



## Dan's Fund For Burns Newsletter 1 – Feb 2003

**DAN'S FUND FOR BURNS:** It seems hard to believe that a year has past since we first decided to launch Dan's Fund For Burns. The tragic events of the Bali terrorist bombing on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2002 shocked the world and touched the hearts of many of you.

Most of you reading this will know my story well by now and so I won't go into too much detail other than to say it was the most horrendous, painful & terrifying experience to have lived through and was of course something so very cruel & senseless. The terrorists killed not only my husband, best friend & 7 of my other friends, but also another 193 young people - out having innocent fun in the two main bars in Bali. It really is a twisted world in which we live that some people believe drinking a pint or two of beer is a sin, whilst murder is not.

That night many of our lives were shattered - and for no reason or gain. The trauma of that night will remain with all those who survived as will the screaming pain of burns & other injuries. The incomprehensible loss of family and friends will be endured forever. The loss of Dan, my best friend and friends hit me like a ton of bricks after the initial shock had worn off and the full impact & devastation became clear. I soon began to realise that the only way I would be able to cope would be to try and create something positive from something so destructive.

The terrorists wanted to cause pain, terror & disruption to the Western world – and to an extent they managed it. However, we couldn't let them have it all their own way. From their wickedness, came Dan's Fund For Burns, a UK based burns charity set up in memory of my husband & friends. Our aim is to become a source of finance to give practical help & solutions to Burns victims of all ages.

**THE FUND** was launched unofficially in early February 2003 when the Mail on Sunday agreed to donate some money to the fund for an exclusive interview with me. Soon afterwards, the donations started flooding in. At Dan's memorial service in January at St. Martin's in the fields, we asked friends & families to help us in our mission to do something positive, to keep Dan's & the other's memories alive. The request was well received, with many people wanting to get stuck in, giving 110% just as Dan would have done.

The next step came, when, with the help of Dan's firm, Herbert Smith, we applied for and received our official Charity no. (1098720) & status shortly after.

Our thanks go out to those at Herbert Smith's Charity division who helped us through the rather lengthy process! With our Trustees appointed; Polly Miller, Rosemary Derby, Felicity Miller & Alistair Strong, we then set about recruiting some esteemed Patrons for the fund. We were most fortunate that Sir Alexander Harley, Sir John Stanley MP, Sir Michael Davies & Mr Nicholas Parkhouse (A leading Burns surgeon at East Grinstead Hospital) all agreed to lend their support to DFFB in this capacity.

**A MASSIVE THANK YOU IS REQUIRED** to all the wonderful people who have donated so generously - either by donating their time or their finances to the fund over its first year in operation. I apologise that we have not been able to contact everyone directly but hope that this will express our unending gratitude and at the same time will give everyone an update on the fund. It is sent out with our love and thanks.

**OVER £180,000** has been raised to date and this has been achieved not just through direct donations, but through all sorts of fundraising activities as well. The response from our plea 'to make good come from evil' has overwhelmed us at times and it has gone a long way in restoring our faith in human nature – proving there is still plenty of compassion and kindness in a world which seems to become more and more violent and destructive everyday.

**FUNDRAISERS:** 2003 saw a whole host of fund raising events in the UK, Hong Kong and Australia: mountain climbing, a motorbike trip, a stage of the Tour de France race, a parachute jump, a fun run, a boat race, a netball tournament, yoga, auctions, a Gulliver Sports collection at the rugby world cup, several christmas parties, raffles, marathons, a boat party, a designer fashion sale, bridge drives, golf days, coffee mornings, art exhibitions, the Operational Raleigh Brecon Beacon challenge, quiz nights, Pampered Chef lunch, Christmas carol concerts and media work to name but a few.. (apologies for any that have been left out...). I thought you might find it interesting to hear from some of the Fund raisers themselves:



Mount Kilimanjaro – Carole Flowerday, a colleague of Dan's in the Herbert Smith London office spent her holiday trekking up Mount Kilimanjaro. Here she



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tells of her trip: "When I booked my holiday to Kilimanjaro I had no idea what I was letting myself in for! I am a keen walker and have walked many of the long distance paths in the UK, but Kili was certainly something very different.

