Leaving a legacy gift in your will

Mesothelioma UK’s income through legacies is very low in comparison to donations and sponsorship. They can play a significant part in helping us to achieve our goals to:

- be a ‘One Stop Shop’ for up to date mesothelioma support, information and education
- provide funding for Mesothelioma Nurse Specialists
- provide funding for research dedicated to mesothelioma
- support the NHS to drive up standards and ensure equitable access to world class treatment, trials and care
- help the UK to lead the way in making mesothelioma history through world class audit, research and clinical trials
- raise the profile of mesothelioma to help prevent future cases of asbestos-related disease

Receiving a gift in a will is an honour; it reminds us of the commitment and generosity of our supporters and helps us to plan for the future. Legacy gifts and donations help to make long-term research and trials possible which will hopefully help us to beat mesothelioma one day.

No matter how big or small, every gift left in a will is an invaluable contribution to us and used to help others.

For example:
- A gift of £50 will cover the Mesothelioma UK helpline and email service for 1 hour and £400 will pay for 1 day
- A gift of £2,000 would fund a Mesothelioma Nurse Specialist for 1 month
- A gift to Mesothelioma UK is a gift for those with mesothelioma.

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

What a busy spell the ops team have had! Mesothelioma UK have MOVED. We are now based in offices two miles from our previous hospital host. You can find us at Greenacres, The Sidings, Leicester LE4 3BR. The freephone number has not changed but everything else has - below are the charity’s new contact details and each member of staff is firstname.lastname@mesothelioma.uk.com

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful supporters and fundraisers; this newsletter is littered with your successes. Without your help we simply couldn’t carry on and there is absolutely no doubt through the services we provide and our amazing team of nurses, we really are having a huge impact on improving experiences and access to treatment and care.

We are delighted to welcome nurse 14, Rachel Thomas who took up her post at Guys and St Thomas’s hospital in London over the summer. This is the first of two London based posts that Mesothelioma UK is establishing. The second is funded through the Pat Stone Mesothelioma Support charity, will be based at Elmts and will commence over the autumn. Exciting times. With further posts planned for Liverpool, Kent and Southampton, bringing us up to 18 clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) dedicated to mesothelioma, we are looking forward to increasing the impact the charity can have, to reaching more people affected by mesothelioma.

Whilst talking about our CNSs we said a fond farewell to Jan Devlin over the summer. Jan set up the first Mesothelioma UK CNS post in Scotland and we are extremely grateful for all that she has achieved. Good luck in your retirement Jan and sincerely thank you so much from all the Mesco UK team. We look forward to announcing your successor soon and hope to increase the Mesco UK nursing presence north of the border in the coming years.

We are delighted to have more mesothelioma clinical trials open than ever before. The trial insert has more information about the different options available. Please talk to your clinical team about the appropriateness for you or feel free to contact the Mesothelioma UK helpline where one of our nurses will be more than happy to talk you through the trials available in the UK.

We hope that readers are comfortable with our front page plea for supporters to consider leaving a donation to Mesothelioma UK through a legacy, in life or otherwise. Mesothelioma UK’s income through legacies is very low in comparison to other charities so we are having a measurable push to raise the profile of this opportunity. If you have any ideas or comments relating to this we would love to hear from you.

We hope that you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Sincere best wishes to you all,

Liz Darlison
Jackson Review of civil litigation costs
There was good news at the end of July for future victims of mesothelioma and other asbestos diseases looking to pursue claims for civil compensation when Lord Justice Jackson published his latest report (Review of Civil Litigation Costs: Supplemental Report – Fixed Recoverable Costs), part of his ongoing review of the civil justice system. The aim of the review is to simplify and cut the costs of civil litigation. Proposals floated last year would have seen the introduction of fixed recoverable costs (the costs that the plaintiffs can recover from defendants if they win their case) for personal injury claims worth up to £250,000. This would have affected most asbestos disease cases. The Forum believed such changes would seriously disadvantage asbestos victims, pitted against powerful and well-resourced defendants, who could only afford to pursue their cases under conditional fee arrangements.

The Forum wrote to Lord Justice Jackson and met with him at the Royal Courts of Justice to raise our concerns. Vivienne Swain, a member of Manchester’s Living Well with Mesothelioma Group, and Carl Heneghan, who lost his father to asbestos-related lung cancer, explained why these proposals would be unfair to asbestos victims and impede access to justice.

The good news is that Lord Justice Jackson has listened to the concerns raised by the Forum and others, and claims for asbestos diseases will not be subject to restricted costs in the proposals outlined in his report.

Forum vs Cape and others
The Forum has started legal action to try to obtain documents that could shed more light on how much was known by industry about the real dangers of asbestos.

On 10 August, the judge considering the case issued a further decision allowing the Forum to proceed with court action without the risk of paying legal costs if we lost. The substantive hearing, where we will argue for the documents to be released to us, will take place over three days in October.

Asbestos lawyer Harrimond Bains of Leigh Day Solicitors, who represents Mr Graham Dring on behalf of the Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum (UK), has welcomed the judgment handed down by Master McCusid in the Royal Courts of Justice. Harrimond, together with Robert Weir QC and Jonathan Blutters of Devonshire Chambers, will represent the Forum at the hearing in October. All are acting pro bono.

Phoenix House
We heard further good news in July when the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) announced that they had decided not to go ahead with plans to close Phoenix House in Barrow. Phoenix House is the specialist office that deals with industrial injury benefits and lump sum payments for victims of asbestos diseases. There is a wealth of experience and empathy within the office and asbestos victims would have suffered if this expertise had been lost.

The DWP has guaranteed that the Barrow office will remain open until at least 2023. This result is down to the effective campaign run by the union representing workers in Phoenix House, the PCS. This campaign was greatly helped by all those who signed the Forum’s open letter to the Secretary of State, highlighting the willingness of individuals and organisations across the board to defend services that benefitted those people suffering with asbestos diseases, and those still to come. Thank you for all of your support.

ARCA Charities Week 11-15 Sept 2017
ARCA – the Asbestos Removal Contractors Association – will be hosting its charity week again this year and Mesothelioma UK is very grateful to be one of its chosen charities. The Association’s members raised £22,000 for us last year.

During the charity week, ARCA staff will be taking part in their annual sport marathon challenges. The challenge for the ARCA team is to play a sport continuously throughout a working day. So, during the Charity Week the team aim to complete a table tennis marathon, a dart’s marathon and a bowling marathon. You can support the ARCA team by donating at www.justgiving.com/teams/arcacharityweek2017

A number of ARCA and ATAC (Asbestos Testing and Consultancy Association) members are also planning activities such as bike rides (up to 91 miles), abseiling in the Peak District or a 20k run in Warrington. Muddy mudd run and a Tough Mudder, a sky dive, along with rafting, bakes sales and dress down days.

www.arca.org.uk/charities

The state of mesothelioma treatment in Scotland
The Scottish Government’s Cancer Strategy does not mention mesothelioma and our health boards had no mandate to develop mesothelioma services.

