**My first daughter died, now I organise a Festival of Death and Dying**

Rachel Inman, is a mother of two girls, one dead, one alive. Her first, Gracie only lived for 4 and a half  months. 'She was a beautiful, bright little girl. But we didn't have her long, One afternoon she wasn't well and by the evening she was dead.'

‘Gracie died 10 years ago. Even though you don't think you can, life goes on. My second daughter Pearl, she was a gift from the depths, that’s why we called her Pearl,' says Rachel who works with homeless people. 'Gracie is still my daughter, still part of my life and I'm learning, how to be the mother of a dead daughter and a live one.'

'I experienced other people’s discomfort, where no-one wants to mention your dead daughter for fear of getting it wrong or upsetting you. When you lose a child, how do you remember they lived, and what made them beautiful if you can't talk about them?'

‘At the Cathedral in Wells where I work, they call out the names of people who've died on November 2nd which is All Souls Day or the Day of the Dead. The Cathedral heard about the festival and offered to gather names from the public and call them out from the pulpit and illuminate them in a light show.’

'Gracie Inman-Smith' will be called out and illuminated, a tribute to her tiny and huge life, along with all the other loved ones whose names will be called that day, a remembrance in sound and light. I feel grateful.’

'Does it matter if you're religious or an atheist? I don't think so, we're all going to die so let's find ways of facing it that are kind and beautiful. That's why I'm part of the Festival of Death and Dying because that's what we're trying to do.'

Names can be submitted to be included in the 'Calling of names' sound and light installation at Wells Cathedral via the festival website [www.deathfest.co.uk](http://www.deathfest.co.uk), also for information about 50+ events included in the Festival programme across Shepton Mallet, Glastonbury and Wells, Somerset, 1-3 November 2019.

Contact henrietta.lang@gmail.com or 07976 336646.