

# **The Madeleine Foundation**

## Asking the questions about what really happened to Madeleine McCann

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### **29 March 2010 – Newsletter No. 6**

#### **1. Next Conference - June 19 and 20 - Macclesfield area**

After a successful two-day conference, we are pleased to announce a further two-day conference.

It'll be held in the vicinity of Macclesfield and Junction 18 on the M6. It will follow the usual format: Saturday, free lunch from 12noon to 2pm, followed by our main meeting between about 2pm and 5.30pm. We will meet again the following day for those staying for the Sunday. We hope there will be some kind of social event/dinner on the Saturday evening.

Please register with Tony Bennett, our Secretary, if you wish to attend. We hope to have a more structured format and invite you to introduce a discussion on any topic related to the disappearance of Madeleine, or perhaps bring along with you an article which we can all discuss.

#### **2. Annual General Meeting**

Our first Annual General Meeting was held at our Nottingham Conference from 1pm to 2pm on 28 February. It was attended by eight members, and the following key decisions were made:

##### **Committee**

Grenville Green re-elected Chairman  
Tony Bennett re-elected Secretary  
Sharon Lawrence re-elected Treasurer  
Helene Davies-Green re-elected to the Committee.

Grenville has expressed an intention to stand down as Chairman as soon as a replacement can be found.

##### **Accounts**

Sharon Lawrence produced a comprehensive set of accounts which were approved unanimously. Any member wishing to see the published accounts, please contact us.

## **Membership**

There had been no further membership fees asked for since people joined. It was agreed that in future there would be an annual membership fee of £10.00.

Those who joined after 1 March 2009 will be invited to renew membership at the beginning of the quarter immediately following the expiry of a year's membership. Renewals will become due on either 1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October. You will also receive a free copy of our latest book, which will be sent to you shortly.

If that sounds a bit complicated, here's an example. If you joined, say, in August last year, you will be invited to renew from 1 October this year.

If you joined before 1 March 2009, we would invite you to renew your membership now, which you can do via a PayPal button on our website or be sending us a cheque/P.O. or stamps to the value of £10.00. If you decide to renew, we will also be pleased to send you a free copy of our latest book.

## **Next conference and Annual General Meeting**

The Committee decided to hold a further two-day conference on 7 and 8 May 2011, in the Birmingham area.

## **3. Goncalo Amaral**

You may recall that in our last letter, we wrote of Mr Amaral: "On top of all his other trials and tribulations, he faces a further criminal trial in relation to more allegations, which we once again believe to be wholly false, made by the former partner of Leonor Cipriano".

As some of you may know, on 17 March a judge totally dismissed Mr Leandro Silva's bogus claims of having been assaulted by Goncalo Amaral and his colleagues. At last Mr Amaral seems to have come up before a judge who is not politically controlled.

This still leaves him with the twin tasks of (a) defending the McCanns' claim of 1.2 million euros against him for alleged libel in his book 'The Truth About A Lie' and (b) appealing against his wrongful conviction for allegedly filing a false report in the conduct of his investigation into the murder of Joana Cipriano by her mother and uncle.

Our Chairman Grenville Green has been considering how we in the United Kingdom can best assist Mr Amaral financially, believing that it is crucial that he can afford the massive legal expenses these court

cases are costing him. We are looking into the practicalities and hope to make an announcement soon.

A superb gallery of photos from Chairman Grenville Green's visit to support Goncalo Amaral in Lisbon in January can be seen on Pamalam's website here:

**<http://www.gerrymccannsblogs.co.uk/GrenvilleGreen.htm>**

We hope to upload these to our own website soon.

#### **4. New book: "The Madeleine McCann Case Files: Volume 1" (ISBN 978-0-9563351-1-1)**

Our book became available on 26 February and has already been in demand. Well over 150 copies have been sold already. Many buyers have ordered more than one book and one United States customer ordered eight. You can now order it via a PayPal button on our website.

We've decided that members can purchase our book at £3.00 per copy, including postage, instead of the normal price of £4.00. We will similarly give further reductions to members on our normal bulk order rates.

