

The Bhopal Medical Appeal

BHOPAL MATTERS

NEWSLETTER FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE BHOPAL MEDICAL APPEAL

SUMMER 2017



Sharing stories of keeping hope alive in Bhopal

Welcome to the first edition of *Bhopal Matters*, a brand new magazine designed to keep you informed of the latest news from The Bhopal Medical Appeal.

There are many ways that people in the UK and across the world have demonstrated that Bhopal continues to matter to them. While the offending corporations and successive elected governments have neglected the survivors, thousands of supporters have kept the good work going in Bhopal as the poisoning continues. Bhopal matters because of the sad reality that, irrespective of our location on the globe, we are all victims (or potential victims) of slow and silent Bhopals.

We include updates from Sambhavna and Chingari Clinics, which provide free, first-class care to survivors of gas and water poisoning in Bhopal. Both

clinics celebrated milestone anniversaries in 2016.

We also carry reports detailing the campaign for justice in Bhopal. The campaign strives to achieve adequate healthcare, compensation, clean water and legal redress for tens of thousands of families being affected by Bhopal's unending chemical disasters.

Just as importantly, we share news about you, our supporters, who make each day of our clinics' work possible – this work simply could not exist without the regular gifts, legacies and donations sent to us by individual friends, groups and trust funds in the UK and other parts of the world. Your support is our lifeblood: we include reports of some of the unique events you've held to raise precious funds for Bhopal.

As crucial as it is, money is not the only form of support we cherish: we feature volunteers

making hugely valuable contributions. We also detail opportunities for those of you interested in physical challenges such as marathons or cycle rides.

We hope you enjoy reading this Summer edition of *Bhopal Matters*. To keep costs down we have tried to be brief, printed on lightweight, recycled paper and produced the layout and artwork in-house. We welcome your feedback or suggestions for future editions.

Our thanks to all of you for everything you do. We'll be back in touch in November 2017.

With our good wishes,
the Staff and Trustees of
The Bhopal Medical Appeal.

Front Cover Image Credits:

Main: Supporter Agnes Riley (2nd right) nears the end of a fundraising walk

Left: 32nd anniversary @Colin Toogood

Middle: Sambhavna community health work @Ed Hanley

Right: Volunteer Ian Jarvis gives 'Spineworks' therapy in Bhopal

News From The Clinics

STUDY FINDS GAS-AFFECTED TEN TIMES MORE PRONE TO CANCER

A wide-ranging Sambhavna Clinic study has revealed that incidence of cancer within families exposed to the 1984 methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leak is ten times greater than in local families not exposed to the gas. The preliminary findings were reported on Sambhavna's twentieth anniversary.

A team of researchers from the clinic conducted the ground-breaking study on a large sample size of 100,000 over seven years. Four groups were identified, each comprised of 25,000 people who were either gas-affected, water-affected, both gas- and

water-affected, plus a control group. *'The study shows that, in comparison to unexposed families, gas and contaminated ground water exposed families have significantly larger number of people with TB, paralysis and cancers and that the rate of cancers in gas-exposed people is more than ten times of unexposed people,'* says Ritesh Pal, of the Community Research Unit run by Sambhavna, who presented the preliminary findings.

According to the study, lung, abdominal, throat and oral cancers are significantly higher in both the gas-exposed group and

the group exposed to the gas and contaminated water.

Gas-exposed women were found to have suffered significantly larger numbers of abortions in comparison with unexposed women. When compared to those from an unexposed population, a significantly larger number of children born to gas-exposed and contaminated ground water-exposed parents had birth defects.

Later this year, the study will undergo peer review in a major medical journal and its findings will be shared worldwide.

