



Samm is a registered charity. Charity Number 1000598



## March Issue 9

Samm National Office  
Cranmer House  
39 Brixton Rd  
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

# National Executive Committee

## OFFICERS

**Marie Ellis**

**Chair**

**Des Sadler**

**Treasurer**

**Avril Sanders Royle**

**Secretary**

**Gina Deen**

**Grace Medany**

**Alan Wright**

**Ryan Kendall**

**Rose Stenson**

**Pat Wright**

**Carole Longe**

**Marcus Van-Willing**

**Martin Harness  
(co-opted Feb 08)**

## National Office Staff

**Rose Dixon Training & Development Officer**

Tel: 0151 653 2065 Fax: 0151 653 2053

E-mail: rdrosedixon@aol.com

**SAMM National Office**

Tel: 0207 735 3838 Fax: 0207 735 3900

E-mail : samm@victimsupport.org.uk

Website: samm.org.uk

**Co-ordinator**

**Lynn Sweeney**

**Assistant Co-ordinator**

**Rachel Samuels**



# SAMM Local Groups



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

**SAMM Anglia**  
*Janet McKenzie*

**Kent**  
*Jeanette Cariello*

**Leicestershire**  
*Carole Longe*

**Liverpool**  
*Marie Ellis*  
07940975137  
*marieellis@hotmail.co.uk*

**Northern Ireland**  
*Pam Surphlis*  
Tel: 0289 442 9009  
*pam.surphlis\_samm.ni@hotmail.co.uk*

**North East Lincolnshire (NEL)**  
*Marcus Van-Willing*  
Tel: 07803 014566  
Email: *marcuswilling@aol.com*

**South Yorkshire**  
*Www.sammsouthyorkshire.co.uk*

**South Wales**  
*Linda Cosslett*  
*Peter Lewis*

**Suffolk**  
*Leonora Gardiner*

**Teesside**  
*Alwyn Turford*  
01287 203341

**West Yorkshire**  
*Richard McCann*

**Local contacts**  
*Kent*  
*Greater London*  
*NE Lincolnshire*  
*Nottinghamshire*  
*Oxfordshire*  
*Surrey*  
*Worcestershire*  
*West Midlands*  
*Devon/Cornwall*  
*West Midlands*

## **SAMM Separately Registered Groups.**

**SAMM Abroad—0845 1232384**  
Website: [www.SAMMabroad.org](http://www.SAMMabroad.org)  
Email: [info@sammabroad.org](mailto:info@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.sammuk.co.uk](http://www.sammuk.co.uk)  
Email: [samm-se@sammuk.co.uk](mailto:samm-se@sammuk.co.uk)

## **Marie Ellis**

### **Chair of SAMM National**

As I look outside the window I can see the dark skies and hear the wind whipping the rain against the window. It feels like we are in the middle of winter but I know that really we are in spring; a time of new beginnings. What better time for SAMM to start looking at ways to grow and develop?

SAMM is now reaching out to more members than ever before. Sadly, this reflects the growing number of families who are affected by murder and manslaughter. In order to make sure that our members are receiving the best support they can get we are aiming to strengthen our support service and to encourage other organisations to do the same. Many Criminal Justice organisations are aiming to implement a more victim focussed approach towards victims bereaved through homicide. However in practice, many services offered to victims are inadequate with little continuity and consistency. Our families are left feeling out of control and powerless against agencies that seem to have a clear lack of understanding of their needs, including increasing financial pressures at a time when income may be significantly decreased.

Here at SAMM we are constantly working to increase awareness about the needs of people who are traumatically bereaved. This could be speaking directly to policy makers to let them know our families' views; delivering training events to a range of different agencies so that they gain an understanding of what our experience is like and how their behaviour could affect how we feel; and collaborating with other charities and projects so that we can share our knowledge and learn from each other. We would also like to hear from you. If you know of an organisation that would benefit by learning from or working with SAMM please let us know.

In sharing our experiences, knowledge and understanding we can build stronger support services for our members. We always welcome the support of our members to help us to achieve this.

Warmest regards,  
Marie Ellis.

*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.*

## Rose Dixon

Well like most of you I managed to survive the Christmas holiday. I was touched by the number of people who contacted me to say that they would also light a candle on Christmas morning.