Having decided to climb the mountain, I wanted to do it for charity and raise money for a worthy cause. I was uncertain which charity to choose, until I read an article in which Polly Miller was interviewed following the bomb attack in Bali. **Dan Miller**, a solicitor in our Hong Kong office, was killed in that attack and Polly, his wife, was badly burned. She was swiftly airlifted to hospital in Brisbane where she endured six operations in a burns unit and spent ten weeks there before returning to the UK just before Christmas.

In an effort to raise money for the charity I sent an email to Herbert Smith firm-wide asking for sponsorship (hoping to raise around £1,500). The generosity of everyone in the firm has been overwhelming - and I raised a total of **£6,203.81!**

I reached 17,000ft (5,200m) - 2,000ft short of the top - but I enjoyed every step, have lots of wonderful memories and was able to raise money for Dan's fund"

**BEN NEVIS** was successfully scaled by Dan's Mum and friends on a lovely summer's day last year. She told of how "The three of us determinedly and doggedly toiled up the mountain. Exhilarating views, stunning scenery, bitter winds and pockets of snow were at the summit. There were a lot of tears and smiles of relief at having made it. There was a very touching cairn on the peak bearing the testimonies of others who had climbed to commemorate those they too had loved and lost. A total of £5,000 was raised."



In Hong Kong, a mixed Netball Tournament and BBQ was organised by Sarah Chessis "aka Doll" at The Hong Kong Football Club (our rugby club) in May. The competition was fierce, she said .... with the boys finding the non-contact and non-dribbling difficult at times!.. With the top two teams caught cheating (using the internet in the library for answers) in the quiz at the end, the losers, Herbert Smith were awarded the First Prize and title !! shame on you, you cheats – you should never have got caught!!



HK Mixed Netball

**BRECON BEACON OPERATION RALEIGH** "In July 2003, some of Dan's closest male friends raised money for DFFB by holding a charity auction at the Honourable Artillery Company, Dan's old regiment, and by running a hill marathon in the Brecon Beacons - a stomping ground for HAC weekend exercises. Both events proved challenging but hugely enjoyable in their different ways.

We raised £12,000 at the auction through the sale of sports memorabilia, the services of a top London chef and an amusingly shaped French sausage amongst others. Two days later we ran the marathon - unfortunately most of us did not share Dan's athleticism and on the hottest day of the year in Wales, it was a stern challenge. An inspirational pause and reflection on top of Penny-Fan helped us all find the strength to limp our way to the finish and a further £13,000 raised for the fund. You are sorely missed Dan, but your inspiration lives strong."



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The Brecon Beacon winning team

**WHEN BALI SURVIVORS** Amy Morrison & Nicki Austin heard about Dan's Fund For Burns they wanted to do something to help. Amy & a friend organised a Boat Party for 130 of their friends & family in October and raised over £2,000 in the process. Nicki decided to make a successful motorbike trip around the coastline of Britain in under 8 days. She raised money for 3 charities, one of which being Dan's Fund For Burns.

**THE WORLD OF GOLF** has given the fund enormous support through 2003 with the Dad's Army "Polly Day" raising £1000 at Woking Golf Club, whilst Marian Rigby, a past captain of the Southern Veteran Ladies' Golf Association, invited her friends from the society to a lunch in her lovely garden last July, raising £2,800. Also, Geoff and Annie Matthews raised an amazing £705 at Woking Club's Christmas Dinner Dance.