FLAME OF BHOPAL



Rashida Bi leads a survivors' march @GClarke/Getty



Our Flame of Bhopal rose

*'We are the women of Bhopal
We are flames, not flowers!'*

The determination, resilience and courage of Bhopal's women survivors provides the inspiration for a unique red rose. *Flame of Bhopal* has been especially bred by ARBA member Calvin Horner and bulk propagated by Bill LeGrice Roses in Norfolk and is now ready and available to gardeners.

The name of our rose derives

from the Hindi word '*chingaari*' ('spark' or 'flame' – as in the phrase, 'a single spark starts a prairie fire'). The rose celebrates the defiant spirit of the survivors' enduring fight for justice and a life of dignity – a spirit embodied by Rashida Bi and Champa Devi, founders of the all-women Chingari Trust and leaders in the survivors' struggle.

We hope the rose will be grown in gardens all over Europe,

a beautiful symbol of solidarity, connection and refusal to despair.

Flame of Bhopal is now on sale for autumn planting. To order your rose bush(es), please contact Bill LeGrice Roses: telephone 01603 784466 or email: billlegrice@hotmail.com

Each plant is priced at £10.95 plus packing and delivery. We receive a donation for every plant sold.

RADIO 4 APPEAL WITH SIR MARK TULLY

Last August, The BMA featured in a BBC Radio 4 Appeal for the second time. The first was back in 2009, read by our Patron Jon Snow, and this time we were lucky enough to enlist the services of Sir Mark Tully. Not only was Sir Mark among the very first foreign correspondents to reach the scene of the disaster but he revisited on several occasions, producing landmark reports detailing the ongoing catastrophe. In Britain we have perhaps come to see Sir



Sir Mark Tully outside the BBC studios

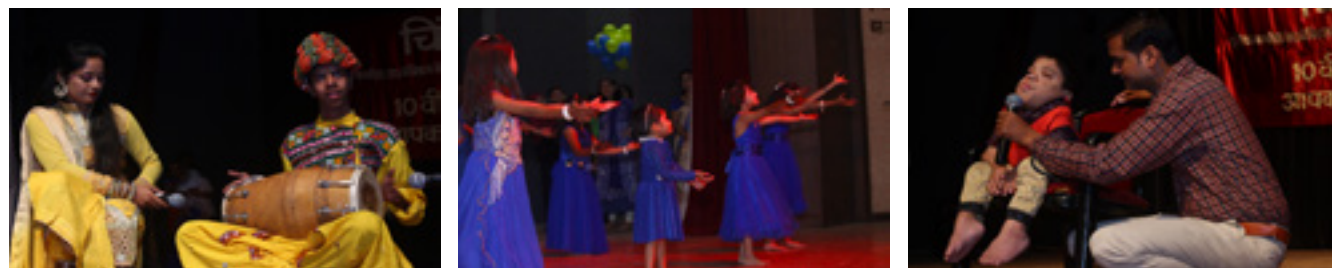
Mark as something of a national treasure, while it is often said that Indian people regard him as 'one of us.' He therefore proved to be the perfect narrator of our

second Radio 4 Appeal.

A clip of Sir Mark's chilling first report from Bhopal led the appeal. Sir Mark highlighted the 32 year medical catastrophe, ongoing poisoning and the terrible impact on children's health, before describing our clinics' vital rehabilitation work.

Following the broadcast the response was staggeringly generous. The final tally amounted to one of the most successful BBC appeals of recent years.

A SHARED ACHIEVEMENT



From left to right:
Devesh from Chingari performs at an anniversary event, accompanied by speech therapist Nousheen.
Chingari children Poonam, Tina and Alfiya dance at the celebrations.
Zaid delivering his speech, accompanied by special educator Surya.

Last year's milestone anniversaries in Bhopal were an opportunity to pause, briefly, and reflect on the many wonderful things we've managed to accomplish together.

