

TSN News

Newsletter of the Tsunami Support Network

Co-ordinated by



Volume 1, Issue 9

May 2006

Welcome to TSN News

Welcome to the ninth newsletter of the Tsunami Support Network. This has been set up to help provide opportunities for support for people in the UK affected by the South East Asian Earthquake and Tsunami. The contents of this newsletter have been prepared by the committee of the newly formed Tsunami Support (UK) and are being distributed on their behalf by the TSN.

As well as our website (<http://www.tsunamisupportnetwork.org.uk>) and ongoing telephone support (0845 054 7474), we hope this newsletter will enable readers to obtain and contribute information, share common experiences and benefit from mutual support. Do contact us if you wish to know more.

About the TSN

The Tsunami Support Network is being coordinated by the British Red Cross which is working closely with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) & the Dept for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS). The DCMS is coordinating aftercare for those affected by the Tsunami.

How to Join the Network

If you wish to receive further newsletters or other general information from us you can register either on our website or call us on the support line number (0845 054 7474). Please pass on our contact details to anyone who you feel might benefit from our activities.

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Forthcoming Event

Saturday 24th June 2006:

Picnic in the Park, Petersfield, Hampshire.

For further information on this event, go to page 2.

Please make a note of this event in your diaries.

We hope you will be able to attend.

- TSN -

WWW.TSUNAMISUPPORTNETWORK.ORG.UK
EMAIL: TSUNAMISUPPORTNETWORK@REDCROSS.ORG.UK
SUPPORT NETWORK ANSWER SERVICE 0845 054 7474

New Group Name: Tsunami Support (UK)

To distinguish the new association from the government and Red Cross sponsored TSN, we have adopted the name Tsunami Support (UK). This time round the newsletter is smaller, of necessity, but we still want to hear from people who want and feel able to share their thoughts and experiences.

Picnic in the Park, Petersfield, Hants Saturday 24th June 2006

A social event at Queen Elizabeth Country Park (Postcode: PO8 0QE, Tel :023 9259 5040), on the A3 south of Petersfield, will be held on Saturday 24th June, organised by the committee of Tsunami Support (UK).

It will be a very informal event to meet and chat, walk and reflect perhaps. Everyone is invited including friends and family who may not have met with others affected by 26.12.04.

Details on the park can be found on their web site:
<http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/qecp/info.html>

A location map can be found at:
<http://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/qecp/findus.html>

Arrival time is from 11.30 a.m. onwards.

Tsunami Support (UK) has not yet been funded so **PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC.**

We have booked the '**bottom field**' for the day. There is an entry fee of £1 per car. Gazebos, picnic tables or rugs, charcoal for barbecue enthusiasts (there are 3 fixed BBQs), walking shoes, and umbrellas to make sure it doesn't rain are all welcome. Charcoal can also be bought at the park.

If you have any queries about the event, please contact us. You will find our contact details at the end of newsletter.

Future Events

In December proposals are in place for a candlelight procession in York. Details are to be ascertained and will be announced shortly. We now realise that arranging events takes a lot longer than we first thought.

Other suggestions and assistance needed. Tsunami Support (UK) is for all of us and your suggestions will always be welcome.

TSN Update

On the 4 March 2006 members of the TSN met at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel London to appoint a committee to take over the management of the TSN from Disaster Action and the British Red Cross. Several people had volunteered to be on the committee. They were: Robert Brewster, Jackie Weston, Michael Pitt, Allison Arlotte, Steve Gill, Shyam Muhandiramge and Alan Jones.

These individuals had met in January 2006 and put their ideas together to present to those gathered at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel. From the January meeting a questionnaire had been devised for TSN members. The purpose of this questionnaire was to ascertain what kind of group would be born from the TSN. What did the members of the group want? – Please read the review of questionnaires on page 3.

First Elected Committee Meeting

On Saturday 25th March, Robert Brewster (Co-Chair), Richard Luck (Co-Chair), Jean Dogan (Treasurer), Jackie Weston (Secretary), Michael Pitt, Allison & Paul Arlotte, Steve Gill, and Renuka Marley met to discuss the information gathered from the questionnaires and to reflect on the meeting of 4 March 06.

Review of Questionnaires

The majority of those that responded wanted meetings to be arranged by the committee. The purpose of such gatherings would be to aid communication between members and to provide support by simply being together. These meetings needed to be informal and social.

Many wanted a newsletter to be circulated that would keep members updated on events and issues relating to the aftermath of 26.12.04. The majority wanted meetings to be quarterly and for venues to be considered outside of London. Future meeting suggestions included a memorial event in December and a picnic.

Membership of the TSN was reviewed with the overall opinion that membership of the TSN successor group should be survivors of the disaster, bereaved and anyone affected. 76% of the respondents want a permanent memorial to be established in the UK. Ideas for the memorial were varied but many requested the site to be in London and for it to be in a garden or park. Many requested a permanent symbol of awareness such as an awareness ribbon.

Forthcoming Film

We have been contacted by Jane Featherstone, Joint Managing Director of Kudos Film and TV, to inform us that Kudos are producing a film on the first 6 days after the tsunami, to be shown on BBC 2, probably in late November this year.

