

DERBYSHIRE ASBESTOS SUPPORT TEAM (DAST)



DAST, 34 Glumangate, Chesterfield, S40 1TX
Telephone 01246 380415
Edited by Joanne Gordon **January/February 2017**

Happy New Year!

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy New Year from DAST.

Continuing our work

We had a very busy year last year, not only supporting anyone diagnosed with an asbestos related disease but also campaigning and raising awareness about the dangers of exposure to asbestos. Our Annual Report is now available. If you would like a copy please contact me on joanne.gordon@asbestosupport.co.uk

Campaigning – Asbestos in Schools

Our main campaigning focus last year was raising awareness about Asbestos in Schools. We don't want to let the momentum drop. If you have family members who are teachers or who work in schools, please contact us for our information booklet and interactive project which highlights where asbestos may be found in schools.

Lucie Stevens, whose Mother was a teacher who died of Mesothelioma on 26th June 2016, is calling for every school in the UK to produce an Annual Report about the type and condition of any asbestos on the premises and share this with all parents and staff.

You can support Lucie by signing her petition at:-

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/protect-our-children-and-teachers-from-asbestos-exposure-in-schools>

Shocking news! At the end of last year we were shocked to hear that a filmmaker had been spying on anti-asbestos campaigners. The following story was taken from the Asbestos Victims Support Groups' Forum website.

Spying on Anti-Asbestos Campaigners

"Robert (Rob) Moore had posed as a sympathetic filmmaker in an attempt to infiltrate and gather private information on campaigners in the UK and overseas. Moore worked for K2 Intelligence Ltd, a firm founded by Jules Kroll, "a leading figure in the corporate intelligence industry" according to the Guardian, and run by his son and co-founder Jeremy.

The identity of their clients has not been revealed, although the asbestos industry would have most to gain from such an operation. We need to know who has financed this operation (to the tune of £400,000+ according to documents disclosed in the High Court) and what their motives are.

We also need to know what information has been passed to K2's clients and why.

It seems Moore has spent the last 4 years gathering information on asbestos campaigners. It is possible that he has spied on other campaign groups on behalf of corporate interests before and during this period.

Asbestos campaigners and trade unionists have grown accustomed to big business spying and intimidation. The blacklisting of construction workers in this country has already revealed collusion between corporations and government agencies.

We will not be intimidated by these dirty tricks. The campaign to ban asbestos will continue alongside other campaigns that seek to protect the lives and health of working people around the world. It is time to shine a light on the underhand activities of corporate spies. Hopefully the High Court will now do the right thing and allow disclosure of K2's clients. What have they got to hide?"

Resources

Please don't forget we have a range of resources which may be of help to you.

If you experience breathlessness, a **hand held fan** may be of use. Dr Helen Clayson, some years ago explained fan therapy and how the circulating air tricks the face receptors into believing that oxygen is being given.

We also have a number of **massagers, pedometers, 'Move it or Lose it' chair based exercise DVD's and Journals** to help and encourage you to exercise and relax and help with your general health and wellbeing.

"Move it or Lose it" Demonstration AGM and Social Dec 2016



If you are planning your holidays this year and would like help with **Travel Insurance**, please contact us for details. Although we do not recommend a specific insurer we do have a list of providers who can help find the right travel insurer for you.

For any of our resources or information please contact DAST on 01246 380415.

We are watching you BBC

In October, our social media posts went viral as we made an official complaint to the BBC regarding the handling of a gas mask on the 'Antiques Roadshow'.



This is the response from the BBC:-

"Many thanks for reiterating important safety issues

surrounding gas masks. As you are no doubt aware the gas mask featured on Antiques Roadshow from Arley Hall and Gardens was part of a general discussion about handbags from the Second World War period contrasting

two very different uses. The owner featured used to take part in 1940's re-enactments as she discussed during the recording with our miscellaneous specialist Elaine Binning.

