

# **DERBYSHIRE ASBESTOS SUPPORT TEAM (DAST)**



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**Edited by Joanne Gordon July/August 2015**

## **Action Mesothelioma Day**

Once again DAST commemorated Action Mesothelioma Day along with Mesothelioma UK at Leicester Cathedral.

Speaking on the day was Joanne Gordon from DAST, Liz Darlison and Jill Lemon from Mesothelioma UK, a number of Consultants and Researchers from Glenfield Hospital as well as local dignitaries. Inside the Cathedral the rolling screen of names of all the people who had been made ill or lost their life to Mesothelioma was a constant reminder of the devastation to families that asbestos still continues to cause. David Brown gave a very moving and inspirational talk about his Mesothelioma journey. He referred to himself as Peter Pan and his enjoyment for life was evident, including his love and dedication for his lifetime profession as a Teacher and Head Teacher at a beautiful school in Staffordshire.

So dedicated was he to his school and pupils that, when it needed work carrying out to update it, he was there with his sleeves rolled up to take part in the many tasks including removing ceiling tiles, uncovering what is now known to be asbestos dust and it was here that he came into contact with Asbestos.

Helped and supported by his wife, Gill, he went through surgery and a period of rehabilitation but as he stood before us in the Cathedral on a beautiful



David (above) on the left sunny day, he exuded hope and inspiration to those who listened to his story.

Afterwards along with the Mayor and Lady Gretton he held in his hands a dove symbolising hope for the future, before setting it free.

A big THANK YOU to David for telling his story on Action Mesothelioma Day.

David and Gill's sons (Tomas and Sam) recently ran the Derby Half



Marathon 'Ramathon' in aid of Mesothelioma UK, raising £1075.33 for the Charitable Trust. Congratulations Tomas and Sam.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to the Victim's Charter. There are plans by the Asbestos Victims Support Groups' Forum over the next few months to send out the Charter to MPs to ask them to sign up and support our list of demands. We will keep you updated.

### **Vintage Tea**

We hope you enjoyed our Vintage Tea which took place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day with waiting on tables, serving food, running the raffle and making beautiful cakes, scones and buns, which were delicious.



Thank you also to Chesterfield College who provided three students to help out on the day. It was lovely to see young people involved with community events such as ours.

Entertainment was provided by Adam from "Get Happy Entertainment" who sang throughout the afternoon to a very attentive audience, even achieving, he tells us, his first ever encore!

We would also like to thank everyone who donated so generously on the day boosting our funds by over £700.

### **Welcome to our newest member of the team**



Hello, my name is Jo Reeve and I am the newest member of the Derbyshire Asbestos Support

Team. I have been asked to write a little about myself, what can I say? My motto has always been 'Carpe Diem!' I am married to the wonderfully supportive Mick and we share our home with Paddy, our Staffy (or rather he shares his home with us!) Between us we have five amazing children and two grandchildren. My granddaughter calls me 'Biker Nan', which brings me on to one of my passions – motorbikes, if I am not in the kitchen or garden then we will be out on our bike! My other passions are cooking, especially cakes, gardening and reading.

I am really excited to have been appointed to the new Lottery Funded Bereavement Support Project, here at DAST. This is an innovative and exciting opportunity to work on something that has been close to my heart for some time now. I have always had a passion for justice and equality and have been fortunate to

have always worked in organisations and on projects that I passionately care about and believe in. I have worked in both statutory and third sectors within the advice field, and for the last 4 years as a Macmillan Professional firstly with CAB and then within the NHS working from St John's Hospice in Doncaster. Working with terminally ill patients and their families has highlighted for me the very great need for quality, bereavement support, readily accessible for anyone affected by bereavement. I also believe that those best placed to offer the most effective and healing support, are those who have been through a similar experience themselves.

A very wise man, author Henri Nouwen, wrote:  
"The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing... not healing, not curing... that is a friend who cares."

In my first week here at DAST I have come to realise that the horror, tragedy and injustice of asbestos related disease and death is one that unites and inspires those whom it touches to become a community of strength, support, power and....friendship. I genuinely look forward to having the opportunity to meet as many of you as possible and feel very humble to now be a part of such a brilliant, worthwhile organisation.

If anyone would like to get involved in the project, or has ideas based on their own experiences then please do drop me an email or call to introduce yourself and share your experience. I look forward to hearing from you and updating you all on the progress of the project.

## Diary Dates

**Patient and Carer Coffee Morning – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015 between 11am and 1pm at Hollingwood Hub, 22 Works Road, Hollingwood, Chesterfield, S43 2PF.** The Hub is set in a beautiful location near Chesterfield Canal. There is ample parking which is only a short walk to the meeting place. Please see enclosed flyer, booking form and map.

**DAST Half-day Conference Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 11am – 1.00pm at the Wilmot Street, Derby, DE1 2JW.** Speakers will include Campaigner Jason Addy, (back by popular demand), Keith Muncey, NASUWT regarding Asbestos in Schools and the representatives from DAST giving an update on our work. Everyone welcome.

## Fundraising News



**Thank you to...**  
Nottingham City Homes who recently carried out their final fundraising event for DAST as our tenure as their Charity of the Year comes to a close.

This last event was an abseil down Newgate Court Flats in Nottingham on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

Over £1000 was raised and added to the ongoing total. Thank you to everyone at Nottingham City Homes, you've all done us proud!



Thank you to Unite's Rolls Royce branch, who donated a wonderful £2000 into DAST funds.

And a final thank you to Matthew Bestwick from Belper, who took part in the Great North Swim at Lake Windermere. He raised over £500 for us.

### **William Bear Badges:**

Our mascot, William Bear, will be starring on our new pin badge. These will be available from August and will cost £1 each, plus 50p postage.



### **Fundraising Diary Dates:**

You should find a flyer advertising the 2015 Walk a Mile for Mesothelioma event inserted with this newsletter. Last year we raised over £2,500 – let's see if we can push it over the £3,000 mark this year. Please consider organising a walk in your local area and spreading the word about DAST and Mesothelioma. We will be in Nottingham at the Forest Recreation Ground again – anyone is welcome to join us and have a stroll and a chat with members of the DAST team.

We will be holding a coffee morning on the 11<sup>th</sup> September in Chesterfield. We are now going to have a recycling point at each of our meet ups, where supporters can donate their unwanted goods from the following categories:

- Postage stamps – used stamps can be recycled to raise money for DAST. If possible, please cut the stamps out with a 1cm border, but don't worry if you don't have time or there are too many.
- HP ink cartridges.
- Mobile phones.
- Items that we can sell on ebay or raffle – good quality clothes, unused cosmetic sets, unwanted bottles of drink (sealed) or antique books for example.

**We are now sending out a monthly email news update. If you would like to receive this, please send your email address to Sarah on [sarah.dast@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sarah.dast@hotmail.co.uk)**

### **Your story**

We would like to hear from you. If you have a positive story to tell about your treatment or would like to pass on any useful information such as about holiday insurance, please do not hesitate to contact DAST on [mail@asbestosupport.co.uk](mailto:mail@asbestosupport.co.uk)