



**Alison Cox MBE**  
CRY Founder & Chief Executive

## January

### Coroners and Justice Act Campaign launched

28 January

In October 2010, the new office of the Chief Coroner which was widely considered to be an essential part of the new Coroners Bill fell victim to the “bonfire of the quangos”. Fortunately, this met with vigorous opposition in the House of Lords in December 2010 and its final passage through Parliament was thwarted, with a strong majority voting to preserve the Chief Coroner’s role. As a result, the Bill is now expected to be debated by MPs in the House of Commons sometime this summer. Many CRY supporters took up our call to action and contacted more than 150 MPs and Lords to express their concerns.



Read more details about the campaign at: [www.c-r-y.org.uk/coronersbillcampaign.htm](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/coronersbillcampaign.htm)

### Representatives Information Day

29 January

The third annual Representatives Information Day was held in The Haywain Conference Room in Epsom and attended by 32 people. CRY representatives had the opportunity to learn about and discuss plans for the year ahead.

Peter Teale, County Representative for the West Midlands, attended for the first time. He said “I was not sure what to expect, but found it to be a very informative day. Alison started the day off with an opening speech full of passion. The talks by other CRY members were well presented and full of details. What impressed me was that we are



not standing still and there are some exciting things happening on the horizon. Other County Representatives shared their experiences which gave us all food for thought and lunch was spent discussing personal experiences of both fundraising and awareness days. The group sessions were both constructive and interesting; I found the whole day well worth attending and look forward to next year’s.”

## February

### myheart network launched

February

The CRY Surgery Supporters Network has been relaunched as the myheart



network. This change of name reflects that CRY support is available to any previously fit and healthy young person (35 and under) who has suddenly been diagnosed with a heart condition. The name was inspired by the CRY / Philips test myheart tour. There will now be a greater online presence, regular newsletters, meetings arranged in more locations around the UK and someone especially in charge of this very important group of young people. The expansion of the myheart network has been made possible by a grant from Jeans for Genes.

For more information visit: [www.c-r-y.org.uk/myheart.htm](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/myheart.htm).

### Coroners and Justice Act Campaign gains further support with CRY’s online petition

3 February

The campaign began to gain pace as we created an online petition, using Twitter and Facebook to help get signatures. Within a few weeks, we had over 2,000 signatures. If you would like to help, please visit: [www.gopetition.com/petition/42581.html](http://www.gopetition.com/petition/42581.html)



### Media interest in the Coroners and Justice Act Campaign

14 February

I was interviewed for Midlands radio to highlight the importance of the role of the Chief Coroner and CRY’s campaign lobbying for this role. The role of the Chief Coroner was created by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and had received Royal Assent, going through Parliament with support from all parties, and Judge Thornton was appointed to take the position.

The huge surge on the CRY website of 10,000 more visitors than the previous week was provoked by media interest in the

Coroner's campaign. Maureen Marshall's screening at Edge Hill, in memory of her son John also drove traffic to the web pages. Maureen had to wait 22 months for the inquest into John's death and is a very strong supporter of improvements that must be made to this neglected but vitally important service.



Bereaved CRY supporters achieved good regional coverage including Dr Tony Hillier in the Northampton Chronicle (17 February), Sue Ainsworth in the Teesside Evening Gazette (23 February), Kathy Moyle in the Exmouth Chronicle (23 February), Doreen Harley in the Flintshire Chronicle (24 February), Peter Patterson in the Billericay and Wickford Gazette (24 February), The Turberville family and Merchant family in the Herts Advertiser (28 February), James Brown in the Sevenoaks Chronicle (4 March) and Kate and Robi Fox in the (Ipswich) Evening Star (15 March).



## Northern Ireland Regional Bereavement Support Day

19 February



The venue for this event was the Dunadry Hotel & Country Club and groups were led by CRY Bereavement Supporters Caroline Gard, Julie Hatton (pictured) and myself.



## Andrew RT Davies, Assembly Member, calls for data on SADS to be collected in Wales

17 February

South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, has urged the Health Minister to introduce the collation of data on Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome at the earliest opportunity in the Welsh NHS. It followed a response from the Minister to a written question submitted by Mr Davies, where the Minister confirmed that this data was not collected on a national basis.



Mr Davies said: "The common denominator in all of these tragic cases is that the individuals are all apparently fit and healthy. This must be a huge shock and leave families with all sorts of questions. If we can gain a greater understanding of the condition and its prevalence on a national basis then it can only help to improve the support in place for the families affected."

Andrew gave CRY great support at the launch of the Wales Postcard in Cardiff in November 2009 which received very significant TV coverage.

## myheart network joins BRIT Map

28 February

Patron Phil Packer's BRIT map is a fantastic source of support and information services to all young people facing adversity in the UK. I was delighted when he invited CRY to be part of this innovative project which champions charities and support groups who provide opportunities and activities across Great Britain to young people facing unique challenges.



