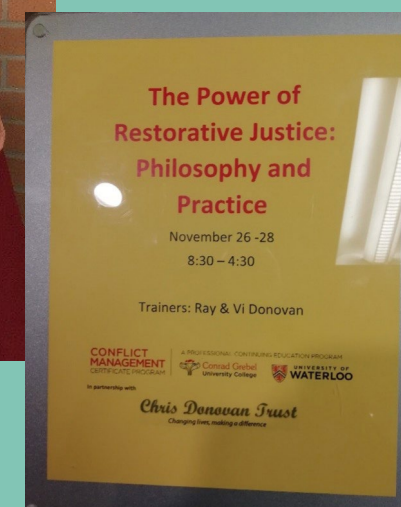
Ray and Vi with some friends they made in Canada outside Grand Valley prison



Maggie John interviewing Ray and Vi on 100 Huntley street television in Burlington Canada



Ray and Vi outside Conrad Grebel University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada at the end of a three-day Restorative Justice training session with people working in the community





# AFRICA

While we were in Kenya we took some food to the children at a local Orphanage.

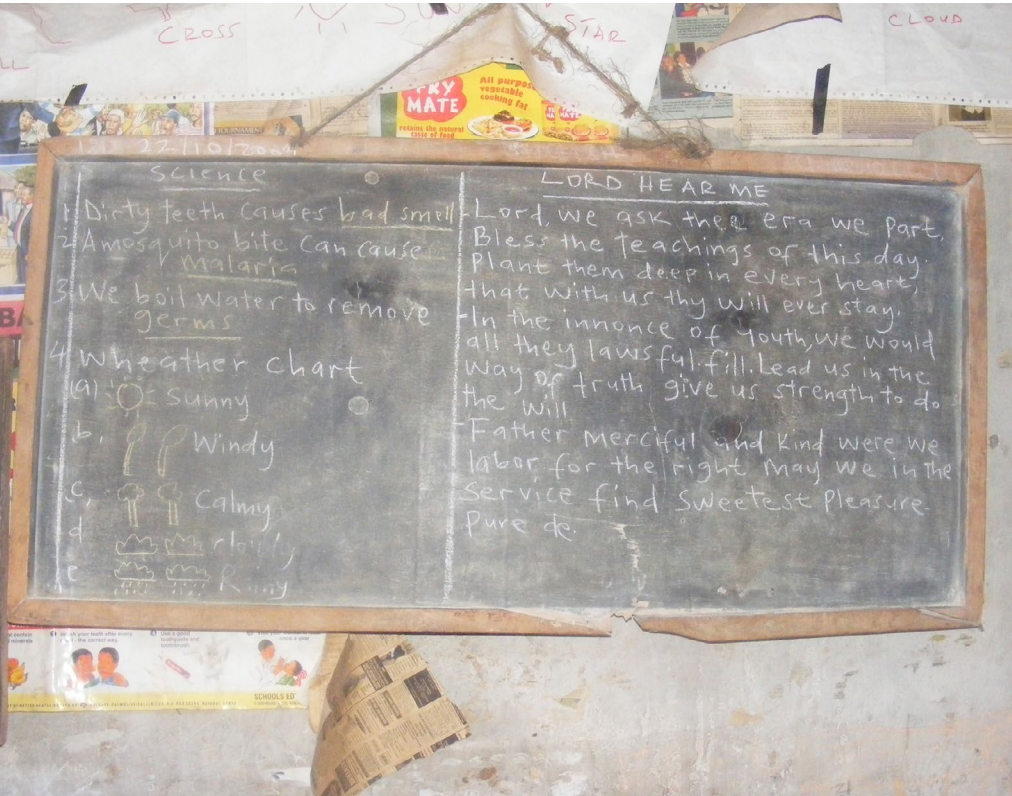
A few of the children were suffering with Aids and others had bad ringworm, but they always had a smile on their face bless them.

