



**777**

The Bhopal  
Medical Appeal  
Newsletter

Winter 2010

# The Children of Bhopal

The new generations  
affected by the disaster

**The Sambhavna Clinic**

Inside one of the world's  
great healing centres

**The Toxic Legacy**

Poisoned water – a new  
Bhopal health hazard

**The Bhopal Medical Appeal**

# The Bhopal Medical Appeal

## Who are we?

The Bhopal Medical Appeal exists to bring first-class medical help to the survivors of the Bhopal gas and water disasters. We are the Bhopal survivors, Sambhavna and Chingari staff in Bhopal, charity staff in Brighton and a worldwide network of donors, volunteers, supporters and fundraisers – all equal, all together.

Our Newsletter is called 777 – saat saat saat in Hindi and Urdu – which, with a slight twist of the tongue, also means together, together, together.

## Bhopal: The background story



On that night of horror (December 2-3rd, 1984) a cloud of gas, 500 times more toxic than cyanide, leaked from a factory in Bhopal belonging to the Union Carbide Corporation, causing the immediate hideous deaths of thousands and creating more than quarter of a century of severe suffering for the survivors and their children. Today in Bhopal, well over 100,000 people are chronically sick from the effects of that night, while some 30,000 more are ill because their water is polluted by the derelict plant, which has never been cleaned up. In addition, this injustice has never been righted and the crimes involved remain unpunished.

**Cover photo:** A little girl who is making good progress with her therapy and treatment, at the Chingari Rehabilitation Centre in Bhopal. Photo: Jack Laurenson.

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## CONTENTS

- 4 Children of Bhopal**  
Journalist Mick Brown reports on the problems faced by the children of Bhopali survivors. We profile the work of the Chingari Trust.

**8 Bhopal: The toxic legacy**  
Photojournalist Jack Laurenson experienced the pollution problems in Bhopal at first-hand.

**12 Sambhavna Clinic**  
A special 10-page guide to this remarkable healing centre, with eyewitness reports by Mick Brown, Joe Malone & Lotte Hardman.

**22 What we are doing... How you can help**  
The work of the Bhopal Medical Appeal.

**24 The 25th Anniversary Bhopal Bus Tour**  
The Bhopal bus travelled some 6,500 miles across Europe and Scandinavia, raising funds and awareness.

**28 Art for Bhopal**  
A major charity auction in London, of work by twenty-five internationally renowned artists, raised substantial funds for the BMA.

**31 Raju's story**  
We pay tribute to the late BMA supporter Sarosh Daruvala and Raju, the Bhopali boy whose life inspired Sarosh to write a children's story.

**32 Actions for Bhopal**  
News on some of the many ways our supporters have raised funds for the BMA plus a report on our new Bhopal Education Project.

**34 Digital Bhopal**  
Profiling our new website and additional ways you can help us raise money for Bhopal.

**Editor/Writer/Producer:** John May **Design:** Hazel Bennington  
**Contributors:** Text: Mick Brown, Jack Laurenson, Joe Malone & Lotte Hardman, Becky Moss  
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JACK LAURENSEN

One of the many children born to gas-affected parents receiving treatment and therapy at the Chingari Rehabilitation Centre

## A glimmer of hope... but the struggle continues



"The key people responsible for the world's worst industrial disaster are still nowhere near being brought to justice."

WELCOME TO OUR new-style Newsletter which reflects the many changes that have taken place in the last two years – both in Bhopal and in the life of the Bhopal Medical Appeal. We are aware that it is a long time since our last publication; in future, we will be publishing every six months, in order to keep you better informed about the rapidly-expanding activities of the BMA – developments that are only made possible by your continued support.

There has been a remarkable step-change in our activities since public interest was reactivated by the global press and media coverage of the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, in December 2009.

This drew world attention to two important facts: one, the key people responsible for the world's worst industrial disaster are still nowhere near being brought to justice; second, that the derelict Bhopal plant is poisoning the land, the water and the people of the poorest section of the city – creating an expanding health problem that is particularly affecting second and third-generation children of Bhopal survivors and their families.

On 7th June 2010, eight Indian Union Carbide ex-employees were convicted in a Bhopal court of causing "death by negligence", sentenced to two years imprisonment and ordered to pay fines

of 100,000 Indian rupees (£1,467; \$2,125) apiece – the maximum punishment allowed under that law. These were the first convictions of anyone responsible for the Bhopal Disaster.

As an indication of how slowly the Justice system is moving on this issue, several of the seven employees convicted in court are now in their 70s. An eighth was found guilty in his absence, as he'd died many years before the case first came to court. The convicted men were released on bail after the case, pending an appeal, a process that could drag on for years, even decades.

When the trial verdict was announced, it triggered a nationwide outrage in India. Not only had the severity of the charges been downgraded significantly but also the sentences and fines were felt to be derisory.

As we go to press, we are hearing some positive noises from the Indian Government. There have been some initial discussions about a major site clean-up but we are a long way from a resolution. In the meantime, health care in Bhopal remains a major issue.

We are intensely proud of the work of the Sambhavna Clinic and the Chingari Rehabilitation Centre, both of which receive their funding from the Bhopal Medical Appeal. We celebrate them and their important work in this issue.

We also ask you to focus your attention on the children of Bhopal. They need our help more than ever. We are here to try and make sure they get it.

Peter Finnigan Executive Secretary



"Hundreds of Bhopali children are suffering congenital **deformities** as a result of the 1984 **gas disaster** and ongoing water contamination. The Chingari Rehabilitation Centre is their only hope."



# The Children of Bhopal

Journalist **Mick Brown** visited Bhopal in 2009 and saw for himself the problems faced by second and third-generation children born to Bhopali survivors. Photographs by **Micha Patault**

To outward appearances, Bhopal looks like a typical Indian city – bustling, noisy and vibrant, its streets choked with cars, buses and motorbikes. The disaster that befell Bhopal on 2 December, 1984 did not affect the visible fabric of the city or the majority of the city's population. Its effects were felt primarily in the poorest parts of the city, in the neighbourhoods nearest to the Union Carbide plant. It is here where the fatalities were the highest and the human suffering most intense and long-lasting.

Twenty-six years later, it is the second and third-generation children who continue to be the most adversely affected by the disaster: the children who were born to mothers pregnant at the time of the disaster, those who survived the gas but who remain physically marked and psychologically traumatised by the experience, those who are being poisoned

by chemicals which have leached into the local water table from the abandoned plant.

Walking around the polluted factory grounds, I came upon a group of children playing cricket on a patch of sun-baked earth that had once been one of the solar evaporation ponds for toxic waste, while cattle grazed nearby on the sparse scrub. Scuffing at the earth raised a cloud of dust with the unmistakable bitter-sweet smell of chemicals. At a nearby standpipe, more children filled zinc buckets with water, carrying them back to their houses. "We know the water is contaminated, but what can we do," one man in the *basti* told me.

Children exposed to the gas *in utero*, or born to gas victims, have suffered from stunted growth, deformed limbs and mental retardation, cleft palates and blindness. Growth retardation in adolescent boys is also widely reported. For these children, the Chingari Rehabilitation Centre is their only hope. »







DANIEL BEREHULAK/GETTY IMAGES



DAVID GRAHAM

"The **symptoms** that people associate with drinking **contaminated** water are, dizziness, vomiting, constipation, **burning** sensations in the chest and stomach."



DAVID GRAHAM



Champadevi Shukla (2nd left) and Rashida Bee (4th left) with other Trustees of the Chingari Trust

## The Chingari Rehabilitation Centre

● Rashida Bee and Champadevi Shukla are two remarkable women who have emerged as leaders in the global fight to hold Union Carbide/DOW Chemical accountable for the 1984 Bhopal disaster. Both women lost members of their families that night and sustained serious damage to their own health.

In 2004, their courage and tenacity in this cause was recognised internationally when they were awarded the Goldman Prize – the largest and most highly-regarded award in the world for grassroots environmentalists. The women used the \$125,000 prize money to establish the Chingari Trust.

Chingari means 'lamp' and refers to the chant of the Bhopali women: 'We are flames, not flowers.'

This all-female, not-for-profit organisation administers: a healthcare programme for children born with congenital defects to gas-affected parents and children affected by water pollution; a livelihood project for women survivors of the disaster and subsequent chemical contamination. They have also established their own award for women in India who are working

to fight corporate crimes.

The Chingari Rehabilitation Centre, established and supported by grants from the Bhopal Medical Appeal, provides a wide range of medical services and support to these damaged children and their families. At present they attend to an average of 45 children a day. Treatments include physiotherapy and speech therapy. Medicine is free as is transport to and from the Centre. Some of the children attend special education classes. The Trust also provides psychological support and counselling.