For more information about the BRITmap visit: [www.britishinspirationtrust.org.uk](http://www.britishinspirationtrust.org.uk)

## Interview about the Coroners Bill Campaign on ePolitix.com

28 February

Earlier this month, I was interviewed by e.Politix.com about the importance of the role of Chief Coroner. The interview was



published on their site on 28th February shortly after Parliament returned from recess.

The interview is available at:

[www.c-r-y.org.uk/coronersbillcampaign.htm#interview](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/coronersbillcampaign.htm#interview)

## March

### Interview for BBC Parliament

2 March

I was asked to visit the BBC's studios at 4 Millbank to speak about the importance of the role of Chief Coroner for Look East.

Dr Tony Hillier and his wife Bereavement Supporter Joan Hillier also featured in the piece, which was broadcast on 3 March.



### CRY Supporter Robi Fox on the James Hazell Show

16 March

Robi Fox was interviewed extensively on BBC Radio Suffolk's The James Hazell Show. He spoke about the dreadful impact on the family of the sudden death of his daughter Laura at 13 and why the role of the Chief Coroner is so important to improve the quality of service provision.



### CRY Patron Bill Neely competes in Reading Half Marathon

20 March

Bill Neely was 1 of 14 runners who took part in the Reading Half Marathon for CRY. Bill had been struggling to find time to train with a spate of foreign assignments affecting his routine but reported: "I ran proudly with the CRY vest. And did a PB! Finished in 1.24.35. Very hard though."



## Scotland Regional Bereavement Support Day

27 March

The venue for this event was again the Norton House Hotel & Spa in Edinburgh and groups were led by CRY Bereavement Supporters Maralyn Bowen, Diana Bower (pictured) and myself.



## Meeting for Radio 4 Appeal

31 March

myheart Co-ordinator, Charlotte Mackenzie, and I attended a meeting at BBC Broadcasting House to learn about the Radio 4 Appeal as CRY was one of the charities that had



been selected. The Radio 4 Appeal is a weekly programme raising awareness of the work of the selected charity and appealing for donations. After the script has been approved those involved will be returning to Broadcasting House to record our appeal. This can be heard on Sunday 24th July 2011 at 7.55am and will be repeated at 9.26 pm and again on Thursday 28th July at 3.27pm. It will also be available online at:

[www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/appeal](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/appeal).

## April

### V Photography Exhibition

9 April and 16 April

A free exhibition of music photography from the last 15 years of V festival was held in London, including the work of

James McCauley, official photographer of V festival. James, who has taken photos at many CRY events including several Parliamentary Receptions, kindly nominated CRY to receive any proceeds of print sales.



## East Regional Bereavement Support Day

10 April

This new event was held at Stoke by Nayland Hotel in Colchester and groups were led by CRY Bereavement Supporters Julie Donnelly, Joan Hillier, Ruth Lowe, Carly Sykes, Diane Tolley (pictured) and myself.



## Interview on BBC Radio Surrey

16 April

I was interviewed by BBC Radio Surrey about the charity rugby match in memory of Rob Allan which was held at Leatherhead and Effingham rugby club just over a year after he died. Rob's mum Pauline and dad Mike showed immense courage in talking about the impact of Rob's death on the family and took the opportunity to praise CRY's screening programme which they feel provides a fantastic opportunity to save the lives of those young people who show no symptoms.



## 114 CRY entrants in the Virgin London Marathon 2011

17 April



Congratulations and thank you to all 114 CRY runners in this year's Virgin London Marathon, which for the second time included our Patron Bill Neely running for CRY. Everyone's fantastic efforts are hugely appreciated. Many of you (including Bill this year!) chose to visit us in the Hilton for a massage and hot

shower which we hope eased aches and pains! A very special thanks to all the CRY volunteers – especially the hard-working team of masseurs who donated their time free - who helped



The CRY team of volunteer masseurs

out on the day. CRY's 'London Marathon experience' would be greatly impoverished without you.

For more details and pictures see pages 21-32 or visit: [www.c-r-y.org.uk/london\\_marathon\\_2011\\_pics1.htm](http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/london_marathon_2011_pics1.htm)

## TV crew visit CRY office

19 April

ITV's Meridian visited the offices to interview me about the connection between energy drinks and cardiac arrest in young people. This was through an initiative of Peter Biggs whose son Shaun died in January 2010 after drinking one of these stimulating beverages and who has since campaigned about their possible side effects.



## CRY Supporter Sue Ainsworth interviewed on BBC Radio 5 live

20 April

The interview on BBC Radio 5 live afforded CRY further coverage of CRY's Chief Coroner Campaign. Sue Ainsworth spoke about the loss of her son Jonathan and the further distress caused by the long delay awaiting the inquest and the lack of compassion shown to her family.



## Interview on BBC Radio Cornwall

21 April

CRY Supporter Rebecca Lobb and I were interviewed on BBC Radio Cornwall about her experience of living with long QT syndrome and on finally having an ICD fitted after 19 years of suffering from faints before being diagnosed. Since this programme there have been a significant number of people who have contacted CRY from Cornwall and who I have been able to direct to the outstanding service given at Truro hospital under expert consultant cardiologist Dr Trevor Johnston.

