



Samm is a registered charity. Charity Number 1000598



## March Issue 5

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London  
SW9 6DZ

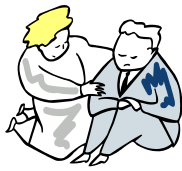
Tel: 0207 735 3838  
Fax: 0207 735 3900

Support After Murder And Manslaughter  
Formerly Parents Of Murdered Children  
Founded in 1984 By June Patient and Ann Robinson

Sponsored by a Home Office Grant And  
Other Donations.

Support After Murder and Manslaughter





# SAMM Local Groups



**Please call the National Office to be referred to your local group.**

**Cambridgeshire**

Janet McKenzie

**Edinburgh**

Isabel Ballantine—0131 551 3213

**Kent**

Jeanette Cariello

**Leeds**

RichardMcCann

**Leicestershire**

Carole Longe

**Liverpool**

Marie Ellis

**Northern Ireland**

**Pam Surplus**

**North East Lincolnshire (NEL)**

Marcus Van-Willing 01472 280048

**South Wales**

Linda Cosslett

**Stoke-on-Trent**

Graham Hawkins

**Teesside**

Alwyn Turford—01287 203341

**SAMM Separately Registered Groups.**

SAMM Abroad—0208 886 5878

Website: [www.SAMMabroad.org](http://www.SAMMabroad.org)

SAMM Greater Manchester – 0161 830 0160

SAMM Merseyside – 0151 207 6767

Website: [www.samm.merseyside.cwc.net](http://www.samm.merseyside.cwc.net)

SAMM South East — 0208 657 9197

Website: [www.samm-se.freeseve.co.uk](http://www.samm-se.freeseve.co.uk)



**Derek Rogers  
Chair**

I hope you have all coped with the Christmas and New Year holiday. I know it was probably a difficult time for you all.

I continue to represent your interests with ministers and Criminal Justice agencies whenever the opportunity arises. Recently Patsy and I attended a meeting of the Probation Victim Liaison Unit at which we highlighted issues of concern for SAMM members and made many useful contacts who we hope can help us in the future.

Rose, Patsy and I recently met with Harriet Harman and Lord Falconer to tell them some of the issues that members are concerned about in relation to how they were treated by the system in the aftermath of their bereavement. Our views were listened to and Harriet Harman said she would look into some of these and she has since been in contact with us to clarify and follow up on these points. As a result of her intervention the staff and I are dealing with on-going work in relation to some of the issues raised at this meeting. We will keep you updated as and when we have more information.

One area that we need your help with is in relation to coroners. After your loved ones death were you stopped from seeing their body by the coroner? If you were and you would be willing to explain what happened then please contact Rose on 0151 653 2065 or write to the national office. Remember, we can't turn the clock back and make things right for you but we can use how you were treated to make changes for newer families coming through the system. If you can do this it will be a great help to other families.

I would like to wish Patsy a very happy retirement. I have worked with her for many years and she has always given me a lot of help and support in carrying out my role as chair. She will be missed very much from the SAMM office.

Derek Rogers

## Rose Dixon

Did you get snow? We had about 3 inches of snow and a lot of the schools around us were closed. That got me thinking about Avril and how she loved to get the sledge out and play in the snow with her sister Penny and all the other children from our road. Isn't strange that no matter what season we are in, our thoughts seem to go to our lost loved ones.

In spring I think about her getting excited because her birthday was approaching. When she was younger she had to keep reminding me about her birthday (like I was going to forget it! Hey, remember I was there on the day pushing and panting and never likely to forget it) and constantly telling me what presents she wanted and of course reassuring me that she had been very good and tidied her room so deserved everything on her list!

In summer I think about Avril during the long school holidays when we had picnics and days at the zoo and visits from her school friends when we had the paddling pool up in the back garden. Also the many happy family holidays we had together.

Autumn reminds me of walks in the woods with the leaves falling and Avril and Penny dashing about kicking up the leaves and our bearded collie dog, Minnie running about barking and joining in the fun.

Winter was the excitement of getting ready for Christmas. Her trying to convince me that she had been good all through the past year and that she was sure Father Christmas would bring her lots of lovely presents.

I have sorted out photos of Avril and have made a special album showing her short life, from birth to 22 years. Sadly I have to be very particular about when I look at this photo album as it can have me in floods of tears. Sometimes I can look at it and end up sobbing and other times I can actually laugh at the funny things she used to do. I do find sometimes that when the laughter comes I can feel guilty because I am here laughing and Avril my lovely, pretty 22 year old daughter has been dead for 15 years now.

