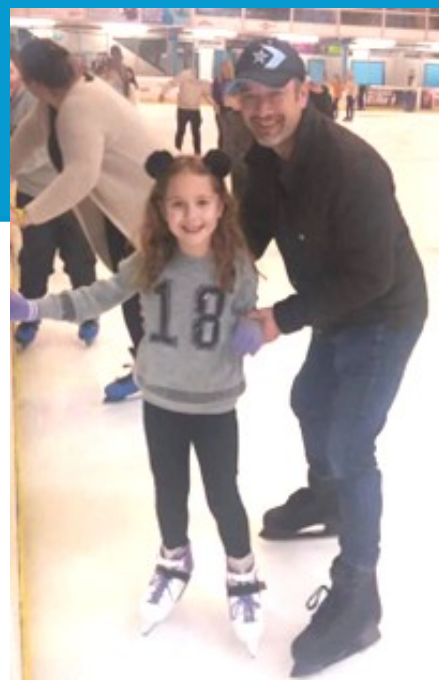


Gracie & Alison's Story ...

We sadly lost Eliot, Gracie's dad, suddenly to his 2nd heart attack at the age of 51... **My grief was devastating to deal with as an adult, but it was I think, the hardest thing as a parent telling** Gracie only 8 years old that the doctors could not save her daddy! I remember us both crying for hours hugging each other..

I wanted to offer the best support to Gracie and was lucky to have found Wiltshire Treehouse & get placed on the Family Programme when Gracie was about 9 years old.



Gracie says: "I had a close & happy Father-Daughter relationship. But now I'm always with Mum, Dad's not around to speak to or go on days out with.

Before coming to Wiltshire Treehouse I didn't have any coping skills, & I didn't recognise the different feelings I was having.

My message to other's like me is to trust the people at Wiltshire Treehouse!"

One day Gracie asked me **"Did Dad know that I loved him?"** At that point I felt we needed the help & reassurance of Wiltshire Treehouse again, so I reached out, as Gracie had become very quiet. This time Gracie joined their NEST group, as now 13 years old. **Each time the course was age-appropriate, allowing Gracie to know that she's not on her own** - so many people love people they love!! Since her most recent course with them **Gracie has seemed more open & is laughing again!**

For me I want to say thankyou to all the staff & volunteers that work at Wiltshire Treehouse offering this service. The work that you all do has helped to reiterate to Gracie that she is a strong, resilient young lady who has the skills & strength to carry on with life!



Images courtesy of family. Top: Gracie & Dad skating. Left: Theatre with Mum & Dad. Bottom: Mum, Dad & Baby Gracie