It never ceases to amaze me how we humans cope! There are many of you out there who are dealing with horrendous problems in connection with the death of someone close to you and yet incredibly you some how survive it. In the early days after my daughter Avril died I used to get very upset by people saying to me **“You are so strong! I couldn’t live if one of my children died.”** I felt as if that was a criticism of me as in you are still alive and functioning. If it happened to me I wouldn’t be able to go on living. **“Well Hello there! I don’t have an option!”** Like most of you, we keep on going because what is the alternative? We keep going for our surviving family because they need us.

Someone sent me via email a video of a comedian talking about the brain of men and women. It was a very funny video but as I watched and listened to it I realised that although funny there was a lot of truth in what the man was saying. (Any men reading this please don’t be offended, I am not criticising you)He said, men have boxes inside their brains. They have a box for the car, a box for work, a box for golf/football etc. a box for pain. A box for family and so on. However the men’s boxes are not wired up together and function individually. They access the box for the car when they need it and this box doesn’t communicate with any other box.

Women’s brains however are a mass of wiring. Every bit is wired up and communicating with the rest. So although as women may be dealing with one issue we can switch between things and interconnect with many things.

This made me think about how men and women react differently to grief. I dealt with Avril’s death in a totally different way to my husband. He could obviously compartmentalise his feelings and put them in a box and shut the lid. I couldn’t do that and was constantly thinking and talking about her. In the early days I really thought that he didn’t love Avril as much as I did because of the way he dealt with her death.

I know realise that he was hurting just as much as I was but just dealt with his grief in a different way to me. Sometimes we think men are back to normal after a tragic bereavement but they are hurting just as much as we women but dealing with it in a different way. I realise we need to accept that people can only grieve in their own way and we can’t force them to do it our way.

## News from the National Office

We would like to thank our members for their contributions to this edition of the newsletter. They have told us about their personal campaigns and projects, which we are sure will provide support, information and advice for our readers. I know that our contributors would thoroughly appreciate your views so please visit their websites or contact them directly to offer your thoughts.

We were also sent a very moving book of poetry by a SAMM member, Roy Cameron. Roy's daughter, Sara, was murdered on Good Friday, 2000. The foreword to his book is the Victim Personal Statement that he wrote for the final court hearing in October 2004. He goes on to say that since that day he has been searching for words for his daughter. This book of poetry 'speaks for him, and also for Sara Cameron'. '**For Sara**' is a poem chosen by Roy to be featured in Memory Corner. You can find more details about this poignant collection of poems in our book list section.

We held a training and information day for new volunteers in February and we will be holding a training event in April for established volunteers and group leaders. This event will focus on the needs of bereaved children. The Child Bereavement Charity have very kindly offered their services to deliver this training. If you would like more information about the Child Bereavement Charity call them on 01494 479753 or visit their website at [www.childbereavement.org.uk](http://www.childbereavement.org.uk).

**We are currently in the process of updating our website but unfortunately we are not receiving information from our site. If you would like to contact us please email directly to [SAMM@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:SAMM@victimsupport.org.uk).**

If you would like any more information about items featured in this newsletter please contact the National Office by email or on 0207 735 3838.

Yours,

Lynn and Rachel

### SAMM Newsletter

The next issue of the SAMM Newsletter is due in June 2008. If you have anything you would like published in any of the sections please send it to the office before 15th June. We would also like to hear your comments or suggestions about what you would like to see in the SAMM Newsletter.

# Campaigns and Information

## **Child Victims of Crime**

Registered Charity [www.cvoc.org.uk](http://www.cvoc.org.uk)

This is an organisation that works closely with the police and police officers can refer children who have been affected by any crime to the charity.

Their aim is to help vulnerable and traumatised children. There are a range of services available. This may be funding for counselling, adventure/activity breaks, holidays to Florida Disney World or providing high street vouchers for children.

If you feel that your child/children would benefit from a referral to Child Victims of Crime then either contact your Police Family Liaison Officer or Senior Investigating Officer if you are still in touch with them or contact SAMM and we will try to make contact with the police on your behalf.

---

## **Review of Homicide Pack**

The Home Office are carrying out a review of the Homicide Pack that is given to bereaved families by the police.

If you or your family were given a pack please let us know if you found the pack useful and if not, what would you change? Is there too much or too little information? Could it be made easier to use?

