

Disaster

Action



Newsletter Spring 2015

We are pleased finally to be publishing another newsletter for members and all those outside Disaster Action who are interested in our work and the organisation. It may be hard to believe, but since the publication of the last newsletter we marked 20 years since the foundation of DA at an event at Australia House in October 2011.

Our co chairs Sophie Tarassenko and Iain Philpott give a review of the past year's main activities including the publication of our long-awaited book about DA, *Collective Conviction* and we have included an extract from Iain's address at the book launch at Australia House.

These pages contain a number of personal stories, including one from new member Saira Chaudry,

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whose father was killed in the Westgate attacks in... Nairobi in 2013. Penny Hamilton tells us about the impact of the 10-year wait (and fight) for justice after the murder of her husband Michael in an Al Qaida attack in Saudi Arabia in 2004. Sandra Scotting of the Stairway to Heaven memorial trust describes how the members of their group are still energetically raising money to finish the fine memorial to those who died, which stands outside Bethnal Green underground station. Judy Young's piece on the 1980 Saudia Air crash underlines the long-term impact of disaster and tells how she came to join DA over 30 years after the death of her husband.

Ten years after her experience of the Indian Ocean tsunami Edie Fassnidge has written a graphic novel, to be published later this year, and she writes for us about what the book means for her. Like many of those affected by the tragic loss of a family member,

Margaret and Richard Collins set up a charity in memory of their son Alex and his partner Beth, who were killed in a plane crash in Thailand. Margaret writes about the work of the charity and what they hope to achieve. Updates from our survivor and family groups and a timeline of DA's achievements throughout the years round off the newsletter.

The worldwide reach of DA can be seen in our visit to the South Korean embassy in London to talk to officials from there about our experience of how people can best be helped after disaster; Anne Eyre writes about the ferry sinking of April 2014 that brought the visit about.

Please enjoy our words and share the newsletter with friends and colleagues who are already supporters of our work - or might become so in the future.

[Pam Dix](#)

Message from Iain Philpott and Sophie Tarassenko

The highlight of 2014 was, without doubt, the publication and launch of *Collective Conviction the Story of Disaster Action*, and we and our publishers have been overwhelmed by the demand for the book. Huge credit for that must go to Anne and Pam for not just completing the project, but also for taking it upon themselves to make sure everyone who needed to hear about it did. We also owe Judy an enormous debt of gratitude for organising the all-important launch party impeccably. Finally, an enormous thank you goes to all Disaster Action members who participated in the making of the book and then came to the launch to take excellent care of all our guests. We have been reminded in so many ways that the very existence of our organisation depends on the contribution of every individual member.

During 2014 other activities continued to ensure that



Co-chairs Iain Philpott and Sophie Tarassenko at the launch of *Collective Conviction*

DA's influence and support is offered where it is needed. For example, a very moving meeting with a Japanese father whose daughter was killed in a train crash was organised by a Japanese television crew with a keen interest in corporate manslaughter. We were invited to the South Korean embassy, to offer

...Message from co-chairs



the benefit of our experience of families' greatest needs in the aftermath of disaster. Throughout 2014, as always, we provided our presentations at the College of Policing and for other regular clients, including organisations in the European Union, and responded to government consultations. Our support for those affected by disasters old and new, continued to be available thanks to the dedication of individual members, coordinated by Pam, who worked

'DA made me feel welcome and never sought more from me than I felt able to give. I feel an immense sense of gratitude towards DA and a bond that I will no doubt share with them for the rest of my life.'

Quote from a Disaster Action member

incredibly hard to make sure there was always someone to talk to.

We kept DA financially afloat through 2014 thanks to funding from the Golden Bottle/Bulldog Trust, a Ministry of Justice grant to support those who support their peers, and the income from our presentations. It is not clear at this point where future funding will come from and we will need to work hard to find creative ways of keeping DA going in the longer term.

We have been impressed by, and grateful for, every member's contribution. We have also been reminded in many ways of how much DA has, over the years, meant to so many people. We are honoured to be part of a group of people who have been driven by their personal tragedies to make such a difference to the lives of others.

Launch of *Collective Conviction* the Story of Disaster Action

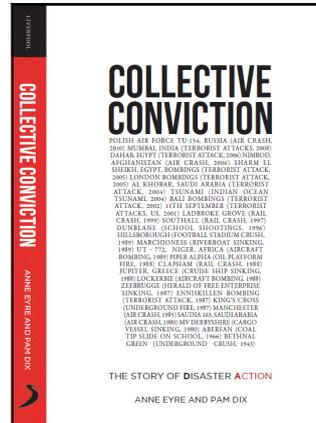
As many of you know, over seven years ago Anne Eyre sat down and started to pull together the experiences and achievements of Disaster Action since our foundation in 1991. She was determined that the corporate memory, nurtured, shared and cherished by all our members, should not remain anecdotal or be lost over time. Without her commitment the book would not have been written.