**OUR SCHOOLS** (Tonbridge and St. Catherine's) & **OUR FIRMS**, (BNP Paribas & Herbert Smith) have been most generous, hosting a variety of events; Church & Carol Concert collections, Christmas cards, raffle & sales to name a few. Between them, they have donated a massive £30,000. A special thanks goes to all those at BNP Paribas who helped sell raffle tickets to the tune of £6,500, which was then matched twice by BNP to raise £19,000.

**THE 100KM HONG KONG MACLEHOSE TRAILWALKER** is a tough challenge for most ordinary folks – but Chris Moon, who lost one of his legs and arms in a land mine accident in Mozambique, was determined to finish the course with his team mates, Richard Draycott (my old flat mate in Hong Kong), Charlie Dutton & Rob Henley. It was tough, Chris said "the steepness of the mountains and steps were really challenging for me and so was going uphill."

My artificial leg doesn't give much energy return going uphill. I had to use what I'd learnt from my past experiences not to let the team down though". They completed the course in the rain in a very commendable 28 hours and 10 mins. A Fund Raising dinner was held the week prior to the race in November at the Hong Kong Football Club, raising over £10,000.



Hashers



Chris Moon & team mates

**A DESIGNER CLOTHES SALE** was held by Anita Chiene in December 2003. "Since hearing about Dan's Fund for Burns, I have felt compelled to support it. The question was how? Several elaborately challenging ideas such as trekking to the South Pole were ditched in favour of something I find very natural - selling! The plan was to hold a second-hand designer clothes sale with donations from friends and family. Sadly not many people had designer labels that they wanted to part with, so I had to rethink.

With only one week left before the sale date, there was only one way forward - to contact the fashion houses



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directly. A list of 120 companies was drawn up from the stocklist pages of Vogue magazine and I began to make calls. 20% of those companies - such as Christian Louboutin, Anya Hindmarch, Liberty and DKNY - contributed items to the sale and they were sold at up to 60% of their retail value. In two hours a grand total of £1700 was raised, and the remaining £300 required to meet my personal target of £2000 was achieved through raffle tickets.

Organising this event for me has been such a rewarding experience. I was totally inspired by Polly's bravery and by the difference Dan's Fund for Burns can make to burns victims in the UK"

### SO HOW HAS DAN'S FUND FOR BURNS HELPED?

We are proud to say that we have made several donations in our first year of operation.

### HONG KONG:



In March, DFFB donated a mobile bath unit to the burns unit at The Prince of Wales hospital in Shatin, HK (near the border with China). I had the pleasure of meeting with the Chief Burns Surgeon there, Mr Andrew Burd, in November last year on my trip to HK & Australia and saw at first hand what a difference the mobile bath unit had made to the patients.

I was shocked to find out that this soft plastic mobile bath was the first one that they had ever had in the unit.

Mr Burd explained in detail to me how, previously, the patients had had to have been rolled onto their sides, then a board pushed under their backs and then rolled back on to it. They were then lifted onto a stretcher, carried to the bathroom, moved from the stretcher onto a painfully thin metal mechanical stretcher which was then lowered into the bath. After their bath, this whole

process would be reversed to get them back to bed ready for their dressings. This would be a real endurance, bearing in mind, that any movement (even moving your little finger) is excruciatingly painful for Burns patients.

With our donated mobile bath unit the patients are now rolled and lifted straight into the soft plastic mobile bath unit (collapsible sides). They are then wheeled to a hand shower unit and the patients are then cleaned with the plug in!! When finished, the water is let out and they are wheeled back to their bed and lifted straight back into bed.

**FOOT PUMP – EAST GRINSTEAD:** East Grinstead's Burns support group alerted us to the plight of a man who had badly burned his feet after his hot water bottle had burst in bed. He was in danger of losing his foot and the Surgeons & Nurses were keen to get him home to recuperate as soon as possible. As a rule, they like to get Burns patients home as quickly as they can as there are far fewer germs outside of hospital than in, patients eat better food and generally heal quicker in the home environment. The chap needed to use a vacuum pump to help him change his dressings, without which he would have had to stay in hospital. We were keen to help and paid for the hire of the pump for him.

