

DAN'S FUND FOR BURNS

Newsletter 2011



NOTE FROM POLLY

Dear Supporters,

Time just seems to fly by these days, particularly now as I have two gorgeous if rather exhausting small children to keep me on my toes! I would however like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has continued to give their support, both by raising money for the charity (running marathons, climbing Everest, wedding lists, golf days, bridge drives, rugby lunches etc) or by donating to the charity directly. A special thanks this year goes to my parents who have continued to support me with endless babysitting so that I can attend charity meetings, hold fundraising parties and coffee mornings! My parents have also been active again this year themselves raising over £10,000 between them.

Last November, in honour of what would have been Dan's 40th Birthday, we embarked on another worldwide 'Drinks for Dan' party. Parties were held as far away as Singapore, Hong Kong, Belgrade and Australia, not to mention of course Scotland & England. A massive £14,412 was raised, smashing the total of our last attempt in 2006. A huge thank you to all of those of you who held parties for us and of course for those who attended and so kindly donated. It blows me away the amount of love and support still out there for the charity and the burns cause. So a massive thank you to all of those who participated.

We, the Trustees and Joy, have continued to work hard throughout the year granting donations to a wide variety of causes - details of which you will find in the newsletter. A *Black Tie Fight Night* was held in Singapore last month and we now have the excitement of the *Dan's Fund for Burns Snow Ball* in Ireland to look forward to in December.

What with the recent 10th anniversary of 9/11, our thoughts turn to the 10th anniversary of the Bali bombing next October. We are working on a suitable occasion to mark this event – more details to follow....

For now though, I remain extremely proud of the work we are doing and am pleased at the diverse nature of people we have been able to assist. This wouldn't have been possible without all your help. So thank you again.

With best wishes,

Polly

WHAT'S NEW

NEW TRUSTEE

Having acted as an informal medical advisor for some time, we are thrilled to announce the appointment to the Board of Trustees of **Greg Williams** FRCS, FRCS(Plast) as Medical Advisor to Dan's Fund for Burns. Greg is the *Burns Service Lead* at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, *Clinical Director* London and South East of England Burns Network and *Chair*, National Network for Burn Care, Burns Major Incident Subgroup.



Greg Williams

Greg has worked closely with us since our inception and his knowledge of the burns world has and continues to help us enormously. We feel honoured to have him on the Board. We are particularly pleased with this appointment as we have always stressed that those of us in Dan's Fund for Burns are not medical experts and do not give medical advice. We can however, often direct people to the right place to find help.

Lisa Williams

Lisa continues to play a major role for Dan's Fund for Burns as well as continuing to organise Support Group Meetings. She reports "that these Support Group Meetings go from strength to strength and Chelsea & Westminster is now the only Support Group running in the entire South East of England. My colleagues at the other three Burns Units receive invitations from me to send out to their patients.

New Assistant for Lisa

Over the past five years the workload for Lisa, the resident Clinical Psychologist at Chelsea & Westminster, has proven to be extremely valuable, but now is more than one person can manage. One of the major reasons for additional assistance is to enable a clinical psychologist to undertake the much needed role of screening all new patients in the Burns Unit. To date, this has not been possible due to overload of work.

Davinia Turrell, a survivor of the Paddington Train Crash, initiated a fundraising campaign, together with the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital Charity and Lisa Williams, which was launched by the Evening Standard, to raise the necessary funding to secure an assistant post to Lisa. This amazing effort was completed and the position secured in July 2011. Thanks and appreciation go to Davinia Turrell for initiating this project.

LONDON SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

*There are usually meetings in
March, June/July, September and December*

To sign up to the support group database
and receive information, please email
lmwilliams@nhs.net

Future Meetings
Thursday 15th September 2011
Thursday 15th December 2011

For those burns survivors who would like
to attend the next meeting, please call
Chelsea & Westminster Hospital Burns Unit
on **020 3315 2504**
or email lmwilliams@nhs.net to confirm.

If you would like more information
or have any questions, check
www.dansfundforburns.org
for more details or

JUST COME!

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO JOIN US!

Unfortunately, however, the Evening Standard's reporting misrepresented the situation, giving the impression that there had never been a position of Clinical Psychologist at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital. As you are aware, Dan's Fund for Burns in fact funded and initiated this position in 2006 and Lisa Williams has worked tirelessly ever since. Naturally this was very disappointing to Lisa and DFFB, who requested correction the article with the Evening Standard.

Lisa reports "that it is great to have a colleague join me and the Project is already moving into the pilot stage. We will now be able to be screen all adults and children who have been inpatients at Chelsea at three specific time points. The first point will be within 7 days of admission (or consciousness), at 3 months and 6 months." Such

screening is a recommended element of the National Burn Care Guidelines.