Sambhavna – 'possibility, compassion' – emerged from Bhopal gas survivors' longstanding campaign for accessible, caring and effective medical services. Almost inconceivably, a single newspaper ad in the UK in 1994 raised enough funds to found Sambhavna Trust, hire professional staff (mostly victims of poisoning themselves) and acquire the first clinic building. Since opening its doors to a handful of people in 1996, Sambhavna's self-governing clinic has eased the suffering of 32,000 gas- and water-affected Bhopalis, and cared for another 40,000 through its community outreach programme.

'All of the work we do is out of a building that has healing at the core of its architecture,' says clinic co-founder and Managing Trustee Sathyu Sarangi, 'built with non-toxic materials, it harvests

rain water and recycles grey water for irrigation of a garden containing over a hundred kinds of organically grown medicinal plants.

'All of this work is financed through individual donations from thousands of ordinary people around the world. Children have donated pocket money, couples have asked guests to donate to the clinic as wedding gifts, the elderly have walked or cycled impossibly long distances and raised money, authors have donated their royalties and thus over 25,000 people have made an average donation of about 37 dollars and kept it all going.'

Chingari's Rehabilitation Centre was founded by disaster survivors Rashida Bi and Champa Devi Shukla using the prize money won in recognition of



Children at Chingari with co-founders (back row) Rashida and Champa Devi.

their campaign work.

'Ten years back, we started Chingari Rehabilitation Centre in a single room with fifteen disabled children and limited resources,' they explain. 'At that time we hardly knew anything about therapies and treatment of these children. The only thing we had at that point was the passion to improve the lives of congenitally disabled children born into families affected by the gas tragedy and subsequent water contamination.'

'Today, about 250 children are on our regular attendance list receiving physiotherapy, speech therapy, special education, occupational therapy, midday meal, pick-up and drop facility and other facilities free of cost.'

'In these ten years we have realised that what appeared to be impossible for us, is possible with the right efforts in the right direction. We listen to the chatter of children who had never uttered a word in their life before coming to Chingari. Children who were not even able to sit on their own before coming here we have seen walking, even running.'

'We are so thankful to all our supporters from all over the world for helping us with this work. About eight hundred children are registered with us and many more children are present in the gas- and water-affected families, and we hope to help those who need similar care.'

'Our ten years' journey was made possible by hope, a hope which says that these children can also be integrated with the mainstream, and can be made

self-dependent when given proper, loving care.

'Our most regular source of hope is the smile on the face of a child coming into Chingari, and the tears of happiness in the eyes of a mother seeing her child walking or speaking for the first time.'

One young Chingari beneficiary is Zaid, who you may remember receives treatment for scoliosis of the spine. He took centre

stage at Chingari's celebrations to deliver the following message to each of us:

'All those who have made Chingari and contributed to running Chingari, I would like to thank all of you. If you had not been there, there would not have been any Chingari. And, if Chingari would not have been there, we children would not have benefited so much. Thank you.'

People who visit or work at Sambhavna or Chingari were asked to say what their clinic means to them in just a few words:

Sambhavna



'Convenient, complete integration, infinite politeness,'

Tarannum, patient.

'Helpful, ambitious, progressive,'

Huma, patient.

'I believe in my work,'

Biju, Panchakarma therapist.



'Dedication, equality, ethical practice,' Prachi, laboratory scientist.

'The world's best place for work,'

Dr Mali, Ayurvedic physician.

Chingari



'Encouraging, a true companion and guide,'

Naushaad, mother of Saahil.

'Dutiful, transparent and inspirational,'

Nusrat, mother of Zehra.

'Dedicated, passionate and striving,'

Rafida, mother of Khalid.

Physiotherapist Dr Ahmed says: 'Dedication, courage and hope.'



Caretakers Ishrat and Sunita both say: 'Honesty, responsibility and hard work.'

A TOXIC MERGER

A controversial merger between Dow Chemical and DuPont has been granted conditional approval by the EU, paving the way for completion of the deal later this summer. However, Bhopal survivors point out that Dow is deliberately concealing multi-billion dollar liabilities from shareholders in order to rush the deal through.

