

Bereavement Care

The Lodge, 64 Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4HZ

Telephone: 020 8427 5720

Email: admin@bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk

www.bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk

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Our first Newsletter of 2020

Apologies for the delay in this first Newsletter of 2020. We would normally have produced one in March, and again in June, with a third one around this time of year. But, as you can imagine, things are far from "normal" even as we start to move out of "lockdown".

We have tried to keep everyone in touch with e-mail updates, but we felt that a Newsletter at this time of year might just be the right thing to try and get back to some semblance of normality in the Bereavement Care office.

Introducing ...

Ramona Pearson

We were pleasantly surprised to receive an offer from Ramona Pearson who comes to us from a background in Impact Measurement (often referred to as feedback and evaluation) – but essentially measuring how well we are doing what we do! Ramona has kindly provided a little more detail of what she is hoping to achieve, and we look forward to her working with us over the next few months; but in the meantime, thank you so much for volunteering with us.



Fund-raising Events and Covid-19

It has been a difficult year for many charities who have struggled to keep going throughout the pandemic, particularly with regard to fund-raising. Whilst we don't usually make a lot of money from them, the Eastcote House Gardens Summer Picnic and Pinner Rotary Club's Pinner Village Show were both cancelled. It is very unlikely that we will be able to arrange our annual Bridge Lunch and Carol Singing is looking equally dubious. At this present time, we are not even sure whether the Fish and Chip Supper Quiz will be possible! We are therefore about to embark upon a wide-scale Fund-raising Appeal. Please encourage any potential donors. We will be sending out letters later this month.

Forthcoming Online (Zoom) Training

Due to current guidelines on "social distancing", it is not possible to run our usual training courses. We are trialling a new online course "Introduction to Bereavement Support" Webinar on Zoom, on two **Saturdays** this month **12th & 26th September 2020** from 10.00am – 12.00pm (both dates required) for new trainees and volunteers. The course covers the absolute "basics" and is **not** a replacement for the Initial Bereavement Training Course, which trainees will be encouraged to attend when it is safe to run.

Annual Conference Webinar **When Covid Strikes**

We are disappointed that we won't be holding our Annual Conference as planned at St Helen's School, Northwood this year; but as the pandemic took hold, the Conference Planning Group had to make some tough decisions. Instead there will be a Conference Webinar (on Zoom) on the same date: **Wednesday 4th November from 9.30am – 1.00pm** with a Keynote Address by **Julia Samuel MBE** and presentations on other aspects of bereavement support during a pandemic. We hope that you will be able to join us. All details are available from our web-site <http://www.bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk/event/conference-via-zoom/>

Ramona writes:

I am delighted to be volunteering to help Bereavement Care develop ways to measure and reflect on the impact your work is having on the people you support. I have worked in the charity sector for many years in roles spanning service design, delivery and organisational management and have become increasingly interested in and passionate about the benefits of focusing on the needs and experiences of people accessing services. It is a reflective process that supports individual and organisational learning and future planning and I am excited to see what the impact of it will be for your organisation – I hope you will all find participating an enriching process. I'm very happy to be contacted at ramonapearson@outlook.com should you have any ideas or questions you would like to feed in.

Annual General Meeting and Constitution Changes

All Members (Individual and Corporate) are usually invited to attend the Bereavement Care Annual General Meeting. However, in these times of "social distancing" it may not be possible to hold a 'physical' meeting (at least for more than a representative group of Members). The current Constitution didn't allow for these circumstances, but any changes to the Constitution have to be agreed **IN WRITING** by **ALL** Members (if a 'physical' meeting is not possible). Thus, ballot forms to amend the Constitution have been sent to all Members with a return date of 21st September. The length of tenure for Trustees becoming a three-year term, which has been discussed previously, forms part of these amendments. This will help to maintain a degree of continuity on the Trustees Board.

Thanks to Waitrose

Many thanks to Waitrose stores in South Harrow, Harrow Weald and Northwood who have contributed over **£1,000** to Bereavement Care through the Community Matters Scheme this year. We are hoping that we will still be able to hold another Charity Collection and Awareness day at Waitrose, Northwood on Friday 20th November, but this will be determined by Government (and Waitrose) restrictions that will be in force at that time. If you are able to offer any time on that date, please contact **Jeanette Leibling** who will be organising the rota of collectors: 020 8866 6535 / 07702 249377 jeanette.leibling@btinternet.com

If you have any contributions for the next issue, please e-mail them to the office to arrive by Friday 27th November. Please feel free to distribute this Newsletter to current and prospective supporters of Bereavement Care.