



# Action Mesothelioma Day

Organised by the  
**Greater Manchester Asbestos Victims Support Group**

Each year, hundreds of people gather in cities across the UK to raise awareness of mesothelioma, to call for better treatment and care for mesothelioma patients, for prevention of exposure to asbestos, and to ban the export of asbestos to developing countries

**Each year in Manchester, families affected by asbestos disease release doves as a public act of remembrance of all those who have died from mesothelioma and attend a public meeting.**

Everyone is welcome to attend the dove release in Albert Square and the meeting in the Town Hall followed by tea and coffee.

Albert Square is immediately outside Manchester Town Hall

**Friday 4th July 2014  
12.30pm**

For more information Tel: 0161 636 7555  
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**Join Us  
Action Mesothelioma  
Day**

**Friday 4th July  
12.30pm**

**Albert Square**

Outside Manchester Town Hall

**Release of Sponsored Doves**



**Manchester Town Hall**

**1pm —2pm**

**Public Meeting**

**Speaker**

**Lord Alton**

***Mesothelioma Research***

## Why we need more funding for mesothelioma research

Mesothelioma is a disease caused by exposure to asbestos. The UK has the highest rates of mesothelioma in the world and numbers increase each year. Around 2,600 people were diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2011, which means around 7 people are diagnosed each day. Sadly, in the same year 2,300 people died of mesothelioma, around 6 per day.

The Greater Manchester area has been particularly badly affected because workers were regularly exposed to asbestos while working in Turner & Newall factories, on the docks, in engineering factories and on construction sites. At GMAVSG we saw 300 people in 2013 newly diagnosed with an asbestos disease. Of these, 140 had been diagnosed with mesothelioma.

There is no cure for mesothelioma and prognosis for sufferers is poor. There is little in the way of effective treatments. It is a disease that causes great suffering to those with the disease but also has a massive impact on their families who also have to live with the disease as they see their loved one suffer.

As mesothelioma cases continue to rise there is an urgent need for properly funded medical research. But funding for mesothelioma research is poor and lags well behind that for other cancers. We call on the Government to ensure that proper funding is provided for research into this dreadful disease.

Lord Alton has long been a strong advocate for mesothelioma sufferers, alongside the late Paul Goggins, former M.P. for Wythenshawe and Sale East. Lord Alton was instrumental in ensuring mesothelioma sufferers were exempt from Legal Aid reforms that would have seen their compensation slashed and has led the fight in the House of Lords to secure increased funding for mesothelioma research.

## Lord Alton of Liverpool



There is an urgent need to adequately fund sustainable medical research to improve treatment for mesothelioma and, most importantly, to find a cure. Past exposure to asbestos has caused over 40,000 mesothelioma deaths to date, and we know that some 50,000 people will develop this devastating disease in the coming decades.

Let us be very clear, unless we are able to fund the current very high quality mesothelioma research proposals, the expected advances in mesothelioma treatment will not happen. That is why I have argued that there is a practical and moral case for the insurance industry to provide funding for mesothelioma research and for the Government to support this. Moreover, there is a moral case for society as a whole to relieve the human suffering inflicted so needlessly by the uncontrolled use of asbestos for so many decades.

## Lorraine Creech Macmillan Lung Cancer Lead Clinician, East Cheshire NHS Trust



The number of people newly diagnosed with mesothelioma continues to rise each year. Manchester hospitals have been involved in some of the most interesting clinical research trials and we are learning more and more about mesothelioma but we desperately need more funding for research.

There are some very good ideas for research but not enough funding available to take these ideas forward. Hopefully this situation will change soon so that mesothelioma is no longer the poor relation in cancer research.