Through a house-to-house survey in 12 gas-affected or water-polluted wards of the city, the Trust has identified more than 300 children, under the age of 12, born to Bhopal gas victims, who have congenital deformities. Many of these are too sick to travel to the Centre and need home visits.

The Rehabilitation Centre is currently housed in the building formerly used by the Sambhavna Clinic. The trustees are considering a move to larger premises in the near future to meet the rising demand.

**For further information go to <http://chingaritrustbhopal.com/>**





In the poorest parts of the city, people are living in areas where the groundwater and soil are heavily contaminated

# Bhopal: the toxic legacy

Photojournalist **Jack Laurenson**, a regular visitor to India, was determined to use his photo-journalistic skills to expose the ongoing pollution problems in Bhopal. Little did he realise that he was about to experience these problems at first-hand. Here is his dramatic account

PHOTOS AND TEXT JACK LAURENSEN/LACUNA MEDIA WWW.LACUNAMEDIA.ORG

**M**y story begins on Saturday 17th July 2010 when my guide Sanjay and I rode our motorcycle deep into the overgrown Union Carbide complex. I had read many of the numerous independent scientific reports by organisations such as Greenpeace and the Indian Centre for Science and Environment that clearly state the site is one of the most toxic places on earth yet I still felt the need to explore the evidence myself.

The six guards and policemen playing cards near the main gate of the complex were blatantly ineffective as we saw numerous people wandering in and out at will – children looking for water or somewhere to play, women grazing their cattle and goats and people simply taking a shortcut to their communities.

It was interesting and inspiring to see how nature had reclaimed much of the ruined factory. The area is covered in vegetation, trees, bushes and plants. It is as if the Great Mother herself has reached

up out of the earth and is trying to drag the giant metal structure into her own bosom, where it can no longer damage the delicate natural balance.

Appearances are deceptive as the scientific evidence has confirmed that the vegetation, soil and groundwater are highly toxic. The Union Carbide plant has created a poisonous legacy which will take generations to fade away. Claims by local officials that a few monsoon rains have washed away all the waste are woefully optimistic and dangerously inaccurate.

It didn't take Sanjay and I long to discover evidence of Union Carbide's negligence. Our first stop was the abandoned UC laboratory. Scattered over the floor were smashed containers and jars of ominous looking substances. I wiped some of the dust off the labels so I could identify the various toxic chemicals abandoned here which include ethylene glycol, benzene, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, methanol, acetic acid and potassium hydroxide.

I noticed dust on my clothing and



A woman grazes her goats in the shadow of the derelict Union Carbide factory

camera straps. Foolishly, I scratched my beard. My face and eyes instantly began to itch and sting. It was fortunate we had clean water with us. We left the lab and carried on looking around the compound for a while until both of us found ourselves out of breath and tired.

When I got back to the Sambhavna clinic, I showered and washed my camera straps and bag. Stupidly I forgot to change my shirt. This was, in hindsight, a big mistake. That night was one of the most painful and scariest of my life.

Over the next few days I developed an intense and painful allergic reaction to the various chemical substances that litter the UC laboratory. I had a severe hacking cough, intense chest pains and suffered from shortness of breath, nausea, sickness and a general feeling of near suffocation due to breathing difficulties. At times it felt as if I was being held underwater or that people were sitting on my chest and



Top: A group of boys happily flying their kites, oblivious to the dangers of playing in an area in which toxic waste from the plant has been dumped

occasionally poking me with a pointed stick. The pain was unbearable.

I was given a cocktail of drugs and much needed doses of oxygen to repair my severely inflamed and damaged lungs. Blood tests and cardiac examinations thankfully confirmed that although I was suffering from respiratory problems, my heart was unaffected. I was confined to the clinic for a week but have since made a full recovery.

I was one of the lucky ones. I am a fit and healthy western man in his twenties with no health problems or allergies. I was only exposed to the hazardous toxins for a few minutes. I also happened be staying in one of the finest medical institutions in Bhopal – perhaps one of the finest in India. Here I received entirely free treatment and medication. The staff at the Sambhavna clinic do not discriminate or judge; If you need help, then everything possible is done to provide it.

My experience has left me sad and angry. I gained firsthand experience of the kind of pain many people in Bhopal endure every day of their lives. Yet there are many people within the local government in Bhopal and the national government of India who continue to deny that the abandoned UC plant has created a major contamination problem which desperately needs to be addressed.

The work done by Sambhavna and by The Bhopal Medical Appeal needs your support. Don't forget Bhopal. It wasn't just something that happened in December 1984. It's here and now and the poorest people in that city are still suffering. »



Above: A typical basti in the poor neighbourhoods surrounding the derelict Bhopal site. Many of these communities have to drink polluted water and have built their earth houses with contaminated soil





# Poisoned water

IN 2005, THE SUPREME COURT OF India ruled that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh must provide clean water to its citizens but it wasn't until 2008 that they initially started laying pipelines and arranging regular deliveries of water by truck. At present, these only reach around 17 per cent of the affected communities. Everybody else continues to drink contaminated water.

Babulal Gaur is the senior minister in the State Government responsible for gas relief, rehabilitation and development. He boasted, "I am building beautiful cities! Clean cities! Perfect cities with good roads, wonderful parks and clean water!" When asked if he thought dying of kidney failure or watching your child slowly go blind was beautiful, it wasn't a subject he was keen to discuss. "We are providing perfectly clean water to all of the affected communities and there are no complaints. People are not sick, nobody has died.

They have the same access to clean water as everybody else in this city!" Evidence shown to Minister Gaur that more than 80 per cent of the communities still use Union Carbide's contaminated water pumps was ignored. He insisted these pumps were all closed.

Dr. Satinath Sarangi, who established The Sambhavna Clinic in 1995, said water supplied by the state government had tested positive for *E. coli* and other bacteria. He said: "The government is being criminally negligent and mixing safe water with water sourced near an open sewer channel to save money. They consider these communities as being full of expendable people who are too sick to work and don't pay taxes, so what do they matter?" Minister Gaur blames the people for the *E. coli*. "These slums are so filthy and their sanitation is so bad, they throw their waste everywhere and wonder why they get sick."



**Above and left: Women cluster round a water tanker which makes regular deliveries. Only 17 per cent of affected communities are supplied in this way by the state government. Analysis of this water has shown it contains *E. coli* and other harmful bacteria**



In 2005, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh must provide clean water to its citizens. Since 1984, it has consistently and negligently failed to do so, with horrific consequences for its people.



"This water is no good, it makes us **sick**, and gives us ulcers and rashes on our **skin**. If we leave it in bottles for more than a day it's full of bugs."

**Above and left: Young boys collect water from polluted ponds which women use for washing clothes and other household chores. In many areas, this is also the only source of drinking water**



"As an example of an **holistic**, environmentally-sound, community-focused and **patient-centred** approach to healthcare, the Sambhavna Clinic is way ahead of anything I have ever visited or worked in, anywhere in the world."

Dr John Hurst, Senior Lecturer, Honorary Consultant, UCL Medical School/Royal Free Hampstead NHS, London

**S**ituated in one of the poorest parts of Bhopal, just a stone's throw from the derelict Union Carbide pesticide plant, the Sambhavna Clinic is a symbol of hope. Sambhavna is a Sanskrit/Hindi word which means "possibility".

This remarkable enterprise – established, organised and staffed primarily by survivors or people whose families were affected directly by the disaster, provides free consultations, therapies and medicines to as many as possible of the estimated 120,000 affected residents who are still suffering chronic diseases from the gas explosion and its aftermath. The main funding is provided by the The Bhopal Medical Appeal.

Since April 2005, the Clinic has operated from a building that was designed and built to be environmentally friendly, using local materials and techniques, incorporating local traditions and cultures. The emphasis is on natural light, space and tranquillity. Water and food waste is recycled, rainwater collected; solar energy provides hot water and back-up power.

It is a place of healing for people whose lives have been shattered. Here they receive care for what is often a mixture of illnesses and problems, reinforced by malnutrition and pollution. All aspects of the patient's health and wellbeing are taken into account. Each is then given a carefully constructed course of treatment combining allopathic Western-style medicine alongside Ayurvedic herbal treatments, physical massages and yoga therapy. Eye examinations and gynaecological care are also available and there is a community health outreach program.

We present a visual guide to the Clinic and the staff of Sambhavna, alongside two first-hand accounts of the Clinic and its day-to-day operations, the first by journalist Mick Brown, the second by Joe Malone and Lotte Hardman, two Western medical students who recently spent five weeks there as part of their studies. »

# Sambhavna Clinic

Welcome to the remarkable Sambhavna Clinic, where western medicine and traditional Ayurvedic treatments are combined to ease the suffering of the gas and water-damaged patients. It is housed in a specially designed 'green' energy-efficient building that surrounds a central medicinal herb garden. Many of the staff are Bhopal survivors. The patients get their medicine and treatment entirely free. Is this a model for the future of healthy hospitals?