I am pleased to report that a follow up phone call from the Antiques Roadshow production office confirmed that our owner was indeed aware of the safety issues surrounding gas masks. At no point during the recording did Elaine or the owner advocate trying on the gas mask but on reflection it was a missed opportunity for the Antiques Roadshow to reinforce these important safety considerations to a wider audience. We will endeavour to make sure that on future new recordings featuring gas masks on the programme we include reference to the latest safety advice. Thank you for bringing this to our attention”.

We want to hear from you.

If you have any information you wish to share with others diagnosed with an asbestos related disease, please send us your information and story. **We would love to hear from you.** Alternatively if you have any ideas for Coffee Morning speakers please let us know.

Join our Club!

DAST have launched a new fundraising lottery – The 100 Club.

Each month we will produce a grid which sets out the numbers from 1 to 100. Each of these numbers will be available to purchase for £1 per draw. Once you have made your selection and your payment, your name is written into the corresponding square.

On the final working day of each month, the number grid is cut up into individual squares and each number is placed into a box. One of the numbers is then pulled out at random – and this is the winning ticket. The owner of that number wins half of that month's proceeds. The other half of the takings are donated to DAST.

If the number that has been drawn out has not been purchased, then the winning amount rolls over to the following month.

The first DAST 100 Club draw took place in December and was presided over by our volunteer Audrey Carlin. We had sold a total of 52 numbers. The prize was therefore £26 and this was won by James Eaden.

You can purchase a number for 1, 6 or 12 months for a cost of £1, £6 or £12 respectively (you can purchase more than one number if you wish). A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter to help you do this.

If you have a particular number in mind, please check with us first to make sure that it is still available, as several have now been sold for a full 12 months. You can check availability

by contacting Sarah on sarah.walters@asbestosupport.co.uk If you need to telephone, leave a message for Sarah on 01246 380415 and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Alternatively, if you would like to be allocated the first available number then you can tick the box on the form. We will contact you to confirm your number and receipt of payment.

You can pay by cheque (or cash, if you are attending one of our events). If you would like to make your payment online then this is possible through our Big Give page. Email Sarah (as above) for more information.

Please help us to make this new initiative a big success – the more people that take part the bigger the prizes! And of course, DAST need as many donations as possible to help us to deliver our services over 2017.

Dates for your diary

- **New Year – DAST Coffee and Chat - The Coffee Morning will take place on Tuesday 24th January 2017 between 10.30am and 12.30pm at Quaker Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester LE2 1WP**

Car Parking – There is parking to the rear of the Meeting House. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served

- **Coffee and Chat - Coffee Morning to take place on Monday 6th March 2017 between 10.30am and 12.30pm at Markham Vale Environment Centre, Markham Lane, Markham Vale, Chesterfield, S44 5HY**

Car Parking – There is free car parking at the venue. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served. Karen Lord PhD, Mesothelioma Cancer Nurse Specialist will be coming along.

- **Mesothelioma in the Midlands – 24th April 2017, BVSC, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR 10.30am – 4.00pm.** Speakers to be confirmed.
- **Action Mesothelioma Day Friday 7th July – The Roundhouse, Derby College, Roundhouse Road, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8JE** (to be confirmed).

**Provisional Speakers:-
Dr Paul Beckett, Royal Derby Hospital and Campaigner
Jason Addy.**

DAST's Heritage Lottery has inspired stories which will be performed as monologues on the day.

Further dates for Coffee Mornings and events will be available soon.

How to Donate to DAST

- To make a regular monthly donation, ask us for a Standing Order Leaflet or download a form from our website
- Donate online through VirginMoneyGiving or The Big Give
- Post a cheque made out to DAST
- Join our annual Walk a Mile for Mesothelioma or organise your own sponsored event
- Consider leaving a gift in your Will
- Buy William Bear merchandise
- Save us your used postage stamps, old/foreign coins, mobile phones and HP ink cartridges
- Buy a Reflection Rose