

A newsletter for people and written by people with Specific Learning Differences
'Nothing about us without us'



Thanks Giving Service for Mary Colley



We are inviting DANDA members, supporters, professional colleagues and advisers along with the friends and family of Mary Colley, the National Co-ordinator of DANDA, to join us in celebrating her remarkable life and many achievements on:

Saturday 2nd April 2011

between 2-4pm


Doors open from 1:45 pm

The Event will run from 2 to 3pm, and end at 4pm. Light refreshments will be available afterwards.



The venue is:

Dutch Church,
7 Austin Friars, London, EC2N 2HA

 Link to online: [Street map](#)

Nearest underground stations:

Bank, Moorgate, Liverpool Street

 Link to: [Transport of London Interactive map](#)

We have asked DANDA members, Mary's family and the Dyspraxia Association, with whom she was a long time associated, to provide tributes and to share their memories of Mary.

Since Mary touched so many lives, and so many people wanted to present tributes, it has been a very difficult task to produce a programme for her Thanks Giving Service. Acknowledging this, the Board of DANDA would like to thank all those who wanted to be involved, and those who will be presenting tributes. We will also have photos and other written tributes on display. Everybody is welcome to add their own memories to the display boards.

RSVP to: claire@danda.org.uk or phone 0793 991 2229 to let us know whether you will be attending. **Please note** that the venue has a maximum capacity of 150 only so it is important that you let us know if you are coming.

Do come along to share this celebration of Mary Colley's life.

Nicholas Russell

Chair of DANDA

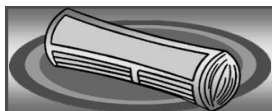
We are in the process of setting up a memorial fund for Mary. Further information to follow.

Contents

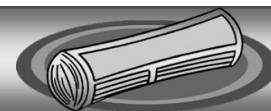


Click on **Links** to go direct to that page - (PDF viewers only)

- **Invite to:** A thanks giving service for Mary Colley from Nicholas Russell - **Front Cover**
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Danda News



Past Events

Danda Holiday 5th to the 8th November at Eastbourne



It was a 'Christmas' break and we joined in the festivities! David, Sally, Tom, Glyn, Desmond, Stephen, Claire Sarah, Josh and Neil.

This was a brilliant holiday, 10 of us went.

We booked up individually with Shearings Holidays. Claire supported anyone who had questions etc. Most of us travelled together from London to Eastbourne The holiday cost, £119, which was very cheap and included two meals each day plus dinner on Sunday.

Claire organised two walks, one was an all-day walk through lovely countryside from Friston Pond, through Friston Forest to Exeat Visitor Centre, not too long with a lovely lunch, which we bought individually at the Visitor Centre.

The other walk was a beautiful walk along the coast to Beachy Head Light House.



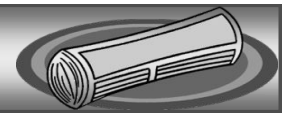
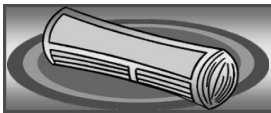
A photo opportunity on our walk along the Seven Sisters, to the lighthouse.

From left to right Josh, Stephen, Sarah, Tom and Desmond.

We used the local buses and Freedom Passes to keep the costs down. In the evening people either did their own thing or went to the pub or as we did, the Grand Hotel. Where we sat undisturbed in five star elegance and were given two huge bowls of nuts to have with our drinks, which surprisingly were not that expensive.

On the Sunday after lunch we met with the Brighton DANDA group and walked along the promenade, visited the lifeboat centre and then Glyn guided us to the Unite hotel where we had tea. A relaxing cheap holiday, rooms a bit basic, but the company was great and very supportive.





Past Events cont.

DANDA responds to the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice has just closed its consultation on Breaking the Cycle: effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing of offenders. DANDA's Justice Adviser, Melanie Jameson, (responding on DANDA's behalf) made the point that neither Specific Processing & Learning Differences (nor Learning Disabilities, for that matter) were mentioned, despite large numbers of offenders having these conditions.

Other issues included the lack of support for mentoring and excessive security vetting that can prevent volunteers from becoming involved. However the prime matter, that DANDA is well placed to advocate, is the need to promote understanding of neuro-diversity and its likely implications within the criminal justice system.