DAVID GRAHAM



JACK LAURENSEN/LACUNA MEDIA



DAVID GRAHAM

**Left and right: Two patients at Sambhavna, holding their herbal treatments**

**Centre: Healing hands cup the husks of one of the many ingredients grown in the Clinic's garden, which are used to create Ayurvedic medicines**



# The Sambhavna Clinic staff

These remarkable people bring hope and healing to their patients

## MANAGING TRUSTEE



**Satinath Sarangi**  
Managing Trustee

## ALLOPATHIC



**Dr. Mohd. Ali Qaiser**  
General Physician  
(Allopathic)



**Dr. Mohammad Waseem**  
Allopathic Physician

## OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY



**Dr. Priya Jamra**  
Consultant



**Aziza Sultan**  
Gynaecology  
Assistant

## AYURVEDIC TREATMENT



**Dr. M. M. Mali**  
Ayurvedic Doctor



**Dr. Roopa R. Baddi**  
Ayurvedic Doctor



**Biju Nair**  
Panchakarma  
Therapist (Male)



**Beena Nair**  
Panchakarma  
Therapist (Female)



**Dr. Deepa Namdeo**  
Yoga Therapist

## OPHTHALMOLOGY



**Shubha Rai**  
Consultant  
Ophthalmologist



**Anuva**  
Ophthalmologist  
Assistant



**Dr. Amita Gupta**  
In charge of  
Pathology Lab



**Mahendra Kumari Soni**  
Lab Technician



**Shree Kumari Dhurve**  
Lab Technician

## COMMUNITY HEALTH



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Community Health  
Worker



**Masasrrat Jahan**  
Community Health  
Worker



**Salmaan Hameed**  
Community Health  
Worker



**Tabassum Aara**  
Community Health  
Worker



**Sunil Rajput**  
Community Health  
Worker



**Jyoti Malviya**  
Volunteer  
Health Worker

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**Shabnam Shiwani**  
Nurse



**SM Nasir**  
Health Worker



**Jeevan Shinde**  
In charge of  
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**Manuradha Dahiya**  
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**Nargis Naaz**  
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Ayurvedic Pharmacist



**Kamal Yadav**  
Medicine Dispensing



**Lalita Sharma**  
Ayurvedic  
preparation/  
Pharmacy Assistant



**Bhavesh Namdev**  
Medicine Dispensing

## Ground plan of the Clinic and Ayurvedic herb garden

The Clinic is managed democratically. Every Friday, all the staff, from cleaners to doctors to researchers and gardeners, sit together in a circular thatched-roof building. Each member has an equal voice. This group decision-making helps promote cohesion across all aspects of the Clinic's work

JACK LAURENSEN/LACUNA MEDIA



## ACCOUNTS



**Rahul Dabli**  
Accountant



**Priyank Sharma**  
Assistant Accountant

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**Nitesh Dubey**  
Research data entry



**Kalpana Gupta**  
Research data entry



**Jayshree Soni**  
Data Entry Operator



**Kallol Dutta**  
Computer Data  
Analyst and  
Programmer

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**Jitendra Bohat**  
Security Guard



**Mohan Malviya**  
Security Guard



**Satya Narayan Soni**  
Security Guard



**Heeralal Ahirwar**  
Security Guard

"The Bhopal clinic may represent a shift in both the future of healthcare and the future of green building... This project stands as a shining example of how those involved in healthcare design and construction can have a profound effect on patient care and healing. Perhaps this will become the new Bhopal legacy."

Jeff Stephens,  
Healthcare Design magazine

## MAINTENANCE



**Diwakar Sinha**  
In charge of Building  
Maintenance



**Jamila Bee**  
Sanitary Worker



**Nanda Kishore Yadav**  
Cleaner



**Shailender**  
Electrician

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Research Assistant



**Tasneem Zaidi**  
Research Assistant



**Memul Nisha**  
Volunteer at Library  
and Pharmacy



**Shahnaz Arsari**  
Librarian

## GARDEN



**Ratna Soni**  
Gardener



**Mammohan Yadav**  
Gardener



**Mukesh Kushwaha**  
Gardener

Staff members  
harvest herbs  
from the  
Ayurvedic  
garden



# The Sambhavna Clinic: Sathyu

Journalist **Mick Brown** interviews Sambhavna's founder and reports on the workings of the Clinic. Photos by **David Graham**

**S**atinath Sarangi – or Sathyu as he is known to everybody in Bhopal – is the Managing Trustee of the Sambhavna Clinic, which was founded 15 years ago to treat survivors of the accident using a mixture of Western and traditional Indian ayurvedic medicine, and an activist and campaigner who has spent the past 25 years attempting to bring Union Carbide to account for the tragedy.

In 1984, Sarangi was in the third year of a university course in metallurgical engineering in Varanasi when he heard the news of the explosion on the radio. “It was very vague,” he told me. “It said there were fewer than 100 dead.” He decided to travel to Bhopal, to volunteer for relief work. ‘I thought I would come for a week. And then the week just kept getting longer. What struck me was the magnitude and the helplessness of it all. You came out of the train station and there were hundreds of injured all around, thousands in utter agony. And nobody knew what to do.’

There were no precedents for treating victims of MIC poisoning before Bhopal, simply because nobody had suffered from it until then. Union Carbide moved quickly to dampen any suggestion that the gas could be harmful or have any long-term effects. Days after the disaster, Jackson B Browning, the company's director of health and safety and environmental affairs, was still insisting it was ‘nothing more than a potent tear gas’.

To this day, Sarangi says, Union Carbide has refused to release details of the exact constituents of the gas or the results of tests that he claimed the company had conducted into MIC's toxicity on living systems. “They said it was a trade secret.” (Union Carbide's report into the tragedy in 1985 concluded that ‘approximately 54,000lb of unreacted MIC left Tank 610 with approximately 26,000lb of reaction products.’ But it has never specified what those ‘reaction products’ were.)

Frustrated at what he regarded as the inadequate treatment being given to gas victims, Sarangi set up a relief and campaigning group, Zahareeli Gas Kand Sangharsh Morcha – the ‘Poisonous Gas Episode Struggle Front’ – and worked as the manager of a health clinic that was administering injections of the drug sodium thiosulphate, the medical grade of which acts as a detoxicant.

According to Sarangi, Union Carbide's



**Satinath Sarangi, Managing Trustee of the Sambhavna Clinic**

own medical director, Dr Vipin Avashia, had originally telexed confirmation that sodium thiosulphate could work as a detoxicant, but later sent another telex advising against its use. The company, Sarangi alleges, did not want the drug to be used, because its effectiveness would demonstrate that the poison had gone into the bloodstream. The clinic was quickly closed down by the police. Three more attempts to open similar clinics were also stopped, he says.

Steeping himself in studies of environmental health and industrial diseases, Sarangi decided that what was required was a clinic that provided community care and that would be the catalyst for proper research into the ongoing effects of the gas. “When we studied what medicines people were taking,” he said, “we found that the chemical disaster had actually produced a windfall for the pharmaceutical companies – which are part of the chemical companies. So one part of the chemical companies poisons people and produces the market for the other part of the chemical companies...” He became convinced that a combination of modern medicine and traditional Ayurvedic and related holistic treatments offered a particularly effective treatment to gas-affected survivors.

In 1994, along with the novelist Indra

**Patients waiting to be seen by a doctor at the Sambhavna Clinic**

Sinha, Sarangi launched The Bhopal Medical Appeal, which led to the opening of the first Sambhavna Clinic, in two rooms in a building near the plant. Five years ago, with the additional help of donations from Greenpeace and a trust established by Dominique Lapierre, the French author of a bestselling book about the tragedy, ‘Five Past Midnight in Bhopal’, the clinic moved to its present premises – a purpose-built two-storey building in a pagoda style in the heart of one of the areas worst affected by the disaster.

## Inside the Clinic

The Clinic is a model of environmental principles – even the medical waste is treated by solar disinfection. In the garden more than 100 species of plants are grown for use in the preparation of herbal medicines (the Clinic grows enough for 65 per cent of all the medicines it uses). About 24,000 people are now registered at Sambhavna, all receiving free treatment.

The effects of the gas on the people of Bhopal have been nothing short of catastrophic. Seven months after the explosion, the Indian government health minister reported that 36 women who

had been pregnant at the time had spontaneously aborted, 21 babies had been born with deformities, and there had been 27 stillbirths, all believed to have been caused by the gas. Over the years children have been born with cleft lips and palates, and foreshortened limbs. As well as high incidences of longterm respiratory problems and chronic lung diseases, myriad other illnesses have manifested, which Sarangi believes are directly attributable to the longterm effects of the gas.