We enjoyed a really successful joint summer outing to Battersea Park Zoo with the *Children and Families' Group* in July - with more adult members attending than family members and coming from as far and wide as South Wales, Kent and Hertfordshire. The regular meetings are still being held at *Changing Faces* and are attracting as many people as they have chairs in the boardroom. (See announcements in the box opposite.)

EXCITING INITIATIVE

The Trustees made a decision at their May Meeting to initiate an Annual Travel Programme of £1000 per annum for Doctors, in order to assist them in attending important Burns Conferences both within the UK and abroad. It is increasingly difficult to find funding for such travel with cutbacks in NHS Trusts for what are sometimes considered less essential programmes. However, DFFB believes it is very important for doctors, in particular, to be able to impart information to others, as well as to learn from other burns specialists.

DFFB DATABASE

Please let us know if you have changed address
so that we may update our Database.
Many thanks.

OTHER STORIES

We are so grateful to those who are willing to write to us about their experiences and share them. We have below another story pertaining to the dangers of candles from Dean Chauman.

ONE CANDLE. ONE GUST OF WIND Sometimes that's all it takes

Almost a year to the day, these two elements changed my family's life.

England V Germany in the second round of the World Cup 2010. Half an hour before kick off and our seats were taken. Mum was just finishing up her Sunday prayers before we were to sit together as a family. That's when it happened. Praying, in a long dress, in front of a candle, as so many Asian women unwittingly do. All it took was a gust of wind and the dress had caught fire. Only my poor mum will recall that moment. Fortunately my father and I heard her cries for help. The flames had already rapidly spread and were covering her from her waist downwards.

What should you do? The simple answer would have been to use a fire blanket if you had one, put it out with water or even use a damp towel/cloth to pat the flames down. However, instincts had taken over and all I could think of doing was to rip the dress off with my hands...

Let's fast forward 12 months. My mum had 33% burns, had multiple skin graft operations and spent months in a specialist Burns Unit. Now, thankfully, she is continuing her recuperation and is back to work on a part-time basis. How very proud we are all of her. I suffered superficial/medium burns to both hands and wrists (around 6%) and required one skin graft and my father suffered some minor burns also.

After the accident I got in touch with Dan's Fund for Burns (DFFB), to get some advice on the help available and the procedures involved after such operations. DFFB were ever so understanding and helpful, not only in their advice, but in the support they provided me with. Sometimes all you need is someone to talk to and DFFB were there for me.

So appreciative I was of their support that I decided to challenge myself and raise some money for DFFB. In October 2010, I decided to take part in the *Men's Health 'Survival of the Fittest Challenge'*, followed by the Leicester Half Marathon (the following day!).

A thoroughly gruelling challenge, but one that I am very proud of, not least because of the money I raised. My hope is that others (like me) can benefit from the support network that DFFB provides and raise awareness that they are not alone.

Dean

WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH YOUR LIFE

If you have looked at the Website you may have noticed a wonderful poem by Sue Bander Thomas who was severely burned several years ago. Sue has remained in touch with us and we are delighted that this year we have been in a position to assist her in a training course to become a Teacher's Aide for young children. It is wonderful to see people regain their lives and self-confidence and we wish her luck. Sue has kindly written a new poem which she would like to share with everyone:

*"Burns doesn't have to ruin your life,
"Who ever thought that I would be married and
somebody's wife.
"About to embark on a teacher's assistant training
course,
"Just hope it doesn't end in me getting divorced!
"The countless operations you go through.*

*"The suffering, hurt and pain too.
"Burns can alter your appearance and leave you with
scars.
"The one thing it can't do is change who you really are.
"It's a long hard, winding road and a huge struggle,
"But there is always someone willing to pick you up and
give you a cuddle.
"There will be times when you want to be on your own.
"Hide away from the world and think you are all alone.
"It's about finding what works best for you.
"Who knows what you could be or do.
"Never let burns hold you back.
"Its people like us the world needs and lacks.
"Stand up strong push your chest out with pride.....
"cause like a rollercoaster life is scary but a brilliant ride."*

Hope this helps other burns patients also!

Sue

ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY:

How I Reached My Dream

"When I was 8 months old I poured a kettle over myself and suffered with 3rd degree burns to 30 - 35% of my body. I have scarring to my stomach, one side of my chest, underside of my left arm and the top of my right leg. I had operations every two years up to the age of 16, including skin grafts. I was treated at Nottingham Burns Unit and then further to my parents moving to Scotland received more treatment at Dundee Burns Unit.