Mesothelioma is also not audited in the same way. Very basic data is collected but only against performance indicators for lung cancer.

However, the argument to develop mesothelioma services across Scotland is gaining traction and we’ve held various positive and productive discussions with key partners, support groups and Government including a Parliamentary debate dedicated to mesothelioma. Liz Darlison, Director of Services from Mesothelioma UK has also met with the Scottish Health Minister.

In June this year, 25 people gathered in Glasgow including representatives from Mesothelioma UK, clinicians from all over Scotland, and patient and carer representatives, all supported by Macmillan. The discussions covered where the gaps are and what is important to patients.

Subsequently, the development of a national mesothelioma network is under consideration and funding bids are being explored. The design of the individual elements of that network are critical to delivering a quality diagnostic service across Scotland. We need information to be fed into a national Multi Disciplinary Team to enable access to diagnostics and clinical trials. We can then make studies available to all Scottish patients.

Discussions about the network and its funding are ongoing with Scottish Government. In the meantime, the Mesothelioma team in Glasgow is very active with £1 million of external research funding for new diagnostic tests and treatments.

Our fantastic Mesothelioma Clinical Nurse Specialist, Jan Devlin is retiring so we thank her for her efforts and wish her all the best for a happy retirement. Carolyn McRae is being appointed as the new CNS and we look forward to working with her.

We’re working hard to make a difference for mesothelioma patients, their families and carers in Scotland. For further information on how you can get involved, please contact the Mesothelioma UK helpline or get in touch with your local MSP to encourage Government Support.

UK & Ireland Peritoneal Malignancy Meeting
The 2017 UK & Ireland Peritoneal Malignancy meeting will take place at The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin, 19-20 October. This one and a half day conference will cover a diverse range of topics on peritoneal metastases. It will feature keynote lectures from internationally renowned faculty, didactic sessions, debates, and case presentations. Additionally, there will be extended discussions among the various panels and audience participation.

The target audience includes healthcare practitioners in the field of surgical and medical oncology, gastroenterology, radiology, gynaecology, and pathology.

A dinner will take place on the evening of Thursday 19 October, in the Medical Residence, 59 Eccles Street (opposite the hospital). Refreshments will be provided during the meeting. To register for this meeting please log on to the following link https://materuni.ie/2017-meeting-registration

Nurse specialists brief ARCA members
During July, Mesothelioma UK Clinical Nurse Specialists attended ARCA (Asbestos Removal Contractors Association) member regional meetings in the South West and Wales, Midlands, North West, North East, South East and Scotland.

Steve Sadley, Chief Executive of ARCA, commented: “It was delighted Mesothelioma UK was able to attend our member meetings and explain their excellent work.

“Last year we raised funds through a number of events including a dedicated Charity Week when ARCA members took part in many different activities. This year we hope to raise further funds during our Charity Week in September.”
In Leicester, Mesothelioma UK commemorated the day with a service of reflection and hope at Leicester Cathedral, attended by more than 100 people. The service began with the Reverend Mark Burleigh, Master of Ceremonies, introducing and welcoming the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Jennifer Getty and asked her to lead others to place their doves on the tree of reflection.

Professor Mick Peake gave a national update on what is happening in the mesothelioma community. He spoke of the vital work that is taking place at Mesothelioma UK and about how important it is for mesothelioma to have a national audit to capture all mesothelioma data. He also spoke about the pioneering work of the Kaplan-Meier method in determining survival rates for patients with mesothelioma. He spoke of the vital work that is taking place at Mesothelioma UK and about how important it is for mesothelioma to have a national audit to capture all mesothelioma data.

In Kent and Medway, Brachers were proud to sponsor the first ever Action Mesothelioma Day event at the Chatham dockyard church, in partnership with Alan McKenna of Kent University. The event aimed to honour the memory of the thousands who have tragically died from mesothelioma, highlight the treatments available for mesothelioma sufferers and raise awareness of entitlement to compensation, and the need to act to prevent a new generation of mesothelioma victims.

The event opened with Medway’s Deputy Mayor releasing doves, followed by presentations from several speakers. Prof. Anne Bowcock of Imperial College London talked about their latest research into immunotherapy for mesothelioma. Dr Helen McGe, consultant in palliative care at Hospice in the Weald, shared the practical advice and support hospices give to make life and death for mesothelioma sufferers more comfortable. MacMillan Lung Cancer Nurse, Beverley Brown, advised about the help and treatments that local hospitals can provide to mesothelioma sufferers and John Reeves from the NUT talked about the current dangers from old asbestos in over 80% of our schools. Brachers’ Jeremy Horton gave an overview of the law of compensation for mesothelioma. Dr Brawn, advised about the help and treatments that local hospitals can provide to mesothelioma sufferers and John Reeves from the NUT talked about the current dangers from old asbestos in over 80% of our schools.

The speeches were followed by a dove release that took place on the balcony overlooking the River Thames, and a minute’s silence to remember all those who have died. It was very moving to hear the stories and hugely encouraging that there are significant numbers of trials and advances being made in medical research, in an effort to find a cure for mesothelioma. It is hoped that the day achieved its objective which is to continue to raise awareness of mesothelioma.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to organise or attend one of the events. Action Mesothelioma Day is important for honouring those who are living with the disease, AAGSD members, patients, carers, sponsors and volunteers attended from all parts of the region. Young choristers from New Haven Cathedral, Connecticut, U.S., were amongst the congregation and AAGSD members and carers formed the orchestra for the service. The event was filmed and is available on the AAGSD Facebook page.

Following the service, refreshments were served in the refectory followed by a symbolic release of 12 white doves representing 12 of our patients who we lost during the last year. The service was followed by a strawberry tea and cake to all attending in support of Action Mesothelioma Day.

In Berkshire, the Berkshire Asbestos Support Group (BASG) were delighted to welcome newly appointed MP for Reading East, Mark Redda, to chair the annual Action Mesothelioma Day event. This year it took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Reading on Friday 7 July 2017.

Dr Christopher Davis, Consultant Respiratory Physician at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, spoke of his particular interest in pleural disease and lung cancer.

Deirdre Smith, a local businesswoman whose father died from mesothelioma, gave a heartfelt and most moving talk about her father’s illness and how his mesothelioma had impacted the life of her family.

The final speaker was Amy Kier, a research nurse with a special interest in mesothelioma. Amy has recently been awarded a place at Oxford University and Pat Stone Mesothelioma Support to conduct a study into a non-invasive method of diagnosis using Structure Light Plethysmography (SLP).

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Liz Darlison, Director of Services for Mesothelioma UK, commented: “While the numbers released by the HSE are high, we are here to provide both care and support for patients and funds for research which will hopefully identify new treatments. There are many clinical trials taking place up and down the country, some of which are having great successes in improving prognosis for patients. We are well on our way to providing a comprehensive team of clinical nurse specialists to cover the whole of the UK. We currently fund 13 nurses around the country, including ones in the high incidence areas such as the North East, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Scotland.