We maintained that screening, training, advice & guidance, resettlement work and 'payment by results' placements must all take these factors into account – otherwise successful rehabilitation is jeopardised.

Melanie Jameson

Research

An Invitation from the Royal College of Nursing

We are seeking patients' views and opinions about the care they receive from clinical nurse specialists and nurse consultants, and also their ideas about the best ways of assessing or measuring nurse performance.

We are particularly keen to obtain the views of patients who have accessed specialist or advanced nursing care within the last twelve months for treatment and/or advice across a wide range of health related issues or disease-specific treatment.

If you would like more information about the project please contact [Mehreen Chandan](#) (020 7647 3649) or [Lynne Currie](#) (01865 787133).

Please visit the DANDA website & click on ['Notices' section'](#) for full details.

Future Events

DEVELOPMENTAL DYSPRAXIA IN ADULTS: A NEURODIVERSITY PERSPECTIVE A new role for Occupational Therapy?

Thursday 31 March 2011 at SCOPE, 7 Market Road, London N7 9PW. Fee £90 - includes handouts and refreshments. Attendance will count towards CPD for relevant professions A certificate of attendance will be provided.

This all day workshop will be run by two experienced Assessors: • Frances Beaumont, Occupational Therapist, Dip COT, Cert Ed, • David Grant PhD, Chartered Psychologist.

Please visit the DANDA website & click on ['Events for Professionals'](#) for full details

Other Notices & Information

New Working Model of AD(H)D

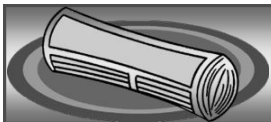
As an adult with ADHD and an [ADHD Coach](#) of adults with ADHD I have always felt that the current medical model misrepresents the reality of ADHD. I am not criticising the great efforts made by many eminent researchers, doctors and scientists in getting ADHD recognised as a disorder. They wish to get help for their patients, as they see people in very real pain. However, I do not see ADHD as a disorder but a neurological variation, less restrained, more at risk yet more insightful and creative than the norm.

I completely accept that the negative traits of this mental difference can cause significant suffering and problems for people who are ADHD - me included! But, and this is the big BUT, there is some scientific evidence, volumes of anecdotal evidence and quite self-evident logic that overwhelmingly indicates that ADHD brings positive and beneficial traits too.

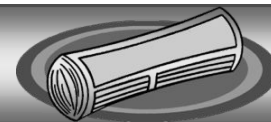
So I decided to create a New Working Model of ADHD which has been very well received at my talks, the [ADHD support group](#) that I run and even with a few psychiatrists and neuroscientists that I know! [See my website](#) for the diagram that illustrates my ***New Working Model of ADHD***.

Andrew Lewis





Group News & Events



DANDA - London

info@danda.org.uk



Further information for the following event listed on [page 8](#):

Saturday 16 April – Guided Tour of the City of London with Julian Romain, an Official City of London Blue Badge Tour Guide.

We will meet at Bank Tube Station at street level, exit number three, outside the Royal Exchange between 1:30 and 2 pm. We will be leaving promptly at 2 pm, therefore please be on time.

We will finish around 4 pm, by St Paul's Cathedral. The tour is expected to last approximately 2 to 2.5 hours. **Please do not forget your cameras!**

There will be a charge of £8 per person (including a tip for the Guide) payable in advance by cash only on Wednesday 16 March at our monthly meeting. For those of you from outside London who would like to come along please email neil_shah@tiscali.co.uk to make alternative arrangements.

Kindly note, refunds will only be given if the tour is cancelled by the Guide, Julian Romain. There are no discounts available on the cost of the tour, as all money collected will be going to Julian Romain. Please feel free to bring along family and friends, however, payment will have to be made in advance – **we will not be collecting on the day of the tour.**

Sussex, South Hants

Tel: 01273 671 562



Saturday April 2nd Brighton at 1.30pm. Meeting at my house. [please ring for details.](#)

Sunday April 10th.

A visit to a show at Chichester Planetarium at 3.30pm. details to be confirmed.

