



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**31st October 2005**

### **Injured boy's father appeals for help**

A man whose son is still seriously ill in hospital after his bike was in collision with a lorry in Tean is appealing for witnesses to the incident to come forward.

Joshua Smith, who is 13 and from Hollington Road in Tean, was finishing off a newspaper round at about 2.10pm in Cheadle Road on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2005 when the accident happened. He was taken to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire by air ambulance with serious injuries, including a fractured skull, a broken pelvis and bruised lungs. He is still in the High Dependency Unit there. His father, Peter, says hospital staff have told him his son's recovery will take years, and he may need lifelong care, and he is anxious to find out exactly what happened.

"He's never really come round since the accident," said Mr. Smith. "It's horrible to see him lying in that bed. He's got a tracheotomy, and he's still very ill, so he can't talk to us."

"There were reports that Joshua was rushing to get to the Stoke match," added his father, "but he had plenty of time, it didn't start till 3. I don't know what happened. The police haven't told us anything. I just hope someone saw something and will get in touch. There was a picture published in the paper - perhaps whoever took it can help."

The Old School Hall, Schoolhouse Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffs. WS15 3BT  
Telephone: 01283 840695 Fax: 01283 840628 Email: [shirley@harvestpr.net](mailto:shirley@harvestpr.net)  
<http://www.harvestpr.net>

Jonathan Wheeler, a solicitor with personal injury specialists Bolt Burdon Kemp is helping Mr. Smith to seek compensation to pay for Joshua's future care.

"Sadly Joshua can't tell us what happened," said Jonathan Wheeler, "but we need to find out as much as we can. If anyone can help, please get in touch with the police or call me on 020 7288 4700 or email [jonathanwheeler@boltburdonkemp.co.uk](mailto:jonathanwheeler@boltburdonkemp.co.uk)"

Ends

Further information:

Shirley Mann, Harvest PR

01283 840695

[www.harvestpr.net](http://www.harvestpr.net)

Jonathan Wheeler, Bolt Burdon Kemp

020 7288 4700

[jonathanwheeler@boltburdonkemp.co.uk](mailto:jonathanwheeler@boltburdonkemp.co.uk)

[www.boltburdonkemp.co.uk](http://www.boltburdonkemp.co.uk)