“We aim to increase the number of nurses to 28 over the next 5 years to support the NHB to drive up standards and ensure patients have access to world class treatment, trials and care.”

There were 2,542 mesothelioma deaths in 2015 (2,519 in 2014) of which 407 were amongst the male and female deaths for the rest of this current decade before annual numbers begin to decline. The latest projections suggest there will continue to be around 2,500 deaths per year for the rest of this current decade before annual numbers begin to decline.

The geographical areas with the highest female mesothelioma death rates and in order of rank within GB were:

- Barking & Dagenham (62 deaths, rank 1)
- Sunderland (144 deaths, rank 2)
- Newham (66 deaths, rank 3)
- West Dunbartonshire (38 deaths, rank 4)
- Barrow-in-Furness (27 deaths, rank 5)
- Leeds (23 deaths, rank 6)

Followed by Blackpool, Newcastle upon Tyne, Basilston and Midway.

The HSE figures are based on the last area of residence of the deceased. The long latency period of mesothelioma means that individuals may have lived elsewhere when they were exposed to asbestos and moved areas before the onset of the disease.

The areas are ranked using Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) which compare the mesothelioma mortality rate in a particular area with the mesothelioma mortality rate for GB.

The latest projections suggest there will continue to be around 2,500 deaths per year for the rest of this current decade before annual numbers begin to decline.


In New Haven, Connecticut, U.S., Young choristers from New Haven Cathedral, Connecticut, U.S., were amongst the congregation and AAGSD members and carers formed the orchestra for the service. The event was filmed and is available on the AAGSD Facebook page.

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Top six regions in Great Britain ranked in order of mesothelioma deaths

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has released its annual figures for the number of people known to have died from mesothelioma. In 2015, Barrow-in-Furness, West Dunbartonshire, North Tyneside, Barking and Dagenham and Sunderland were among the areas highest ranked in Great Britain (GB) for mesothelioma mortality rates.

Liz Darlison, Director of Services for Mesothelioma UK, commented: “While the numbers released by the HSE are high, we are here to provide both care and support for patients and funds for research which will hopefully identify new treatments.

There are many clinical trials taking place up and down the country, some of which are having great successes in improving prognosis for patients.

“We are well on our way to providing a comprehensive team of clinical nurse specialists to cover the whole of the UK. We currently fund 13 nurses around the country, including ones in the high incidence areas such as the North East, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Scotland.

“We aim to increase the number of nurses to 28 over the next 5 years to support the NHB to drive up standards and ensure patients have access to world class treatment, trials and care.”

There were 2,542 mesothelioma deaths in 2015 (2,519 in 2014) of which 407 were amongst the male and female deaths for the rest of this current decade before annual numbers begin to decline.

In the UK over 2,200 patients are diagnosed each year with pleural mesothelioma, with deaths increasing every year and estimated to peak in 2020. For many of these patients, treatment has been ineffective; the current use of chemotherapy is associated with patients only living for an additional three months. As a result, surgery remains an important consideration to increase the length of life and improve the quality of life for patients. After the successful pilot study, funded by Cancer Research UK, the research grant for the full MARS 2 trial was awarded by the f-h-r which funds high quality research ‘from bench to bedside’.

Currently, the MARS 2 project is the only trial of its kind in the world looking at whether radical surgery has benefits for mesothelioma patients. The UK is the only country in the world to have previously conducted randomised trials of surgical resection of mesothelioma.

Inclusion criteria
To be eligible for the cohort, none of the following criteria should apply:
• Age <18 years old
• Unable to give written informed consent
• Declines oncological follow up study

Recruitment target
We are aiming to recruit 700 participants over a 10 year period.

Study schedule
Patients will be approached in clinic and those who enroll will undergo baseline assessment at that time. Subsequent study assessments will be undertaken at participants’ routine clinic appointments, based on a flexible schedule, with data collection every three months as a minimum.

For more information about ASSESS-meso and/or TwiC please email info@bristol.ac.uk
International asbestos study day
By Lorraine Creech, Mesothelioma UK CNS Team Leader
An international asbestos study day was arranged by Graham Ding and his colleagues from Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group on 5 August 2017. The study day was held at the Slater and Gordon offices in Manchester and brought together experts and campaigners from Japan, Australia, France, Italy, Spain, Belgium and the UK.

The day began with Vivienne Swain, who was a resident in Rochdale, giving a personal account of her asbestos exposure, experiences and treatment history. During the morning session speakers included Laurie Kazan-Allen talking about Mesothelioma: The British Tragedy, Global Disaster, and Jason Aldy who reported on the Turner and Newall story. Graham Ding informed the audience about Asbestos Support Groups and local and international asbestos campaigns and John McClean advised on the UK Asbestos in Schools campaign.

In the afternoon I was able to advise on Mesothelioma: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Clinical Trials for Patients. Greg DeLouise spoke about Australia’s Asbestos Legacy. Sugio Ando and other colleagues from Spain and Belgium discussed asbestos issues and campaigns in Japan, France, Belgium, and Spain. Patrick Welsh explained compensation for asbestos sufferers in the UK.

The study day ended with an amazingly informative visit to the Turner and Newall factory site in Rochdale, arguably the birthplace of the world’s modern asbestos industry. Jason Aldy and other local residents (Spidloon Valley campaigners gave a visual accounts and historical overview of the Turner Newall now derelict factory site and the legacy of contamination.

During the day Jason said: “The history and legacy of past products, corporate decisions made and waste dumping on the Turner Brothers Asbestos site should never be forgotten, lest history repeats itself.”

Graham Ding reflected on the visit saying that “our international guests wanted to see the former Turner Brothers Asbestos Site for themselves. To them this is ‘asbestos ground zero’, where the asbestos industry’s deaths and questionable tactics to promote the deadly mineral first began.”

During the day the heartfelt stories from international advocates highlighted the worldwide problem of mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. Thankfully the interpreters were at hand to enable us to understand concerns and issues.

The Japanese visitors were also able to take part in Action Mesothelioma Day events in Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Derby and Manchester. So not only was this an exciting study day and a delight to the interpreters were at hand to enable us to understand concerns and issues.

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The day was followed by an amazing study day in Manchester and London. So not only was this an exciting study day and a delight to understand concerns and issues.

The study day ended with an amazing study day with the UK Asbestos in Schools campaign.

The Southampton post will also have a responsibility towards supporting veterans nationally and the service will also be closely linked to a new Mesothelioma UK Welfare Rights and Benefits Advice. The expansion of the team will mean that, nationally, there will be more equity in terms of access to a mesothelioma specialist nurse. This will assist with support to those with mesothelioma, providing a link to the service provided to lung cancer patients.

Our nurses are pivotal to improving access to information locally and nationally through the NCMR website. They are also dedicated to increasing mesothelioma awareness.

Our nurses are pivotal to improving access to information locally and nationally through the NCMR website. They are also dedicated to increasing mesothelioma awareness.