It is important that the Home Office hear your views so that the pack can be the most effective source of information for families as possible. Please contact Lynn or Rachel at the SAMM National Office with your comments.

## **Campaign to challenge minimum terms on life sentences**

In the September edition of the newsletter, our SAMM Greater Manchester Chair, Sheila Hannam-Andrews announced that she was organising an appeal against the low minimum terms for life sentences. A key change she campaigning for is to present an updated Victim Impact Statement to the Judge or Panel who decide the minimum term tariff so that the full effect on the bereaved family is taken into account. Sheila has written (see letter below) to the Home Secretary, Jacqui Smith, to seek her opinion on this issue and to explain the long term effects of murder and manslaughter on victims' families.

*Dear Home Secretary*

*I am the Chair of Support After Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM) Greater Manchester Group which is part of a nationwide organisation with several thousand members. The organisation provides a support and counselling service utilising the experiences of its members to bereaved parents and families whose children of all ages have been the victims of manslaughter or murder.*

*I am writing to you to raise an issue which the members of SAMM feel strongly is not being addressed by the Home Office. The issue is that when the tariff for the number of years which a convicted defendant will serve is decided, the full effect of that crime on the parents and siblings of the victims is not always taken into account. It is our view that as a result lower tariffs are being set. I appreciate that in some cases the Crown Court Judge will set the tariff at the conclusion of the trial. The Judge will, I know, take into account the Victim Impact Statement available at the time, but at that point the full effect on the family may not be known. In many cases the full effects are not known for some time.*

*In cases where the Judge does not set a tariff I understand the Panel appointed by you will meet to set a tariff. Again at that point, which in some cases can be some time after the trial, effects on the victim's family since the trial are not taken into account.*

*It is our strongly held view that no tariff should be agreed until an update of the effect on the victim's family is made available to the Judge or Panel. We believe that this could lead to a more equitable tariff being set.*

*If I may raise with you, as an example, how my own family was affected by the murder of my son Arthur Skelly in 2002. When the trial Judge sentenced the defendant he gave him a statutory life term and stated that he was dangerous and should not be allowed to mix with the public for a very long time. Approximately three years later a Panel set the tariff at 12 years. At the time neither my family nor I were contacted by anybody. Since the trial my daughter has suffered a nervous breakdown. One of my sons has received psychiatric treatment and my other son attempted suicide. All of which was a direct result of their brother's violent death. 12 years does not even fit the crime let alone the effect on my children and I.*

*I and many others in the organisation believe that the Judge or the Panel should receive an update of the Victim Impact Statement before making their decision on a tariff. This should lead to a justified increase in the minimum term set by the Judges and Panels, which we as an organisation would hope that you would support. Surely it is in the interest of justice that the effect on the families of the victims is taken into account and the minimum term to be served is increased.*

*I enclose the statements of some members of the organisation expressing their views on these issues.*

*I would ask you on behalf of SAMM to consider these points and I would welcome your views which I will relay to the members of the organisation.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Sheila Hannam-Andrews.*

## Starting a charity

**In the December edition of the SAMM newsletter Karen Ross gave us some ideas about fundraising. Karen's experience comes from starting her own fundraising charity called Rosie's Helping Hands. In this second instalment she tells us about her experience of developing this charity in memory of her daughter.**



After losing our daughter, Rosie, my husband and I set up a memorial fund under the 'disasters' fund which is allowed to operate for 12 months. At the end of the 12 months we knew we wanted to continue fundraising so had to decide whether to become a registered charity or approach another charity and ask if we could raise money for it under Rosie's name. We decided to become a registered charity and began the process of completing the required forms with the charity commission, the whole process took about 6 months. Now you only need to register if you raise £5,000 per year or more. If you are considering setting up a charity then the charity commission website is a good place to start at [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)

There is an awful amount of administration connected to running a charity even a small one like ours, some of the work has to be done to certain time-scales. Trustee meetings are held once every 3 months, accounts have to be done and audited once a year complete with an annual report! Then there is the fundraising side - planning events is time consuming and most of this has to be done Monday to Friday when people are easy to contact at work, weekends are sometimes taken up with outside events we are invited to. Looking after our supporters and the organisations we help is also very time consuming but very enjoyable and rewarding. Some of this work could be done by volunteers and we have tried but found that supporters, applicants for funding and the press all wanted to speak to us – the parents. For us it is very important that we have and maintain that personal contact.