From a very young age I had aspirations to get into the Police Force or the Army as a military police officer. At 24 I finally got the opportunity to apply for both. However, having looked into the application process, both included medicals for which I immediately thought I was going to be failed because of my scarring. At this point I contacted Dan's Fund for Burns and spoke to Joy, who was incredibly helpful, although not knowing whether the scars would affect my application she put my mind at rest.



Lauren Allcoat

I went through a lengthy medical process with the Army for which my whole medical history was sent off to their medical centre and awaited their decision. I got accepted for continuation into the selection process where a further medical was carried out. Finally after a 4 hour examination I was given the all clear. This

was an amazing feeling and I realised then that I could achieve anything I wanted to in life, despite everything that had happened.

I passed selection with a high grade B and was due to go in on the 10th June 2010, but having also completed the application process for the Police I was accepted and given a start date of October 2010. As this had been my childhood dream I held out for the police and started my training in October. I have now been in the Police Force for 10 months and I absolutely love it.

For anyone who has been burned or has a family member who has suffered I just want you to know that dreams and aspirations should never be just that. I was bullied severely as a child due to my scarring and believe me, there is not a better feeling than being able to show those bullies now what I've achieved. People have said over the years that my scars make me who I am and I wouldn't be who I am today without them; I truly believe this and have learnt not to be bitter about it. Life's too short and I now know that absolutely everything can be achieved if you put your mind to it and really want it.

Lauren Allcoat

CAMOUFLAGE MAKEUP PROGRAMME

Last year you may remember we assisted in the funding for Swansea's *Welsh Centre for Burns'* materials for their *Skin Camouflage Clinic*. In discussing this with other Burns Units a great deal of interest was generated. Dan's Fund for Burns canvassed Burns Units around the country and found sufficient interest that we have funded (approximately £20,000) a programme in conjunction with the British Red Cross. Many Burns Units had previously utilised the camouflage service provided by the Red Cross, but this service was often only available monthly and appointments had to be made



Camouflage course - not as easy as one thinks!

well in advance. A few Burns Units had their own facility already established, but for the most part our offer was enthusiastically encompassed.

In September and October this year two courses are taking place, one in London and one in Manchester, incorporating 16 individuals from Burns Units as far flung as Inverness to Bristol, and Ireland. We will look forward to feedback next year when these programmes are established in the Burns Units attending the programme.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

One of the great strengths of Dan's Fund for Burns is the ability to quickly assist individuals and families in the varied immediate emergency expenses and queries in the aftermath of burns. The range of assistance includes, among others: long-term Physiotherapy Massage, assistance in retraining for a new career, transportation costs for families visiting burn survivors, several instances of emergency aid towards refurbishment of furniture and clothing after house fire destruction and many other areas of rehabilitation assistance.

FUNDRAISING

It is very difficult to adequately express the Trustees' gratitude and appreciation to all those who continue to support loyally DFFB in so many ways, small and large... every bit counts and we are touched and grateful to each and all who have participated, for example, the *Drinks for Dan* drive which ultimately raised over £14,400, responses via the Newsletter, the many anonymous contributions which arrive during the year and in particular to all those who fundraise for DFFB.

SURREY REPORT

Rosemary Derby, Barbara Perry, Hilary Leigh, Sally Maddison and Valerie Band would very much like to thank all those who have taken part in events run by DFFB and report with pleasure their activities. In Autumn 2010, DFFB ran a Bridge afternoon at Shalford. Jill Thompson had a wonderful raffle prize win of a days' sailing on "Sophie" with Dennis Brennan and Richard Abbott looking after them so well (see photo on next page), whilst a picnic was provided and sent to them by their wives, Letty and Jenny.

2011 heralded a return to Sunningdale Ladies' Golf Club for the Texas Scramble. The prizes have been so kindly sponsored by SR Designs for a 7th year.



Jill Thompson, Mugs Samuel and Dennis Brennan on "Sophie"

Sue Roger's team with Freya Strong, Janet Riley and Norma Bateman were well deserved winners.

Chobham Golf club hosted a great day of Golf and Bridge last November.

Golf and Bridge combined winners were Hilary Havelock and Jan Porter.

Peter Derby organised a Charity Golf Day for Dan's Fund, raising a handsome sum at the delightful Woking Golf Club on 26th July 2011. The day was fine when 19 teams of ladies and gentlemen, each of 4 players, assembled for a 9.00am "shotgun" start. Play continued until 1.30pm, rewarded by a suitably robust lunch. Polly Brooks gave an update on the charity, which was followed by a well-contested auction of various donated items. Winners were a City Team from Everest Reinsurance.