“We see so many people coming in with diabetes, hypertension, women reporting gynaecological diseases and menstrual irregularities. These are problems of the endocrine system, but we had no idea at the time that the gas affected this. There are still no studies to confirm that it causes cancers, but we have found an alarming rise of cancers and a lot of TB.”

The doctors at Sambhavna argue that for many gas-affected patients, Ayurveda and other holistic treatments are often more effective than treatment with conventional medicines, which simply contribute to the ‘toxic load’ already in the system. “Other hospitals treat



**Left: Patients wait to receive their medicines from the Clinic's pharmacy**



**Below left: Ayurvedic massage forms part of the traditional treatment at the Clinic**

When they are taking Ayurvedic medicine or yoga, after three months the symptoms never recur. Ayurveda and panchakarma (a ‘purging’ of the body through the use of oils and massage) have a capacity to detoxify their bodies.” The clinic claims remarkable results in the treatment of rheumatic arthritis, lumbar backache, joint pains, abdominal problems, loss of appetite, menstrual problems and respiratory problems.

Dr Mali says the clinic has also been successful in the treatment of skin complaints such as eczema and psoriasis with the use of leeches, which are taken from a nearby lake. In a treatment room, he scooped one from a jar and carefully placed it on a patient's infected leg. The leech got to work, swelling as it sucked up the infected blood. “The patient feels no pain,” Dr Mali explained. “Only when the leech begins to suck pure blood. Then we remove it.” He picked off the leech, placed it on a piece of paper and sprinkled it with turmeric powder, which causes the leech to purge the blood. The leech is then put back in water for eight days, until it is ready to be used again. At length it will be returned to the lake. “This way,” Dr Mali said with a smile, “we cure the patient, and we save the leech.”

In the clinic's reception area, new arrivals waited patiently, each one clutching their health record book, printed with the legend for people poisoned by Union Carbide chemicals. People queued at the dispensary for prescriptions – in some cases packets of pills, in others bunches of medicinal plants.

“I eat five flowers every morning,” Rafat Sayed, a bookseller, told me. He was living two and a half miles from the factory in 1984, and for a week afterwards, he said, his eyes were burning and he had difficulty breathing. But it was only some years later that he contracted diabetes and hypertension – both, he believes, because of the gas. He is now being treated with a combination of ayurvedic medicine and yoga. »

**This is an extract from a longer feature published in *The Telegraph Magazine* (8th August 2009). Used with the author's permission. For the full text: [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/5978266/Bhopal-gas-disasters-legacy-lives-on-25-years-later.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/5978266/Bhopal-gas-disasters-legacy-lives-on-25-years-later.html)**





# The Sambhavna Clinic: Blog



Joe Malone and Lotte Hardman are fourth-year medical students at the University of Liverpool Medical School. They stayed in Bhopal for five weeks in 2010 as part of their medical course, during which they made a short documentary, wrote

reports and blog posts, and photographed the staff and their daily work.

## 29th June

We arrive in Bhopal on the train from Delhi at 4am and look cautiously around at this place in which the disaster took so many lives. It appears calm. Rickshaws weave through the still, hot streets, mangos are piled high. People are milling about or lying in sleeping bundles amongst the crumbling buildings.

Sambhavna is a haven in the city, situated within the little Bafna district. The building is square shaped with an open space at the centre. Its tall tower overlooks the neighbourhood and across to the Union Carbide factory, a mere 15 minute walk away.

Clinics start at 8.30 and run until 3pm. There is a big demand with each doctor seeing about 40 patients a day. Patients come with their Bhopal medical book which states their level of exposure to the Union Carbide chemicals along with their overall medical history. Electronic records have recently been introduced.

The clinic provides, in many ways, much more than the average GP or health centre in England. Care is varied and depends upon the patient and the severity of the problem.

Available treatments include: Allopathic (General medicine, Paediatrics and Gynaecology), Ayurvedic and Panchakarma. The latter two are traditional Indian/complementary medicines which we hope to find out more about. In addition there are various drop-in specialists such as a Pathologist and Ophthalmologist, who visit every couple of days. Referrals are often made to the large hospitals nearby for the surgery cases and more immediate medical situations

The garden is beautiful. Over 150 plants are cultivated here for use in the clinic and

the canteen. The food is exceptional with thalis being our favourite at the moment and we can't get enough of the yogurt.

## 30th June

Patients being examined this week have shown a wide range of symptoms from classic GP bread-and-butter cases to leprosy, malaria and malnutrition. Hypertension and diabetes are still the big health problems; Asian genetics and a fried sugary diet predisposes the Indian population to these conditions. The gas-affected population has been shown to suffer from endocrine diseases at a higher rate than the general population. This may account for the fact that even very slender men and women suffer from type II diabetes. Malnutrition is a major health problem and about half of the patients suffer from anaemia.

### Ophthalmology

We attended the ophthalmology clinic – a great example of efficient professional practice. In two hours, every Tuesday and Wednesday, a young eye surgeon pops over from her full-time job to see around 25-30 patients, with her nurse assisting with visual acuity tests. This would be unheard of in an NHS primary care centre but the result is that all patients are thoroughly checked and provided with correct prescriptions. This monitoring is invaluable for hypertensive and diabetic patients whose eyes are particularly vulnerable.

## 1st July

We've had such a full week it's hard to know where to begin. The best thing I think we've done is get a real idea about

DAVID GRAHAM



JOE MALONE



just how integrative the care is here, a world away from the definition of GP or primary care as we know it in England. Here the patient's whole body, mindset and wellness are all equally considered in assessing their health.

### Yoga

Yoga treatment is provided for within the clinic. There is a beautiful spacious room, where Dr Deepa Namdeo devises a Yoga regime for individual complaints with different sequences of movement for back pain, obesity, and emotional disturbance to give just three examples. This kind of care seems so liberating. The yoga can be practiced at home so the patient can build up a way of dealing with their health problems. Meditation and a calming breathing technique are also used to

enable the patients to feel balanced and to face their problems. We noticed the yoga and the Panchakarma professionals also particularly focus on the patient's general life – their everyday problems and stresses. This allows for the expression and diagnosis of any mental health problems they may be suffering.

### Panchakarma

Panchakarma (from the Sanskrit word meaning 'five actions') refers to the five different procedures used in Ayurvedic medicine which are believed to purify the body.

This treatment was a real experience to observe and practice. Biju Nair (who treats the male patients and is also a trained chiropractor) draws back his curtain to reveal the most beautiful carved bed or table made from a dark smooth wood brought all the way from Kerala in South India. A silver bowl with a small hole in the centre hangs from another beautifully carved wooden stand at one end on the table. The whole room is full of the most invigorating and mysterious smells coming from a steamer at its far end. We wondered how this was all going to come together as a treatment.

The first patient to enter was a rickshaw driver. It was not hard to understand why he would have shoulder and back pain. The mad roads in Bhopal have few traffic lights and driving on both sides of the road is perfectly normal!

Biju stripped him down to his trousers and brought out an oil with over 28 different herbs and essences in it which was rubbed into his shoulder and back with an expert forceful massage which followed the contours of the muscles, concentrating on tension areas. The range of movement of the shoulder was also worked on and we were impressed to see a 30 degree angle improvement after the one session.

Following the massage, steam, which also contains a mix of the medicinal herbs, was applied to the area. The whole process took about 25 minutes and was the first in a seven-day course, after which the patient would be reassessed in 14 days – an amazing service!

A huge medical study of 34,000 people from 21,000 families is currently being conducted from the research base at Sambhavna. These are divided into three groups – a group of 7,000 unaffected families as a control, a group affected by gas contamination and a group affected by water contamination – which are all assessed for birth defects, miscarriages >>



**Clockwise from left: Patient having her eyes tested by the ophthalmologist**

**Two patients receiving yoga treatment, each executing movements specifically tailored to their individual complaints**

**The treatment table used by Biju Nair, who gives male patients Ayurvedic Panchakarma treatment**

**Woman patient with her Health Book waiting to see the doctor**



DAVID GRAHAM





JOE MALONE

and other medical problems. Hopefully with these results the truth of the situation can be uncovered.

## 12th July

Dr Qaiser (below) the general physician is holding a clinic in the large Treatment Room with a nurse on hand to assist. Some 30 to 40 patients are seen daily by the allopathic doctors and every day is a busy one. Whilst he is consulting a patient at his desk, two or three others are dotted around the room having either pain relief administered, nebulizer treatment for acute respiratory problems or having the dressings changed on their wounds. The efficiency of this process puts the slow pace of most GP practices in England to shame.