I think I just have to accept that I am a crazy mixed up jumble of emotions, guilt and pain. Occasionally I think it would be lovely to go back to being the person I was before Avril died, but sadly that can never happen. Once tragedy touches our lives we have to learn to live with it. We have no other option.

Take care and be gentle with yourselves.

## Patsy's Retirement

I am sure most of you will be aware by now that Patsy, our National Office Co-ordinator is retiring at the end of March. I am sure for her this will be a wonderful new beginning. I know she is planning to get involved in lots of new activities and I bet that in a few months time Patsy will wonder how she ever found time to fit work into her busy schedule! I am also sure that she will not miss the hectic commuting to and from Brixton every day.

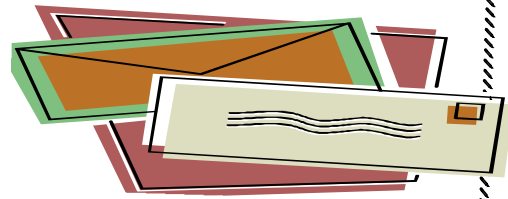
For us at SAMM who have known her over the years it will be strange not to have her around at the other end of the phone. It will mean getting used to another person in charge of the office and adjusting to a new voice on the phone!

I am sure I speak for most people when I say that the first contact most of us have had with SAMM has been Patsy's voice encouraging us to share with her our feelings and emotions about the awful thing that has happened in our life. I think for most people it has been good to know that anything we have shared with Patsy has stayed with her and is not discussed with anyone else. For people traumatically bereaved it is important to know that you will be treated with respect and confidentiality and that is something that Patsy has always done.

Over the last 8 years Patsy and I have worked very closely together and for me as a member of staff, I will miss her support and all the help she has given to me over the years. I hope we will part as good friends as well as colleagues. On behalf of all within SAMM, Patsy, I wish you a long and very happy and fulfilling retirement!

*The SAMM Newsletter is produced quarterly. The views expressed in this Newsletter are from signed articles received by SAMM National Office. These views are those of their authors and not necessarily of SAMM. There is no objection to reproducing extracts provided permission is first sought from the SAMM Trustees and proper acknowledgement is made. The SAMM Trustees reserve the right not to publish any articles they find inappropriate.*

## *Your Letters*



Dear SAMM Members

I would like to share with SAMM members my first effort at fundraising. I organised a charity night with support from my family, which took place in Liverpool. We received gifts from some small businesses. The night went well and we raised money for SAMM National but not the amount we were hoping for. The important thing is I learned a lot. We sold tickets for the night, which included supper and entertainment but they did not sell very well at first so I had to reduce the price. Some of the feedback I received after the charity night made it clear that people prefer not to pay an entrance fee (expect at a dinner dance) but would prefer to donate with more raffles etc.

I was amazed and grateful with support from family, friends and people I had never met before. I learned that fundraising is not easy but enjoyable. I have just received a gift of a 5 kilo Easter egg from a friend to raffle to raise funds for SAMM so I am looking forward to the challenge.

I am interested in ideas other SAMM members might have in raising funds for SAMM, it does not have to be on a big scale, mine certainly aren't. Any calls to the office or myself will be answered.

About myself, I lost my son seven years ago and I have been a SAMM member ever since. I have done some counselling with SAMM members and I am a trustee of SAMM National.

Look forward to hearing from other members

Rose Stenson  
Tel: 07783994749

**JUSTICE  
AFTER  
ACQUITTAL**

**PO Box 72  
Failsworth  
Manchester  
M35 0XE  
Telephone: 07902929379**

**JAA IS FUNDED BY UNLTD\*(THE UNLTD MILLENIUM AWARDS SHCEME)**

Dear SAMM Members,

We are two members of SAMM who have experienced the double trauma of the murder of our children and then an acquittal after trial.

We are setting up a campaigning group called Justice After Acquittal (JAA) which has the following short and long term aims-:

- For there to be national minimal standard of support from Police and Crown –
- Provide support to murder victims' families after an acquittal.
- For there to be an appeals procedure for victims' families following an acquittal.
- To pursue the idea of changing government thinking so that verdicts are entered after murder trials, which accurately reflect what has happened in the courtroom, for example, 'not decided' instead of 'not guilty'.

If you have experienced a murder trial and acquittal, and are interested in joining us, please write to the above address. We plan to organise a meeting/workshop later on in the year. (Please note we are not in a position to offer individual legal advice).

Yours Faithfully

Carole Longe     Anne Roberts

**I Shall Not Be Moved**

I am Bereaved-  
I am choked, choked full of love,  
Love for the child for whom I grieve,  
The victim of murder, in Heaven above:

So I shall not be moved!