Very soon after registering the charity my free time with family and friends and a chance to switch off from the charity became virtually non-existent. I faced having to make another decision, do I give up my part time job and work solely for the charity or give up the charity? We needed the income from my part time job but I couldn't give up the charity, it would be like losing Rosie all over again.

The trustees applied to the charity commission for permission to pay a small salary to me to manage the day to day activities of the charity, this was granted 2 years ago and enabled me to give up my previous employment and devote my time to the charity, although I still work many hours over the 20 I am paid to do – life is better all round and the charity now benefits from having my undivided attention.

Starting up a charity is not a decision to take lightly it is life changing and hard work but it is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. We have also gained a tremendous sense of achievement as we see how the money raised really does make a difference to small community projects and changes lives through specialised medical equipment. We have been privileged to meet some truly wonderful and inspiring people along the way, some of whom have become really good friends and helped us through the worst of times and more importantly..... have helped to restore our faith in human nature.

To visit our website please log onto [www.rosieshelpinghands.org](http://www.rosieshelpinghands.org)

Karen Ross

e-mail [rosiescharity@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:rosiescharity@blueyonder.co.uk)

---

### **Campaigns against knife crime**

Many of our members will be aware of the increasing publicity and support to find an end to knife crime. This has been an incredibly significant subject for SAMM member, Ann Oakes-Odger, ever since she lost her son in a devastating knife attack. Ann is the founder member of [www.KnifeCrimes.org](http://www.KnifeCrimes.org). This is an online resource that provides advice and support for people affected by this tragic crime. For website visitors [www.KnifeCrimes.org](http://www.KnifeCrimes.org) offers the opportunity to pay tribute to their loved ones and to lobby for tougher sentences for knife crime as well as receiving support.

Yet, the actions of this charity are not just web-based. Ann has created a youth focussed project called Westley's Weapons Awareness, and has collaborated with the Be Safe for Schools project and the 2 Smart roadshow, to educate young people about the dangers of carrying knives and the devastating short and long term effects for them and for bereaved families.

This year also sees Ann's involvement with NTK 'No to Knives'. This is a campaign run by the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, encouraging young people to make a pledge that they won't carry knives. For more information about any of these projects visit [www.KnifeCrimes.org](http://www.KnifeCrimes.org).

**JUSTICE  
AFTER  
ACQUITTAL**

**PO Box 72  
Failsworth  
Manchester  
M35 0XE  
Telephone: 0790 2929 379**

Dear SAMM Members,

Justice After Acquittal (JAA) is a campaigning group working for legal rights and support for victims' families following an unjust acquittal after a murder trial.

If you are wish to know more, please contact us at PO Box 72, Failsworth, Manchester, M35 0XE and on telephone number 0790 2929 379.

Carole Longe and Ann Roberts



If you would like to fundraise for SAMM but don't know where to start, this may be the perfect opportunity for you.

You can join Olympic athletes and fun runners in a 10k run around some of London's most famous sites. Although you will be sharing this experience with thousands of other participants this is your chance to achieve your own challenges, accomplish personal goals and contribute to the work of SAMM.

Last year our runners had a really enjoyable time and raised over £300 which will help to improve and increase the support we can offer to our members.

We have 5 places left so if you would like to take part please call the SAMM National office to add your name or to find out more.

## Feedback from the Victims and Witnesses Conference

### CPS Victim and Witness Policy

The CPS now have a **Victim Focus Scheme** that applies to all cases charged on or after 1 October 2007. They will meet with the bereaved family after the defendant has been charged to:

- Explain processes and procedures
- Answer any questions the family may have
- Explain how to make a **Victim Personal Statement**.

If the defendant is acquitted the CPS will hold post-acquittal meetings. This is a 12 month pilot from 01/10/07 in Northumbria, South Wales and Merseyside. Meetings will be at least 3 weeks after the acquittal. The purpose is to:

- Deal with any questions from the family
- Provide explanations
- Give awareness of support
- Be a contact point for enquiries up to 3 months after the verdict.

---

### Public Protection Unit, Ministry of Justice

Victims can now be present, or represented, at oral parole board hearings, supported by the Public Protection Advocacy (PPA) Team. The oral hearings will be held at the prison although the prisoner is not present.