Joe out in the bastis with one of the Sambhavna Community Health workers

## 14th July

We've been enjoying Sambhavna's beautiful medicinal garden during our time here. As it is the wet season, the plants are transforming at an impressive rate with rows of lush green leaves, each area a different shape and form, with brightly coloured flowers busting into life. We helped with the harvesting and



Right: A member of staff stirs the ingredients which are heated and reduced to make Ayurvedic medicines

preparations of these medicinal plants. We collected leaves and stems which we then cut into small pieces and put into a huge wok full of water heated by a gas burner. The plants stewed away slowly as they reduced. Other plants and a black sticky base of plant resin were added. After drying and processing, the end result was a blackish-brown substance which is rolled out into long sausage shapes. Small bits of these are broken off, then pressed and rolled between thumb and forefingers to form a pill-shape. We learnt that pill-rolling takes a long time and is very repetitive.

### Community Outreach

We also saddled up with the seven-strong team of community outreach workers this week. Covering 14 communities (or *bastis* as they are known locally) the team works

One of the Sambhavna staff chopping up herbs in preparation for stewing  
Near Left: The resinous residue that is rolled into small pills

in male/female pairs each visiting four or five bastis per day. These are all gas-affected or water-contaminated areas and are very poor neighbourhoods.

The basti we visited is located next to the Union Carbide solar evaporation ponds, an area where chemicals from the plant were piped for storage or concentration. In addition, one of the city's main railway lines runs through the centre of the housing and a flyover is being constructed, carving a path through people's homes and livelihoods.

The silver lining here is the community spirit. The outreach team now have a network of volunteers all across the basti who are trained up to provide various forms of health promotion. These workers also provide acute medical screening for those in the community who are unsure, worried or physically unable to seek treatment at the Sambhavna Clinic.

We visited a boy who we thought was 14 years old, but it soon transpired that he was actually a 20-year-old man whose growth had been compromised by a polio infection as a child. A recent turn for the worst had left him with what seemed to be agonising neuropathic pain but, unable to even leave his bed, it was proving difficult for him to seek effective treatment.

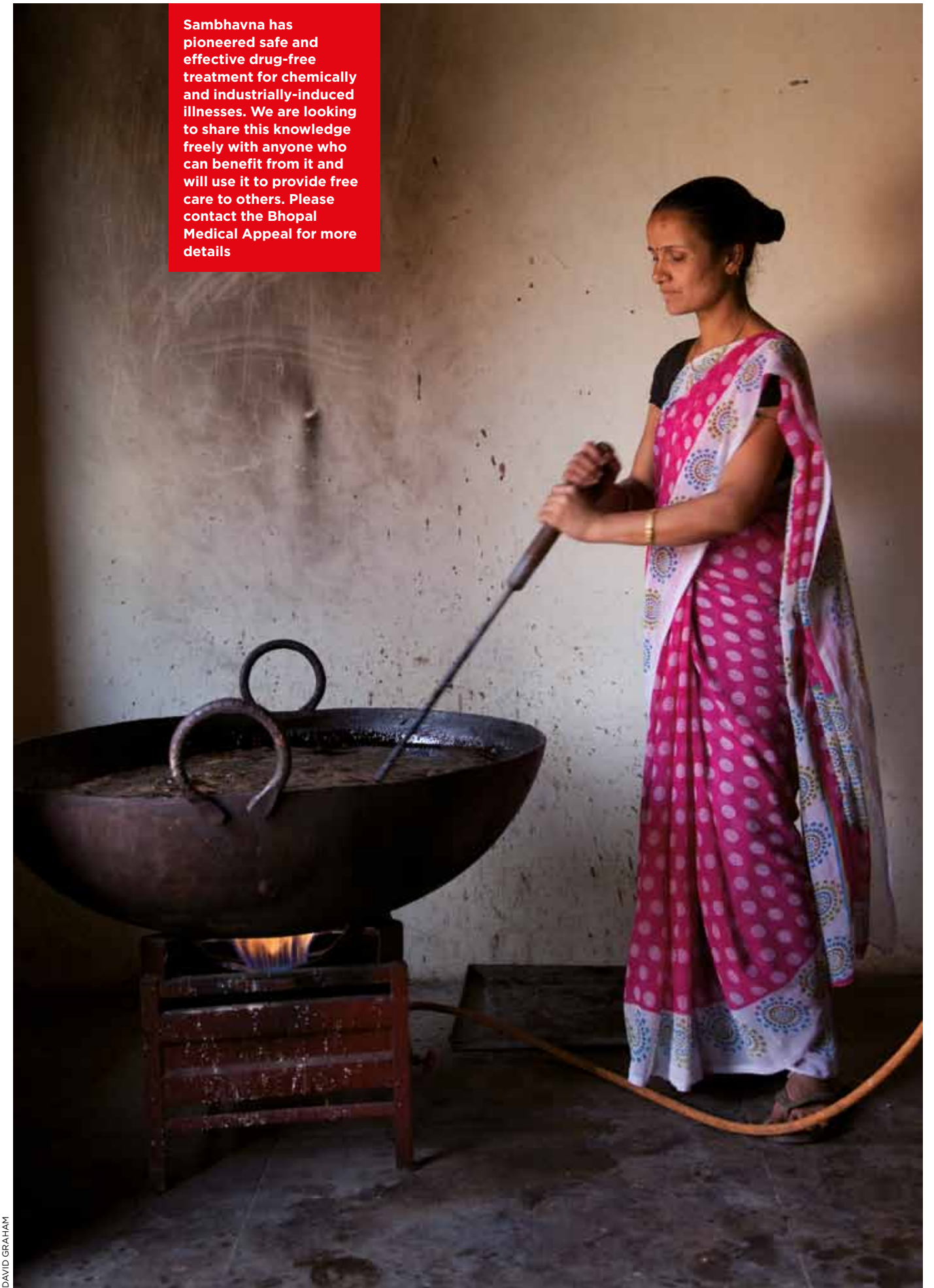
## 28th July

This is our last day at Sambhavna and we are feeling sad to be leaving as there's still so much to do and learn. Having said that, we definitely have a sense of achievement as we have managed to compile portraits of all the staff, finish our ethics essay, complete write-ups on our stay and shoot six hours of film footage.

Bhopal is fortunate to have the unique Sambhavna Clinic and it has been a privilege to be involved with it for the short period of time we have spent here. It provides a beacon of hope. We've learnt about the rich, incredible culture of Bhopal and its strong sense of history and identity. Its powerful sense of community has been the key to keeping the fight for justice going for more than 25 years. Our days have literally been too short to take in all that there is to see here, but we hope we have provided you with a glimpse of some of the magic.



Sambhavna has pioneered safe and effective drug-free treatment for chemically and industrially-induced illnesses. We are looking to share this knowledge freely with anyone who can benefit from it and will use it to provide free care to others. Please contact the Bhopal Medical Appeal for more details



DAVID GRAHAM



# What we are doing...

The new Bhopal Medical Appeal Office is situated in Brighton's North Laines. **Come and visit us**

**T**he year 2009 saw substantial change and development for The Bhopal Medical Appeal (BMA). At the beginning of the year we moved from our original home in London to a new office in Brighton, which offers a more cost effective and pleasant working environment.

As you will see from the brief outlines, we now have in place a team of staff with a wide range of skills and bundles of experience. Just as importantly, everybody working at the BMA is genuinely passionate about the cause and determined to see the Sambhavna and Chingari clinics thrive and expand. We will also continue to demand that the Union Carbide site in Bhopal is cleaned up, that clean drinking water is available to all the citizens of Bhopal, and that justice is seen to be done for one of the most mis-treated communities on Earth.

We are a small team, and we discuss ideas openly. From our communications with you, our donors, it is clear that you are also full of ideas and willing to help in any way you can. We would love to hear from you, so please do call any of us and share your thoughts with us. We can only learn from this exchange. All of us are very aware that it is only your ongoing support that allows us to plan for the future and we treat every penny with respect. Our heartfelt thanks to you.

# How you can help...

## Volunteering in Brighton

We welcome volunteers at our Brighton office. Volunteers often play a vital role in our activities. If you can spare some time on a regular basis, please do get in touch. This year in particular, we are hoping to recruit a team of high-energy volunteers to help us at next year's Glastonbury Festival.

**No matter what your skills, we can make good use of them. Please get in touch.**

## Volunteering in Bhopal

Volunteering to work in Bhopal at the Sambhavna Clinic can be a richly rewarding experience. A number of reports in this Newsletter have been written by people who have recently stayed and worked there. To really get the most out of such a visit, you will need to offer energy, enthusiasm and self-motivation. In return, you will have a life-changing experience.