Texas Scramble: winning team with the organiser

A Twilight Golf Evening took place at Worplesdon GC for the first time in August. A very happy time was had by all, although the last teams needed torchlight to find the clubhouse!



Polly Books with Everest Reinsurance team

Information and entry forms for next year from Rosemary Derby at rosemary_derby@yahoo.co.uk

KENT GROUP

During the winter months and on into spring and summer, a loyal group of supporters have played bridge against each other in a long-running tournament. In August, the winners, Peter and Rosemary Harrison, were presented with their prizes at the end of tournament party, held at Medway House, Cowden.

Singapore – Corporate Fight Night

Paul Webb who plays for the Bali Legends Rugby Team kindly put Dan's Fund for Burns forward to the organisers of this amazing evening in Singapore. We are thrilled with the efforts made on our behalf. We are especially grateful to the organisers of this Corporate Fight Night, the Singapore Barbarians and in particular Justin Barrett, Peter Williams, Eddie Herbert, Alan Kent and Sian Jones for all the amazing effort in organising this event and to Paul who is responsible for suggesting DFFB.

Sian Jones reports that:

"Saturday evening was a sell out: in the end we had in excess of 530 guests attending the event. It was an absolutely fantastic evening; the drink flowed late and at the After-Party, guests were being asked to leave at 5am. All in all, a great success and a brilliant first event to hopefully raise more funds in the future. From the live auction and silent auctions combined we managed to raise S\$ 31,433 = £ 16,182 !"

THANK YOU TO ALL

Everest Trek

At the beginning of last year Anneke and Gustav mentioned trekking up to Everest Base Camp and very soon Jana and I were also hooked. The four of us paid our deposits, booked the plane tickets and started

walking in earnest over weekends, all around England and Wales.

The trek itself was scheduled to happen from the 11th to the 24th of November 2010. It was an unbelievable experience and something the four of us will always cherish. However, we lost 3 days in Kathmandu because the weather was too bad to fly into Lukla. It made the trek more challenging because we lost some of our rest days that we were supposed to acclimatize on and also had to walk down in fewer days.



It was truly amazing and very humbling walking in deep valleys at 4,000 metres above sea level, with the different peaks of the Himalayas still towering above you at 6,000 to 8,000 metres.

Shortly before we were going to fly out to Kathmandu, we thought that a charity could benefit from our small expedition to Base Camp and we could raise some money this way. In the end we decided to raise money for two charities, the Skin Cancer Research Fund and Dan's Fund for Burns. Raising money could not have been easier. We set up two pages on *Just Giving*, emailed our colleagues and friends and before we knew it we had raised money for our two charities! We know that this money will make a small contribution to the great work the charity is doing.

Niel Du Preez

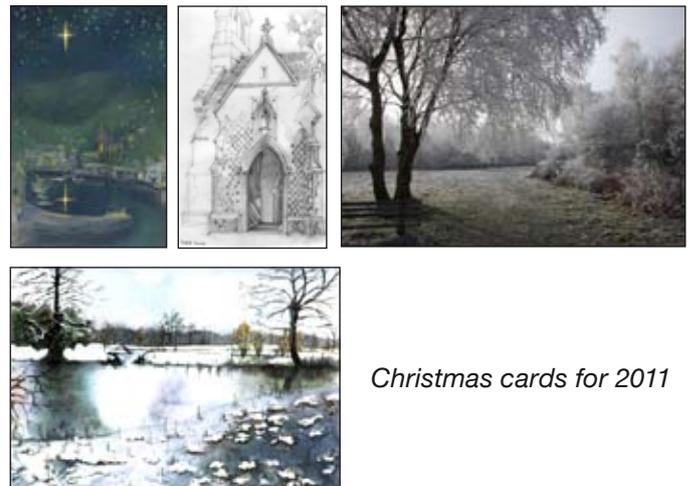
In a year of devastating sadness for Dan Miller's immediate family, within four months Dan's beloved

father, much-loved grandmother and bachelor uncle, died. The Fund is most grateful for the many donations and legacy received on their behalf.

Christmas Cards

A new range of Christmas cards has just been printed. The cards sell for £5.00 per pack of ten. *Please add a donation towards postage and packing for the Christmas cards.*

All the cards can be viewed on the website and ordered from **fel.miller.t21@btinternet.com** or Medway House, High Street, Cowden, Kent, TN8 7JQ



Christmas cards for 2011

EVENTS FOR 2011

Saturday 3rd December 2011 Snow Ball, Ireland

Caira, Polly's second cousin from the Northern Irish contingent of the family, has very kindly taken on a huge project, that is to organise a 'Snow Ball' for December 2011, in Belfast. The venue is booked and it is hoped to see more than 500 attending. If anyone is able to help with prizes for the raffles/auction then we would love to hear from you.