#### Benefits for the Victims

- Victim Personal Statements are referred to at the hearing by the advocate
- Victims can have contact with advocates in writing or directly to discuss issues or procedures
- Victims will feel more a part of the process
- Greater awareness by the Parole Board of the concerns of the victims
- Victims can give evidence in person
- Provides a level playing field for Victims' representation.

#### The process

- The PPA team submit a request for attendance to the Parole Board
- Victims only present at the part of the hearing where they give evidence
- VPS (personal statement) can be submitted via an advocate or in writing
- Contact with PPA team should be through Victim Liaison Officers
- Victims input must be established at an early stage.

## **Media Requests**

In the June 07 edition of the newsletter we featured a request by freelance journalist, Rebecca Rampling. She specialises in stories for women's magazines and wanted to do some work with our members. She was contacted by some of our members who have now had their stories published. If you would like to speak to her about your experience and perhaps help others who are going through what you've been through you can reach her on 07909 530344 or r\_rampling@hotmail.com. She will pay you for the interview on publication and donate a fee to SAMM.

We have another request from a journalist, Adelle Martins, who has already worked with SAMM members but who would like to speak with more families if possible. She says:

“Whilst working in the BBC’s crime unit I came across a tragic phenomena. That of when one parents kills the other. I’m presently compiling a book and have written a screenplay which looks at this family dynamic and the fall out from such violent actions. It often leads to a grandparent having to raise the child/children who survive this relationship. In order to be as accurate as possible and to highlight this situation I would like to speak - in the strictest confidence - to people who've experienced this situation.”

If you would like to speak to Adelle please call her on 07809 38 25 24

Finally, Nicola Skinner of the South West News Service is hoping to speak to 20-40 year old women who have lost a loved one in the last two years. If you would like to speak to Nicola her telephone number is 0117 9066505. Please note you should be willing to be photographed and not have appeared in a national publication previously.

**Please note that these notices are included for information and are not an endorsement, by SAMM, of the work of these particular journalists.**

---

## **Poetry publication**

One of the most comforting and meaningful sections of the SAMM newsletter is Memory Corner, which features poetry from our members. A SAMM member suggested that we bring these moving and expressive poems together in one publication. We agree that this would be a wonderful way to share the memories of our loved ones and to raise awareness, in a sensitive way, about the affects of our bereavement. We will not include poems unless we have been given permission by the authors. If you would like to contribute to this publication please contact the National Office.



## ***Victims' Voice 'Sudden Death and the Coroner' Project***

### **SUPPORT NEEDS OF SUDDENLY BEREAVED PEOPLE Liaison Forum Meetings**

The Project funding enables Victims' Voice to hold **six Liaison Forum Meetings a year**. They are an informal opportunity for the different front-line personnel involved in coroners' enquiries to outline their roles in the very varied circumstances of sudden or unexpected deaths. Issues are discussed with bereaved relatives to raise awareness of the difficulties faced by suddenly bereaved people and those seeking to support them.

Police Family Liaison and Coroners' Officers and NHS personnel in hospital, mortuary, ambulance and primary care services need to interact. **The way this happens affects what happens to and how bereaved people are treated and this affects how they cope in the longer term.**

THE NEXT FORUM: **Thurrock Essex TBA**

*Bereaved representatives arrival between 10.15 and 10.45 am*

*Agency representatives arrival between 12.00 and 12.45 pm*

Buffet at 12.00 and refreshments at 10.30 am and 2.45 pm are provided, and there is no fee for attending the Forum. Travel expenses of bereaved relatives can be paid. Venue details will be confirmed.

### **INFORMATION NEEDS OF SUDDENLY BEREAVED PEOPLE 'Sudden Death and the Coroner' Booklet**

The Project is funded by the Department of Health and also provides for printing and distribution of the Victims' Voice booklet **'Sudden Death and The Coroner—Coroner's Post Mortem and Inquests—Information for Suddenly Bereaved People'**.

People trying to cope with sudden and traumatic bereavement need information about post mortems and coroners and **the need is very urgent – many questions immediately arise. Written information should always be provided; oral explanations alone are not enough.** Victims' Voice publishes a booklet that can be **given** to bereaved people, in **all** cases of sudden or traumatic death – the Review of Coroner Services referred to the booklet as a "valuable source of information and advice".