**Please contact us to discuss this further.**

## Supporters' Groups

If you would like to form a local group of BMA supporters please do get in touch with us. There are many activities you could undertake from arranging fund-raising projects to staging exhibitions, talks or musical events. Our office can help you with the basic practicalities of establishing your group and we will always be there to help.

## Contact us

● If you would like to talk directly to any of us, please give us a call on the number below. It would be a pleasure to hear from you.

**01273 603278**

Welcome to our Brighton team



**Peter Finnigan**  
Executive Secretary

Peter joined the BMA in May 2009. He has fifteen years commercial experience and has spent the last decade working with charities and social enterprises in the UK and overseas. Since taking up his new post, he has worked with the team to reshape the fundraising strategy and expand our activities.



**Malcolm Prescott**  
Finance Manager

Malcolm spent 20 years as an International Projects Manager with Reuters. He joined the BMA in Spring 2009 and has overhauled our reporting and planning systems. He is also a database wizard and the office gardener.



**Colin Toogood**  
Special Events Fundraiser

Colin started work with the BMA in December 2008 and has brought a wealth of imagination and creativity to our organisation, masterminding several visible campaigns and fundraising projects. He has also been responsible for generating significant national and international press coverage about Bhopal.



**Rupert Burgess**  
Finance Officer

Rupert started working with us as a volunteer at the beginning of 2010 and is now employed on a part-time basis. He is a keen runner and is currently in training with the Brighton marathon.



**Becky Moss**  
Fundraising and Communications

Becky has been involved in the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal for over ten years and is our resident expert on the issue. She spent two years living and working at Sambhavna and, in 2006, completed the protest walk from Bhopal to Delhi (a distance of 744kms). Becky is a skilled writer, editor and project manager who recently took the lead in organising our Bhopal Bus tour.



**Georgina Le Clercq**  
Office Administrator

Georgina spent many years in the advertising industry before joining us in the spring of 2009, since when she has quickly and expertly updated and improved our administration procedures. She is the first point of contact for our donors and supporters and welcomes your calls.





"We focused on reaching out to **young people** and **youth groups**, fronted by Sanjay and Safreen, whose stories moved many people to tears."

# Bhopal Bus Tour

'Die-in' action outside Indian embassy in Rome

The European Bhopal Speakers' bus tour was an initiative by the Bhopal Medical Appeal (BMA) in partnership with the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal (ICJB) and Amnesty International (AI) groups in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark.

Its aims and objectives were, in part, to raise general awareness of the ongoing campaigns associated with Bhopal in the anniversary year, to raise funds for the BMA and to increase pressure on the Dow Chemical Company. Amnesty used the tour to launch its Demand Dignity campaign – a restatement of the principles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights – in each country the bus passed through.

The tour was a great success. The eye-catching bus, with its onboard cinema and exhibition, visited universities and schools, political conferences (including the Amnesty International Human Rights conference in Copenhagen) and festivals. Along the route, the campaigners on board participated in demonstrations and protests at Dow's factories and offices, and shared their first-hand experiences of Bhopal with audiences of all ages.

This core team on the bus consisted of Sathyu Sarangi (Managing Trustee of the Sambhavna Clinic), Rachna Dhingra (ICJB coordinator and long-term volunteer at the Clinic), Safreen Khan (founder member of Children against Dow/Carbide), Sanjay Verma (a survivor of the gas disaster), Dharmesh Shah (ICJB volunteer) and the two Bus Tour coordinators, Becky Moss & Liz Campbell, whose account of their long and eventful journey follows.

What a journey! We travelled some 6,500 miles across seven countries in seven weeks and only broke down once – although we often ran out of diesel, learning the hard way the limits of the fuel capacity of the bus and had to affect running repairs as the tour progressed.

We welcomed more than 5,000 people on the bus, including hundreds of school children and Amnesty International's Secretary General. We collected thousands of signatures on petitions aimed at putting pressure on the Indian Government and the Dow Chemical Company to take responsibility for the Bhopal disaster. We also briefed hundreds of Amnesty International volunteers, generated countless media stories wherever we went and generally raised awareness of Bhopal and its associated issues in the vital 25th Anniversary year. We also made umpteen pots of chai (we all had a go at it) and ate countless Indian take-aways!

We were particularly focused on reaching out to young people and youth groups, an aspect of our work which was fronted by Sanjay and Safreen, whose stories moved many people to tears. In fact one of the most rewarding aspects of the tour was witnessing the exchanges between our young speakers and their European peers and hearing the young people's responses. The long-term Bhopal activists Rachna and Sathyu, were also on hand to provide a mine of background information. Street campaigning in Europe was an

area which we all learnt a great deal about. We were dependent on AI volunteers to engage the general public and bring them onto the bus so that the Bhopal speakers could talk to them further. The weather had a significant impact on attendance numbers in town centres but in true Bhopali style, we got the chai going, put the heaters on and invited people in for a sit down, a warm up and a good cuppa! Some of the quieter days that started off a bit flat ended up being very worthwhile; longer sessions with fewer people meant casual conversations often led to intelligent debates and inspired actions.

About half-way through the tour we visited the European Parliament in Brussels where 17-year-old Safreen addressed a group of MEPs at a meeting held by the Green Party. As a direct result of this, discussions are continuing to see what help the EU may be able to offer to the Indian government in the future, in relation to the derelict Bhopal site.

We had many memorable moments on our long journey. In the Wedding district of Berlin, a group of Turkish men ran down the street after the bus, rolling up their sleeves, as they thought it was a mobile blood donation clinic. When a local AI volunteer explained who we were, they were delighted and waved furiously as we drove round the corner! Here we also met a photographer who could hardly believe his eyes when he saw us, as he said he'd been considering going to Bhopal for years but had never told anyone about it.

None of us will forget our first morning in Italy when we were met by a smaller bus full of AI Italy staff and volunteers all smiling and waving. They told us their little bus would all be with us all week and asked us if we wanted to go and have some breakfast before we started. Or the kindness of a family of Amnesty supporters in Leverkusen in north-west Germany, who treated us like their children and almost cried when we left. Or our arrival in Paris, wending our way through narrow, rainy streets en route to a Bhopal photography exhibition in the city, where we were unexpectedly cheered by a group of Hindi shopkeepers.

We have so many people to thank for putting their goodwill and conviction, their time and energy into making the tour such a big success. What began as a small idea in the imaginations of a few has grown into a project that has touched thousands of people's lives. We are still receiving feedback and donations as a result and have established valuable ongoing relationships with supporters and press contacts throughout Europe.

What we heard time and again on our journey was how real the disaster and its aftermath became to people when the facts and the stories were recounted to them by those who had experienced it at first-hand. We are all indebted to the collective spirit of the Bhopalis, who have not only survived such horrors but are also determined to receive justice and compensation. Their example is an inspiration to us all. >>

## THE BUS TOUR TEAM



Becky Moss



Liz Campbell



Sathyu Sarangi



Safreen Khan



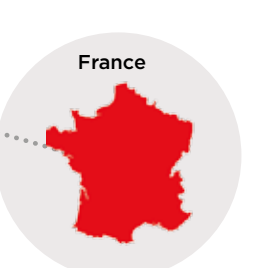
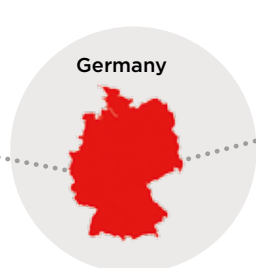
Rachna Dhingra



Sanjay Verma



Dharmesh Shah





## The 6,500 mile route...



Brighton | UK

● Brighton/UK: Bus leaving Brighton at the start of its long journey.

Norrköping | Sweden



● An early morning demonstration outside Dow Chemical's Norrköping plant involving ourselves and ten Amnesty volunteers. Banners were hung on the fence and two national Swedish tv channels turned up to cover the event.

Stockholm | Sweden



● A group portrait of ourselves with members of Amnesty International youth groups, at a stately home on an island in the Swedish archipelago, where a meeting was held to plan their activities for a Bhopal campaign.

Leverkusen | Germany



● The friendly family of Amnesty volunteers who looked after us.

Berlin | Germany



● The bus parked in front of the famous Brandenburg Gate.



Munich | Germany

● The bus and information stand in front of the new Town Hall (Neues Rathaus), one of the city's most famous landmarks.



Milan | Italy

● An early morning outside Dow Chemical's local administrative office. Big banners covered the perimeter fence and 15 volunteers dressed in hazmat suits and carrying mops and buckets of water, dramatised the call to clean up the Bhopal toxic site.



Rome | Italy

● A major demonstration outside the Indian embassy in Rome, involving 30 Amnesty and Greenpeace volunteers, who staged a "die-in" in the street. After the action, a petition containing 10,000 signatures was handed in, addressed to the Prime Minister of India, urging him to meet the demands of Bhopalis.