Having embarked on the journey, getting a publisher to take our project on was no easy task, with much time spent on writing letters and then receiving rejections, despite some encouragement from editors along the way. Finally, to our delight, Liverpool University Press said yes. Then the task was to deliver a

finished manuscript that would not only accurately reflect that corporate memory and achievements but do justice to the extraordinary - and often traumatic - personal experience of our members, without which there would be no DA and no book.

The title came easily enough: the Collective Conviction that emerged out of those individual personal experiences and the common bond that is the charity's strength.

A book launch was held on 15 October 2014 at Australia House, where we had marked our 20 year-anniversary in 2011, made possible through Judy Cooper and the good offices of Agent General for South Australia Bill Muirhead. For once it seemed right to do what DA members rarely feel is appropriate for the charity given our origins -



...Collective Conviction launch

to enjoy ourselves and celebrate the occasion. Many friends and supporters came to celebrate with us; it was an unforgettable day, as can be seen in the photographs alongside this article.

The most important thing is that the book sells, to spread our messages far and wide not only in the UK but in the European Union and beyond. LUP had to order a reprint soon after publication, so we hope we are well on the way to succeeding in those aims.

Details about the book and how to purchase it can be found at:

<http://www.disasteraction.org.uk/>

Or at:

[Liverpool University Press](#)

Pam Dix



Proud authors Anne Eyre and Pam Dix at the book launch

...Collective Conviction Launch

Extract from Disaster Action Co Chair Iain Philpott's address

Disaster Action is an extraordinary organisation. As a survivor of the Marchioness disaster my involvement over the past 23 years has been either as Vice Chair under Maurice de Rohan or as Co Chair with Sophie Tarasenko. I as an individual and 'we' collectively as a charity regularly ask the questions 'why' and 'how'. 'Why' do we exist? 'Why' do we need to? 'How' do we exist and 'how' are we going to?

Why do we exist? Because the need to effect change is still there. Why do we need to exist? Because corporate memory in both corporations and government is very poor. How do we exist? Because of the continued unstinting work of our members. How are we going to continue to exist? The incredible

work that we do cannot survive on 'volunteer only' support.

The incredible financial support in the past by The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and our existing financial support from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and the Golden Bottle/Bulldog Trusts enables us to continue the work that we do.



...*Collective Conviction Launch*

...*Iain Philpott's address*



Over the many years of observing Maurice at close hand as he steered this tiny organisation, often punching way above its weight, I and the rest of the committee learnt many things. But the most important thing I learnt from Maurice was to remain focused. Never take on too much. Look at your goals, focus, remain focused - do not get distracted, and you will achieve.

Every year DA achieves something. It does not matter how small, but somewhere DA influences something for the good of all. This year (amongst other things!) it is our book *Collective Conviction the Story of Disaster Action*.

Collective Conviction highlights the difference a small charity can make through successful campaigning for change and should act as an inspiration to all those who seek to influence attitudes, best practice and the legal framework in order to bring about

change. The book also testifies to the importance of campaigning groups for maintaining corporate memory so that lessons from past experience are not forgotten.

If DA was to cease tomorrow I would feel very happy in the knowledge that with what seems to be a growing lack of corporate memory, this book exists. Even after we are all gone, no one can say they never knew, they had no guidance, they had no plan. The collective advice of hundreds, thousands of survivors and bereaved is right here.

We have no loss of corporate memory. Some say that as an organisation we know more about the impact of disaster than any other organisation in the world. In terms of impact, and I would argue probably more, there is no doubt.

*...Collective Conviction Launch
Disaster Action Members*



Westgate, Nairobi

Saira's Story

Saira Chaudry, one of our newer members, tells the story of the events that led her to Disaster Action.

On Saturday 21 September 2013 four terrorists entered the Westgate shopping centre in Nairobi, indiscriminately firing guns and throwing grenades. It's estimated that 67 civilians died that day but the numbers vary depending on which news report you read. My father, Anjum Chaudry, was among the victims. He had been born and brought up in Kenya and he lived and worked in Nairobi. He visited Westgate regularly and on that day had gone there to meet a friend for coffee.

He spoke to his best friend on the phone an hour or so after the attack began but couldn't be reached after that.

...one of the hardest things to deal with was the feeling of isolation that comes with being in the minority of people who have experienced a tragedy of this nature

In the months following Westgate one of the hardest things to deal with was the feeling of isolation that comes with being in the minority of people who have experienced a tragedy of this nature. On a day-to-day basis nobody with whom I regularly interacted could possibly understand what I was going through. To say it's a lonely experience is something of an understatement.

Whilst searching online for support groups in London I happened upon a link to the Disaster Action website. The immediate comfort to be drawn from knowing that such a network exists is difficult to put into words.