Immoveable love, which is her birthright,  
Bursts my heart, my soul, my mind-  
This is why I wont give up,  
Wont go down without a fight.

So I shall not be moved!

Insulting clichés are thrown at us-  
Is there no one we can trust?  
Oh! How the words they throw us burn  
When they could tell us:  
“Lessons will be learned”

So I shall not be moved!

Instead of tears, compassion or remorse,  
They resort to clichés as a matter of course,  
Anonymous names and voices, so hard,  
They know this game, they play their card.

So I shall not be moved!

‘They’ in the system become an ‘it’  
‘They’ are a living metamorphosis  
‘It’ grows and grows with pulsing power-  
‘They’re safely hidden within their tower:  
A young girls life is cruelly taken –  
They wont acknowledge a family broken:

So I shall not be moved!

It happens again!  
Another slain

They're 'learning lesson'  
(How best to hide)  
No thought to prevention, to stop this horror,  
Murder by Law, permissible sorrow.

So I shall not be moved!

Insensitive Government, intent on rules  
It isn't theirs whose life they lose,  
To use our young ones in such a way  
To deny them right to live their day.

So I shall not be moved!

They prey on special people; vocations abused –  
These gifts from above of caring and love  
Are callously crushed, barbarously used.  
Potential murderers allowed to roam free –  
No rights to their records  
Their carers to see.

So I shall not be moved!

No help for us who have lost our daughter –  
They still abuse us with their slaughter!  
And on and on they throw such taints  
Insensitivity released, sheer lack of restraint.  
They cannot feel that we are in need:  
“Don't label the murderer –  
she has her whole life to lead....”

My Katie was twenty-three!

For God's sake

**SO I SHALL NOT BE MOVED!**

To entrust the unsuspecting with the accountable  
Is the policy of an uncaring Government

**Sandra Sullivan**

# chariband™

Chariband have created a range of remembrance pin badges and a remembrance wristband with the wording “loved today, yesterday and forever more” to help raise public awareness, promote the invaluable service bereavement-related organisations provide, and help raise much needed funds.

To date SAMM has received a total of £368.67 donations from Chariband.



## Remembrance Wristbands

Available to buy online at £1.75 each

Not including postage & packaging.

Remembrance  
Pin Badges  
Available to buy online at  
£1.75 each

Not including postage &  
packaging



Charities who benefit from the sale of Chariband Wristbands and Pin Badges are: SAMM National, The Compassionate Friends, The Way Foundation, Roadpeace, SCARD, Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide, Cruse Bereavement Care and CADD (Campaign Against Drinking and Driving),

## Book List

### **Losing Timo by Linda Baxter**

'When my son was murdered, writing became a release valve for my grief, pain and anger. Eventually I put all my writings, prose and poetry, into this book.'

It describes the aftermath of Timo's death, the trial and life since. It is also a celebration of all that was Timo.

**Publisher: Wales: Honno 2004.**

**Order a copy online at [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk), [pickabook.co.uk](http://pickabook.co.uk) and [turnaround-psl.com](http://turnaround-psl.com)**

### **'Goodbye, Dearest Holly' by Kevin Wells.**

This is a father's story of the disappearance and subsequent search for his daughter Holly. Kevin documents the trauma of searching for Holly and the effects this had on family and friends.

**Publisher: Psychology News Press, 4 Newell St, London, E14 7HR.**

### **'Just a Boy: The True Story of a Stolen Childhood' by Richard McCann.**

This is the true story of a small boy, just five years old, who woke up one October morning to discover his mother was gone. And it is the story of how the murder of one woman can ruin a family and trigger decades of deprivation and abuse. After their mother became the first victim of the Yorkshire Ripper, Richard McCann and his sisters' lives fell apart. Until, one day, the young man that Richard had become decided his life didn't have to be this way. Visit Richard and read chapter one at [www.richardmccann.co.uk](http://www.richardmccann.co.uk)

**Publisher: Ebury, 2004 ISBN 0091898218**

### **'Fiona's Story' by Irene Ivison.**

A mother's account of the brutal death of her daughter, who at the age of fourteen moved into the world of drugs, prostitution and violence. Argues for the removal of the pimps who exploit young people and coerce them into prostitution.

