

# Northern STAR

Actress Sally Lindsay on being a mum of four, her modern marriage and why she'll always feel at home in Manchester

**W**ith five years in *Corrie*, plus leading roles in *Ordinary Lies* and *Mount Pleasant*, Sally's one of the most recognisable faces on TV. Yet the Stockport-born actress has a distinctly unstarry approach to life, putting friends and family first. She didn't hesitate in taking a back seat to best friend Suranne Jones when she discovered she was expecting twins during the making of *Scott & Bailey*, the show they dreamed up together. Not that life slowed down afterwards. The arrival of her two boys Louie and Victor, now four, turned Sally, 42, into a master of multi-tasking; particularly when you throw two stepchildren into the mix, too.

**Becoming a step mum isn't the easiest thing in the world.** Curtis and Kristabel are 21 and 18 now, but when they were little their ideal was obviously for their mum and dad to be together, so you've got to be sensitive to that. We've had



Sally, husband Steve and their boys support a cause that's dear to her heart

ups and downs, but they're fabulous kids and I love them dearly. There are six of us now and we come as a package.

**I've won the lottery with Steve.** He's been absolutely practical and hands on with the kids right from day one, and I know how lucky I am. We split the childcare equally so when he's working [as a drummer], I'm at home with the boys and vice versa. Often, he knows more about what's going at home than I do!

**We were together for 10 years before we got married.** We always knew we would marry at some point, but we already had all that grown-up stuff together anyway - two mortgages and four kids between us. We just did it as a celebration really. Although legally it is very helpful too!

**Date nights are something we'll always make time for.** I think spending time together and working on your

four of them. It was amazing.

**MAJORCA** We go back every single year. It's so relaxing and beautiful. Steve says we're going to live there one day - but I don't think there's much use

for actresses and drummers over there. Maybe we could open a bar!

**ORIENTAL FOOD** I love Japanese and Chinese food. I can literally eat anything that's put in front of me.

**THE SPLITS** It's my secret talent. Usually I'll do them when I've had too much to drink - that's when Steve says it's time to go home!

**DIY SOS** It's my guilty TV pleasure. I love it!

marriage is actually investing in your children's future, because hopefully it means you'll stay together. I've seen couples lose their way, because having children is all-encompassing and I don't want that to happen to us.

**I can't believe the twins start school this year.** I'll miss them when they go, but they can't wait - they're so ready to be in that environment. Louie's already spelling and reading. I can't do much more with them - they need a teacher!

**The boys constantly make me laugh.** They're very cheeky and they gang up on me, but it's so hilarious it's hard not to laugh, even when I'm giving them a telling off. As long as they're kind, well behaved and not rude to other people, that's all I really want.

**I grew up in Manchester and we still have a house there, but we live in London.** The kids have cockney accents, which always makes my mum laugh but they seem just as comfortable up North as they are down here. They just don't know whether to support Manchester City or Charlton!

**Suranne Jones is one of my best friends in the world.** I'm still close to Antony Cotton from my *Corrie* days too. When you have children, it's difficult to find time for friends. But even if you don't see them for six months, it doesn't matter. You can spend an afternoon catching up over lunch and that's it, you're back in the room. I love that.

**I don't understand why women worry so much about their size.** I was a bit like that in my twenties, but I grew out of it and nobody's ever asked me to be a certain size for work. Of course it'd be brilliant if I were a 6ft 4 model, but

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that's not going to happen, so I'll just be happy as I am. I think if you're happy in your own skin, it's the most attractive you can be.

**One of my biggest fears about getting older is that you could lose your sanity and memories due to Alzheimer's.** It happened to my grandmother, Ellen, when she was just 70. She was a wonderful inspiration to me and it seemed so unfair - it just took away who she was.

**As soon as I was in a position to help, I got in touch with the Alzheimer's Society.** I've been working with them for nearly 10 years now and I'm looking forward to joining their Memory Walk in September. They have them every year to raise funds for people affected by dementia. There's so much support, it's a really brilliant atmosphere and the kids love it too. I wouldn't miss it.

\* Find info and your nearest event at [memorywalk.co.uk](http://memorywalk.co.uk)

## MY BIG LOVES

Feature: Anna Matheson Photography: Camera Press/Nicky Johnston