'Shareholders of DuPont should know that Bhopal has cost Dow \$300 million in India over the last decade', says Rashida Bi. 'Our struggle also forced Dow to cancel a \$5 billion investment, including a huge R&D centre in Pune, but you won't find the company talking about it openly.'

In regulatory merger submissions, both companies

omitted critical information regarding Bhopal legal liabilities pending against Dow's subsidiary Union Carbide.

'It's the law that merging companies share all material information before any deal,' Rashida says, 'so we sent a letter reminding Dow and DuPont to inform their shareholders, but they chose to ignore it.'

Claims in the pending Bhopal 'curative' petition amount to several billion dollars over Carbide's book value. The outstanding criminal manslaughter case has the potential for fines and penalties with no upper limit: in January, a Bhopal court issued an order to summon Dow by email to explain Union Carbide's whereabouts.

Please see 'Legal Cases' for more information.

In the case of DuPont, C-8 (or PFOA), a toxin used in Teflon manufacture, remains a major issue despite DuPont recently making a \$670.7 million offer to settle lawsuits connected with contamination emanating from one of its plants in Ohio.

After the merger, the new company will be split into three. Neither company says what will happen to the Bhopal and C-8 liabilities following the split. In response, Bhopal survivor groups have filed a request in India's Supreme Court for issuance of a 'Mareva Injunction' (asset freeze order) against Dow/Carbide.

For more see:

www.bhopal.org/toxic-merger

THE CURIOUS TALE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PEN

Shortly after his company donated a generous \$1 million towards Donald Trump's inauguration ceremony, Dow Chemical CEO Andrew Liveris was named head of the 'American Manufacturing Council', an

influential government quango.

The Trump administration also began work to reduce regulations 'standing in the way of business' by signing an executive order to establish regulatory watchdogs inside federal agencies like the

EPA – an agency that sometimes stands in the way of US polluters like Dow. To mark the agreement, Trump was 'delighted' to award Mr. Liveris the 'Presidential Pen'. Find out more: www.bhopal.org/presidential-pen

PETITIONS

Last spring we supported an important petition published by the 'International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal' on the White House 'We the People' website.

The petition insisted the US Department of Justice deliver official notices requiring Dow's appearance in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Bhopal. In failing to deliver even one of the first four judicial notices already issued, the DoJ was in breach of a legal assistance treaty signed

between the Indian and US governments, under whose terms service of legal documents is mandatory. Breach of treaty meant the US government was also, effectively, contravening international law.

To obtain an official White House response the petition required 100,000 signatures. Following Herculean efforts from volunteers in Bhopal – working round-the-clock in gas-affected areas – and also from supporters around the world, the target was

well exceeded inside 30 days.

In an apparently irony-blind response, the White House declined to address the issues raised in the petition in order, it wrote, *'to avoid the appearance of improper influence'*.

Safreen Khan of Children Against Dow-Carbide observed, *'President Obama asked to kick the ass of a British corporation for the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, but when it comes to an American corporation he seems to be kissing instead of kicking.'*

LEGAL CASES

Since acquiring Union Carbide in 2001, Dow Chemical (Dow) has maintained that all legal matters relating to the Bhopal disaster are closed. This is a nonsense, as the following facts show:



Carbide's abandoned factory@GClarke/Getty

- The \$470m civil settlement made in 1989 is being revisited via a 'curative petition' in India's Supreme Court. The Indian Government argues that the 'gross inadequacy' of the 1989 settlement with Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) resulted in an 'irremediable injustice'. It therefore seeks additional compensation based on much greater numbers of people killed and injured than accounted for in 1989. Survivors groups have filed supporting arguments attesting that the government's petition also grossly underestimates morbidity and mortality figures. A hearing is due at any time.
- Dow is a named respondent in public interest litigation in the Madhya Pradesh High Court which seeks remediation of the abandoned Union Carbide site. But Dow continues to resist a request made in 2006 for a £16m deposit towards initial costs.