Copies are **free** in quantities of **25, 50, 100 or 200** from **vv@coroner-info.org.uk**



## INFORMATION FOR SUDDENLY BEREAVED PEOPLE

**In June 2003, the Members of the Review of Coroner Services reported to the Home Secretary.** In dealing with the provision of information, their report **refers** to the Dept of Works and Pensions guide D49 *WHAT TO DO AFTER A DEATH IN ENGLAND AND WALES*, and adds “There is, too, a good short leaflet from the Home Office. (*WHEN SUDDEN DEATH OCCURS*) Another valuable source of information and advice is *SUDDEN DEATH AND THE CORONER – CORONER’S POST MORTEM AND INQUESTS*, published by Victims’ Voice.

---

### **WHEN SUDDEN DEATH OCCURS Coroners and Inquests**

**Ministry of Justice Leaflet**

This **leaflet**, *WHEN SUDDEN DEATH OCCURS*, **alerts next of kin to their immediate rights** with respect to post mortems and indicates what may follow a coroner’s involvement. It was compiled with the help of bereaved people. The leaflet is available **free of charge** in:

English; Welsh; Bengali; Chinese; Gujarati; Hindi; Punjabi; Somali; Urdu

**email** [margaret.newell@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.newell@justice.gsi.gov.uk) **fax** 0870 739 5849

---

### **SUDDEN DEATH AND THE CORONER CORONER’S POST MORTEM AND INQUESTS Information for Suddenly Bereaved People**

**Victims’ Voice Booklet**

The Victims’ Voice **booklet**, *SUDDEN DEATH AND THE CORONER*, **adds** to the **leaflet** *WHEN SUDDEN DEATH OCCURS* and is written from the perspective of suddenly bereaved people. The booklet information is based on questions known to arise when coroners’ enquiries are underway. **It is specific to the Coroner Service and can be given to bereaved people in all sudden death cases.** A list of contacts when **specialist** sudden death support and guidance are needed is given in Section 25.

The booklets are **available free of charge** in quantities of **25, 50, 100 or 200** booklets.

**email** [vv@coroner-info.org.uk](mailto:vv@coroner-info.org.uk)

**by post to** Victims’ Voice PO Box 21 Fairford GL7 4WX

The email address can also be used for further information and support if suddenly bereaved people encounter difficulties with the Coroner Service.

---

### **WHAT TO DO AFTER A DEATH IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Dept of Works and Pensions Booklet D49**

This **booklet** explains how to deal with the personal affairs of someone who has died. It **includes** advice about making funeral arrangements, registering a death and other legal formalities, benefits procedures and how to obtain financial help if needed. Copies are **free** from local Social Services

It is always heartening to know that new SAMM groups are being developed. Within these groups, members have an opportunity to support each other through a very difficult time. Thanks to the commitment of members across the country we have the opportunity to start a number of groups. If you live in the following areas we would like to know if you would be interested in meeting with other SAMM members or even helping to develop your local group.

Ayrshire  
Devon/Cornwall  
North Lincolnshire/East Riding of Yorkshire  
Central London  
West Midlands  
Worcester  
North Yorkshire

**Please do contact us if you would like to see a local group in your area.**

You can return the form below to the SAMM National Office. Alternatively you can call 0207 735 3838 or email [SAMM@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:SAMM@victimsupport.org.uk)

Name .....

Tel no .....

Email address .....

Local group area .....

I would like to (delete as appropriate):

- Attend meetings with the local group.
- Help to develop the group.

Any comments or further information required:

.....  
.....

\*\*\*\*\*

**Grief Is The Price We Pay**



Grief is the price we pay for loving someone. The grief that transcends all other grief is undoubtedly that of a mother who has lost her child. It is terrible in its violence, overwhelming, heartrending, the afflictions of which one never fully recovers.

Parents should not be obsessed with their children as personal possessions to be moulded in their way of thinking, but should belong to the whole community to be treated as individuals each with a mind of its own, which, in practice, would result in the tragedy of grief shared, rather than to be borne by the parents alone.

Sam Watts  
Son Murdered 33 years ago.