Our ambition does not stop at 18 nurses and is to reach truly equitable access to a mesothelioma CNS across the UK. We need to increase to 28/30 nurses as outlined by Andrew curtain in the Mesothelioma UK 5 year strategy.

These ambitious plans which is why we continue to work to raise the profile of not only Mesothelioma UK, but the disease itself. We rely totally on donations, fundraising, sponsorship and legacies and will work hard to ensure every patient in the UK has access to world class treatment and care.

“Being a Mesothelioma UK nurse to me is an honour and privilege, and I have felt incredibly humbled by the reception of the Southwest and the support they have given me. I never underestimate, nor for granted, the gift of being allowed to accompany those affected with asbestos related disease as they walk their pathway, and equally, I never fail to be humbled by the support we, as a team, offer each other; it is, simply, the best job on the planet.” said Christine Jonas, CNS.

Mesothelioma UK nurses – 14 and counting
The Mesothelioma UK Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) are going from strength to strength. Currently we have fourteen nurses based at Leicester Portsmouth, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Oxford, Glasgow, Wales, Yorkshire, Plymouth and Cambridge and are supported by two national CNS Team Leaders, Anne Moylan and Lorraine Creech.

Results of Bayer clinical trial
The phase II clinical trial (NCT02610140) was a randomised, open-label, active-controlled, multicentre superiority study, investigating anetumab ravnitasen as second line treatment in patients with advanced or metastatic mesothelin-positive malignant pleural mesothelioma (MMPM), whose disease had progressed after treatment with first-line platinum/pemetrexed-based chemotherapy. The trial did not meet its primary endpoint of progression free survival.

The safety and tolerability of anetumab ravnitasen were consistent with earlier clinical findings. Detailed study results are expected to be presented at an upcoming medical meeting.

The trial randomised 248 patients in a 2:1 ratio to receive either anetumab ravnitasen (6.5 mg/kg intravenously every three weeks) or vinorelbine (50 mg/m2 intravenously weekly).

Bayer would like to thank the patients and their caregivers, as well as the study investigators for their continued support, participation and contributions to study.

It is now accepted by many multi-organisations that the route via the CoP meetings to get something listed, globally, as a carcinogen is now closed. We have to look at other avenues to achieve our aim of banning asbestos totally. This is a difficult fight to win, but we cannot sit back and watch as the asbestos industry continues to trade its lethal product to the developing world. We have to do something about it, now.

As previously mentioned above, the fact that one vote can stop any proposal from being listed, (voting by consensus system), is of equal concern that the conference did not vote on an amendment put forward by a group of African nations that the consensus voting system be replaced by a 1/2 majority system.

We note that a working group has been set up to ‘identify a set of prioritised recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention, and to report back identifying further steps for consideration at the next CoP meeting. Activists like ourselves are concerned about the makeup of this group and of how the recommendations in the report will be decided upon. The chrysotile supporting countries have asked that they have a place on the ‘group’, so what hope of the recommendation’s approval if subject to the consensus voting process?’

The opinions above are my own, and not necessarily the opinion of DASVA or Asbestos Victims Support Groups Forum UK (AVSGFUK), or Mesothelioma UK.

By David Trigg, Chair. D. A. S. T. (Derbyshire Asbestos victims Support Team)
3 May 2017 was a sad day for anti-asbestos campaigners around the world. The Rotterdam Convention CoP8 (Conference of Parties) eighth meeting, taking place in Geneva, yet again voted to leave chrysotile asbestos off the list of hazardous substances to be traded only with prior consent.

These CoP meetings take place every two years. The Annex II listing is NOT a list of substances/products that are banned. It is a list for the notification to people likely to use the substances/products in a manner that may be carcinogenic. There are many countries in the world that do not have the protection that we have in the UK with the ‘skull and cross bones’ symbol on the labelling of dangerous products.

It is alarming that 7 votes, out of 157 representing over 190 nations - can mean that a proposal can, and will, fail. The seven countries were Belarus, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Syria and Zimbabwe.

It is well documented that chrysotile asbestos is a carcinogen, and that mesothelioma can develop from the inhalation of chrysotile fibres. It is also fact that countries worldwide from the exposure to asbestos fibres is increasing and that by not including chrysotile on the Annex II list, the death toll will continue to grow.

The chrysotile industry involves a very powerful lobbying group including so-called trade unions and they have government financing. It is also noteworthy that they are not afraid to resort to illegal and unethical tactics as noted by the ‘industrial espionage’ story, revealed late last year. One has to understand concerns and issues.

Eight countries that have formalised their concerns with the CoP7 about the listing of chrysotile include: Australia, France, the UK, Canada, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Sweden.

The British Chrysotile Association (BCA) have lobbied the UK’s Environment Minister to ensure that mesothelioma is considered as a significant disease of public health and that asbestos is traded only with strict controls.

Mesothelioma UK Newsletter - Autumn Issue 2017
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News from the National Centre for Mesothelioma Research
By Professor Bill Cookson, NCMR Director
The National Centre for Mesothelioma Research (NCMR) at Imperial College London’s National Heart and Lung Institute (NHLI) was founded last year and introduced the Mesothelioma UK community last June.

Since then, there have been some exciting developments at the Centre and our researchers are currently gearing up for the next academic year starting in October.

Over the course of NCMR’s first year we have appointed three postdoctoral researchers, a centre manager and three PhD students. The current research focus at the Centre is on early diagnosis of mesothelioma.

Other notable achievements include our first collaborations’ meeting – with participants from Leicester (the MRC Toxicology Unit and Mesothelioma UK), Cambridge (Mesobank) and Glasgow (Institute of Cancer Sciences) – and an NCMR Scientific Advisory Board meeting in which we presented our research plans to the Advisory Board to receive input and feedback from leading scientific experts as well as patient, union and charity representatives.

We are currently preparing for a Macmillan Coffee Morning to be held on 29 September at the Royal Brompton Campus of Imperial College. The aim is to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, to promote the work done at NCMR and to raise mesothelioma awareness.
Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust 1126083

Fundraising News

Well what is happening to our crazy summer weather… one minute we are on the beach in bikinis and then we have our heating and winterwarmers back on but has the weather deterred our fabulous fundraisers you may ask? No it certainly hasn’t...

You have been busier than ever doing all sorts of weird and wonderful things to raise funds and awareness as you will see when you read what our supporters have been doing. Their stories will make you laugh, cry, inspire and lift you all at the same time. There are some fantastic people out there and we are very privileged and thankful that they have chosen to support the important work we do for those living with or affected by this horrible disease. We don’t forget you if you want to do something to help then please do get in touch, we can help support whatever fundraising you decide to do, whether it be a small or large event, raising awareness about the dangers of asbestos is so important and we must continue to protect the next generation.