We sent 10 free copies of our book, with our compliments, to Goncalo Amaral and his publishers, asking for 5 copies to be distributed to the 5 main Portuguese translators who have done outstanding work in supplying us all over here with so many translations of Portuguese documents.

#### **5. Our letter, and Freedom of Information request, to the Home Secretary about proposals to hold a review or re-investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann**

Probably all of us would like to see a re-investigation into the disappearance of Madeleine McCann. It became clear from newspaper reports earlier this month, however, that the McCanns had been having a series of meetings with Home Secretary Alan Johnson and his officials about the 'shape' of such a review. A report in the Daily Telegraph suggested that the task of re-investigation would be handed to Leicestershire Police, something we strongly oppose, given their obvious and unprecedented support for the McCanns by linking the Leicestershire Constabulary website to the McCanns' fund-raising website. Not only did Leicestershire Police facilitate the McCanns' money-raising, they also advised the public to contact the McCanns' private investigators instead of the official police forces investigating Madeleine's disappearance.

On our website, you'll find a copy of our lengthy letter to the Home Secretary, in which we set out the need for any re-investigation to pursue all lines of enquiry, not just the abduction scenario. The letter has been cross-posted to many other forums and blogs and has been appreciated by many.

On 18 March a report in the *Daily Star* suggested that the Home Secretary had already asked West Yorkshire Police to carry out some kind of review or re-investigation. The article further suggested that this decision had been made on the recommendation of Jim Gamble, the Chief Executive of the Child Exploitation and Online protection centre (CEOP). Gamble is a controversial figure and has a close relationship to the McCanns. We are currently compiling an article expressing our strong reservations about this move. For Madeleine's sake, if there is to be any review or re-investigation, it must be demonstrably independent of all outside interference, and go where the evidence leads without fear or favour. On the evidence we have at present, the West Yorkshire Police review/re-investigation will not meet those criteria.

#### **Freedom of Information Act request**

Elsewhere on our website, you'll find a list of 12 Freedom of Information Act requests we made of the Home Office on 19 March, regarding the Home Office's recent actions concerning the Madeleine McCann case. We urge all readers of this newsletter to do the same and send of the same list of 12 questions by simply e-mailing them to [public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:public.enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

#### **Reply from Home Office to our letter**

On 22 March, the Direct Communications Unit of the Home Office replied to our letter of 12 March. It said: "The matters raised are the responsibility of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office". This is clearly utter nonsense and we are taking this matter up with both government departments. If it is meant to be a delaying tactic by the government, it is not a very clever one.

## **6. Website**

Your Committee invested a small sum of money to pay for us to be trained to operate our website. We chose our Treasurer Sharon Lawrence to be trained first of all. This has already borne fruit. She is in the process of mastering the business of uploading new material to our site, developing new pages, and amending and updating existing material. Keep looking at our site, [www.madeleinefoundation.org.uk](http://www.madeleinefoundation.org.uk);

hopefully you will find more and more valuable information about the disappearance on there in the weeks to come.

## **7. Forums**

Many of you have asked for a forum on our website. This is not something we favour at present due to the time involved in running a forum and the problems that inevitably occur when people with strong views debate with each other. Besides that, there are a number of Madeleine McCann forums and blogs already in existence. If you wish to join one of these, please contact us and we'll advise you which are the best ones to join.

We propose however to have a 'Comments' page, where we shall put up pre-moderated comments from members (and others who write to us), which we think deserve wider circulation.

## **8. Next Committee Meeting**

We'll be meeting again in April when we'll discuss Foundation business and also plan our next conference in June.

## **9. Contact details**

Here are our contact details:

**Grenville Green (Chairman) and Helene Davies-Green**  
[grengreen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grengreen@hotmail.co.uk) 07890 018043

**Tony Bennett (Secretary)**  
[ajsbenett@btinternet.com](mailto:ajsbenett@btinternet.com) 01279 635789 Mobile 07835 716537

**Sharon Lawrence (Treasurer)**  
[Sharon-lawrence@supanet.com](mailto:Sharon-lawrence@supanet.com)

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