Bhopal Bus  
Itinerary

## Brighton

## October

- 17 Heidelberg
- 18 Mannheim
- 19 Mainz
- 20 Bonn
- 21 Köln
- 22 Köln
- 23 Leverkusen
- 24 Leverkusen
- 25 Berlin
- 26 Jena
- 29 Bamberg
- 30 Munich

## November

- 2 Parma
- 3 Milan
- 4 Milan
- 5 Rome
- 6 Rome
- 7 Rome
- 10 The Hague
- 11 Brussels
- 12 Leiden
- 15 Stockholm
- 16 Stockholm
- 17 Stockholm
- 18 Norrköping
- 19 Göteborg
- 20 Uppsala
- 21 Malmö
- 22 Christiania
- 26 Århus
- 28 Copenhagen
- 29 Ghent
- 30 Brussels

## December

- 1 Paris
- 2 Paris
- 3 Paris





Barry Reigate  
untitled



Mark Quinn  
untitled



Tim Noble and Sue Webster  
Pot Shot - Mug Shot 2010



Mat Collishaw  
Sorcerer's Apprentice, 2010



Tracey Emin  
We Protect the World, 2010

# ART FOR BHOPAL

A major charity auction, staged by Phillips de Pury & Company and co-hosted by *Tatler* magazine, raised awareness and funds for The Bhopal Medical Appeal in 2010



As part of its campaign to raise awareness of Bhopal's ongoing water contamination problems, the BMA invited twenty-five internationally renowned artists - including such high-profile names as Anish Kapoor, Anthony

Gormley, Sir Peter Blake, Tracy Emin, Gavin Turk and the Chapman Brothers - to each decorate a traditional Indian stainless steel water-carrying pot (a matka), specially imported from Bhopal. As you can see, the results were surprising, as many of the artists chose not just to add decoration but also to physically transform the pot in ingenious ways.

The auction on 11th October 2010, was a fantastic event, attracting nearly 500 people, including many art collectors and VIPs. Chairman Simone de Pury conducted the live auction himself and put in a virtuoso performance. Bidding was lively and a grand total of £185,000 was raised.

A huge thank-you to everyone involved.



Yinka Shonibare  
untitled



Keith Coventry  
Crack Pipe



Mona Hatoum  
Hot Pot 2010



Subodh Gupta  
untitled

Photos by Sylvain Deleu, who donated his time and studio resources to the project.



Ged Wells  
Dirty Dowsing



Stephen Webster  
untitled 2010



Anthony Gormley  
untitled



Anish Kapoor  
untitled



Sir Peter Blake  
untitled, 2010



Jason Brooks  
untitled

"It was an **atroc**ity that left so many people with so many **unans**wered questions."

Tracey Emin





Patrick Hughes  
Empty Pot



Gary Hume  
untitled



Langland & Bell  
Toxic (Still Life)



Paul Fryer  
untitled



Gavin Turk  
After The Floods



Conrad Shawcross  
The Radiant Moment



Polly Morgan  
Chemical Plant



Simon Periton  
untitled



Jake and Dinos Chapman  
untitled



Pure Evil  
Please God, take tomorrow off

# £185,000

was raised for **The Bhopal Medical Appeal**

A video of Harland Miller's water pot can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpkyAxKuKQI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpkyAxKuKQI)

## Raju's Story

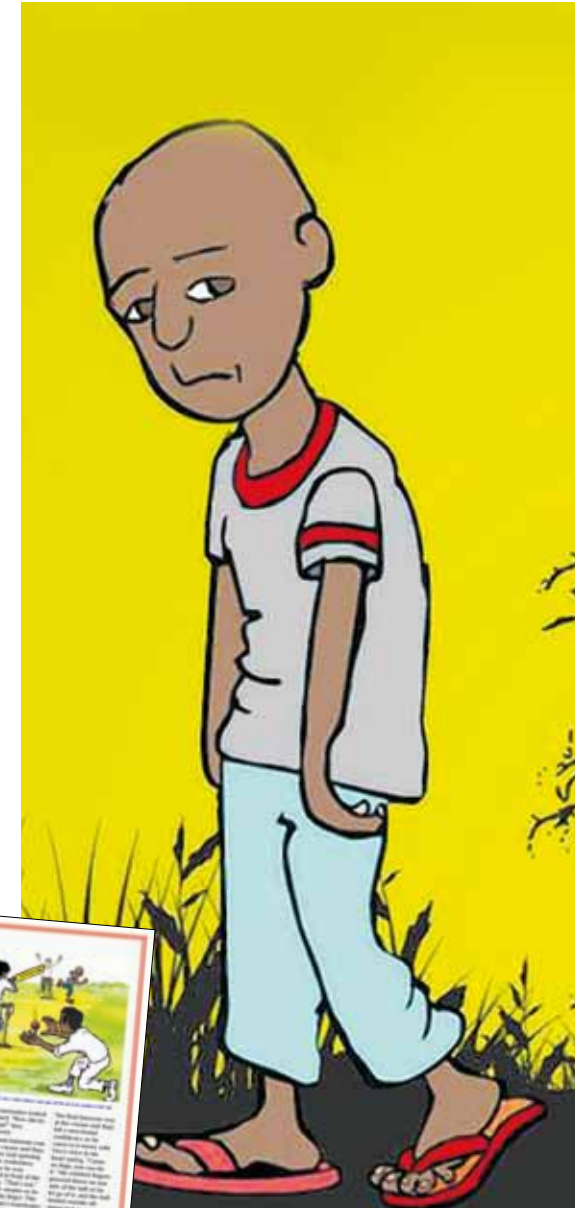
A tribute to a child of Bhopal and the late BMA supporter Sarosh Daruvula, who turned Raju's life into a moving children's story.



In June 2009, the Bhopal Medical Appeal ran a major campaign in a number of national newspapers and magazines to highlight the ongoing problems in Bhopal and in particular how the legacy of the original disaster is affecting Bhopal's children. The appeal focused on the life of Raju, who suffered severe medical problems (see right).

Sarosh Daruvula, a journalist for the *Hertfordshire Gazette*, was deeply affected by Raju's tale and set out to write a children's story, which has been beautifully illustrated by Don Mann. He wanted to reach children around the world to show them some of the issues and problems that the kids of Bhopal face on a daily basis. As the book was being finished, he heard the news of Raju's death.

Sarosh himself died in August 2010 and will be sadly missed by his family and friends and also by us all at the BMA. We are committed to publishing Sarosh's book and are planning to use it as part of our school's education programme.



"There is a real Raju in Bhopal whose physical **abnormalities** and **mental** disabilities are a legacy of the Union Carbide disaster."



**Rajesh Paswan**

19 September 1998 - 2 September 2009

● In real life Raju was the nickname of Rajesh Paswan, a boy who lived with his mother near the derelict Bhopal plant. Raju could barely talk. At 12-years old he had the mental age of a toddler. Born with no hair, he had webbed fingers and toes and had problems walking.

His mother worked all hours to try and support her family and was very concerned about her son, who was often bullied and unable to protect himself.

Sarosh's story is based around the fact that Raju loved cricket and, in particular, his hero – the Indian test batsman Virender Sehwag – who he identified with because he had a shaven head. Tragically, Raju's life was cut short when he accidentally drowned in a toxic pool in September 2009.



# Actions for Bhopal

A round-up of fund-raising activities by our supporters. **Get involved!**

## TREK FOR BHOPAL

Want to climb Kilimanjaro, walk the Great Wall of China or undertake some other adventure of your choice to raise funds? **Contact us: (01273) 603278**



**Michael Eavis**  
"We have a duty to help those less fortunate than ourselves."

## Glastonbury festival

At this year's 40th Anniversary Glastonbury Festival, 70 BMA volunteers formed part of the 1500-strong recycling and litter-picking crew who worked round-the-clock during the four days to keep the site clean. The scale of the task was massive as the 2010 Festival was attended by more than 150,000 people. Since 2004, the Festival has donated over £27,000 to the BMA in return for 'litter-picker hours' given.

We are happy to announce that, from 2011, the Bhopal Medical Appeal will have a much higher profile at the Festival. In addition, Michael Eavis, the founder of the Glastonbury Festival,

has joined Jon Snow, journalist and presenter of Channel 4 News, as one of our Patrons.

"It's hard to believe," Eavis says, "that after 26 years, the factory has not been cleaned up, and that people are still dying of the chemicals that the company left behind. It's outrageous. We have a duty to help those less fortunate than ourselves. I've always believed in working for the community, and that for me, is a global community. Whatever I can do to help the Bhopalis I will."