One of their objectives is to ensure that people in my situation are treated fairly and given suf-

...Saira's Story



ficient support by the relevant professional and governmental agencies in the aftermath of an incident such as Westgate. The ongoing efforts of Disaster Action and Pam Dix to do just that for me over the last year are testament to the fantastic work the charity does.

Well over a year has elapsed since Westgate and no real answers to the senseless act which killed my father and so many others are forthcoming. The Kenyan authorities remain tight-lipped about the sham-bolic response to the incident which undoubtedly contributed to further loss of life, and the impotent anger I feel towards those responsible hasn't abated. My reasons for joining Disaster Action are very simple. I want to have a voice and be part of a network that might make a difference, no matter how small, to someone like me in the future.

Saira Chaudry

Post Script

Despite Saira Chaudry being a British national, as her father Anjum was a Kenyan national, Saira was excluded from any assistance from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) after the attacks. As our members appreciate, having to deal with this lack of support on top of the tragedy added insult to injury. Because of her experience, with the help of Disaster Action, the FCO's attention has been drawn to the fact that in our view this policy contradicts other areas of policy within the criminal and justice system.

As a result, the FCO are now reviewing their policy. The outcome of this review will not be known for some months, but we are hopeful that change will come and will make a difference to people who find themselves in Saira's position in the future.

Al Khobar Attacks

Ten Years On



Penny Hamilton's journey for justice in relation to the murder of her husband reached an important stage with the trial of two of his killers.

My husband, Michael, was killed by Saudi members of Al Qaeda on 29 May 2004, as he arrived at work. The Saudi guards were also killed, as were a number of other people that day, but Michael was the only British victim.

We had been living in the Middle East, mostly in Saudi Arabia, for 25 years. Arriving back in England a week after Michael's murder was the most traumatic and confusing experience. I am extremely lucky to have a loving and supportive family: my son Matt and both my sisters travelled to Al Khobar to be with me after Michael's death. I was also enormously supported by

It was such a relief to be surrounded by people who knew exactly how I felt.

the police liaison officer assigned to me, who guided me through my return and the ensuing months.

I heard about Disaster Action in 2006 from Tessa Jowell and have been a member ever since. It was such a relief to be surrounded by people who knew exactly how I felt. In different ways they had all been through similar experiences: there was absolutely no need to explain. I felt immediately at home and surrounded by unquestioning support. It gives us all a unique bond.

We have undertaken a long search for justice since Michael's killing. It has taken ten years of struggle and frustration, but it was worth it all. On 14 November 2014 Matt and I travelled to Riyadh, accompanied by the same wonderful liaison officer. We were in Court on Monday 17 November to witness

...Al Khobar Attacks



two of his killers found guilty of murder and given the death penalty. They were also found guilty of other murders that day. The death penalty is mandatory under Sharia law for the crime of ‘haraba’, which is the highest crime against society. Other members of the same Al Qaeda cell were given sentences of between 25 and 30 years for associated but lesser crimes. It was a difficult journey for me to make, and returning to Saudi Arabia, so familiar to me for so long, made May 2004 seem like yesterday. But I am more than ever convinced that we did the right thing. I now know that we have finally achieved justice for Michael. But I am left with an overwhelming sense of sadness at the waste of his life and of other lives that day, and ultimately of the terrorists’ own lives.

I thought this day might never happen, but it finally did. Many people played a part in making it possible

including the Saudi government, our own government, police and Ministry of Justice. And Disaster Action, together with my family and friends encouraged me through the times when I thought we would never reach the end of this process. I can hardly believe it has happened.

Penny Hamilton

Post Script

After the conclusion of the trial, Penny Hamilton decided for the first time to speak to the media about her experience. Penny was interviewed by journalist Fiona Hamilton of *The Times* for an article that was published on 22 December 2014. See: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/article4304134.ece>

The Garnwen Trust Lodge

Alex Collins and Bethan Jones, two young students from South Wales, were among eight British people killed when a Thai aeroplane crashed at Phuket Airport in September 2007.

Alex's mother Margaret writes the following:

The charity we set up in memory of Alex and Beth, the Garnwen Trust has now raised over £200,000 and in April this year we will begin to build our lodge, which will hopefully be used for

respite and families who need a break in the country with walks, bicycle trails and the beautiful Welsh coastline all close by.

I mentioned Disaster Action to our Trustees as we will soon be looking for user groups and we will be



...The Garnwen Trust Lodge

sending out a short questionnaire to find out what these groups think of our project, whether they'd be interested in using it and any ideas they may have.

With this article is an artist's impression of the lodge so you can see what it will look like on completion. There are three bedrooms, all ensuite, a lovely lounge and kitchen area and a huge decked area where people can sit outside and enjoy the view. On site there is a Miners Museum, a lovely café and a bicycle hire shop, all situated in the Afan Valley and in one of the country's leading mountain biking destinations which is just minutes from the coast.