- Although UCC has been wanted on criminal charges of 'culpable homicide not amounting to murder' since 1991, it has never attended court to answer them. Dow has been served notice to appear in the Bhopal Court to explain UCC's whereabouts, but has ignored each of the five notices issued so far. At the urging of survivor groups the court has now issued a sixth summons. Sent directly to Dow's Corporate Secretary Ms. Amy Wilson, the email bypasses the stonewalling US DoJ (see 'Petitions'). Please visit our website for the latest updates.
- From 1999, UCC was subject to three class action lawsuits in New York seeking damages, medical monitoring, and a full clean-up of the toxic mess that continues to contaminate wells for miles around the factory site. Survivor plaintiffs submitted a final petition last June, arguing that the case against Union Carbide had not been treated like other pollution cases, and that the courts had ignored legal doctrines that should establish

Union Carbide's responsibility. An August court order dismissed plaintiffs' petition without comment, thus bringing the lawsuits to an end.

Marco Simons, Legal Director of EarthRights International, who assisted the Bhopal plaintiffs, pointed out that one judge had dismissed the claims six times over 17 years: *'The courts are supposed to be an avenue for justice. But, time and time again, that has not proven to be true for the people of Bhopal. The waste disposal strategy concocted by Union Carbide ultimately and inevitably resulted in the leaching of toxic chemicals into villagers' groundwater supply.'*

Despite judicial prejudice, legal obstruction, government complicity and a vast inequality of arms, Bhopal survivors are not about to give up their struggle for justice and a life of dignity.

Our next newsletter will detail actions supporters can take to help.

THE BHOPAL MEDICAL APPEAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The Bhopal Medical Appeal uses social media to tell and share stories in a quick and interactive way. Our online communications are therefore a great way of keeping up-to-date with the latest news from Bhopal and, just as importantly, with news from supporters like you. Please consider joining us here:



Facebook
@BhopalMedicalAppeal



Instagram
bhopalmedicalappeal



Flickr
Bhopal Medical Appeal



Twitter
@BhopalMedAppeal



YouTube
The Bhopal Medical Appeal

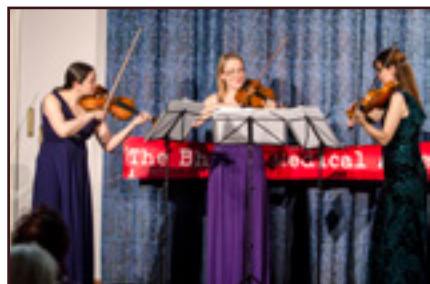
Supporter News

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in recent years. We simply could not do our work without you. We would also like to say thank you to the following people who have given of their time and talents to raise vital funds for our clinics:

To Musicians and Performers

An anonymous musician has penned *Breathe Fire*, a song about Bhopal. The writer invites anyone to produce a version, which is available, free of charge, here: bhopal.org/breathe-fire-the-lyrics/

Georgina Le Clercq, Adam Le Clercq and friends organised a series of classical concerts in Brighton to mark the disaster anniversary.



Violinists perform at a concert for The BMA ©Francesca Moore

Rosemary Pavey organised a performance by **The Tziganes Trio**.

Dick Gaughan and friends played a gig in Edinburgh.

Alexander Robotnick launched an online dance channel at www.robotnick.it/radio.htm with all proceeds donated to us.

AutoRickshaw recorded a song about Bhopal, *City of Lakes*, which can be downloaded here: <https://autorickshaw.bandcamp.com/album/city-of-lakes>. All proceeds from the song are for The BMA's benefit.

Nigel Langford donated proceeds from his album of electronic music *CUBISM*. It can be downloaded here: www.justgiving.com/Nigel-Langford1. Nigel also raised funds by going on a 40K walk with The BMA's **Colin Toogood**.