**To register your interest in litter-picking at Glastonbury 2011 please write to [beckymoss@bhopal.org](mailto:beckymoss@bhopal.org).**

## Edinburgh concert

This inaugural benefit concert at the Edinburgh Counting House featured some legendary Scottish folk musicians, including Dick Gaughan and Mae Shaw, playing a mixture of traditional and modern tunes, plus Leon Rosselson (famous for his satirical and political songs) and poets, who all entertained a packed house in style. The event raised £2000. The BMA are hoping to stage further such events in the future.

**If you are a singer or have a band and would be willing to put on a benefit for Bhopal please get in touch.**

## Overland adventures

● Josh and Lucie are travelling overland to Bhopal, via a circuitous route, on a trip that will raise money for the BMA. You can follow their adventures on their blog, which also has a Google Map of their journey. At the time of writing they were in Beijing, having travelled on the Trans-Siberian Express from Moscow. <http://joshandluciesoverlandadventure.wordpress.com/>

● Andrew David Simpson, known to his friend as Bones, a Canadian citizen living in California, started a long walk across India from Rajasthan to Bhopal in November 2010 to raise money for the Sambhavna Clinic. He has already walked about 6,000 miles in the US, India and Nepal over the last few years, raising money for his trips by busking. You can hear his music and follow his Indian walk on his blog. <http://andrewbones.weebly.com/blog.html>

● In 2010, David Galsworthy made a remarkable solo trek of the John Muir Trail to raise funds for the BMA. This famous Trail, named after the Scottish-American naturalist and preservationist, starts in the Yosemite National Park and runs for 215 miles.

## Skydiving for Bhopal



**BMA's Peter Finnigan and friends made their first ever skydive, from a height of 2.5 miles, which raised £4,000 for the BMA. (From left): Sam & Wendy Wheeler, Charlotte Skeet, Peter Finnigan, Peter Richards**

"It was such a brilliant, rewarding week."

## Wedding present for Bhopal

● Angela and Ray Georgeson who were married in Harrogate in October this year, took the unusual step of asking friends and family not to buy them wedding gifts but instead make a donation to the Bhopal Medical Appeal. They have so far raised more than £1,500, including Gift Aid. Ray, who works as an environmental waste and management consultant, told his local paper: "We are both environmentalists and the cause was important to us as it has many connections to things we care about, and we are glad to have been able to help in a small way." If you would like to follow Angela and Ray's example please let us know.

## Running for Bhopal



**The Bhopal runners at the British 10k London Run**

● In 2010 the BMA put together their first running team of 38 people who took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ASICS British 10k London Run alongside some 25,000 others. They raised £18,000 for Bhopal.

We have been allocated 102 places in next year's run, which will be held on Sunday July 10th 2011, and we are looking for runners. There is no race entry fee but participants will be required to raise a minimum sponsorship of £250. Runners will get a chip timer and an official race photograph as a souvenir.

If you would like to participate in the 2011 Brighton Marathon on April 10<sup>th</sup> we have 10 places left. There is no entry fee. Participants need to raise a minimum sponsorship of £500. **Contact: [colintoogood@bhopal.org](mailto:colintoogood@bhopal.org)**



## Bhopal education project



**Top: Some of the students wearing their Bhopal headbands Above: Renu, the Bhopal representative, on her first trip outside India.**

The Bhopal Bus was on the road again this July for a pilot education project visiting schools in the London borough of Waltham Forest, funded by the council's Change for Children initiative. More than 500 young people visited the bus as part of their Citizenship education, which forms Key stage 3 and 4 of the National Curriculum. Our Bhopal representative on board was Renu who works for the Sambhavna Clinic and was making her first trip outside of India. Her mother was pregnant with her at the time of the Bhopal disaster. Becky Moss reports on the experience.

"It was at times overwhelming – so many students, so little time. One group would be inside the bus being introduced by Renu to the timeline of events leading up to the disaster and what has happened since into which she deftly wove her personal story. Meanwhile one of the crew would lead a second group in a Q&A session outside the bus, prompted by a new series of BMA posters which sum up the role of Union Carbide/Dow, explain why there is an ongoing need for medical care and introduce the work of the Sambhavna clinic.

The citizenship teachers and teaching assistants, the Change for

Children Team, the BMA volunteers and staff and the activists from the Bhopal International Campaign for Justice (students from India studying here in the UK) worked as a team, taking turns in explaining the importance of learning about Bhopal and Sambhavna and making best use of what the children brought to the discussions.

It was such a brilliant, rewarding week. What a pleasure it was to meet so many bright young sparks from such diverse backgrounds. We're now involved in follow-up work with all of the schools we visited, which includes establishing Skype webcam link-ups between the children in Walthamstow and the Children Against Dow/Carbide group, hosted by Renu from Sambhavna.

We have plans to extend our schools outreach and are hoping to take the bus to schools and universities in other London boroughs and in the Sussex area. If you are a student or a teacher please do get in touch."





Our new website was launched in November 2010, produced by the Brighton-based web company Safe As Milk

## Social networking

In addition to the new website the BMA have also been getting involved in most of the popular social media and networking sites – with interesting results. This sort of online activity is a great way of raising awareness and it's also proving a really effective way of promoting our activities and fundraising. Please take a look at what we are doing and please remember that this sort of online activity is most effective when users spread the word!



**Facebook:** To join our Facebook page, log into The Bhopal Medical Appeal



**Twitter:** To follow us on Twitter, search for BhopalMedAppeal



**YouTube:** To view our channel, search for The Bhopal Medical Appeal



**Flickr:** To view our photos, search for The Bhopal Medical Appeal

## Raise money for the BMA just by doing a web search

You can also raise money for the Bhopal Medical Appeal by doing your web-searches through [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com). Each search earns us around a penny and with enough supporters, this will provide us with another valuable regular income stream for the BMA. Please use Everyclick and also encourage your family and friends to take part.

## Make money for the BMA by recycling!

All you have to do is click on the 'Recycle4Charity.co.uk' link on our website and follow the instructions on the page. All mobile phones have some recycling value (as much as £30 in some cases); cartridges will be worth

£1 each to the BMA. Recycle4Charity will supply you with pre-paid envelopes for both items. If you use a lot of ink cartridges (or can organise a collection at your office), they'll even send you a box to put them all in and make arrangement to collect them from you.

## Just Giving

We also encourage any of our supporters, who are fundraising for us, to use the 'Just Giving' website. It's a really easy way to set up your own online fundraising page and only takes a few minutes. There's a built-in payment mechanism and the money goes straight into our bank account. Take a look at this one for a good example: <http://www.justgiving.com/Bhopal-Beardpal>

## Legacies

● As a supporter of the people of Bhopal, you have been a major force in the creation of Sambhavna Clinic and the Chingari Rehabilitation Centre. From reading these pages you will also know that the need for free, first class health care in Bhopal will be there for many, many years to come. We want to safeguard the future of Sambhavna as a place of international excellence, and work to share what it has learnt with the rest of the world.

Early next year we will be writing to you asking you to consider leaving a legacy to The Bhopal Medical Appeal. Please read this letter. Leaving a legacy in your will is an opportunity for you to help guarantee that the groundbreaking work currently being done in Bhopal will continue into the future and also help other communities across the world.

## Committed giving

● We urge all of our supporters to consider setting up a direct debit or standing order to The Bhopal Medical Appeal. For us to be really effective with our planning, it is vital for us to know how much of our income is guaranteed. Committed regular giving allows us that advantage.

**If you would like to help us in this way, please call us on 01273 603278 or visit [www.bhopal.org](http://www.bhopal.org).**

## A big thank you

The Bhopal Medical Appeal owes its existence to the generous donations of individuals, support groups and Charitable Trust Funds. These are too numerous to mention individually and, in addition, many of our donors have requested that they remain anonymous. Our sincere thanks go out to you all for your loyal support.



Sincere thanks to David Graham for allowing us to use this and his other fine Bhopal pictures throughout this newsletter. David became a photographer in 2004, after his son was paralysed in an accident. He has worked extensively for charities both in the UK and overseas – including India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Ukraine and Rwanda – including World Jewish Relief, Bhopal Medical Appeal, Facing the World and The Royal Hospital Chelsea.

In 2006, he formed the charity Changing Ideas ([www.changingideas.org](http://www.changingideas.org)) to help photographers and charities use photography to make a difference.





## The Bhopal Medical Appeal

For **Credit Card donations** please call: **0800 316 557** or visit **[www.bhopal.org](http://www.bhopal.org)**

### Contact us

tel **01273 603 278** • email **[admin@bhopal.org](mailto:admin@bhopal.org)** • web **[www.bhopal.org](http://www.bhopal.org)**

The Bhopal Medical Appeal, Unit 2, The Foundry, 8-9 St George's Mews, Brighton BN1 4EU

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