

SPRING

2015



DONOR FAMILY NETWORK

## ***The National Memorial is well underway.***

The butterfly and flower models have now been enlarged to life size and the bronzes made for these and the base. The designer, Julia, has made paper patterns to use when making the mosaics and working on colour choices for the tiles. When all the mosaics are complete, the leaves, butterfly and flower will be returned to the foundry where the bronzed base is being held in order that all the parts can be cleaned, polished and patina applied (which will enhance the colours of the mosaic). Finally the bronze will be waxed to seal it and the mosaics installed into the bronzes. A final coat of wax will be applied before the sculpture is ready for installation at the garden. Julia is looking at sourcing a plinth of roughly 0.5 metres high to raise the sculpture up so that all the detail can be enjoyed. Details of the official opening will be available in due course in the Newsletter and our website.

Registered charity  
1098781



***MEMORIES NEVER FADE AND LOVE NEVER DIES.***

***SOMETIMES I JUST SIT AND REMEMBER***



*MY MEMORY LOVES YOU;  
IT ASKS ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME*

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## ***Fantastic trip to Canada***

In September last year Rocky Mountaineer Train for Heroes welcomed twelve organ donors, recipients and their families from Canada, Australia, USA and the UK to travel from Vancouver to Lake Louise. The Life Changing Train for Heroes programme was developed to honour everyday heroes who have made a significant impact on the lives of others, recognise the families who have supported them and raise awareness of the organisations which continue to assist them. Randy Powell, CEO of Rocky Mountaineer says “We are delighted to show our gratitude to our selected heroes by giving them the opportunity to experience the magic on board our rail journeys, where they will share time with loved ones over two uninterrupted days through some of the most stunning scenery in the world.”

Donor Family Network Trustees, Nigel and Sue Burton, were honoured to be invited to join the trip and were given the chance to meet Marc, the recipient of their son Martin’s heart, for the first time whilst on board the train. DFN members Freda and Julie Carter were also invited to join the journey and met Scott, the young man who received John’s heart (Freda’s son and Julie’s brother). One of most moving parts of the trip was the commemorative event held at the lakeside at Lake Louise. Each family in turn threw a pebble into the lake and watched the ripples on the water as they remembered either their loved one or their donor. So many friends were made on the journey, during which the opportunity to share memories with people who understood made the whole trip unforgettable.



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## ***Don't forget.....***

- ◆ We are still developing our memory quilt. If you would like to make a square in memory of your loved one please contact us or see our website for details.
  - ◆ Have you requested an entry in our on-line Book of Remembrance? Please contact us or see our website for details
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*MAY YOU ALWAYS HAVE AN ANGEL BY YOUR SIDE*

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## *How you can help*

There are so many ways you can help the Charity. Telling your story will help to raise awareness of organ donation and the DFN. If you do wish to raise funds for the charity please set up a Just Giving page to manage your fund raising. Ideas to raise funds include:

- ◆ Recycle for cash
- ◆ Sell — for example, car boots, jam, plants, home made cards
- ◆ Sponsored events—do you walk, run , play football or even jump from aircraft?
- ◆ Old favourites such as car wash, coffee mornings, collecting loose change
- ◆ Become a regular giver
- ◆ Give a legacy - see our website

Do tell us about any event you organise. We can help by advertising on our website and Facebook page, supply sponsorship forms and posters. Please also send us photos of your event to include in our future newsletters.

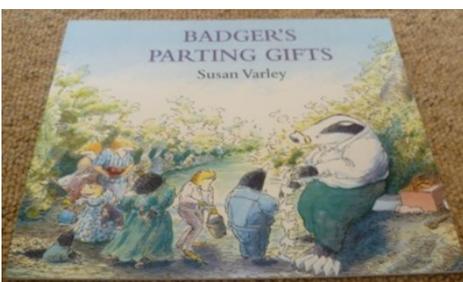
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## *Your Newsletter*

It is always difficult to decide on the content of the Newsletter. We hope to include our members much more and would welcome your thoughts and contributions. Maybe you have done something special to mark a special occasion in memory of your loved one? We hope that you can share your stories with us or tell us how organ and tissue donation has changed your life. We hope that you will feel free to write about your deeply felt sentiments, share your memories with us and we would be pleased to receive your suggestions on coping strategies or your experience of gaining comfort. Please forward your contributions to us to be included in the next Newsletter.

We would also like to develop a *Memory Corner* in each edition of the Newsletter. We would like to invite our members to include a short message of love in memory of their loved one, maybe mark a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary. To include your message, please let us have details together with the name of the donor and the date as appropriate. ( Contributions for our next newsletter need to be received by the end of June please).

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This book tells the story of how, following the death of Badger, his friends think that they will always be sad but they gradually learn to remember him with joy. This book can help children to come to terms with death.

Available to lend from the DFN library

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Donor Family Network

Phone: 0845 6801954

PO Box 13825

E-mail: [info@donorfamilynetwork.co.uk](mailto:info@donorfamilynetwork.co.uk)

Birmingham

[www.donorfamilynetwork.co.uk](http://www.donorfamilynetwork.co.uk)

B42 9DJ

## Events

Donor Family Network Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving- Sunday 6th September 2015 at 2 pm at St Margaret's Church, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7BA.

**TO BE CONFIRMED, Check with our website for confirmation of date.**

British Transplant Games - to be held in NewcastleGateshead 30th July – 2nd August 2015 (Opening Parade will commence from Eldon Square, Newcastle at 6pm with the ceremony being held in Newcastle City Hall- everybody is welcome) . Please also join us and present medals to the athletes throughout the Games.

***Please contact us with details of any events which may be of interest to other members.***

## A really big thank

**YOU** goes to the family of James Robotham who donated last year and helped to raise awareness of the need for donors from the BME community. On 27th December, James's birthday, his friends organised a charity football match in his memory. His family say "everyone loved him. He was a really kind, giving person".

James's family and friends have already raised over £3,000 for the Donor Family Network.



## We are saddened

to have to inform you of the recent loss of two of the Networks big supporters:



Emily Thackeray , who received a lung transplant in 2007 and was very active within the organisation Live Life, then Give Life.

Andy Cook, who received a heart transplant 16 years ago and was always present at our annual service.

## Virtual Bouquet

Thank you to Liz Mclean for raising funds at her fitness club.