I know when Richard and I lost Alex we would walk for miles in the countryside to get away from everyone and everything and somewhere like this would have been an ideal getaway for a few days.

It would be great if those reading this could let me

know their thoughts on this project. Please contact me at:

margaret.collins1@sky.com

www.garnwentrust.com

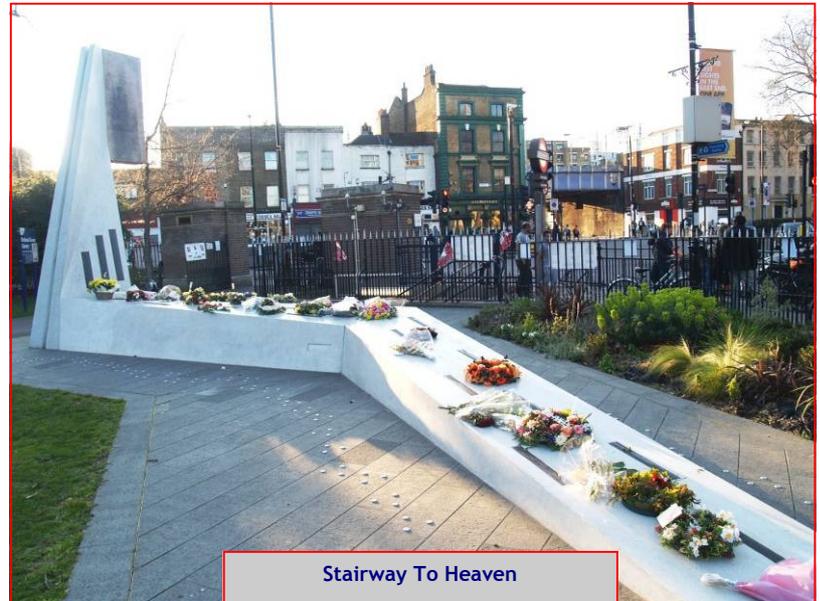


Stairway to Heaven Memorial

On 3 March 1943, following the sounding of the air raid sirens in Bethnal Green, the local population began to move towards the underground (the station was not in operation at this time and was being used as an air raid shelter). As they descended the stairs in the rain and poor light, a woman slipped, thus creating a blockage at the entrance to the tube. After hearing the unexpected and terrifying salvo of rockets fired by British Forces in Victoria Park the crowd surged forward, crushing the people. One hundred and seventy-three children, women and men died in the stair void. Many more were injured and one East London family lost six members. It was the worst civilian disaster of the Second World War.

Two young architects regularly used the un-

derground station to go to work and noticed the small commemorative plaque above the stairs where the tragedy occurred and decided to find out more.



Stairway To Heaven

...*Stairway to Heaven Memorial*



Harry Patticas and Jens Borstlemann wanted to create a fitting memorial to the 173 people who died that evening. They were strongly supported by those directly affected by the disaster such as Alf Morris, a survivor of the disaster who continued to campaign tirelessly for a lasting memorial to those who died. 'I owe it to the people who died to make sure this permanent memorial is erected. Something should have been put up years ago.'

The Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust charity was set up on 30 March 2007 and registered with a committee of five. They were Alf Morris (Chairman); Sandra Brind (secretary) whose grandmother and cousin were killed and her mother and aunt injured in the tragedy; Derek Spicer (fund-raising coordinator) whose sister and brother were killed; Lee Scotting (accountant) and Reverend Alan Green (pastoral advisor), vicar of St. John's Church, Bethnal Green,

next door to the underground station (the church was used as a mortuary at the time of the tragedy). Over 1,700 signatures were obtained on a petition for the memorial to go ahead and the difficult task of fundraising approximately £500,000 to design and erect the memorial began.

The group has been driven on by the determination to remember those killed and injured in the disaster, as well as the members of the emergency services, wardens, clergy and hospital staff who helped the injured. Within five years the group had achieved full planning permission and two thirds of the funding needed. Part of the memorial was built in time to create a landmark at an important junction on the London Olympic Route, 2012. The charity is still working to raise £50,000 to finish the project.

[Sandra Scotting](#)

Saudia 163



Judy Young tells her story and of her experience with Disaster Action

I was widowed at the age of 32 with two small children, when my husband, Keith Hindle, was killed in the Saudia 163 air disaster in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 19 August 1980. We had been living in Jeddah, although I was actually in the UK on leave when the disaster happened. Because of the circumstances and my age, there was no one with similar experience that I could turn to. Members of Keith's firm in Saudi Arabia and London were very supportive in practical areas. But the trauma was immense, and, despite well meaning friends and family, I felt very alone.

