

**JANE HANNA OBE**

Jane Hanna, District Councillor for the Marcham and Shippon ward and part-time Director of Epilepsy Bereaved has been awarded an OBE for services to families in recognition of her charity work over the last 20 years. In 1990 Jane was a law fellow at Keble College, Oxford but she gave up her academic career to work on prevention of sudden death in epilepsy. Jane's then partner, barrister Alan Pring, died suddenly 20 years ago following his fourth epilepsy seizure, five months after being diagnosed. Jane founded Epilepsy Bereaved in 1995 together with four other women following the sudden unexpected deaths of Alan aged 27; William aged 22; Matthew aged 21; Natalie aged 22. They were shocked to find that neither pathologists, nor coroners nor doctors were able to explain why or how these young active people had died; and that there was no one had heard of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.

Thanks to *Epilepsy Bereaved*, it is now recognised that three people die each day from epilepsy in the UK, the majority of deaths being SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy). A national report led by Jane established that 40% of deaths may be avoided. Epilepsy Bereaved are committed to helping health professionals and families understand how sudden death in epilepsy can be prevented and there is good information now available on how the risk of SUDEP can be reduced. Epilepsy Bereaved responds to 1000 calls a year from bereaved families and provides specialist information and emotional support to people negotiating the inquest process following a sudden death: Jane said "This is wonderful recognition of the importance of the SUDEP cause. I'm proud to accept it on behalf of the many people I have worked with over the years, for whom the cause of awareness and prevention of SUDEP is paramount.

Wantage MP Ed Vaizey said: "This OBE gives much deserved recognition to her and the team at Epilepsy Bereaved in Wantage. I know from working with the charity that they have not only had an impact on national and international research and clinical practice, but the core to their work has been support to ordinary people whose lives have been devastated by SUDEP including many families in Oxfordshire."

Beth Fleming, Chair of the White Horse District Council said: "Jane's award is a testament to her years of hard work and devotion to Epilepsy Bereaved borne out of personal tragedy. I can speak on behalf the Councillors and Officers of the Vale of White Horse District Council when I say that we are thrilled that she is honoured in this very prestigious way and hope that this will help to promote awareness of this extremely worthwhile cause".

A film of Epilepsy Bereaved's work can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAq97vw3Nh8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAq97vw3Nh8)

**John Inverdale will be presenting a national appeal in support of Epilepsy Bereaved on Radio 4 on July 25th.**

See [www.sudep.org](http://www.sudep.org) for more details.

**REPORT FROM GARD**

Thank you to all those who have supported the GARD campaign, and those who turned out on 15 June to support GARD and the other objectors to Thames Water's plans on the first day of the Inquiry. We are hopeful that the reservoir will be removed from the plan but it will be a tough fight with a powerful company. We have had good PR coverage and no doubt the press will keep you updated. The Public Inquiry is now well under way and the cross-examinations will continue for about a month.

We may not know the result for several months .  
**NICK THOMPSON** Hon Chairman GARD

**UPDATE FROM MARCHAM MOLDOVA LIFELINE**

Thanks to many people in Marcham, over £10,000 has now been raised for the Marcham Moldova Lifeline, far surpassing our expectations! As a result, we have been able to do a lot more to help some of the poorest people in Europe, through our local partners in Moldova.



**Marcham Moldova Lifeline**

All the money raised goes directly out to Moldova; our only recurring overheads are a small bank fee. This gives us real value for money compared to big charities. We also have the opportunity to see what our money is doing at first hand: Mary Embleton recently visited Moldova and saw our funds hard at work. Not only is all the money carefully accounted for; it is obviously going a long way to make a difference in people's lives.

**How?**

In addition to supporting some of the key workers in our partner charity, we have:

- provided new car mechanics textbooks for a vocational school, which will help young men find employment; (£400)
- helped 19 extremely poor individuals with emergency food, medicine and supplies (£1000)
- greatly improved the homes of 3 very poor families. (£750)

The words of Natalia say it all: 'I still can't believe that now we have a bath and toilet in the house. It was very difficult with 3 children to ask neighbours for a bath. I waited all my life for a kitchen!' Her husband Anatole adds 'Please send our thanks and regards to people from Marcham. Without the help we received, we couldn't have done much.' (A full report is available on request).

It is very exciting that we are able to 'love our neighbours' like this.

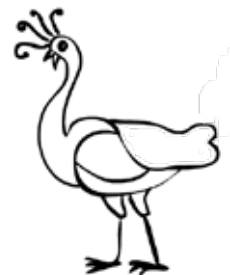
Thanks to everyone who has bought sunflower seedlings to support Moldova. Don't forget you can enter your best plants in our competition in the autumn.

Thank you for all your support!

**MARCHAM MOLDOVA LIFELINE**

**PEAHEN REWARD**

Mrs Busby of the The Willows is offering a £25 reward for the return of her PEAHEN. If you see the bird, please call Mrs Busby on 391404 who will come and retrieve it.



Please DON'T CALL if the peahen is up a tree!



**Can you support people with learning difficulties to live the life they want?**

West Berkshire, Reading and Oxfordshire Region are now recruiting in their Oxford area: Headington, Cowley, Didcot, Kidlington, Abingdon and Steventon

- Support Workers can earn up to £7.75 per hour
  - Senior Support Workers up to £9.29 per hour
- Successful applicants would need to be enthusiastic and friendly, have good listening and communication skills, be outgoing and open to new challenges.

Contact Katherine Dixon on 0118 9297922 for more information or visit our website [www.dimensions-uk.org](http://www.dimensions-uk.org)