**Publisher: London: Virago, 1997.**

**Available from: Crop Suite 21. Munro House, Duke St, Leeds, LS9 8AG.**

**Tel: 01132436896**

### **'Double Take' by Vicky Harper; advised by Martin Kay.**

On 23rd January 1991, twin sisters Emma and Beckie Harper didn't return from a party. Their remains were discovered in a barn destroyed by fire. Their mother relates the events surrounding their deaths and the battle to discover the truth. Three young men who admitted being at the barn with the twins were charged with murder, later reduced to manslaughter, but two of the accused were discharged and the third acquitted.

**Publisher: Stroud: Young Woodchester, 1996.**

**Available from Vicky Harper, Manor Cottage, Church Rd, Longhope, CL17 0LL. Price £5 each from which £3 will be donated to SAMM**

### **'An Ordinary Murder' by Lesley Moreland.**

An account of the long hard battle to fight through her natural feelings of revulsion and revenge after the murder of her daughter and looks at the way she explored society's attitude to punishment and redemption and the whole way in which people react to sudden tragedy. She takes her evidence from both sides of the Atlantic and examines the ways in which murder is dealt with.

**Publisher: London: Aurum Press, 2001**

**‘The Last Thursday In July’ by Andre Hanscombe.**

In the summer of 1992 Rachel Nickell was murdered on Wimbledon Common in the presence of her three year old son. This is a personal account by her partner, the father of their child Alex.

**Publisher: London: Century, 1996.**

**‘Dunblane: Our Year Of Tears’ by Peter Samson and Alan Crow.**

Contains contributions from 12 people touched by the horror of the murder of 16 children in Dunblane Primary School in March 1996. They are: a mother, a father, a husband, a teacher, a shopkeeper, a campaigner, a politician, a TV presenter, a journalist, a churchman, a musician, and a child survivor.

**Publisher: Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing, 1997.**

**‘One Step at a Time: Mourning a Child’ by Betty Madill.**

An account by a bereaved parent about her experience after the tragic death of her child. Many of us who have coped with the death of our own child will find that we will be able to identify with many of the things she says in the book.

**Publisher: Floris Books, 2001.**

**‘When Father Kills Mother: guiding children through trauma and grief’ by Jean Harris-Hendriks, Dora Black and Tony Kaplan. (2nd ed.)**

A second edition which was published in the wake of increased interest in child protection and child law systems. It contains further information about the effects of psychological trauma and bereavement on children.

**Publisher: London: Routledge, 2000.**

**‘An Intimate Loneliness. Supporting Bereaved Parents & Siblings’ by Gordon Riches & Pam Dawson.**

Gordon Riches is Senior Lecturer at the University of Derby and Pam Dawson is Bereavement Services Co-ordinator for the London Borough of Bromley.

Gordon has worked for many years with bereaved parents and his sensitivity to their needs is remarkable in someone who has not lost a child. I think this is illustrated in the fact that the book is dedicated *To the sons, daughters, brothers and sisters who left too soon*. The difficult area of communication and intimate relationships between husband and wife after bereavement are discussed with sensitivity.

**Publisher: Open University Press, 2000.**

**‘Bereavement: studies of grief in adult life’ by Colin Murray Parkes. (3rd ed.)**

Helps understand the roots of grief, the secondary harm that bereavement can cause and the steps that need to be taken to ensure those who suffer it will emerge relatively undamaged. One chapter addresses traumatic bereavements.

**Publisher: London: Routledge, 1996.**

**‘A Broken Heart Still Beats: After Your Child Dies’  
by Anne McCracken and Mary Semel**

A Remarkable collection of poetry, fiction and essays compiled by a journalist and a social worker, both of whom have lost a child, A Broken Heart Still Beats gets to the heart of this hardest of trials.

**Publisher: Hazelden, 1998.**

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## CHILD VICTIMS OF CRIME.

This is a charity run by the police to assist any child under the age of 16 years who has been affected by crime. If you have a child in the family who you think may benefit from the Child Victims of Crime then the referral must come from a police officer. Contact your Police Family Liaison Officer if you have one or any police officer who was involved in your case.

Visit their website at [www.childvictimsofcrime.org.uk](http://www.childvictimsofcrime.org.uk)

## PAYMENT OF EXPENSES TO RELATIVES BEREAVED BY HOMICIDE ATTENDING COURT

Families of homicide victims travelling to court cases within England and Wales can claim expenses through their Local Victim Support Scheme. The grants are restricted to three family members or close friends of the victim to travel to courts within England and Wales. For more information contact your local Victim Support Scheme.

