

# **Press Release from The Matthew Fulham Foundation**

## **Who/What is the Matthew Fulham Foundation and why was it formed?**

The Matthew Fulham Foundation was set up by the parents of Hinckley teenager Matthew Fulham. Matthew Fulham was murdered by a terrorist car bomb in Egypt's holiday resort of Sharm El Sheikh. Whilst staying in the Ghazala Gardens hotel with his family.

The terrorist drove a pickup truck into the foyer of the hotel. Matthew and four friends he had made on Holiday rushed to see if they could help the driver, believing that it was an accident, when the children got within 30 feet of the truck the driver detonated a 600lb bomb killing himself and 4 of the 5 children. It was the day before Matthew's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The family on arriving home received and were offered no financial help from the travel Insurers (there was an exclusion clause for terrorist acts), The British Government (the criminal injuries compensation scheme is only available to those injured in this country) or Charity (A charitable fund was not set up because only 11 British people died). The only financial help that was offered was from Mr Fulham's employer, Matthew's employer and the holiday company (who refunded the cost of the holiday) but only after around 3-4 weeks of financial worry about how the family were going to get the body home, pay for the funeral and the holiday. As if we didn't have enough trauma to deal with at the horrific way we lost Matthew.

Matthew's family asked that people put a donation into a fund instead of buying flowers at his funeral. Expecting that we might raise a few hundred pounds, Matthew's parents decided that the money should be split between the John Cleveland College (JCC) and the Meningitis trust. When we finally closed the account there was £1438 in the account. There was also a concert to celebrate Matthew's life at JCC in March 06. The concert raised over £2000 and the students and staff (including the school inspectors) had also been raising funds in the mean time of £1100. The local people of Hinckley have been and still are very generous and wanted carry on giving to Matthew's memory. We therefore, set up the Matthew Fulham Foundation (formerly the Matthew Fulham Memorial Trust).

## What Are The Foundations Objectives?

### TROMBONES

The objectives of the foundation are to support British victims of terrorism overseas, until such time as the government put into place a scheme or fund assist those victims in the future. Or the government put pressure on the insurance companies to remove the terrorist exclusion clauses from their policies. We have a project called TROMBONES (**The Relatives Of Murdered Britons Overseas Needing Emergency Support**) to do this. We hope to be able to support victims with some immediate compassionate financial that will at least cover the cost of a funeral, hopefully more but that depends upon the level of funding we achieve before the next atrocity.

We hope that it will not be necessary to provide the above, and expect that the government or the insurance industries will provide this immediate compassionate aid in the near future. The government has already recognised that it has not done enough, by providing a £1 million pounds towards a fund for terrorist victims both at home and abroad. However, £1 million will not go far when you consider that the London victims had a charity provide £9.5 million in compassionate aid and they also have access to the criminal injuries compensation scheme.

### MATTY

As Matthew really enjoyed his music and helping the younger members of his various Orchestras's and bands, we thought it would be fitting to try and help young musicians. Project MATTY (**Musical Assistance To Talented Youth**) will follow up from TROMBONES. We would like to help young people both locally and globally with assistance to allow them to play musical instruments. That may be by adapting instruments so that disabled children can play them or it may be collecting old unwanted and/or damaged instruments that may not be viable to repair here in this country, but be cost effective in another. We also hope to carry on supporting the local music scene (i.e. the JCC band and local high schools etc.)

We also want to provide a platform for young musicians to show off their talents and help them gain experience in the world outside education. The way we will use the MATTY project is still being formulated by the Trustees.

The trustees are Peter and Julie Fulham, Lynne and Martin Lewis and Kathryn and Ian Smith.

### Charity Status

We are currently in the process of registering the Matthew Fulham Foundation. It is hoped that once registered we will be able to call on other funds and grants to assist us with our objectives.

## What have we done with the funds so far?

Our initial decision was to give to the Meningitis trust and JCC. We have given as we said we would:

- The Meningitis Trust £1400 (£700 from the fund and another £700 from matched giving scheme operated by Mr Fulham's employers).
- The JCC Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme have been given £1000 pounds to purchase new and replacement equipment.
- The JCC Music department £2000 plus a £400 bursary to provide an award each year in memory of Matthew, along with a Trophy cup (provided by the Fulham family). The award to go to the highest achiever. (i.e. not the best at playing an instrument necessarily, but some one who has supported the music department and worked hard to get to the position they are at).

The music dept cheque will be presented to JCC on the 12<sup>th</sup> July at the Soirée evening. The evening starts at 7:30 p.m. and we will be presenting the cheque before the evening performance starts. We will have a 'big cheque' on the night for the presentation as a photo opportunity. Any press coverage would be welcome.

## What are we currently doing?

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> July Michael Gallacher, Anthony Backler, from Evesham ran in the London 10K Race in aid of the Matthew Fulham Foundation. Michael Gallacher lived until recently in Hinckley and is the brother of Jamie Gallacher who was one of Matthew's friends at St Martins High School and JCC. The pair has raised £600 between them. The Matthew Fulham Foundation are grateful for their support and congratulate them on their run (their respective times are 68 mins and 55 mins). We hope to have a few pictures soon.

## What have we got planned for the future?

1. 23rd July 2006 Balloon Race.  
The Matthew Fulham Foundation are organising a balloon race to remember all the British victims of terrorism overseas. The balloons purchased for the balloon race will benefit the TROMBONES project. We will release them in Hollycroft park, the local council will also be involved. The time of the release will be between 3 and 4 p.m. (when the Wilkinson's staff sponsored walk should also finish at the park. (Matthew had a part time job with Wilkinson's at the time of his death)
2. Wilkinson's staff have organised a sponsored walk from Market Bosworth to Hollycroft Park Hinckley. The aim is to finish at the park Between 3 and 4 p.m. (Matthew had a part time job with Wilkinson's at the time of his death).
3. 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006 The Matthew Fulham Charity Ball - Sketchley Grange Hotel. 19:00 to 01:00. Champagne on reception, background piano music, 3 Course meal, entertainment, coffee, and JCC big/Jazz band. Formal dress. We are looking for good raffle prizes to be donated for the grand raffle.
4. 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 The great pretenders, A Queen pop group tribute band will be performing at the Bedworth Civic Hall in aid of the foundation.
5. There will be more fundraising events in the future.

For more details look at <http://www.matthewfulham.org>

The following is a list of the British victims that died in Egypt  
on 23rd July "005:

### **Ghazala Gardens Hotel**

Charith Jayawardena, 17, from Grantham, Lincs.

Matthew Fulham, 17, from Hinckley, Leicestershire

Hannah Lloyd, 16, from Evesham, Worcestershire

David Sayer, 16, from Grantham, Lincs.

Alan Bentley, 49, from Grantham, Lincs.

Noeleen Bentley (known as Mandy), 43, from Grantham, Lincs  
(Mother of David Sayer).

Lesley Ayers, 50, from Basildon, Essex

Valerie Bracci, 70, from Canvey Island, Essex

Keri Davies, 29, from Fareham, Hampshire

### **Naama Bay Taxi Rank**

Jeremy Lakin, 28, from London

Annalie Vickers, 31, from Eastbourne, East Sussex