

SENDING OUT THEIR LOVE

Story by:
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A COUPLE dedicating a light to their baby girl were among hundreds who turned out for a moving and picturesque fundraising event.

Bluebell Wood's Light Up The Lake was hailed a huge success after lanterns were launched onto Manvers Lake on Saturday evening.

Rafts carried the lanterns — each with a personalised dedication — over the water and the crowds held tea lights aloft.

Among them were Jody and Ben Wigfull-Coy, who were remembering daughter Beau Matilda, who died in 2018.

The couple have been supported by the children's hospice since then and were joined by their extended family for the evening.

"For us it was the perfect opportunity to be with the people we care about and remember Beau in such a beautiful and unique way," said Jody.

"It was a stunning evening and unlike anything I've ever been to before. It was lovely to see so many people, of all ages,

remembering and celebrating others in a moving and poignant ceremony.

"The team at Bluebell Wood have come up with something very special, and we'd like to thank everyone who made it possible."

Social media posts about the event — already confirmed for a 2022 return — described it as beautiful, emotional and moving.

Bluebell Wood events fundraiser Beth Cole said: "It was an honour to be able to bring so many people together for what was a moving and beautiful ceremony.

"It's been a very challenging 18 months for us a charity with the vast majority of our fundraising events cancelled so it really was wonderful to be back out there meeting our supporters in the community.

"We'd like to say a huge thank you to all those who supported the event, volunteered on the day, to the brilliant team at Manvers Lake for hosting us and to Utilita Energy Hub for kindly sponsoring the event.

"You've helped us create something truly special while raising much-needed funds for the families who need us."

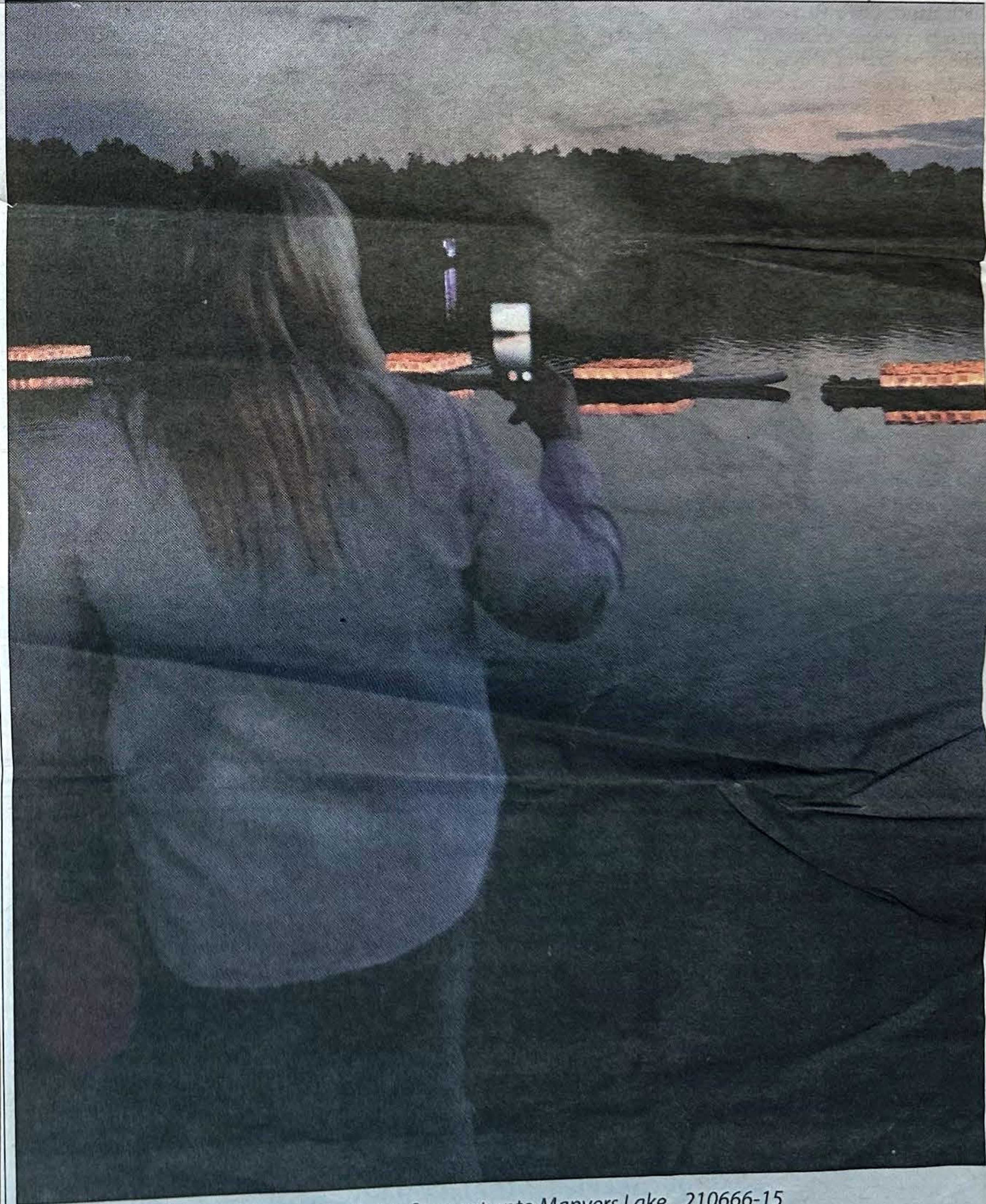
The lanterns were collected afterwards to ensure no environmental damage.



Jody and Ben Wigfull-Coy dedicated their lantern to their baby girl, Beau Matilda



Bluebell Wood regional fundraiser Shannon Gossage preparing the lanterns for their journey across the lake. 210666-7



Watching the lights float out onto Manvers Lake. 210666-15