The hardest part was probably dealing with intrusive press interest and 'ambulance chasing' men offering to help me win compensation from Saudia. *Private Eye* had a story about the King landing in Riyadh at

the same time as the stricken plane was making its way back on the tarmac after a fire had started on board. As a result, the pilots deferred to the royal flight, and therefore didn't stop straight away to let the passengers off. It transpires that the pilots were very inexperienced, and simply did not carry out the correct procedure.

Fast forward to 2011 when I read an article in the *Sunday Telegraph* about Disaster Action. I immediately related to all the stories of survivors or bereaved and contacted Pam Dix. We had a long conversation. It was the first time I had talked properly about my own experiences. Pam was wonderfully considerate and understanding, based on her own experience of losing her brother in the Lockerbie bombing.

My first meeting with everyone at Disaster Action was a revelation. At last, I was in the company of

...Saudia 163

people, all brought together in incredibly sad circumstances. It was, as Anne Eyre has described, 'like coming home'.

I was interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland in the aftermath of the Malaysian Airways disaster in the Ukraine on 17 July 2014. The interviewer wanted to

know how I had coped emotionally. Giving the interview was very tough, even after all these years. But I felt it had been worthwhile when I heard from a friend of mine in Holland that bereaved families who had listened had taken great comfort from it.

[Judy Young](#)



Judy Young (left) and Maureen Kavanagh, responsible for selling out *Collective Conviction* at the launch

Rinse, Spin, Repeat...

The ten-year anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was on my mind for a couple of years. Since 2004, my husband Matt and I have spent Boxing Day quietly and privately remembering what happened on that day in Thailand, but the anticipation of the ten-year anniversary felt different.

As the years slowly passed I started to feel further and further removed from the extraordinary events of the tsunami and aftermath. But it's a part of who I am, and I began to realise that I wanted and needed to tell the story of what happened in 2004 when the tsunami took my mother and sister and left Matt and me.

I didn't think too much about it, I just started writing, and within weeks had poured thousands of words onto paper. I

wrote intensively, got to the end, pressed save and turned my computer off. A couple of weeks later I read through what I had written. It certainly revealed what happened but it lacked feeling, so I tried something different. I started drawing and that's how my book [Rinse, Spin, Repeat](#) began.



...Rinse, Spin, Repeat...

Over the years I had always said no to media interviews, but in summer 2014 I said yes to a documentary called 'After the Wave' which aired around Christmas time. I deliberated long and hard before speaking publicly about the tsunami. I wasn't sure if I wanted the attention, especially over something so horrible. But I'm happy I said yes. It actually felt positive to speak about what happened, and led to an interview and extract from my book featuring in the [Guardian](#) in November. I've experienced an overwhelmingly positive response from this and have been heartened by the number of people who have contacted me who knew my mum and sister and have shared memories of them.

I'm delighted that [Music for Alice](#), a charity founded by Matt and me in memory of my sister is also receiving a welcome boost through a piece for the BBC news which went out on Boxing Day. I think about, and feel in a way closer to my mother and sister than I have done

for years. Speaking out has given me the opportunity to talk about what incredible, loving and special people they were. Though I feel at times slightly uncomfortable with the attention that I have invited into my life, I feel like I am doing the right thing, and I hope I have their support. All that said, hopefully I will publish my book in 2015, and move on to the next chapter of my life.

I have a crowd-funding campaign to support the publication of the book:

Links:

[Guardian](#) - Article about Edie's book project

[Rinse, Spin, Repeat](#)—Link to crowd funding page

[Music for Alice](#), to find out more about the charity

[Edie Fassnidge](#)

South Korean Ferry Disaster, April 2014



In September 2014, Disaster Action was invited to the South Korean embassy to meet a delegation of 20 council officials and emergency planners from South Korea, in the UK to learn from our experience of supporting people after disasters such as this one. The following piece, which covers the result of the trial of the captain of the ferry, was submitted to *Occupational Safety and Health* online for their blog in November 2014.

On public safety and corporate responsibility

Public safety and corporate responsibility have become high profile in South Korea following one of its worst maritime disasters. During his recent trial for the murder of nearly 300 people (most of them children) on the ferry MV *Sewol*, which capsized in April this year, Captain Lee Joon-seok apologised for committing ‘a grave sin’ in abandoning the sinking vessel, an action for which he was found professionally negli-

gent last week and sentenced to 36 years in prison.

Accepting that his gross negligence did not amount to intent to kill, judges concluded that he was not the only person responsible for the tragedy; the chief engineer was also sentenced to 30 years in prison and 13 other crew members were jailed for up to 20 years on charges including criminal negligence and accidental homicide.

By contrast, no individual was found culpable for the deaths of 193 people when the *Herald of Free Enterprise* sank off Zeebrugge in 1987, despite an inquest finding of unlawful killing and a public inquiry concluding that the ferry company had been ‘infected with the disease of sloppiness from top to bottom’.