## INFORMATION REGARDING VERY LENIENT SENTENCES

The Crown Prosecution Service cannot appeal against a not guilty verdict but the Attorney General has the power to refer the case to the Court of Appeal especially in manslaughter cases if he thinks the sentence is too lenient. **This must be done within 28 days of the sentence being passed.** You can ask the Attorney General to refer a case to the Court of Appeal under this power, to do so, write as soon as possible to:

The Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers  
Attorney General Chambers  
Buckingham Gate  
London SW1E 6JD

## POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) have recently published a booklet titled: *Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD): the treatment of PTSD in adults and children, Understanding NICE guidance – information for people with PTSD, their advocates and carers, and the public.*

Copies of this booklet can be ordered from the NHS Response Line-telephone 0870 1555 455 and quote reference number NO849.

## **DEPARTMENT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS.**

The Department for Constitutional Affairs will now incorporate most of the responsibilities of the former Lord Chancellor's Department.

General Departmental Enquiries:

Selborne House

54-60 Victoria Street

London SW1E 6QW

Telephone: 020 7210 8500

Department for Constitutional Affairs: [general.queries@lcd.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:general.queries@lcd.gsi.gov.uk)

Court Service: [cust.ser.cs@gtnet.gov](mailto:cust.ser.cs@gtnet.gov)

## **NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE**

For information regarding an offender's Parole or release from prison. If you have any worries about these issues you can contact the Victim Liaison Unit at your local Probation Service Office.

National Probation Directorate

Horseferry House

Dean Ryle Street

London SW1P 2AW

Tel: 020 7217 0659, Fax: 020 7217 0660

E-Mail: [NPD.PublicEnquiry@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NPD.PublicEnquiry@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

## **THE LIFE IMPRISONMENT MINIMUM TERM SECTION**

If you would like information on tariffs contact.

The Life Imprisonment Minimum Term Section

Room CL 1.5

Clifford's Inn

Fetter Lane

LONDON EC4A 1DQ

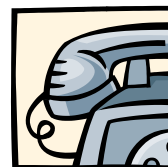
Tel: 020 7947 6913 Fax: 020 7947 6893

Website: [www.courtservice.gov.uk](http://www.courtservice.gov.uk)

## **VICTIM HELPLINE (PRISON SERVICE)**

For information regarding prisoners home leave, weekend leave, temporary release, unwanted mail and telephone calls.

Contact 08457 585112, Office hours 9am-5pm (ansaphone after hours)



## Useful Contact Numbers

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Victim Supportline</u></b> 0845 30 30 900 Calls charged at local rates. Open 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday. 9am to 7pm Weekends and Bank Holidays</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Cruse Bereavement Care</u></b> Cruse House 126 Sheen Road Richmond Surrey TW9 1UR Helpline: 0870 167 1677</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Compassionate Friends</u></b> 53 North Street Bristol BS3 1EN Tel: 0845 123 2304</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Road Peace</u></b> PO Box 2579 London NW10 3PW Helpline: 0845 4500355 <i>(24 hr 7 days a week, backed by ansaphone)</i> Assists families of a victim who is involved in a fatal road crash.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Inquest</u></b> 89-93 Fonthill Road London N4 3JH Tel: 0207 263 1111 Provide advice and support to all those dealing with a coroner's inquest or are handling a bereavement that has occurred in unusual circumstances.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Zito Trust</u></b> 16 Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford HR3 5DF Tel: 01497 820011 Provides support and advice for victims of community care breakdown (the mentally ill).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Suzy Lamplugh Trust</u></b> Provides resources, talks and training to help everyone to live safer lives. <b>Tel: 020 8876 0305</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SIBBS</u></b> <b>(Support in Bereavement for Brothers and Sisters)</b> 53 North Street Bristol BS3 1EN Helpline: 0845 123 2304 Support for bereaved siblings by bereaved siblings.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Winstons Wish</u></b> Clara Burgess Centre Bayshill Road Cheltenham GL50 3AW Family Line 0845 2030405 Mon-Fri. 9am-5pm Guidance and information for bereaved children and their families</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Petal</u></b> Support group for families and friends of murder victims in Scotland. Helpline 01698 324502</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Justice for Victims</u></b> PO Box 1340 Kingston Upon Thames London KT1 9EE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CROP</u></b> <b>Coalition for the Removal of Pimping.</b> 34 York Road Leeds LS9 8TA Tel: 0113 2403040</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>British Association for Counselling &amp; Psychotherapy</u></b> BACP House 35-37 Albert Street Rugby, CV21 2SG Tel: 01788 578328</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Samaritans</u></b> Offer a 24 hour confidential telephone helpline for people who are in despair. Helpline: 08457 90 90 90</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Jewish Bereavement Counselling Services</u></b> 8/10 Forty Avenue Wembley HA9 8JW Tel: 0208 385 1874</p>