EVENTS FOR 2012

Monday 19th March 2012

Andrew Robson Bridge Day at Normandy Village Hall

Friday 12th October 2012

10 Year Anniversary of the Bombings in Bali

WEBSITE: HINGA DESIGN

Our continuing appreciation and thanks to Lynn Coles who continues to update the Website. We pay particular

tribute this year and condolences to Lynn on the loss of his wife. Throughout all the suffering and sadness, Lynn continued to maintain the website, updating the 100+ winnings and many other changes. Thank you Lynn.



Lynn's company, Hinga Design (www.hinga.biz), is a professional website design company for small companies and charities.

Please email enquiries@hinga.biz for a quote, should your company need any help with their website.

JUSTGIVING - DONATING ONLINE

We have an account with justgiving.com. This allows you to donate online via their secure credit card banking form. Visit www.justgiving.com/dansfund and follow the instructions to donate online.

GIFT AID

We would like to emphasise the importance of Gift Aid. In 2009-2010 the Charity directly claimed £2,999.77, which does not include Gift Aid collected through *Just Giving* donations. Do please complete the Gift Aid portion when donating if you are UK tax payer. Thank you!

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 our website: 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.

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 postal address, so that we can add you to our mailing list. Send your details to: info@dansfundforburns.org or Dan's Fund For Burns, PO Box 54394, London, W2 7HJ.

THANKS GO TO:

Our sincere gratitude to David Healy who served as Auditor for 8 years and thanks to David Cade who has

taken over this important work; our Trustees: Alistair Strong, Roger Masefield, Felicity Miller, Rosemary Derby, Emma Danks, Greg Williams and the Surrey & Kent Committees for all their hard work. A huge thank you also to ALL our supporters, fund-raisers and donors. We are most grateful also to the Charity Trusts, Corporate Companies, and many Individual Donors who most generously support Dan's Fund for Burns.
Polly Brooks, Chairman

LEGACIES

Think about your will - a lasting legacy would help guarantee the long-term work of Dan's Fund For Burns. If you are considering leaving a legacy to Dan's Fund For Burns in your will, we would be very grateful. Either contact your solicitor or call 020 7262 4039.

100+ CLUB

The **100+CLUB** continues to flourish. 336 Shares go into the draw each month for 4 cash prizes. MORE MEMBERS would be most welcome.

If you are not already a member, why not join and have a chance to win a prize from the Monthly Draw?

- 1st Prize - £50
- 2nd Prize - £30
- 3rd Prize - £20
- 4th Prize - £15

Information and form are at the end of the Newsletter. JOIN NOW!!!

FINALLY, FOR BURNS SURVIVORS

IF YOU ARE, or KNOW SOMEONE and need some help, advice, or just a friendly ear – then please get in touch with us. We are willing to consider all requests for help and even if you are just looking for someone to talk to PLEASE contact us

through our website:

www.dansfundforburns.org

by email: info@dansfundforburns.org

or telephone 020 7262 4039



*All at
Dan's Fund for Burns
wish you the very best for the
Christmas Season
and a happy and fulfilled 2012*



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 0RD

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,
PO 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: _____

DFFB CONTACT DETAILS:
Dan's Fund For Burns
PO Box 54394, London, W2 7HJ
Tel: 020 7262 4039
Email: info@dansfundforburns.org

Registered Charity No. 1098720
Registered Address: Haldish Farm, Green Lane, Shamley Green, Surrey, GU5 0RD

DONATIONS

If you would like to donate to Dan's Fund For Burns, please complete the form below and send to:

Dan's Fund For Burns, PO Box 54394, London W2 7HJ

If you are a UK Taxpayer, please complete the Gift Aid Form which grants the charity a further 28p on every £1 you donate. THANK YOU.

To: Dan's Fund For Burns
PO Box 54394
London W2 7HJ
Tel: 020 7262 4039

I enclose a donation in the amount of £ _____
(please make cheques payable to **Dan's Fund For Burns**)

Name: (please print) _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

GIFT AID FORM

I am a UK Taxpayer.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

You must pay an amount of UK income tax or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount we claim from the Inland Revenue.

Cheques from a joint account must be signed by the taxpayer.

You may cancel this Declaration at any time.

If you cease to be a UK taxpayer, please notify **DFFB**. Please also notify **DFFB** if you change your name or address.