Predictable and preventable disasters in the 1980s inspired bereaved people and survivors to form Disaster Action, a small but influential charity whose mem-

...South Korean Ferry Disaster



bership today reflects experience of 28 disasters. Our new book describes what brought us together and has united us since: a collective conviction and commitment to help create a health and safety climate in which disasters are less likely to occur. Our focus on corporate responsibility and accountability has underpinned this intention, many of our members having suffered greatly as a direct result of gross corporate failures.

In South Korea, an interim government report in July found that April's disaster was partly due to government negligence and corruption, with lax regulation, poor safety inspections and a slow and badly-coordinated coast guard response all identified as factors that led to the tragedy. Ironically, that same month the UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency proposed cutting maritime safety regulations introduced as a result of the Zeebrugge disaster.

Our submission to the consultation expresses concern that deregulation might compromise safety. We believe there is a risk that the duties owed to shareholders by private companies may climb further back up the scale than they ought to if too much discretion is given back to companies around health and safety provision. The loss of 300 souls is too costly a reminder of the need for public safety and corporate responsibility.

[Anne Eyre](#)

Post Script

Following the consultation and having taken account of submissions the government minister responsible decided to retain emergency equipment lockers on decks.

Family, Survivor Group and Individual Updates

Bethnal Green

The group is still raising funds to complete the Stairway to Heaven Memorial (see piece above by Sandra Scotting) and also still receiving emails and letters out of the blue from people who recently discovered that they are related to one of the victims. The group is struggling to raise the outstanding money needed to complete the memorial, which continues to be a landmark in East London and has taken on a new community role of its own. Almost every time group members visit (whatever time of day or day of the week) people are reading the individual testimonial plaques, so more people are being informed all the time about the ‘forgotten disaster of World War 2’.

Lockerbie

The 25th anniversary was marked in December 2013 by memorial events and services in Lockerbie, at Westminster Abbey (arranged by UK Families Flight 103) and at Arlington Cemetery in the United States. There has been no final resolution to the criminal investigation, which the Crown Office in Scotland say is still ongoing. The human rights charity Liberty presented UKFF103 with a special award to recognise the group’s tireless campaign for the truth over the last 26 years at the 2014 Liberty Human Rights Awards in London on 1 December.



Family, Survivor Group and Individual Updates

Hillsborough



Nearly 25,000 people attended the 25th anniversary at Anfield on 15 April 2014. The managers of Liverpool and Everton football clubs delivered readings and speeches were given by politician Andy Burnham and Trevor Hicks of the Hillsborough Family Support Group.

Three new investigations were ordered into the Hillsborough disaster following the publication of the Hillsborough Independent Panel's report in September 2012 and are ongoing.

Following the quashing of the original inquests in 2012, the new inquests started on 31 March 2014 and are expected to continue until July 2015. So far the inquest has heard detailed background statements of those who died by their loved ones, detailed information about the ground, the way the disaster unfolded on the day and changing of police statements.

The inquests are getting some national media coverage and daily coverage in the local paper. Transcripts are available on a dedicated website (<http://hillsboroughinquests.independent.gov.uk/>) and you can follow procedures live through social media reporting in the local paper (*The Echo*).

Operation Resolve is the criminal investigation into the disaster ordered by the Home Secretary in 2012. The investigation is looking at events leading up to the day of the disaster as well as the disaster itself. Ultimately, the investigation will either prove or disprove that 96 people were unlawfully killed. The information and evidence gathered will be supplied to HM Coroner Lord Justice Goldring for his consideration for use in the inquest process. Operation Resolve is also liaising with the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Operation Resolve also has a dedicated website,

Family, Survivor Group and Individual Updates

...Hillsborough

which can be found at

<http://operationresolve.co.uk/>

The Independent Police Complaints Commission began its independent investigation into police actions in the aftermath of the disaster in October 2013. It is the biggest criminal investigation into alleged police misconduct ever conducted in England and Wales. The IPCC is providing regular updates to families and complainants, and publishes a public update on its website.

Southall

As every year, Maureen Kavanagh and her husband Peter went to the memorial on the anniversary on 19 September 2014, the seventeenth, taking flowers and spending some time in the beautiful garden created as a memorial to those who died. The process of getting the memorial garden created was extremely difficult, and only succeeded because of pressure in the media. The garden is maintained by Network Rail.



Family, Survivor Group and Individual Updates

Marchioness

Last year (2014) saw the 25th anniversary of the disaster, which was marked by a service at Southwark Cathedral, where the memorial to those who died is an important part of the fabric of the cathedral. The long-term impact on survivors and family members has been considerable, but the positive news is the changes to safety on the river which are a lasting legacy to those who died. These changes were only brought about because of the efforts of family members and survivors.

A measure of the impact that being involved in such a tragedy has can be seen in the fact that in 2014 DA was still receiving contacts from survivors for the first time.