Filming is currently taking place in Thailand. It will concentrate on events in Phuket and Khao Lak and is based on interviews by Abi Morgan, (the producer) in Thailand last July with locals and foreigners (including Norwegians, Swedish, Germans and Australians), survivors or bereaved, who were helping volunteer organisations or waiting for identification of loved ones.

-CONTD. IN NEXT COLUMN

- CONTD. FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

The film is fictional with professional actors and no live interviews. It will examine and challenge the global response in the days after the wave, as well as offer some insight into the human tragedy that unfolded. Abi recently won a BAFTA for her piece about human trafficking, Sex Traffic, which motivated governments to take serious action about this problem, previously ignored.

The following release has been issued:

Tsunami drama to air on BBC Two

Tim Roth and Sophie Okonedo will star in a BBC TV drama based on the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami disaster, to be broadcast later this year.

The joint project with US network HBO also features Toni Collette, Hugh Bonneville and Chiwetel Ejiofor.

It is written by Abi Morgan, whose credits include Sex Traffic.

"It's a tribute to the power of Abi's writing that such an extraordinary cast has come together," said BBC Two controller Roly Keating.

Filming on location in Phuket and Khao Lak has begun. Production company Kudos is working with local communities and the piece will feature various locations and landmarks affected by the tsunami.

"Through meticulously researching real-life events, real people and working closely with the survivors' groups, Abi has written a wonderful, powerful drama that purposely asks what mankind can learn from the event," said executive producer Jane Featherstone.

Other actors involved include Gina McKee, Kate Ashfield, Samarit MacHielsen and Grirrgiat Punpiputt.

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- CONTD. FROM PAGE 3

Jane is anxious that this film does not come as a surprise to affected families. She has offered to meet us or to give us a preview of the film, and to keep us informed as to when the film will be transmitted.

A help line will also be announced at the end of the film.

Zito Trust Tsunami Review

The delay for completing this review was extended until 15th May. For those members who have not had the time or energy to complete the review, or who have found the review too difficult or repetitive, but who still have things they would like to say, we suggest that you contact Michael Howlett at the Zito Trust:

Tel: 01497 820011

Email: zitotrust@btinternet.com

UK Memorial Project

After the announcement by Gordon Brown in his March budget that £1million had been allocated for a memorial for victims of the July bombings in London, we wrote to Tessa Jowell (Minister for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport) and Jack Straw (former Foreign Secretary) requesting funding for a memorial for the Asian Tsunami British victims. We understand the D.C.M.S and F.C.O are meeting to discuss this and await the outcome.

Khao Lak Memorial Project

The winner of the competition to design a memorial for the Asian Tsunami at the Khao Lak National Park is to be announced by the Thai government on 22nd May. The following article appeared in the Australian press:

"A shimmering field of hundreds of lights set in shallow ocean water is the centrepiece of a Australian design bid for a tsunami memorial competition that has closed in Thailand."

The proposal, entitled "Lighting the Void", is led by architects Richard Weller and Gary Marinko from the University of Western Australia.

It is among five international finalists. A Thai panel is expected to announced the winner on May 22nd.

The memorial is to be built at the beach resort and national park at Khao Lak in southern Thailand, where thousands died in the Boxing Day 2005 disaster.

"I guess we are quietly confident," Weller said.

The Australian plan includes a museum, as well as a circular field of 540 lights, secured in water just off the beach.

During the day, refracted light from shaped glass in each light would give the "ocean a sparkling quality on the surface," Weller said.

"It's quite a large thing. It's about as big as two football ovals so it has a sublime quality in terms of its scale," he said.

Light was chosen as a theme because it is "a universal sign of hope and optimism".

The Australian entry faces competition from designs from Finland, the United States, Spain, and China. Some include bridge-like structures and towers.

To communicate about these articles please contact:

Petersfield Event on 24th June and questionnaire: **Allison Arlotte**
Email: paams@tiscali.co.uk
Mobile (preferably SMS): 07917 324 916

Kudos Films, Memorial projects and Zito Trust:
Robert Brewster
Email: robert.brewster@tiscali.fr
Mobile (preferably SMS): 07969 400 917

The Secretary: **Jackie Weston**
Email: jackieweston@btinternet.com

Tsunami Support (UK) Budget

A budget has been prepared by Jean Dogan and sent to the Red Cross with an application for funding to run Tsunami Support (UK) for the next year. Hopefully we will have a positive reply.

Hendon Tsunami Team

We understand that the Hendon Metropolitan Police team set up for the tsunami operation has now been closed down.

Full Committee List

Robert Brewster – Co-Chair
Richard Luck – Co-Chair
Allison Arlotte – Events Co-ordinator
Jean Dogan – Treasurer
Alan Jones – Media Co-ordinator
Jackie Weston – Secretary
Steve Gill
Renuka Marley
Shyam Muhandiramge
Michael Pitt

Communicating with the Media

We would like to know who would be interested in communicating with the media if we have requests.

If you are interested please advise the Secretary (see above for email address) letting us know what subjects you would be prepared to discuss.