### AUSTRALIA – The Dan & Polly Miller Travel Bursary:



One year on (Nov 03) – handing over the cheque to Mr Michael Rudd, Chief Surgeon at Royal Brisbane Hospital

Last November, I was proud and excited to be able to return to The Royal Brisbane Hospital to visit the team that had saved my life. This time, I arrived walking into the hospital rather than being carried in.



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The wonderful staff there, along with my family, had kept me going through the darkest days of my life. I was excited to be seeing all those who had helped me and who had become my friends. At the same time, I was there to fulfil my rather rash promise to them as I left – that I would raise some money for their burns unit!!

The plan was to hand over a cheque for the sum of AU\$60,000 or roughly £25,000, which was raised by all of you good people. I had asked the British Government and the Hospital to set up a presentation/press conference at the Hospital for me after the Rugby World Cup final. I was thrilled and honoured when I heard that Mr Peter Beattie, the Premier of Queensland, wanted to attend the presentation along with the Minister of Health for Queensland.

I had met Peter Beattie already, just the once, when he had visited all the Bali victims in the hospital just a few days after we had first arrived in Brisbane. I was suitably impressed to hear that he had waited an hour for me to come out of surgery just so that he could say hello. I did try and explain to him when I came back to the ward that my voice was slurred by the anaesthetic and that just for once it wasn't alcohol induced!!... I think he believed me...!!

Anyway to cut to the chase, the presentation went really well with lots of people attending: Intensive care staff, Surgeons, Nurses, Physios, Occupational therapists, my Pain doctor, the Acting British Consul, the Head of the children's burns ward and all the friends we had made whilst we were out there.

The speeches were short and punchy and I was surprised and pleased to be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Queensland Government and a photo of the old burns ward where I had been treated (!!!)... will need to find somewhere to hang that!! My surgeon, Mr Michael Rudd gave a wonderfully kind speech of thanks and I was thrilled to hand over to him the cheque for AU\$60,000.

He explained to everyone there that they had given a lot of thought to what they would like to do with the money and that they decided that they wanted to set something up which would outlive equipment. They announced that they would like to set up a trust, called "The Dan & Polly Miller Travel Bursary", which will help fund the cost of sending Auxillary staff (Nurses, Physios, OTs) to Burns conferences around the world. There they will be able to learn about the latest burns after care techniques and dressings.

My thanks go out to everyone over in Australia and Hong Kong who helped make my trip so rewarding and pleasurable – in particular, I'd like to thank the English Rugby team for winning the World Cup.....what a night that was.....a night worth living for, that's for sure!!!

**GOING FORWARD - PROJECTS:** We are currently considering several new projects including supporting UK Burns Camps and Conferences & helping the McIndoe Research unit with their cutting edge work on spray on skin. We will be in touch with more details once there have been decisions reached by the Trustees.

### FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

- Wine Tasting at the Vintners Hall, Feb
- Derby Race Night at Woking Golf Club - Feb
- Birmingham University Re-union in London, 20<sup>th</sup> March - £25 a ticket
- Sponsored Weight loss
- Marathon Des Sables – 250km
- A Parachute jump
- Golf Day – Sunningdale Ladies
- Girls Brecon Beacon Operation Raleigh Challenge – July 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>
- Masquerade Ball – Feb 2005
- 100+ Club (see below for details)

**DAN'S FUND FOR BURNS 100+ CLUB:** In order to raise regular income and give participants a bit of fun we are starting up a monthly prize draw. Members of the DFFB 100+ club can buy one or more shares. Each share costs £12.00 per annum and is payable by Bankers Standing Order mandate. The winners will be notified each month and their names will be published on the website. A list of all the winners in the past year will be sent out each January. If you would like to join the 100+ club, please fill out the form at the end of the Newsletter and send it to Rosemary Derby at Haldish Farm, Green Lane, Shamley Green, Surrey, GU5 ORD.