Tsunami

Boxing day 2014 brought the 10th anniversary of the disaster. The group arranged with the Natural History Museum for a wreath to be laid at the Tsunami Memorial and for access for families who wanted to visit the memorial on 26 December, but there was not a ceremony as such. The British ambassador in Thailand met the group Secretary and another family member in May to discuss arrangements there.

In 2014 Music for Alice, a charity established in memory of Alice Macgill (see Edie Fassnidge's piece above) has given three awards of £1000 to organisations with very different objectives - to support victims of torture, adults and children with severe learning difficulties, and vulnerable young people. The funding will be used to purchase musical instruments and equipment.



Family, Survivor Group and Individual Updates

July 2005 London Bombings

9/11



July 2015 brings the 10th anniversary of the London bombings. Discussions are taking place at City Hall concerning memorial event (s) to mark the occasion.

More personal news is that the Care Quality Commission, for whom Rosemary Mayes' son James worked as an analyst, are building on the annual awards in his name in 2015 to mark the forthcoming anniversary. This is likely to take the form of a conference with presentations on current healthcare research and two high profile keynote speakers.

The BBC are making a film based on the book that Julie Nicholson wrote about her daughter Jenny, *Song for Jenny: A Mother's Story of Love and Loss* (Harper, 2011)

The National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York was dedicated with a ceremony on 15 May 2014.

The 13th anniversary in 2014 was marked as always at the memorial garden in Grosvenor Gardens, with the event passing more quietly than on many past such anniversary occasions, without interruption from demonstrators. More and more people are coming each year to the event, including the next generations from families bereaved in the attacks.

And Finally Our Achievements



The degree to which DA has influenced policy, national guidance, legislation, training and decisions about emergency planning and response may well be underestimated not only by the outside world but by us. This work sits alongside our support for other survivors and bereaved from disasters. In Collective Conviction we included a timeline of the events and achievements of the years since our foundation in 1991. The timeline of achievements is included here as a reminder to all our members, supporters and those whom we seek to reach of what we have done. We can all be proud of the impact our small but significant charity has had.

- 30 October 1991:** Disaster Action launched, Regent's College, London
- 1991:** submission on corporate crime to Royal Commission on Criminal Justice; The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust funds corporate responsibility project
- 1992:** presentations to numerous health and safety and legal seminars and conferences; advises families affected by Kathmandu PK 268 air crash 1992-2009: first presentation on Management of Disasters and Civil Emergencies course, Bramshill police staff training college, then regular contributors during existence of the course
- 1993:** first 'When Disaster Strikes' leaflets for bereaved people and survivors

...Our Achievements

- 1994:** submission to Law Commission consultation on Involuntary Manslaughter
- 1995:** published Health and Safety Reporting in FTSE 100 Company Annual Reports
- 1996-2014:** member of London Resilience Forum voluntary sector sub committee; first presentation on Fundamentals of Accident Investigation course, Cranfield University, then regular contributors to course
- 1997:** contributed to Home Office working party on inquiries and inquests
- 1998:** contributed to Emergency Planning Society conference 'Responding to Disaster: the Human Aspects'
- 2000:** published *The Case for Corporate Responsibility: Corporate Violence and the Criminal Justice System*; submission to Lord Justice Clarke's Public Inquiry into The identification of Victims Following Major Transport Accidents
- 2001:** Disaster Action website launched
- 2002:** hosted meeting for those bereaved in 11th September 2001 attacks
- 2002-06:** sat on national steering group for *Humanitarian Assistance in Emergencies guidance*
- 2003:** facilitated formation of UK Bali Bombing Victims Group
- 2003-2008:** awarded core funding grants by The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- 2004:** advised on Civil Contingencies Act; awarded Society Guardian Charity Award for excellence; assisted in formation of Ufton Nervet rail crash survivor network

...Our Achievements

- 2004-06:** advisers to Metropolitan Police Service Silver Commander for the Tsunami and to British Red Cross Tsunami Support Network
- 2004-11:** consultee on Home Office mass fatality planning and development of (inter) national procedures on Disaster Victim Identification
- 2005:** member of NICE Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Guideline Development Group
- 2005-06:** continued representations on draft Corporate Manslaughter Bill
- 2005-07:** advisers to 7 July London bombings emergency responders (statutory and voluntary agencies)
- 2006-10:** contributed to British Red Cross European Union projects on supporting individuals in disasters
- 2006-13:** participated in consultations on Draft Charter for the Bereaved in Contact with the Coroners' Service, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009
- 2007:** Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act passed; Disaster Action singled out for praise by Home Secretary in parliament; participant in FCO/Wilton Park international conference on 'Trans-border Consequence Management: Responding to Major CBRN Acts'; participant in OSCE - European Union security organisation - 'High Level Meeting on Victims of Terrorism', Vienna
- 2008:** consulted on revised Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) *Guidance on Emergency Procedures*; presentation at Interpol Disaster Victim Identification Standing Committee Meeting, Lyon