Well another year and our Muffins for Meso in May has been fantastic and a huge thank you to all those who took part. Your Muffins were amazing and again I have made my judging very difficult but we have chosen three very worthy winners. The Best Dressed Muffins, The Most Well Warmers Back on but has the weather deterred our fabulous fundraisers you may ask? No it certainly hasn’t. Tom Hammond – Hair Shave in memory of Dermott Dougan

As some of you may know, my good friend Dermott was diagnosed in September 2016 with Mesothelioma, a rare cancer caused by exposure to asbestos at work. The average life expectancy for this type of cancer is around 12 months from diagnosis. Sadly, my grandad died after only five months. I would like to raise awareness of this type of cancer and fundraise for the charity Mesothelioma UK who provide lots of help and support to families when they are faced with this horrible disease. I decided to do a sponsored head shave to raise money for Mesothelioma UK and I have been growing my hair so that I can donate it to make a wig for someone who has lost their hair due to cancer. Thanks for reading my story Tom”. Tom raised £1,538.75.

Tom Hammond – Hair Shave in memory of Dermott Dougan

I am fundraising for Mesothelioma UK, in memory of my Grandad Terence, who passed away recently completed a 10km run in his home in memory of his wife Maggie, a registered nurse for more than 35 years. She helped Rob during his battle as she could explain the details and implications of his treatment, monitor his dietary intake and general health and generally make sure that other than a new set of lungs he had everything he needed.

Unfortunately, not all mesothelioma sufferers and their families have direct access to the level of care and support that Rob received, and that’s where Mesothelioma UK can fill a void in the lives of sufferers. Much of this support can only be provided if adequate funding is received, which serves to highlight the importance of the numerous charitable donations received by the trust each year. In light of this, Rob’s eldest son Mark recently completed a 10km run in his home Town of Thame, Oxfordshire to raise money for Mesothelioma UK:

I’ve never been much of a runner and am not really built for it; my younger brother Greg was always the athlete in the family and would finish a 10km run with barely a bead of sweat on him! My dad’s pright showed me that I shouldn’t take my health for granted though, so I decided to try and lead a more active lifestyle. There’s a history of heart disease and diabetes in my family, so it’s best that I try a limit the risk of health problems later in life while I’m still young enough to do so.

I have been running on and off for a couple of years now so I decided that this year I’ll have a go at my local 10km race and raise some money for charity in the process. If you’d make such a suggestion to me 10 years ago I’d have laughed you out of the room; it’s funny how life events change your perspective on things, I decided that I would aim to finish in under an hour, a target which I was not helped in achieving by 3 weeks of trips abroad involving some detrimental evening drinking and limited training before the big day! My fiancée Beth agreed to support me and do the run as well with almost no prior training.

We both finished and I got around in a time of 59 minutes and 41 seconds. The total of our fundraising efforts, including Gift Aid, is £353.09.

“Just over a year ago, a friend was diagnosed with Mesothelioma at 40! Mesothelioma is an asbestos related cancer of the chest. His fight against this horrendous disease has been hard fought (lung removal followed by Chemotherapy) and he is a true Meso Warrior now living with Mesothelioma.

After diagnosis, he blogged about how little awareness there is for Mesothelioma and how it receives a disproportionate amount of funding for research and support for those impacted by it. Mesothelioma UK are currently fundraising for Specialist Mesothelioma Nurses and I have chosen this as the charity to benefit from my run. The support given to my friend and his family through Mesothelioma UK has been exceptional and it is only fair the every person affected by this horrible disease is afforded the same support”.

Update: Well I did it - 2hrs 42min - slightly outside target but I did it! Thank you for your amazing donations - along with a contribution from work and gift aid, at least £550 will be winging its way to Mesothelioma UK. That makes the pain my feet are feeling right now so worth it. Thank you again :-)
Helen, Dave and Joe’s – Big Bike Ride

“Dad was a carpenter so he spent decades working hard in asbestos environments with no protection - little did he know this would so quickly take his life in later years. This type of cancer stays dormant for years and then when it rears its ugly head - BANG!! It’s too late and only palliative care can be offered. Sadly my dad passed away on the 8th December 2016 just a few months later after being diagnosed. There is not a day that goes by without being reminded of the suffering that he went through, and the lack of support and knowledge we had about this illness. But my dad, he never complained, he got on with it, and it was always giving us the thumbs up to say he was ok, but we knew otherwise. My dad was outgoing and just got on with it, and he was always giving me moral support. I encourage all of you to donate if you can. Your donation is a gift, so live in the present, eat the cake, drink the wine and enjoy ourselves!

Update: “Wooohoo – 2 major achievements have occurred. I’ve completed the Velothon on Sunday 16th July in 6:12:57 and we have also now hit my target of £1,000 for this amazing charity. I can’t thank everyone enough for your very kind donations and the support that I have received during the last 3 months. We are still so close to get me to this point. I’m sure my dad is raising a glass and thanking each and every one of you. xox Dawn raised in total £1,287.50”

Hanya Ratcliffe – Cotswold Challenge

“Hi all, I’m taking part in The Cotswolds Challenge (100km/62 miles over 2 days) this summer to raise funds for Mesothelioma UK. It has been more than 10 years since my dad was diagnosed with and subsequently died of mesothelioma, a cancer caused by exposure to asbestos, and it was at this time we as a family became aware of Mesothelioma UK and the valuable specialist nurses and services and resources they provide including funding for N-AI’s frontline specialist nurses to help the patients and their families affected by this (as yet) incurable cancer. Please help to support them by sponsoring me to walk a silly amount of miles” Hanya completed her challenge and raised a wonderful £790.00

John Davey – Ambling in August

“We are trying to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos and the risk of mesothelioma. Smirnoff and I walked a mile and half across Bradgate Park in support of Mesothelioma UK. This month my meetings also give me hope, ideas and I don’t feel so alone on the journey ahead. I wanted to raise £100 which I did very quickly and my hope now is to raise £1,000 am currently just over £800.00 so if you would like to support and donate please go to my page at: Just Giving and don’t forget to gift aid your donation as it increases your donation by 25%. Thank you”

Janice Houghton-Wallis – Cycle ride for Mesothelioma UK in 2018

“I have to drive into the past to recall when I regularly used to ride a bike. The primary school I attended was in the neighbouring village and I would cycle to that, coming to get one day after new tarmac had been put on the road and I skidded on the grit grazing my chin and throat. When at secondary school I cycled to two of the bus stops but after passing my driving test the bike became redundant.

Many years on and I have decided to take part in a cycle ride as part of the Tour of Aysham: Cycling Festival 2018. The Chrono time trial is based on age / gender classifications and is a UCI qualifying event for the UCI Gran Fondo World Championships. I come under the age classification 75+ and my aim is to be placed thus qualifying to represent GB at the Championships in Italy. However, there was one main problem - I did not have a bike! My son Robbie has bought me a new road bike and a cycling friend Esther bought me a helmet so I am set up. I now have until April 2018 in which to learn to be confident on the bike, increase the levels of distance I can do and eventually try to get some speed up.