Shirley Knight

For other group events, please see appropriate contact from 'The Directory': [page 7](#)

The Preston / Lancs Group

(mobile) 07515 655 321



We meet every second Sunday of the month, between 2 and 4pm and please contact me for more details;

lei_wolf@hotmail.com, and to put Lancs Dyspraxia as the title of your email.

Ashley Crook

Kent group (KEDA)

Tel: 01795 531998



Our next event is a FREE Gliding session at Challock near Ashford in April (date to be confirmed) for teenagers and young adults with Dyspraxia under the age of 25 .

We have informal Pub evenings in the snug at Railway Hotel Faversham (opposite the railway station) every month for parents, adults with Dyspraxia and interested professionals. At our last pub meeting we had a talk from Kent Partnership with Parents who have offered us useful publicity and support.

KeDA is growing in strength in Maidstone and we hope to have a branch starting there this year. We would love to hear from people in Maidstone and Medway areas.

Frances Beaumont, a member of KeDA and an Occupational Therapist specialising in Dyspraxia will be giving talks about "Dyspraxia in Adults- Challenges and Solutions" in Maidstone, Canterbury and Medway during 2011. **Contact us for details.**

For further details see the CALENDAR on the web site at www.keda.org.uk or contact one of us to check dates and venues of meetings.

Frances Beaumont

Bristol ADHD Support

Tel: 01761 462553



The Bristol Adult ADHD Support Group now meets on the **2nd Thursday** of the month rather than the 1st Monday.

Susan L. Dunn Morua





The Main Issue

Update from the Board

Whither DANDA?

DANDA is both a Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. It's formal governing documents are the Articles and Memorandum of Association. The Board of Trustees / Management Committee is responsible for ensuring that DANDA is run in accordance with the governing documents and the law.

We also need a group of people to DO things - to run the day-to-day activities and handle the many administrative tasks that any organisation has to cope with. In the past this has often included members of the Board. It is important that 'governance' and 'management' roles do not become confused and that the small number of people who help do not become overburdened. So we have looked afresh at the formal committee structure and the 'doing' roles we need people to take on. We want to set up a way of running DANDA that suits our style of working as neuro-diverse people.

We have developed some principles for creating our new structure, which is very much a 'work in progress':

Those who offer to help will work in pairs or groups of three. They will support and 'cross-cover' each other. Ideally, they will have 'complementary' skills and preferred ways of working. They will communicate regularly and meet to plan together as often as necessary.

They do not need to be based in London, but do need to be able to meet.

We are planning to advertise for some new volunteer roles to help with managing

DANDA. As explained in the last issue of Focus, we need to have a team of volunteers to cover all that Mary previously did. We will have to work in different ways using technology to better effect and with more people taking responsibility for different aspects of DANDA's activities.

The plan is that there will be three key volunteer HQ roles - Chief Executive Officer, Office Manager/Co-ordinator and an Administrative Officer. The people appointed will not be Board members with all the responsibility that entails. They will be accountable to and provide administrative support for the Board of Trustees in fulfilling essential legal and corporate functions. They will also lead, support and co-ordinate other new (non Board) volunteer roles such as team leaders for Communications, Fundraising, Membership Services, Campaigns & Consultation and External Events & Awareness raising. These new team leader roles involve actively 'doing' and making sure all the work required to make these things happen gets one-off project or event that needs to be organised. **There is plenty of useful work experience to be gained!**

We will advertise for all these roles over the next weeks via the DANDA website and in other media used to recruit volunteer workers.

Nicholas Russell
Chair

Other Notices

Member Consultation Panels

Got a view on a hot topic?
Are you prepared to give some time to reading, reviewing and helping to draft responses to consultation documents or articles about government policy and other issues of relevance to DANDA's mission?

We are looking for a number of members whom we could contact for a swift response to some of the proposals, initiatives and policy developments DANDA is asked to comment on. If you would be interested in helping, please get in touch with Sarah at sarah.clemerson@ntlworld.com and give her details of your areas of interest and experience.

Have you been to any events recently?

