

DERBYSHIRE ASBESTOS SUPPORT TEAM (DAST)



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Happy New Year

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy New Year from DAST.

We were very busy over the Christmas period and were involved with two Festival of Trees which took place at the Crooked Spire in Chesterfield and Holy Cross Church, Morton. It was an opportunity to let the local community know about our work and the dangers of exposure to asbestos.

DAST Half-Day Conference

We held a half-day Conference in November which was extremely well attended and we received good feedback. The speakers included Craig Evans and Gill Lewis from UKATA who gave an overview of their organisation and the accreditation process for Asbestos training organisations.

Keith Muncey from NASUWT gave a very

informative talk about the issues of asbestos in schools and what needs to be done to ensure children, staff and pupils are safe. Everyone was interested in the topic and a discussion

followed with victims diagnosed with asbestos related diseases and Trade Unions engaging with Keith.

Sian Bain from "Move it or Lose it" gave a lively demonstration of chair based exercises, which brought a smile to everyone's face as they enjoyed taking part in the exercises.

During the course of the year, Nottingham City Homes had chosen DAST as their Charity of the Year by undertaking many and varied fundraising activities in memory of their colleagues lost to asbestos exposure. A cheque for over £10,000 was



presented by Neal Hodgkinson and Jason Flint at the Conference, for which we are very grateful and thank everyone involved in achieving this fantastic result.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Our Asbestos
Heritage Secures
Lottery Funding

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded

a grant of £3,800 by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

This grant will cover the costs of a one-year project called Our Asbestos Heritage. We will be making an accessible record of where and how asbestos was used from the 1940s to the 1990s. One of the aims is to raise awareness among those who work with historic artefacts including museum workers and vintage collectors.

Of course, we need your help with this! We have prepared a questionnaire, which we are asking anyone who has worked with asbestos to complete. We are also on the look-out for photographs – of people at work with asbestos, or of objects that contain it.

We will use your answers and photographs to produce a new website and to launch new Facebook and Twitter pages dedicated to the subject. This will allow anyone to access information about the types of buildings and objects that may still contain traces of asbestos. We will also produce leaflets which we will send out to museums and vintage lifestyle magazines.

If you worked with asbestos (and your compensation claim has been settled) please complete one of our questionnaires and send it back to us. If you would prefer to give your answers by telephone, then this can be arranged. If you have any photographs that you can share with us, please post them to us at the usual address. We will scan them into an electronic format and return them to you.

Sarah says:
“This 1950s travel iron, with the asbestos



pad, was the inspiration behind this application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. As a keen historian I am really excited to be working on this project and am really looking forward to hearing your stories and seeing your photographs.”

Stop playing with Cancer!

An Exposé in the United States revealed various types of asbestos fibres in crayons and toy fingerprinting kits imported from China. Further research showed that the products marketed by the toxic brands can be purchased online in the UK. The Asbestos Victims Support Groups’ Forum, of which DAST is a founder member, acted quickly and issued a press release warning of the dangers. The Forum called upon the Government to monitor imports from China and other countries to ensure that no products containing asbestos reach this country. (Information <http://www.asbestosforum.org.uk/>)

Call for Eradication Law

The Asbestos Support Groups’ Forum has welcomed proposals for a new law to remove asbestos from workplaces, public buildings and homes in Britain. The proposals are contained in a report “The Asbestos Crisis – Why Britain needs an Eradication Law” which has been published by the All-Party Group on Occupational Safety and Health.

In buildings, built before 2000, where refurbishment, repair or remedial work is done in the vicinity of the asbestos containing material, this should include its removal.

“If no such work is carried out in the foreseeable future the duty holder must develop and implement a plan for

the removal of all asbestos by 2035. In the case of public buildings and educational establishments, this should be done by no later than 2028". (Hazards Publications Ltd)

The Asbestos Support Groups' Forum participates in the



(Dave Trigg)

discussions of the All Party Group and our Chair and Ambassador, Dave Trigg, usually attends on behalf of DAST.

Voluntary Sector Awards

The Voluntary Sector Awards are a



very prestigious occasion in Chesterfield and we were nominated for "The most Innovative

Project" for the Asbestos House Awareness interactive model.



Although we did not win, we were shortlisted to the final three and received a framed certificate. However, we are proud to announce that our volunteer, Jemma Glossop, won "Young Volunteer of the Year" Award. Well done Jemma!

Thank you to the Chesterfield Volunteers Centre for organising this event.

Craftivism

We've had a great response to our new craftivism project, and the patchwork of memories and messages is starting to grow. If you haven't already done so, please consider purchasing a hexagon – the more the patchwork grows, the more powerful the message we send out!

If you would like Sarah to sew the initials of a loved one, friend or colleague, together with a small Reflection Rose onto a hexagon, she will do so for a donation of £5.00. However, if you would like to decorate the hexagon yourself, we would appreciate a donation of £2.50. Please send a cheque to the usual address. For those wishing to decorate their own, the hexagon will be sent out with an information sheet.



Artisans for Asbestos

Inspired by the craftivism patchwork, we are asking the craftily-inclined to make items for us to sell over the coming year. Anyone who is keen on knitting, sewing, crochet or papercrafts could take part. Your donations of cards, gloves, scarves, brooches, toys or cushion covers (just a few examples of what you could make) could be sold on at our events. If we have enough donations, we could also sell online. This would be a great addition to our fundraising!

How to Donate to DAST

- Please send cheques payable to DAST to 34 Glumangate, Chesterfield, S40 1TX
- Make a regular donation by standing order – ask us for a form
- Donate online via VirginMoneyGiving or The Big Give websites
- Buy a William Bear, a William Badge or a Reflection Rose
- Recycle your used stamps, mobile phones and HP ink cartridges
- Consider leaving DAST a gift in your Will (please ask for information sheets)

Thank you

Dates for your Diary

- Bereavement Support Project Launch – 12th March 2016 at the Spot in Derby. 11am – 3.30pm
- Coffee Morning – 22nd April 2016 at Markham Vale Environment Centre, Markham Lane, Chesterfield, S44 5HY. 11am – 1pm (for mesothelioma and lung cancer patients/family/carers)
- Vintage Tea – 17th June 2016 at the Imperial Rooms, Matlock
- Action Mesothelioma Day – 1st July 2016
- Mesothelioma in the Midlands Conference – Derby (September/October 2016) TBC (for mesothelioma patients / family/carers)
- Lincoln Cathedral ‘Reflection and Celebration of Life’ – 9th November 2016. Projection of names in memory of Mesothelioma victims in the East Midlands followed by “Reflection and Celebration of Life” in the Chapter House.