I am taking on this challenge in memory of my brother Stephen who passed away at the age of 58 in 2010 with the asbestos cancer Mesothelioma. We believe Stephen must have been affected by asbestos fibres at the age of 17 when helping his uncle build a new piggy and asbestos was being cut out torooing requirements. Mesothelioma specialist says it only takes one fibre to break through the skin and it will be in the lining of the lungs for many years before manifesting itself in this devastating disease. I witnessed someone I love suffer shocking, intolerable pain. Let’s work towards eliminating the cause of this disease and in the meantime more efficient treatment.

There are so many wonderful organisations looking to raise money, many of which, just like us, are almost obsessed with raising money and in our case, helping to avoid suffering for people with mesothelioma and lung cancer patients and carers meet up every month for a lunch for bringing together fellow sufferers which has been a great support for both Smirnoff and I. These monthly meetings also give me hope, ideas and I don’t feel so alone on the journey ahead. I wanted to raise £100 which I did very quickly and my hope now is to raise £1,000 am currently just over £800.00 so if you would like to support and donate please go to my page at: Just Giving and don’t forget to gift aid your donation as it increases your donation by 25%. Thank you”

Katie and Helen Hetherington #MissionMarathon #Makedaproud

“My name is Joe and I am 18 months old. I went on a Big bike ride with my Mummy and Daddy for my lovely Gangan because he got poorly last year and isn’t with us anymore, so in his memory we cycled 37 miles around the mountains of Shillingford to raise awareness and funds for our chosen charity”

“After the exams had finished, the first thing I wanted to do was to attend the 2017 Sheffield Park Cancer Hospital in Sheffield - my dad received fantastic care and for the first 6 months, responded well to treatment. Sadly the cancer became very aggressive in December 2012 and my wonderful Dad passed away on 28th April 2013 at home, age 57. My Dad was a keen runner, having done many 10ks and Half Marathons. We ran the Sheffield Half Marathon together in 2011 - I deeply slowed him down, but he was too polite to tell me! He always told me he couldn’t understand anyone who wanted to run a marathon and that was a very silly idea! By running a half marathon in his memory, I can only hope to raise awareness of the effects of asbestos and the risk of mesothelioma”

Since my Dad passed away, although very active and sporty, I had completely lost the enthusiasm for running. In August 2016, I ran a 5k in memory of a very special little lady, with Helen and her family - raising money for SANDS. The bug came back and I had the brilliant idea to challenge myself to run a marathon. Soon after, Helen said she wanted to run as well and before we knew it, or could change our minds, we’d signed up to the Edinburgh Marathon in May 2017. Our aim was never to break records, it was to get round the course, raising as much money as possible for Mesothelioma UK. Although the money was important, it was also about raising awareness for this terminal cancer - I’d never heard of it, so I was pretty sure many others wouldn’t have either. We were so well supported throughout our training from our friends and families but also found it very hard to fit it all in around normal work and life! Race day came and our training, alongside pure determination and fantastic support from fellow runners, got us round and we were over the moon to complete it in under 6 hours. At about mile 11, Helen turned to me and said, “your Dad was right, this is very silly”. Looking back, climbing Ben Nevis the week before the marathon probably didn’t give us the best preparation, but Helen and I love a challenge! :)

Our target was to get £1,000 so we were completely over the moon when we raised £1,237.44 plus more from gift aid. Will we do another marathon again in 2018? It’s very unlikely - half marathons at a push! But we are so proud that we achieved our goal and raised such a massive amount of money for a fabulous and much needed charity. Helen and I xx”
Paul Smythe - Liverpool Nightrider 100k cycle

“Just to let you know I did it! All 100k… In the rain, and the wind, and the punctures. Sorry – I’m a bit late with the news. Busy week – sleeping. The 100 kl Liverpool Nightrider – Sat 15th July 2017.

I went round with 3 pals – all carrying the finest legs from Birmingham, Edinburgh and Liverpool. So I had good company and thank goodness, someone with local knowledge who knew the route. I think that from the 350 or so starters about half were doing the 50k. We set off in waves at about 11pm from Liverpool city centre and we, the 100k bunch headed for the Birkenhead tunnel.

At the start we got a bit of a ‘kick on’ and we seemed to pass quite a few young Lydian clad types riding bikes no thicker than a steak knife. I enjoyed the thought that as we went past they must have looked at my old bike and wondered if it was an early prototype for something that Brunel was working on. Later I realised what they were dressing was something very dull called ‘pacing themselves’ – so they would be able to walk and talk at the end. Very boring. But then there was rain, and the rain – and the punctures. OMG the rain! It started at about midnight – and didn’t really stop all night. I now know there is a kind of wet way which goes beyond being merely soaked. It’s when even your flootals turn to a substance like brandy and you can feel your fillings going lurid in your mouth. In the glare of headlamps and lampjackets just trying to see the ground was like looking at a floor in a church. That was impossible. Someone should invent wiper blades for specs. Added to which some were trip townhalls – with virtually no braking in the rain. Good job most people were in bed and didn’t hear the swearing.

Puncture reappeared, but now in a slower form, the tube. Then just as we got going again the rain – and the punctures. OMG the rain! It was a very dull called ‘pacing themselves’ – so they couldn’t hear the swearing.

Very boring. But the story from then on was perfect summer evening and no punctures.

So all things considered – see you again next year (yeah, if they move Liverpool indoors). What kept me going was you kind sponsorship. Really – I was amazed at how many people responded, and so generously. The total (including the Gift Aid) will be over £500. So it goes to Mesothelioma UK who look after victims and families of asbestos related diseases. As you would expect, there are often construction and building industry traditions and labourers – a “Cinderella” sector of working people and their families who, during their working lives often lay their health and welfare on the line every day – through all weathers, to make comfortable places for us all to live and work. For their often hazardous work I believe they are unsung heroes but then Mesothelioma can strike years after the exposure to asbestos to strike its victims of the restful retirement they so deserve. So sincere thanks again for all your support – it helped remind me that you believed this was a worthwhile cause too.

Here’s the link once more to the Mesothelioma UK charity page on Virgin Money Giving – just to raise awareness and funds for Mesothelioma UK.

On 3rd June I completed the WOLF Run. The WOLF Run is Wild Running - a unique combination of three kinds of off-road running: mud runs, trail runs and obstacle runs. It is the only Wild Run in the UK and prides itself on being a hard core 10k run across natural terrain, including open ground, woodland, lakes and thick mud. I am pleased to say that I did complete the course in a respectable time and through the support of family and friends we have to date raised £300.00 with further donations still to follow”. Well Derek raised a fabulous £376.25.

Thomas Woodward - In loving memory of Derek Powell

On 11th March my father-in-law, sadly passed away after a brave and relentless fight against Mesothelioma. He handled his diagnosis in the same way he handled other aspects of his life, with nothing but dignity and positivity. Derek’s passing has been extremely difficult for my wife and all those that knew and loved him.

Derek’s family and friends donated a total of £406.87 in his memory through donations at his funeral.