Backwell Festival nominated us as their international charity.

To Runners, Cyclists, Walkers and Saluters to the Sun

Thank you to all of our Brighton Marathon, London 10K and Hackney Half Marathon runners, and everyone who has run for us in separate events.

In 2013 our loyal supporter **Fiona Mackey** cycled 120 miles from Dieppe to Versailles. Last summer, she completed another major challenge by walking 62 miles from Oxford to the source of the River Thames. Generating donations en route and supported generously by friends, Fiona raised a significant sum for Chingari.

Scottish Friends of Bhopal organised a sponsored cycle ride.

Guildford Power Hoopers organised a Hoopathon.

Sarah Smith undertook a challenging round of marathons, ultramarathons and cycle rides.

Meaghan Delahunt hosted a Restorative Yoga Workshop in Edinburgh.

Mo Haque from **Al Amin** restaurant in London has run three marathons, the London 10K and recruited over 100 runners for us.

Agnes Riley walked 30 miles across Cumbria. She also organised a recital at St John's Church in Dumfries and carol singing for shoppers.



Agnes (left) & daughter Emma at the outset of her walk

Yoga Kula Studio in Leeds dedicated 108 sun salutations to the women of Bhopal.

Volunteers

Hashida Dave, Ian Jarvis and David Searle have all recently travelled to Bhopal to help at Sambhavna Clinic and the nearby Oriya Basti School. Our next edition will feature more volunteer news.

Roy Westall went to Bhopal in April. Roy has started a campaign to pressure Dow into cleaning up Bhopal and compensate everyone who has been affected by the leakage. Please do sign his online petition: <http://you.38degrees.org.uk> and search for Bhopal.

To Kind Friends

To everyone who attended a **commemoration event** at the Workers' Memorial in Glasgow.

Sophie and Rob Walls asked their wedding guests to make donations to us in lieu of presents in tribute to Sophie's late mother **Gillian**.

The hardworking people who have raised thousands of pounds for us by picking litter at the **Glastonbury Festival**. With special thanks to our patron **Michael Eavis** and Recycling Team Co-ordinator **Fiona Case** who have supported us for many years. Fiona and her husband **Mike** have also organised their own events for us, and requested donations in lieu of presents for their wedding anniversary.



A fundraising event organised by Fiona and Mike Case and friends.

Stella Yates donated funds in lieu of birthday gifts.

Vicki and Chloe Langford who volunteer at our London 10K picnic each year.

Dr Avijit Datta organised events in the North East, including a performance of Kathakali dancers and exhibitions of photographs taken by Raghu Rai in the aftermath of the disaster.

Somerby and Oakham Methodist Churches chose us as their charity of the year. Thank you to **Ron and Sue Curtis** who organised many events including music performances and an exhibition by photographer Richard Adams.

Reverend Ruth Browning held four Bhopal-themed services in Norfolk.

Miriam Jones and Sarah Willson held a lunch at Holy Trinity Hotwells Church.

Quaker groups across the country have collected for us.

Lilian Ogden, of Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church, organised a number of events.

Inverurie West Church have supported us with events including a sponsored hike, a riverside walk, a craft fair, a yoga session, and a performance of Indian dance.

Paul Armfield recorded a version of *Breathe Fire*, took part in an ice-bucket challenge and shaved off his beard for Bhopal.

Ricky Lowes embarked on six-months' of challenges: shaving her head, holding a cake sale and going on a gruelling 100K bike ride.

Olivia Dell held a table-top sale and raised funds by selling peg dolls. Please email oliviadell@phonecoop.coop for details of her peg doll kits.



Peg dolls by Olivia Dell

Jan Coutu held a coffee, cake, craft and raffle fundraiser.

Supporters in Gloucestershire opened up a pop-up crafts shop, donating 20% of the profits.

Dominique Hudson organised a table-top sale at LeftFest.