...Our Achievements

2009: contributed to European Union Red Cross 'Informed Prepared Together' project; advised on Incident Support Centre, North Sea helicopter crash

2009-11: member of Cabinet Office Community Resilience Steering Group; consultee on ACPO *Guidance on Disaster Victim Identification*

2009-14: regular presentations on Multi-agency Gold Incident Command courses (police, local authority, fire and ambulance services, and military); awarded core funding grants by the Es-mée Fairbairn Foundation

2010: contributes to Home Office consultation on counter terrorism; publishes report: *Disaster Funds: Lessons & Guidance on the Management & Distribution of Disaster Funds*

October 2011: 20th anniversary reception at Austra-

lian High Commission, London

2011-14: awarded Ministry of Justice peer support programme grant and capabilities building support

2012: reviewer for World Health Organization guidelines development group creating 'Guidelines for the Management of Conditions Specifically Related to Stress' (http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85119/1/9789241505406_eng.pdf); consultee on Charity Commission Guidance on 'starting, running and supporting charitable disaster appeals' (<https://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/media/94175/CC40text.pdf>); submission to Leveson Inquiry: Culture, Practice and Ethics of the Press

...Our Achievements

2012-13: consultee on Scottish Government guidance 'Preparing Scotland: Responding to the Psychosocial and Mental Health Needs of People Affected by Emergencies' (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00439275.pdf>)

2013: submission to Cabinet Office on future for Humanitarian Assistance; submission to House of Lords select committee on review of Inquiries Act 2005; presentation to Interpol Disaster Victim Identification Standing Committee meeting, Lyon; presentation to International Commission on Missing Persons conference, 'Missing Persons: an Agenda for the Future', The Hague; presentation to International Committee of the Red Cross/University of Milan 'First Conference on Management and Identification of Unidentified Decedents with an Em-

phasis on Dead Migrants', Milan; consultee on London Churches Group Major Incident Plan; presentation to Preparing Scotland conference to launch guidance on 'Psychosocial and Mental Health Needs of People Affected by Emergencies'

2013-14: awarded core funding grants by the Golden Bottle/Bulldog Trusts

2014: provided guidance to police and the coroner's legal team on preparations for the Hillsborough inquests, and contributed to information workshops organised by INQUEST for Hillsborough families; updated and revised all leaflets and resources on re-launched website; publication of *Collective Conviction the Story of Disaster Action* (Liverpool University Press).

Disasters Represented By DA Members



As of spring 2015, our members have been affected by the following disasters:

- Westgate, Nairobi, Kenya (terrorist attack, 2013)
- Polish Air Force Tu-154, Russia (air crash, 2010)
- Mumbai (terrorist attacks, 2008)
- Dahab bombing (terrorist attack, 2006)
- Nimrod, Afghanistan (crash, 2006)
- Sharm El Sheikh bombings (terrorist attack, 2005)
- London bombings (terrorist attack, 2005)
- Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia (terrorist attack 2004)
- Tsunami (South East Asian Tsunami, 2004)
- Ufton Nervet (rail crash, 2004)
- Bali bombings (terrorist attack, 2002)
- 11th September (terrorist attacks in the US, 2001)
- Ladbroke Grove (rail crash, 1999)
- Southall (rail crash, 1997)
- Dunblane (school shootings, 1996)
- Hillsborough (football stadium crush, 1989)
- Marchioness (riverboat sinking, 1989)
- UTA-772 - Niger, Africa (aircraft bombing, 1989)
- Piper Alpha (oil platform fire, 1988)
- Clapham (rail crash, 1988)
- Jupiter, Greece (cruise ship sinking, 1988)
- Lockerbie (aircraft bombing, 1988)
- Zeebrugge (sinking of Herald of Free Enterprise, 1987)
- Enniskillen bombing (terrorist attack, 1987)
- King's Cross (underground fire, 1987)
- Saudia 163, Saudi Arabia (air crash, 1980)
- MV Derbyshire Family Association (cargo vessel sinking, 1980)
- Aberfan (coal tip slide on school, 1966)
- Bethnal Green (underground crush, 1943)

Disaster

Action



Our membership consists of those who have direct personal experience of many forms of disaster, as survivors, bereaved people or both. Members have been affected by disasters in the UK and abroad and live in many different parts of the UK. Many of our members remain involved in their own family/ survivor support group (if one has been established), while, as part of Disaster Action, considering the general issues that may be relevant to any disaster whatever its origin. Survivors and bereaved people are welcome to join as individuals, or as part of a group.

Picture Credits

Iain Philpott and Sophie Tarassenko; Iain Philpott; DA members; Judy Young and Maureen Kavanagh © Wayne Pilgrim; Stairway to Heaven memorial © Alana Francis *Rinse, Spin, Repeat...* © Edie Fassnidge

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