“Derek was an amazing man who taught me a lot in the 13 years I was lucky enough to be a part of his life, so naturally I wanted to personally do something to raise awareness and funds for Mesothelioma UK.”

Annette Eglen – Walking for my lovely Dad

“In April my lovely Dad died. He was 84 so it wasn’t an unlimited death. He led a long and full life but what I struggle to accept is the way he died. At the age of 84 you think that your parents will most likely die of old age. In their sleep quietly and peacefully. Instead Dad died of a horrible asbestos related cancer called Mesothelioma, an industrial disease that lies dormant in the lining of the lungs and or the stomach for many years. Dad worked for BT (formerly the GPO) all his working life. In the 1960s he was a BT engineer which involved going into factories to lay and renew telephone lines. He had to drill through floors and ceilings which contained asbestos without any protection from asbestos fibres. Spurred on by Dad’s courage and determination from the day he was diagnosed in October last year to the day he died in April, I am now doing something positive to stop others dying in the same way as Dad did. The disease needs to be diagnosed early to give people more treatment options, there is also a need for more mesothelioma specialist nurses and multidisciplinary teams to proactively support patients and families through the traumatic stages of this disease. In time the disease will become scarcer as asbestos disappears from our lives but in the next few years it will continue to make lung cancer one of the most common cancers in the UK. During June I will be attempting to walk 500,000 steps in memory of my Dad’s determination to stay fit as much as he could and support the ‘walk all over our cancer’ campaign promoted by Cancer Research UK. Please sponsor me to help change the future of mesothelioma and also to remember the many heroes and heroines like my Dad who have bravely battled this horrible, fatal disease.” Annette completed those 5000 steps and more and raised a wonderful £243.75.

Faye Edwards – Stratford Half Marathon

“As most of you know, 2017 marks the 3 year anniversary since I lost my Dad. It has been an unbelievable journey of emotions since 2014 and I have no doubt there are many more ups and downs to come. He passed away from a very rare and terminal illness, asbestosis, cancer in his lung. The Select Security Stadium, Widnes. My brother in law David Baugh is the head of Pewitall Primary School, one of the schools taking part in the event. He contacted the organisers to ask if we could fundraise at the event in memory of my dad, Roger Bracegirdle, who sadly lost his fight with Mesothelioma in August 2016. Massive thank you to all the parents and relatives of the school children for their generosity in helping us raise £330.65. Thanks also go to Roger’s wife Sue, Daughter Louisa, Grandchildren Benjamin and Lily who along with myself collected the money.”

Nigel’s big bike days for Mesothelioma UK

200miles + bike ride in support of Mesothelioma UK because of the fantastic support and inspiration I am sure some of you know it’s been a particularly difficult 2017 for Triona and I. In November 2016 I was diagnosed with the Mesothelioma cancer. Wednesday 7th June happens to be my 50th birthday. We have decided to mark this coming of age by raising some funds for Mesothelioma UK.

This charity and the people who support it have been a fantastic help and inspiration to Triona and myself. The challenge would be to cycle from Inverness to Garloch on the 7th June, the next day on to Applecross and back home to Inverness after a bit at the Applecross Inn. This works out as approximately 215 miles 13000 feet of ascent. We appreciate that there are many worthy causes requiring urgent funds but if you could see your way to even a few pounds the charity and us would really appreciate it. Any local cyclists feel free to join in the cycle as well - all welcome. Triona will be doing a van for bike and rider support. Huge thanks, Nigel and Triona”. Nigel completed this huge challenge and raised an amazing £3,798.47.

Claire Higgins, Carol and Caroline Race for Life

“On June 28th the Children of Halton Schools Musical event was held at the Select Security Stadium, Widnes. My brother in law David Baugh is the head of Pewitall Primary School, one of the schools taking part in the event. He contacted the organisers to ask if we could fundraise at the event in memory of my dad, Roger Bracegirdle, who sadly lost his fight with Mesothelioma in August 2016. Massive thank you to all the parents and relatives of the school children for their generosity in helping us raise £330.65. Thanks also go to Roger’s wife Sue, Daughter Louisa, Grandchildren Benjamin and Lily who along with myself collected the money.”

Faye xx”. Faye raised a wonderful £498.75.

Nic Bracegirdle

“On June 24th the Select Security Stadium, Widnes. My brother in law David Baugh is the head of Pewitall Primary School, one of the schools taking part in the event. He contacted the organisers to ask if we could fundraise at the event in memory of my dad, Roger Bracegirdle, who sadly lost his fight with Mesothelioma in August 2016. Massive thank you to all the parents and relatives of the school children for their generosity in helping us raise £330.65. Thanks also go to Roger’s wife Sue, Daughter Louisa, Grandchildren Benjamin and Lily who along with myself collected the money.”

Claire, Carol and Caroline have taken part in the Race for Life on Sunday 17th July 2017 at Worcester Racecourse. This is the second time they have taken part in this race which they did in memory of Carol’s dear husband, Claire’s stepdad and Carol’s Dad who sadly died of mesothelioma. They have raised a wonderful £530.00 including gift aid. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed their challenge helping to raise funds and awareness about mesothelioma donated in their lovely Meso UK 1-shirts. Well done girls, you are amazing.”

Mesothelioma UK Newsletter - Autumn issue 2017
Richard Foyster – Growing a Mo, Running a Marathon and Hiking the Swiss Alps

Richard is a partner at Ashtons Legal, mesothelioma affects many of his clients and members of the the Anglia Asbestos Disease Support Group that he works closely with. Richard therefore decided to take part in not one, but three fundraising events to raise money for Mesothelioma UK. This included growing a Moustache for Meso in Movember then on the 9th April he ran his second challenge in the Norwich Half-Marathon. The highlight of Richard’s fundraising was his third challenge which took place on the 14th June which was a hike across, over, and down the beautiful French and Swiss Alps, the views were stunning. The photographs show Richard at the peak of one of the mountains – Ferret d’Arpetite, at 2,865 metres, and also show the view from the top of that peak. Richard commented: “The hike at all times passed through stunningly beautiful scenery but at times was physically demanding and scary! I act for so many wonderful people who have had the misfortune of being diagnosed with asbestos related conditions. They inspire me on a daily basis with their determination, positive attitude, and good humour – attributes that I was keen to use myself when the going got tough. This has inspired me to look at attempting further endurance events in the future. Watch this space!”