Adrian Jones held an art exhibition for us at his **Jonestown Coffee Shop** in London.

Megan Dogra produced a documentary called *Assist Bhopal* which was screened at the Milwaukee Film Festival. She has also organised a number of fundraisers.

Nina Joshi Ramsey donated proceeds from her novel *Lifewalla*.

Nick Robins donated royalties from his book: *The Corporation that Changed the World: How the East India Company Shaped the Modern Multinational*.

Our patron **Navin Shah** organised fundraisers at City Hall and the Zoroastrian Centre.

Surabhi Nagar made key-rings and T-shirts, selling them to friends at **International School Singapore**. She raised enough money to buy Chingari a new mini bus.

The **Students' Unions** at **Northampton University** and **Royal Holloway**, and **Oxford University Indian Society** all chose us as one of their charities.

Forthcoming Event

An evening of music and art for Bhopal with Blues, alt-country and rock band **T'Social Club** plus special guests:

17 June 2017, South Street, Reading at 7.30pm. Tickets £14. Find out more: readingarts.com

If you would like to organise your own fundraising event or volunteer at the clinics in Bhopal, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us on 01273 603278 or email admin@bhopal.org

Supporter News

RUN FOR BHOPAL

In addition to the people who help us by holding events or making donations, we are fortunate to enjoy the support of a team of runners. Here Jon Copestake, our first official London Marathon runner, talks about why he started running and why he chose to run for us.



I came late to running. Before I was 30, the only exercise I did was play football. Fitness was never something that concerned me.

What initially got me into running was my wife. She decided to do a 10k run. I was fairly circumspect about it but thought it might be fun to join her on training runs. I didn't take it very seriously and on one run I was so awful that she snapped at me for holding her up.

When she completed the actual 10k race I was proud of her, but also envious that she'd managed to achieve something that I hadn't. So when she signed up for a half-marathon I signed up for another and decided to take training seriously. I realised that I actually enjoyed training and started running with a group of friends.

After I completed my first half-marathon I started looking for new challenges. By this time my sister was training for her first marathon, so I signed up to one too. I'd be lying if I said I enjoyed it, but the sense of achievement I got from completing it was palpable.

Around this time I read a book by Haruki Murakami called *What I talk about when I talk about*

running which also struck a real chord with me.

I also found that running made me feel healthier. It clears the mind and releases endorphins, which makes it immensely rewarding and quite addictive.

Murakami and my sister taught me two lessons: the first was that anyone can do it. Marathon runners are perceived as great athletes, but the majority of them aren't. They're just normal people who happen to be able to run marathons. The second is that running is more fun if you keep on setting targets. Murakami started by running round an office block but ended up participating in ultra-marathons. My sister has also now stepped up to ultra-marathon level. Hopefully, one day, I'll be able to join her.

Why I'm running for The BMA

As a rule I don't usually run for charities. That's not meant to be ungenerous, and I'm always happy to sponsor others, but I like running and I sometimes feel that I shouldn't be asking people to sponsor me for something I enjoy.

Because of this the marathons I run are the obscure types that don't require a charity place.

But when The Bhopal Medical Appeal reached out for a London Marathon runner my 'No Charity' rule was blown out of the water.

To me it felt like fate that a charity I cared deeply about required a runner for one of the most prestigious marathons in the world (one which I've tried and failed to get into many times).

Few people that I know have heard of Bhopal. I probably wouldn't have if I hadn't read *Five Past Midnight in Bhopal*. It had a profound effect on me; it changed my perception of the world, not just because of the disaster itself, but because of the lack of accountability involved and the lack of coverage it received. It felt like we had collectively allowed an entire community to suffer for decades because it was more convenient to ignore it.

Bhopal genuinely changed my world view and I hope that, regardless of the fundraising, running this marathon will raise awareness of the disaster itself, even if it is only among people I know.