Their rooms are old cow sheds / the room with the pots and pans are the kitchen / the blackboard is the class room / and next time your kids want the best trainers just show them the photo of these kids are wearing.

And at the end of our visit there is nothing like a kicking a ball around to bring a smile to anyone's faces.



Ray and Vi with their friend Terry Brown





# SCOTLAND



Ray and Vi did a Victim awareness and restorative Justice workshop with the staff and pupils in Larkhall Academy secondary school in South Lanarkshire Scotland

Ray and Vi with Terry, former CEO Prison Fellowship Scotland 2010

# THE METROPOLITAN POLICE CHOIR



The Metropolitan Police Choir are great supporters of our charity and have put on a couple of concerts to help us raise funds for our charity.



# TRAINING



## PEOPLE ARISE NOW

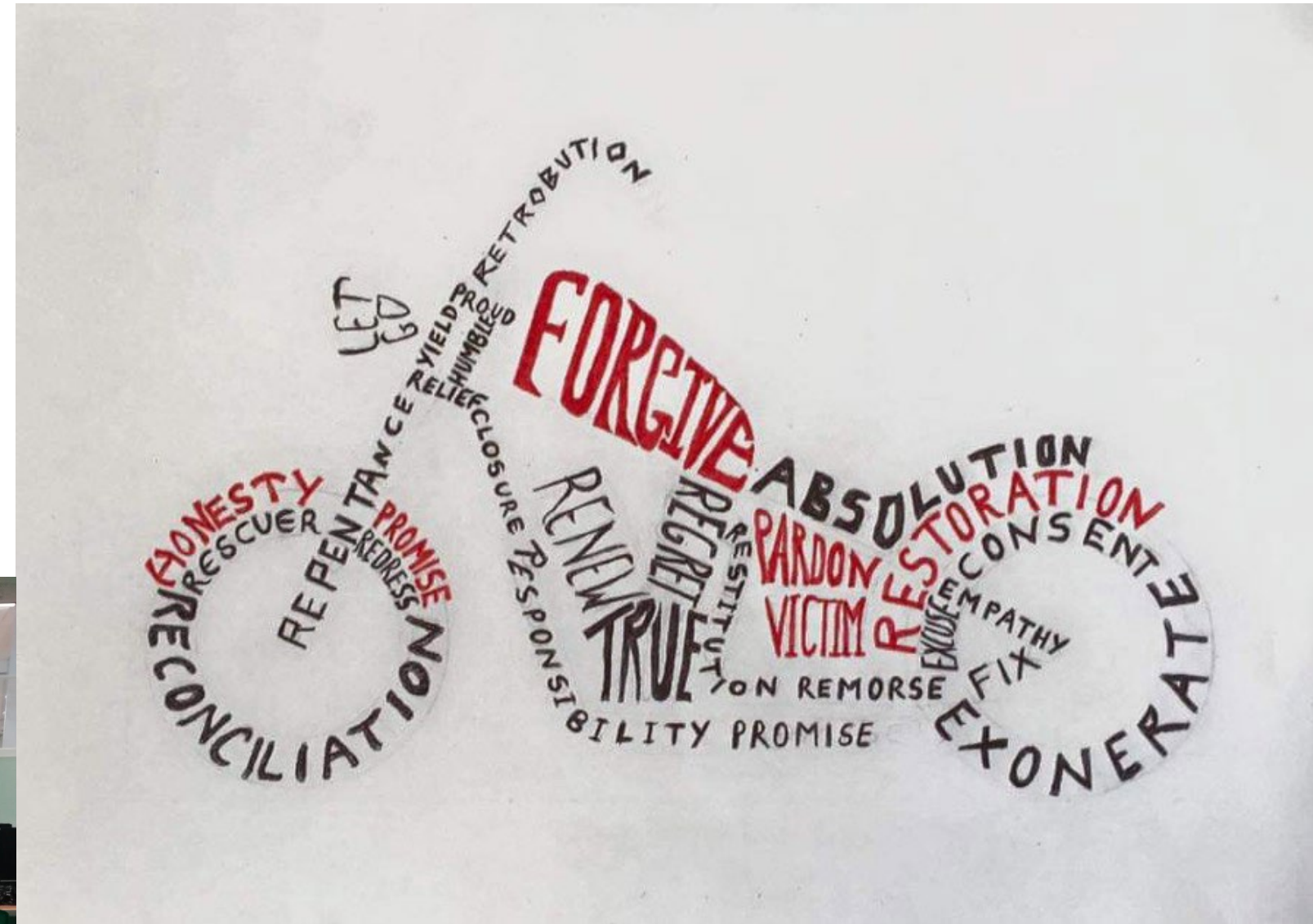
People Arise Now passing their Restorative justice training 2021. They were trained by Ray and Vi.

**HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL**

Back in 2018 we trained the head teacher Mrs S. Gruffydd (third from the left) and five of her staff to help Holy Trinity junior school Wallington become a fully Restorative Practice school.



# BULLINGDON PRISON



After hearing our story an inmate wanted to do something for us so he designed this remarkable drawing.



VI'S  
ART GALLERY



Golden Eagle

£75



American Otter

£75



Heron

£75



Sea View

£110



Poppies

£100



Blue eyes

£100



Grey Wolf

£75



Cougar

£75



Playing Dolphins

£75



Proud Stag

£75



Sleepy Meerkat

£75



Proud Stallion

£100



Cabin by the lake

£225



Running Stream

£75



Canadian Mountain Scene

£100



Stallion

£75



Spanish Steps

£75



Mr Fox

£75



# MEET THE TEAM



Ray and Vi

Founders of The Chris Donovan Trust

Would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU**

These are the people who work so hard in the back ground and never get noticed, but without them we couldn't function.

## MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



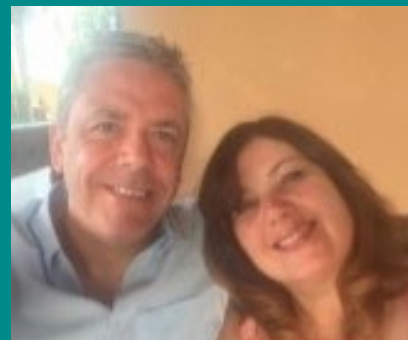
**Sian West**  
Chair



**Lynne Willmer**  
Secretary



**Tina Mallard**  
Treasurer



**Terry Woods & Barbara Woods**  
Trustees / Fund raisers

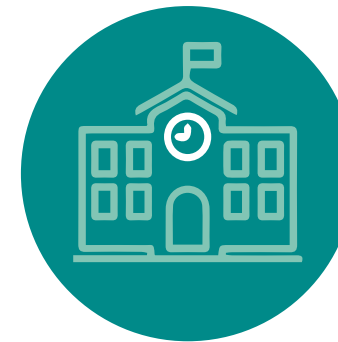


**Dean Clark**  
Trustee / School Advisor

# WHAT THE CHRIS DONOVAN TRUST IS DOING

The Trust is currently doing restorative justice training both in our community and further afield.

Because of the Chris Donovan trust story, our local MP Elliot Colburn set up an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Restorative Justice which everyone at the trust is very proud of.



We are in the process of developing a school pack for victim awareness leading to restorative justice

We will be aiming it at year six and upwards. We will be also doing a school on restorative justice for younger pupils too.

We are hoping to get volunteers who will be fully trained and vetted to visit the schools across the country and run the course which will be a three-day course.

## OUR WORK IN THE COMMUNITY



### BLEED CABINETS

We are happy to say we, as a charity, have purchased and donated two bleed cabinets which are placed on Sutton high street.

We wish to thank Lloyd's bank and Tazza coffee shop for their support in allowing these cabinets to be placed outside their premises.