**JUST GIVING - DONATING ON LINE:** We are in the process of opening an account with Just Giving. This will enable you to donate on line via their secure credit card banking forum. Keep your eyes peeled but we will let you know when it is up and running. Once opened it is easy to donate by going to our website ([www.dansfundforburns.org](http://www.dansfundforburns.org)), clicking on the link to the Donations page. There you will find the link and instructions.



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**ANNUAL DONATION:** If you would like to donate a certain amount once a month or once a year to the fund, then you will find a Bankers Standing Order mandate on the website [www.dansfundforburns.org](http://www.dansfundforburns.org) (Donations & Gift Aid). Please fill it out and send to your bank. Please also let us know if you have done so, so that we can keep our financial records up to date. If you could also add your name as a reference to the payment as that will make the accounting much easier. Thank you.

**GIFT AID:** Another important administration point – we are now set up to handle Gift Aid. This enables Dan's Fund to claim back tax on donations given, provided that the donator has paid the equivalent amount or more in tax that year. This means for every £1.00 raised, we can claim back an extra 28p from the government. To do this, however, we need your help – so please fill out the Gift Aid form, which you will also find on our website [www.dansfundforburns.org](http://www.dansfundforburns.org), and send it to Rosemary Derby at the address on the form. This can be sent retrospectively if you haven't done so to date.

**FRIENDS OF DAN:** Would you like to be a Friend of Dan and receive ongoing information on Dan's Fund For Burns? If so, please send us your email address and or address so that we can add you to our mailing list. You can send your details to either [PollyMiller@dansfundforburns.org](mailto:PollyMiller@dansfundforburns.org) or by post to Dan's Fund For Burns, PO Box 44154, London, SW6 6WX.

**HELP NEEDED:** We are looking for help and if any one can offer their services then please do get in touch. We need an **Independent Auditor** to audit our accounts, year end March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have experience in auditing charity accounts and are approved to do so then that would be perfect. I am also looking for a **team of helpers to work on the Ball project** and a separate group **in London to work on smaller fundraising ideas**. If you would like to be involved (to whatever extent) then please contact me via the website email ([PollyMiller@dansfundforburns.org](mailto:PollyMiller@dansfundforburns.org)).

**FINALLY, IF YOU ARE A BURNS VICTIM** and need some help, advice or just a friendly ear – then please get in contact with us. We are willing to consider all requests for help and even if you are just looking for someone to talk to who knows what it is like to be burnt then PLEASE contact me through our website. I look forward to hearing from you.

**AND FINALLY THANKS TO HERBERT SMITH FOR HELPING US SEND THIS OUT TO YOU.**

**DFFB CONTACT DETAILS:** Mrs Polly Miller, Dans Fund For Burns, PO Box 44154, London, SW6 6WX  
Tel: 0207 381 0159 - [PollyMiller@dansfundforburns.org](mailto:PollyMiller@dansfundforburns.org)

Registered Charity No. 1098720 & Registered Address: Haldish Farm, Green Lane, Shamley Green, Surrey, GU5 ORD.

### 100 + CLUB FORM

If you would like to join the 100+ Club please fill in the form below and send it to :-

Rosemary Derby , Haldish Farm, Green Lane, Shamley Green, Surrey. GU5 ORD

### DFFB 100+ CLUB Standing Order Mandate

To the Manager: .....Bank plc  
Address of your  
Bank.....  
.....

Please pay to Barclays Bank plc Guildford West Surrey Group of Branches , P.O.Box 317, Woking, Surrey GU21 1WT.

Account Name: Dan's Fund For Burns No.2 Account  
Sort code: 20-35-35 Account number: 00362735

The sum of ..... amount in words £.....amount in figures

Starting on.....day of.....20..... and annually on 1st January thereafter until further notice.

Account Name: .....

Sort Code: .....

Account Number: .....

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Address:  
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