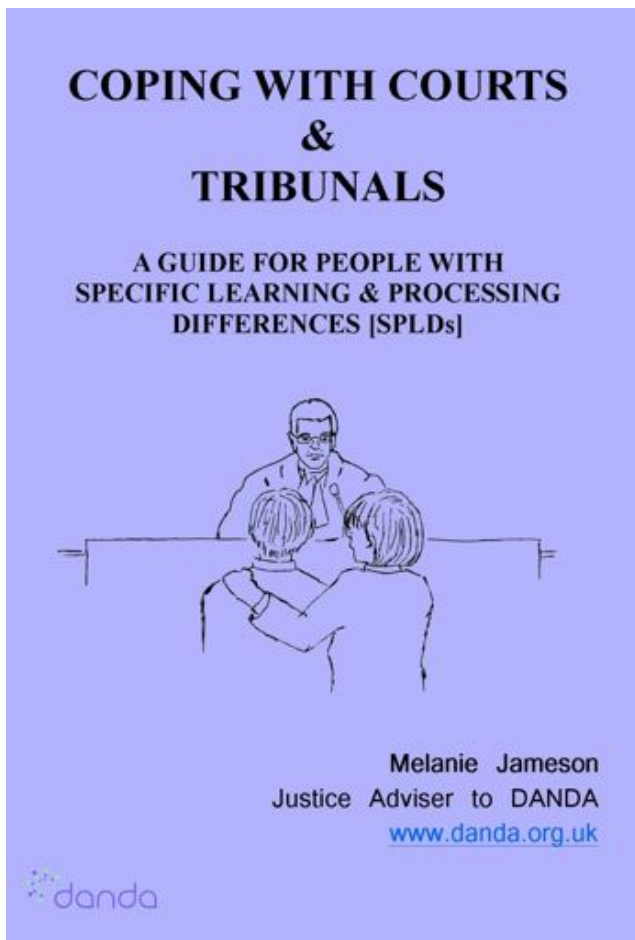
Get rid of those winter blues, I certainly did I went to the pub group at the Knights Templar pub. We met in a small area away from the main bar. As soon as I entered the pub I found someone I knew, and when I joined the rest of the group I felt at home straight away. There were at least 20 of us there and it was lively and fun evening with great food. On that night a main meal and a drink was £6.99 but nobody minded if you only wanted to buy a drink. For more info contact: Claire on 0793 9912 229 or Neil at neil_shah@tiscali.co.uk.
If you don't like pubs let us have your ideas for other activities contact Claire on 0793 9912 229 or Neil at neil_shah@tiscali.co.uk.



Stop the press!



New DANDA guide for court users By Melanie Jameson, DANDA Justice Adviser



In addition to the PDF colour version, we have produced a printer-friendly version (without colour).

Both are on the DANDA website and on www.dyslexia-malvern.co.uk.

If you need to clue up a lawyer about neuro-diversity, remember that we also have a Guide for Justice Professionals, cost £10 or available as a PDF file.

There is further information about justice issues on www.dyslexia-malvern.co.uk.

Melanie Jameson,

Click on the icon below to go to DANDAs Book shop & Publications page for **FREE** PDF download!



The new Guide Coping with Courts and Tribunals is now available.

Hard Copies are also available to purchase via DANDAs Bookshop @ £7.00



The Big St. Patrick's Day get together!

On Thursday 17th March there will be a group meeting at the Southbank Centre in London, and will be for adults with dyspraxia.

Your friends and family members are also welcome and it will be a great opportunity to meet other dyspraxic adults and families.

We will be meeting at the:
[Southbank Centre / Royal Festival Hall](#)
Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX.

The Nearest tube stations are:
Embankment, Waterloo and Westminster.

We will be meeting from 19:30 - 21:30 near the central bar on a sofa!

If you need any further details or directions about this meeting or any future meeting dates, please email me:
DyspraxiaAdvice@aol.com

Hope to meet you there!

Liz Brown

Please note: this is NOT a DANDA event. Please see our [disclaimer](#) on the back page.



The Directory



Please do not phone or email the contacts below for any other purpose than to obtain information, help or advice about Neuro-Diverse conditions or to make a donation. - **THANK YOU!**

Birmingham / W. Midlands Dyslexia - Dyspraxics Welcome!

Tel: 07946 436 556

Bristol - Asperger's etc.