### KNIFE BIN

After a long time in progress, we managed to pay for and get a knife bin installed in Sutton. We would like to thank Terry and Barbara Woods for all their hard work in making this happen.





# ALL4CHARITY FESTIVAL

**SUNDAY 10TH OCTOBER**

**GATES: 11AM / KICK-OFF: 1PM**

**Corinthian Casuals FC**

United Business Group Stadium King George's Arena, Queen Mary's Close Tolworth KT6 7NA T: 0208 997 3369

## THE 1ST CHOSEN CHARITY

**Chris Donovan Trust**

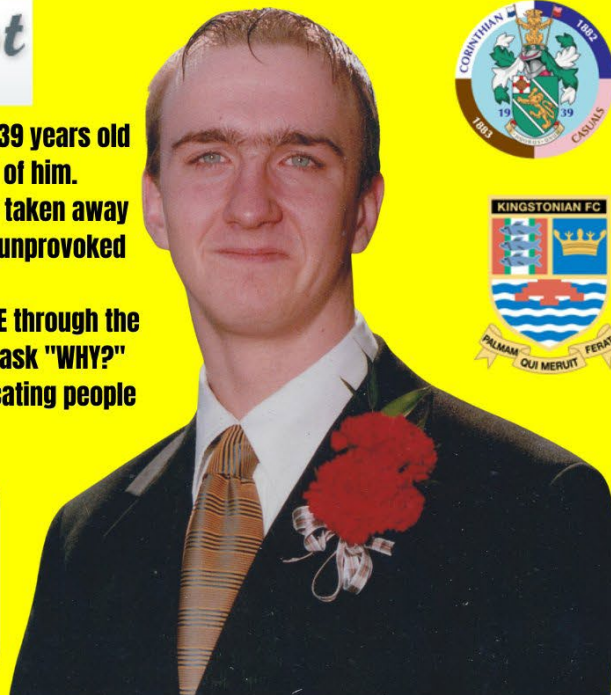
*Changing lives, making a difference*

Let me introduce you to Christopher Donovan who should be 39 years old this year, married, kids with a fantastic happy life ahead of him. But sadly in 2001 at just 18 years old his life was senselessly taken away when he was murdered by 3 teenagers in an horrific violent unprovoked attack on the Ewell Bypass

Due to the determination of his parents Ray & Vi Donovan - MBE through the power of Restorative Justice they faced their son's killers to ask "WHY?" But more amazingly for the last 20 years they have been educating people around the impact of violent crime.



Come along to the  
all4charity Festival & support  
Utd2Help FC...against Violence  
who will be playing to win  
The Chris Donovan Legacy Cup!



**ADULT £3(16+) CHILD £1(5-15) CONCESSIONS & UNDER 5'S - FREE**

For tickets please call 07934 517 462 or purchase from Corinthian Casuals FC & Kingstonian FC  
for all updates please go to - [www.communitytogetherutd.org.uk](http://www.communitytogetherutd.org.uk) & facebook, twitter

Sponsored By



## THANK YOU

We would like to thank  
the following people that  
have supported this event

BARBARA  
WOODS  
(CATERING)

NUTS ABOUT  
BALLOONS / NUTS  
ABOUT EVENTS

PAUL & KATIE  
COOPER

JANE PASCOE  
(CATERING)

SUTTON POLICE  
CADETS

HARRISON  
HARRIS  
(POWER POINT)

LYNNE WILLMER  
(FLOWERS)

TOKUNBO  
OGUNNAIKE  
(SOUND)

STEVE SMITH  
(PROJECTOR)

TIA CLARK

LAURA CLARK



# *Chris Donovan Trust*

Changing lives, making a difference

The Chris Donovan Trust is a charitable organization.

Registered Charity 1112759

Tel: 02086165606

Mobile: 07516752307

**[www.chrisdonovantrust.org](http://www.chrisdonovantrust.org)**

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