---

**Appeal Court errors**

This is a request to anyone who has been affected by mistakes made by the judges in the Appeal Court. A SAMM member, Christine Hurst, has experienced the distress of a mistake that cannot be overruled. She says, "In my case, a mistake was made, and to my disgust, I found that there was nothing in the law to ensure that the killer served the erroneous 2 year cut in his sentence. Not only did he receive a light sentence, but he has escaped serving 2 years of it! It is too late for my family, but I hope to prevent others suffering this further injustice." If you would like to speak to Christine please call her on 01707 643207.

# MEMORY CORNER

**For Sara**  
by Roy Cameron

In the still of morning  
a raindrop falls  
and makes the forest tremble...

you were to me like a brook,  
come to warm my frosty field,  
wearing a tiara of kisses...

a supple little stream, smiling,  
basking in sunlight  
slip-sliding down the valley...

growing, flowing, river like a mirror  
silver snaking through  
the muddy delta of my heart...

going away, too soon, away  
to the deep and star wise sea,  
to be held forever in its dream...

asleep, asleep my love, out there  
on the pillows of the ocean,  
out there on the far side of my night.





**The Elephant in the Room**  
by Terry Kettering

There's an elephant in the room.  
It is large and squatting, so it is hard to get around it.  
Yet we squeeze by with, "How are you?" and "I'm fine." And a  
thousand other forms of trivial chatter.  
We talk about the weather. We talk about work.  
We talk about everything else, except the elephant in the room.

There's an elephant in the room.  
We all know it's there.  
We are thinking about the elephant as we talk together.  
It is constantly on our minds.  
For, you see, it is a very large elephant.  
It has hurt us all.

But we don't talk about the elephant in the room.

Oh please say her name.

Oh, please say her name again.

Oh please, lets talk about the elephant in the room.

For if we talk about her death, perhaps we can talk about her life.

Can I say her name to you and not have you look away?

For if I cannot, then you are leaving me .....

Alone....

In a room....

With an elephant.

# 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 £408.67 donations from Chariband.



## Remembrance Wristbands

Available to buy online at £1.75 each  
at [www.chariband.co.uk](http://www.chariband.co.uk)  
Not including postage & packaging.

## Remembrance Pin Badges

Available to buy online at  
£1.75 each  
[www.chariband.co.uk](http://www.chariband.co.uk)

Not including postage &  
packaging

**You can also buy Charibands from the  
SAMM National office at £1.50 each.  
Call 0207 735 3838**



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

### **'The Sara Poems' by Roy Cameron**

Roy Cameron has written a remarkable sequence of poems in memory of his daughter. These both record and celebrate his daughter's life from birth onwards but also take us through the death, the hunt for the murderer, the trial and the aftermath, in a painfully honest, sensitive work written with both dignity and a strong poetic imagination.

**Publisher: Iron Press 2007, 0191 2531901, [www.ironpress.co.uk](http://www.ironpress.co.uk)**

### **'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 at [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk), [pickabook.co.uk](http://pickabook.co.uk) or [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. 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.**

### **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.cvoc.org.uk](http://www.cvoc.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 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@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:general.queries@dca.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 (24 hr 7 days a week, backed by ansaphone) 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>Assist Trauma Care</u></b> 11 Albert Street, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 2RX Helpline 01788 560800 Email: assist@traumatic-freeserve.co.uk www.traumatic-stress.freeserve.co.uk Specialist therapy and support following trauma</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SIBBS</u></b> <b><u>(Support in Bereavement for Brothers and Sisters)</u></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>Justice After Acquittal (JAA)</u></b> P.O.B: 72, Failsworth, Manchester, M35 0XE Tel: 0790 2929 379 JAA - Campaigning for legal rights and support for victims' families following an unjust acquittal after a murder trial.</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>CROP</u></b> <b><u>Coalition for the Removal of Pimping.</u></b> 34 York Road Leeds LS9 8TA Tel: 0113 2403040</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Samaritans</u></b> Helpline: 08457 90 90 90</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>British Association for Counselling &amp; Psychotherapy</u></b> BACP House 15 St John's Business Park Lutterworth, LE17 4HB 0870 443 5252</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Child Bereavement Charity</u></b> Aston House, West Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 3AG Tel: 01494 446648 sup- port@childbereavement.org.uk www.childbereavement.org.uk</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Jewish Bereavement Counselling Services</u></b> Bet Meir, 44b Albert Road, London, NW4 2SG Tel: 020 8457 9710 Fax: 020 8457 9707 E-mail: jbc@s@jvisit.org.uk</p>