Cont: Beth Tarleton (pub group)
Tel: 01173 310 976

Bristol & South Wales - ADHD

Cont: Susan L. Dunn Morua
Email:
bristoladhdadults@googlemail.com
Web: <http://sites.google.com/site/bristoladhdadults>
Tel: 01761 462553

Bucks, Bourne End (DANDA)

Cont: Judith Campbell
Tel: 07933 781694
Email: judith_campobello@hotmail.com

Cleveland - Middlesbrough (DANDA)

Cont: Peter Brown
Tel: 01642 241 043

Devon / Cornwall / Exeter (DANDA)

Cont: Ceri and Muriel Davies
Tel: 01392 879 081

Essex / Suffolk / Colchester (DANDA)

Cont: Barry Gilheany
Email:
barry.gilheany03@gmail.com
Tel: 01206 866 289

Inverness / Aberdeen and N. Scotland - Highlands DCD All NDs Welcome!

Cont: Arlene Maxtone
Tel: 01463 709 907

Kent - Dyspraxia Association (KeDA); group for over 10's & adults with a primary diagnosis

Cont: Frances Beaumont
Tel: 01795 531 998
Email:
francesbeaumont@googlemail.com
Cont: Barbara Neill-Bottle
Tel: 07926 994 820
Email: vervegirl@hotmail.com
Web: <http://www.keda.org.uk/>

Lancashire / Cumbria and Blackpool (Dyspraxia Foundation)

Cont: Ken Hummer
Tel: 01253 738 679

London Group (DANDA)

Dyspraxia, AD(H)D, Dyslexia,
Asperger's Syndrome etc.
Postal Address: See back page.
Email: info@danda.org.uk
Website: www.danda.org.uk

London AD(H)D - Harrow

Cont: Emma
Tel: 020 8426 1719

London Central AD(H)D

Cont: Garret Smyth
Email: garret@smyth.co.uk

London South East - Dyslexia Dyspraxics Welcome!

Cont: Michael Corrigan
Tel: 020 8663 6397

Manchester (and North West) Group MANA - Manchester Adult Neuro-diversity Action

Cont: Janet Taylor
Email: janettaylor@hotmail.com
Tel: 0161 877 6668

Midlands, (CWDS) Coventry and Warwickshire Dyspraxia Society a group for children & adults with dyspraxia and related conditions.

Cont: Val Alleyne
Tel: 02476 310011

Midlands, Malvern (ARCOS)

Cont: Caroline Heather
Tel: 01684 576 795

Oxfordshire, Oxford (DANDA)

Cont: Mary Shakespeare
Email: oxfobard@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01865 201425

The Preston / Lancs Group

Cont: Ashley Crook,
Email: lei_wolf@hotmail.com
Tel: (mobile) 07515 655 321

South of Scotland (DANDA)

Adult Dyspraxics are welcome to the
parents support group .

Cont: Sheena Wannan
Email:
edindyspraxia@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 0131 467 5465
Mobile: 07740 681 162

Surrey (N. Hants and Berks) Dyspraxia Foundation

Camberley
Cont: Kathy Mainstone
Email: kathymainstone@btinternet.com
Tel: 01276 36585

Surrey / Redhill - Dyspraxia and Dyslexia

Cont: John Scovell
Email: scoff12@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 07745 193 987
Cont: Claire Belton
Tel: 07816 019 509

Sussex, S.Hants Group Chichester/ Brighton

Cont: Shirley Knight
Email:
shirleyknight2@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01273 671562

Wiltshire & surrounding area Dyspraxia and Dyslexia

Cont: Kathy Garstang
Tel: 01722 502 591

Yorkshire (East) - ND Group

Cont: Beverley or Colin Revell
Tel: 07709 129367

Please remember to update your
local group's details and check
both this page and [DANDA's](http://www.danda.org.uk)
[website](http://www.danda.org.uk) for any changes.



London & National Events



March 2011

Wednesday 16 March 2011

DANDA Members meeting at The Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre. Meet the Board, Volunteers and other members -from 7pm
Following on from the Assistive Technology talk by Andrew Veasey in February, we are continuing with our Social Skills theme and holding a social gathering for new and existing members to meet some DANDA Board Members, volunteers and other members. There are plenty of cafes and bars where you can purchase food and drinks. We will meet in the area near the Central Bar in the foyer of the Festival Hall.

<http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/visitor-info/shop-eat-drink/restaurants/central-bar-at-royal-festival-hall> Nearest station is Waterloo and the venue is sign-posted from the station.