Congratulations and many thanks to Jon who completed the London Marathon in 03:41:20

Challenge Events

If you would like to take part in a challenge, we have a programme of events in 2017 & 2018. Please call 01273 603278 or email us:

- London 10K - 9th July 2017
 - Brighton Marathon - April 2018
 - Hackney Half Marathon - April 2018
- Email: run@bhopal.org

- Skydive - May 2018
 - London to Paris Bike Ride - September 2018
- Email: cycle@bhopal.org

Photography

PORTRAIT OF A FAMILY



Husband and wife Rafiq Uddin and Saiva Bi, pictured with their children.

©FrancescaMoore

This photograph by Francesca Moore of the Uddin family from Bhopal was one of only 80 images selected from over 10,000 entries in the Environmental Photographer of the Year competition.

It was one of many portraits Francesca made of families who live near the Union Carbide factory for her Arts Council-funded project to commemorate the disaster.

Francesca's approach to portraiture was deliberately formal. 'I wanted to portray the families with dignity and hope for a positive future,' she says. 'I didn't want to add to the images of the people of Bhopal portrayed as victims.'

She established a studio on the outside of the factory, dressing it in shades of rich red - the colour of celebration in India - with traditional Zardosi embroidery work.

140,000 people live in the twelve colonies around the factory wall and news of the project travelled fast. 'We had such queues that the studio entrance resembled a bustling Sunday market,' she says. 'By midday we were having to cap numbers. Day by day we did this, then returned to Sambhavna to process the files, a late night run to the lab for prints, then bed!'

Over the course of the project, Francesca photographed over 200 families. Along with self-funding the studio set-up, she also paid for each family to have a print of their portrait.

'It was an incredible experience. The way people responded to the studio was overwhelming. We worked very hard to photograph the amount of families that we did. I hope that I have given every family something that they can cherish.'

While Francesca has taken

other pictures in Bhopal, including photographs in the Sambhavna garden and of the factory wall, these were the first portraits she had made of the people who live there.

'I want to applaud the strength of the Bhopali people by representing them to the world as I see them,' she says. 'They are charismatic, united, powerful and optimistic.'

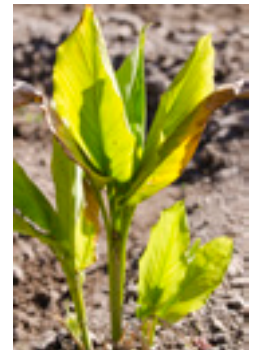
Francesca is a freelance photographer. You can find out more at www.francescamoore.co.uk



Francesca's photographs of the factory wall made the cover of the Hindustan Times.

How your donations can help

- **£3** pays for monthly renal function tests for twelve people
- **£5** pays for a child's minibus journey to and from the Chingari clinic for two weeks
- **£8** pays for one month's rent on the community unit used to carry out screening work
- **£10** pays for a child to have a whole month's speech therapy
- **£30** provides a month's physiotherapy for four children
- **£50** provides special education to six children for a month
- **£100** funds a community health worker for two weeks
- **£200** provides a month's supply of inhalers for people with asthma
- **£300** pays for a caretaker's salary for three months
- **£600** funds Chingari's electricity for a year
- **£1,000** employs a child's physiotherapist for four months
- **£7,200** pays a doctor's annual salary
- **£19,250** runs the entire Sambhavna Clinic for one month



Thank you to all our supporters.



If you would like to help with a gift at this time, please call **Freephone 0800 316 5577**, visit **www.bhopal.org/donate** or send cheque/CAF voucher payable to The Bhopal Medical Appeal to:

**Freepost RTGT-XHTG-ZEET
The Bhopal Medical Appeal
2 The Foundry
St George's Mews
Brighton
BN1 4EU**

**Phone: +44(0) 1273 603278
Email: admin@bhopal.org
Web: www.bhopal.org**

We'd also be delighted to speak with you about possibilities for volunteers at our two clinics.

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