Rachel & Joseph Jackson in the Norwich 10K Run

Joe and I decided to run the Norwich 10k for Mesothelioma UK after our Dad (Hero/Legend) was diagnosed with Mesothelioma in December last year. The Norfolk and Norwich hospital do not have a dedicated Meso Nurse so this is the first step towards Dads efforts to raise the £90,000 required for a dedicated Meso Nurse at the hospital, so that people who get diagnosed with the disease in the future have the expertise and support of a dedicated nurse. I can’t run to the tube, so this was going to be a huge challenge for both of us, but we did it and are still here to tell the story, so if you could spare a few pounds towards this FANTASTIC cause, it would be greatly appreciated. We have raised £740.00 so far so if you would like to donate to help raise funds for a much needed nurse please visit our Just Giving page https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rachel-joe-jackson

Veronika Pickard – Charity 5-a-side Football

Veronica Pickard’s husband sadly passed away from Mesothelioma on April 1st and her family has been fundraising to help other people with mesothelioma. In the picture, her son and team ran a charity 5-a-side football competition. 16 teams entered and a great day was had by all. There was a BBQ, face painting and games to get the whole community involved. It was so successful, they are going to make it an annual event! The family have raised £800 for Meso UK, a brilliant total - thank you to all those who supported this wonderful event.

Making Mesothelioma Matter

Are you interested in raising awareness and funds for mesothelioma? Well you are in the right place to be inspired, we need your help to spread the word and you can do this by taking part in Runs, Walks, Streetkraze, Teiks, Trishions, Quiz’s, Coffee Morning, Baking for Meso, Balls, Dances, Cricket matches, Golf Tournaments, Football Tournaments, Dress Down Days, Ice Bucket Challenge, Murffs for Meso and Moustaches for Meso and the list goes on. The funds you raise go towards the vital work that Mesothelioma UK do which without your help we wouldn’t be able to fund. Our dedicated nursing team is growing and becoming a force to be reckoned with, they are leading the way in helping those families touched by mesothelioma to get the support they need and up to date information about treatments, trials and much more. Have you considered leaving a gift in your will to Mesothelioma UK, your legacy could live on forever to help others can be of great comfort. A gift to Mesothelioma UK is a gift for those living with Mesothelioma. If you would like more information please contact Jill Lemon on 0116 2965232 or email jill.lemon@mesothelioma.uk.com

We are Dedicated to Making Mesothelioma Matter and we can only do this with your help. Our vision is to be a ‘Mesothelioma Essential One Stop Shop’ for up to date support, information and education. We want to support the NHS to drive up standards and ensure equitable access to world class treatment, trials and care. We want to help the UK lead the way in making Mesothelioma history through world class audit, research and clinical trials and to raise the profile of Mesothelioma to help prevent future cases of asbestos related disease.

The UK has the highest incidence of Mesothelioma in the world so let's do something about it.
Muffins for Meso in May 2017

We have some wonderful bakers who took part this year in our Muffin for Meso Bake Off and we would like to thank you all for taking part and supporting us with this wonderful initiative to help us raise awareness.... See you next year!!

Winner of the Best Muffin Recipe
Slater & Gordon, Baked Cheesecake Muffin

Winner of the Most Unusual Muffin
Leanne Beswick, Wireless Infrastructure Management

Winner of the Best Dressed Muffins,
Norwich Support Group - Chocolate Muffins with Crispy Sprinkles

Overall Muffin Winners
Retail Merchandising Services (RMI) Newport

• Your Legal Friend
• Jan Mason – The Stag & Hounds
• Boyes Turner
• Ashtons Legal
• LCF Law, Bradford
• Brachers
• Elizabeth Gwyne
• Environetc Ltd, Essex
• Wheatfield Junior School, Herts
• Hayley Prouet
• Slater & Gordon Cardiff
• Irwin Mitchell Solicitors LLP, Leeds
• Retail Merchandising Services
• Hannah Ball, Oxford Support Group
• David Hellewell
• Guy’s & St Thomas’s
• O H Parsons Solicitors, Slough
• Wythenshawe Support Group, Manchester

• Jane Halton
• Slater & Gordon, Manchester
• Sandstar Communications Ltd, Leicester
• Helen King, Thoracic Dept, Leicester Hospitals
• Wolfersans Solicitors, Plymouth
• Stephensons Solicitors LLP, Wigan
• LCF Law, Bradford
• Christine Berry
• The Asbestos Law Partnership LLP
• Hugh James Solicitors, Cardiff
• Irwin Mitchell Solicitors, Cambridge
• Environetc Ltd, Newport
• Mick Day Skip Hire Services, Cambridge
• Hodge Jones & Allen LLP, London
• Maylarch Environmental Ltd, Oxfordshire
Anna Crossly & Team Rainbow (Shaz, Shani & Ann) – Yorkshire 3 Peaks

“I’ll never forget the moment my fantastic friend, Mags, told me she had an aggressive and incurable form of lung cancer... the nastiest of cancers - Mesothelioma. She was sat in my kitchen, in the same spot she’d sat so many times before, usually drinking tea or wine; always laughing, always planning. But this!! This was so bleak, that no amount of wine or tea could make things better.

The prognosis was awful. I didn’t know much about Mesothelioma, I could barely pronounce it, but what I did know was that it’s almost always down to breathing in asbestos - which was widely used in the construction of buildings because of its resistance to fire. The cruel irony is Mags may well have been exposed to asbestos at one of the hospitals where she trained to be a doctor. You know, at a hospital, where people go to get better. But it’s not just lurking on the wards. Asbestos was banned years ago, yet it’s still in thousands of schools, hidden inches away from our children; it’s in our offices; our homes, everywhere. One tiny microscopic fibre of the stuff can lie dormant on the lining of a person’s lungs for 20 or 30 years before it rears its head in the worst way possible, as Mesothelioma. Research into Mesothelioma is MASSIVELY underfunded.

Yet it receives a tiny fraction of the funding skin cancer does. Per death, £3,700 is invested in skin cancer, for Mesothelioma it’s only £480. As so many of you know, Mags is passionate about equality; she works tirelessly for better understanding and treatment of HIV (look up ‘PrEP’). But, above all else, she’s a wife and soulmate to Martin, and an adored mum to two little boys, Edward and Freddie. She’s a real life superwoman and in true Mags style, she’s defying all the odds. She’s completed her first course of chemo and the tumour has shrunk massively. And today we went running in the rain. It’s a long road ahead, but so far; Mags 1 - Mesothelioma 0. So, to all the rainbow ravers; the Prepsters; the dancers; the underdogs; the Speed Queen frequenters; the school gate smilers; the friends from far and wide... to all you humans, who Mags loves so much, please consider giving a few quid to Mesothelioma UK, via the link thingy bob. It will go towards much needed support and treatment for people suffering from Mesothelioma. Every single pound will spur me and the rest of Team Rainbow - Shaz, Ann and Shani - on, as we drag ourselves up and over those bloody big hills". They raised a fabulous £2,513.75.

Don’t forget to order your Mesothelioma UK Charity Christmas Cards, for more details on how to order go to our website www.mesothelioma.uk.com

Gold Donors 2017/18

Silver Donors 2017/18

Bronze Donors 2017/18

Corporate Partners

The Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust exists to raise funds to support the services provided by Mesothelioma UK and any sponsorship, grants or donations made to the charity support this.

Mesothelioma UK Charitable Trust would like to thank all of our wonderful donors.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Corporate Partner or Friend, contact our Fundraising Manager Jill Lemon on 0800 169 2409.