Tuesday 22 March 2011

Pub Group meeting at Knights Templar Pub - from 6pm

Thursday 31 March 2011

Workshop for professionals - 10.00 - 4.30pm
 For more details and booking information, please visit the; Events for Professionals webpage on our site.

April 2011

Saturday 2 April - Thanks Giving Service for Mary Colley - see [front cover](#) for more details.

Thursday 14 April - Members meeting at the VAC 7pm prompt

Saturday 16 April - Guided Tour of the City of London with Julian Romain, an Official City of London Blue Badge Tour Guide. For further information please see [page 7](#).

May 2011

Wednesday 18 May - Members Meeting at the VAC

Keeping in touch with members

We want to try different ways of keeping in touch with members who do not have access to email or prefer not to use it. One idea we would like to try out is for some members with email to contact a few others by phone to let them hear the latest news or find out about events they might wish to attend. In this way we can both pass on news swiftly and encourage more networking between members. Clearly this is only possible if members agree to share their phone number with others who are happy to take on a 'communicator' role. If you think this is something you - or someone you know - would find useful or would like to help with, please get in touch with Sarah who is working on how to set this or a similar system in place. sarah.clemerson@ntlworld.com or c/o DANDA at VAC 293-299 Kentish Town Road, London, NW5 2TJ

DANDA: Developmental Adult Neuro-Diversity Association

DANDA: an organisation run by and for neuro-diverse people such as those with Dyspraxia, AD[H]D, Asperger's Syndrome, Autism and Dyslexia.

Patrons:

The Lord Laird of Artigarvan
 Paul Shattock OBE

Board of Trustees:

Earl Nicholas Russell (Chair)
 Stephen Hodgkins (Vice Chair)
 Claire Hutchinson (Vice Chair)
 Murray Segal (Treasurer)
 Sarah Clemerson (Trustee)
 Barry Gilheany (Trustee)
 Marcus Matthews (Trustee)
 Martin Eversfield (Trustee)
 Debra Schiman (Trustee)

Advisors:

Aileen Quinton (Hon-Vice president)
 Prof Amanda Kirby (Medical)
 Jo Todd (Employment)
 Melanie Jameson (Justice)

Registered Charity No: 1101323

Registered Company Limited by Guarantee No: 04772119

Registered Office: 46 Westbere Road, London NW2 3RU

Email: info@danda.org.uk

Website: www.danda.org.uk

For more information and travel details of regular meetings, Please visit our ['Events'](#) webpage on our website.

DISCLAIMER: All Details given in "The Directory" are of local groups for ND adults known to DANDA. They are independent of DANDA and organise their own activities and / or help lines. They are not the responsibility of the DANDA Trustees.

Any products or services advertised in DANDA Focus are not necessarily recommended or endorsed by DANDA. We ask you to exercise your own judgement as to whether or not an item or service is likely to help you; where appropriate seek professional advice. **Please note** this newsletter has been proof-read several times, but there are still likely to be some mistakes because of our disabilities.



14 March 2011

You are receiving this letter because you are a member of DANDA who are assisting with the research into Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder (DCD)/Dyspraxia and motor difficulties being carried out by The Dyscovery Centre at University of Wales, Newport.

We would like your help with a study aimed at furthering the understanding of the employment experiences of adults with DCD/Dyspraxia and motor difficulties. It is hoped that getting a clearer picture of people's actual experiences will allow us to create and share a model of best practice in employment support.

If you are prepared to help, this would involve completing an online questionnaire taking approximately 20-30 minutes.

The questionnaire can be found at www.tinyurl.com/jobexperiences, any information you share with us will be completely confidential.

We would be grateful for your participation and as a token of our appreciation we would like to enter you into a draw to win one of four £50 gift vouchers. Details of how to be entered into the draw will be presented to you following completion of the questionnaire.

Sometimes letters like this arrive at difficult times in people's lives and should this be the case for you, please accept our apologies for disturbing you.

If you would rather complete a paper based version of the questionnaire or have any questions regarding the study please do not hesitate to contact Rosanna Stenner on 01633 432330 or at researchdyscovery@newport.ac.uk.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Kirby". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Amanda Kirby