

www.bereavementcareandsupport.co.uk

February 2021

Issue 27

The “No Fish and Chips” Online Supper Quiz

IT'S ANOTHER **GREAT FISH & CHIP SUPPER QUIZ** - BUT WITH A CHANGE OR TWO.

This year you do not even have to leave your home to join in. **Thanks to ZOOM, we are bringing the Quiz to you** – although you do have to manage your own Fish & Chips!

The Date: **SATURDAY 6th MARCH.... starting at 7.00 p.m.**

The cost, just £15.00 per screen (or more if you feel generous!).

Please e-mail Bobbi (bobbi@riesel.co.uk) to reserve your place.

Our preferred payment method is by bank transfer:

Account name: Bereavement Care Sort Code: 40-23-13 Account number: 42281287

Or you can **send a cheque made payable to: “Bereavement Care”** to:

Bereavement Care, The Lodge, 64 Pinner Road, Harrow, HA1 4HZ.

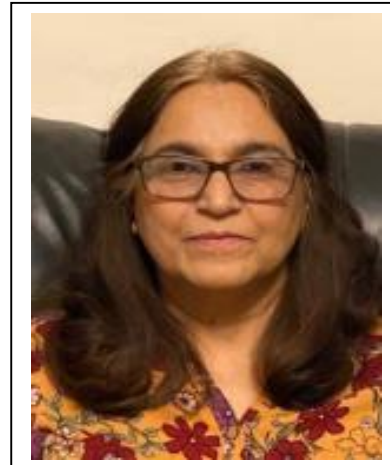
Please write “QUIZ” on the reverse of the cheque or your bank transfer reference.

This will be a **GREAT NIGHT ‘IN’**...and who knows, **YOU MAY EVEN WIN!**

Don't go away....Book TODAY!

Introducing Neena Bedi – Chair of Trustees

I believe that Bereavement Care carry out a very valuable and sensitive job with vulnerable grieving individuals. Helping people when they are suffering from a loss of a dear and near one is very important. It not only helps the individual to come to terms with the loss but also helps in making our society safer. I have been involved in supporting individuals and families through a charitable organisation in Finchley called HCS (Hindu Cultural Society). Although, this support was on an informal personal level, my training as a Teacher stood me in good stead. In 2009 I set up a support group ABS (Asian Bereavement Support) and put the service on a professional footing by linking up with BC (Bereavement Care) and undertaking their training to standardise the quality of our visitors. I subsequently joined the Board of Trustees of BC and have since contributed in different ways to the charity.



This year I was elected to the position of Chair. I have accepted this challenge because I believe that we can ride through this difficult time and come out stronger. Covid 19 has catapulted us into change which we have started to embrace. The attendance to meetings over Zoom and other electronic platforms has increased. Most organisations have started to question status quo and want to move with the tsunami of change. We as an organisation will also need to start the consultation process to assess our current practices to ascertain what needs to be changed and what stays the same. Having worked with DfES (Department of Education and Skills) to bring failing schools out of special measures I have the knowledge and skill to help an organisation to achieve their goals.

I have been involved in various charities, school governorships and resident's association. So, I understand the legalities and responsibilities involved with every role. I have always worked collaboratively with internal and external teams. I most strongly believe in transparency, honesty, sharing information and by valuing

people, is the best way to reach a decision which has the ownership of the team. Supporting each member of the team is important to have a productive organisation.

I think it might help if I gave a brief outline of my working life. I worked ten years in Her Majesty's Inspector of Taxes (now HMRC) so I understand financial issues and can resolve these with stake holders -tax payer, solicitors and accountants. Every year we had to adapt to government directives and changes. I then moved back to teaching to raise a family. I worked for twenty-two years in secondary schools as a teacher progressing to a deputy head position and consultant. I don't remember a single year when we did not have to embrace some change. Some of the changes were more drastic than others, moving from black boards to white boards and then interactive boards was a big change and out of my comfort zone, it was a sharp learning curve. My heart goes out to teachers who are dealing with the present crisis and the phenomenal amount of work which they have put into adapting their lessons for remote learning.

Getting back to BC, every Chair contributes to the development of the charity, I too will strive to take the charity forward. I am taking the chair at a difficult time, when the donations are very low. The fundraising team are trying their best to raise funds, the latest effort being the virtual quiz. We are by no means the only charity who are in difficulty due to the pandemic. The Trustees will carry on monitoring the situation and making every endeavour to raise funds. But we need help, the organisation encompasses every single volunteer, stakeholder and collectively we make a valuable contribution to our aims. So, any help and ideas for fund raising will be welcome.

We are very lucky to have a number of volunteers who have been with BC for 40 years. The assessors are very knowledgeable and competent team, who are available to support the group leaders and visitors. We all also have on board a consultant supervisor who is a retired psychiatrist (an invaluable asset) available to help the volunteers. Everyone selflessly and willingly gives up their time to support clients. We are fortunate to have a very competent employee (executive officer) who does a marvellous job and keeps the Trustees well informed. It is my honour to serve with such a wonderful dedicated team. I am sure that working together we will go from strength to strength.

Thanks to The Revd Edward Lewis and Richard Jones

We offer our sincere thanks to The Revd Edward Lewis (former Chair of Trustees) and Richard Jones (former Vice-chair) for leading the Board of Trustees over the past three years. We are sorry to have received Richard's decision to step down as a Trustee just prior to our Annual General Meeting in October. Edward Lewis has continued on the Board of Trustees and we are grateful for his continued dedication to the charity.

Welcome to New Trustees

It is very encouraging that we can extend a warm welcome to two new Trustees for Bereavement Care: Geraldine Dammen Kombonglangi and Bhavini Kaviya. We look forward to working with them over forthcoming months as we draw closer to moving out of "lockdown" and hopefully we will get a chance to meet them in person before too long!

Training Workshop: An Introduction to Solution Focused Practice

All Bereavement Visitors and others who may be interested, are invited to apply for this workshop on Thursday 18th March from 5.00pm – 6.15pm. It is being run for us by Harvey Ratner, who is a founder member of BRIEF – Britain's leading provider of training in solution focused practice. Registration details and an application form are available to download from our web-site or on request from our office.

Please circulate this Newsletter to current and prospective supporters of Bereavement Care, and anyone who may be keen to find out more about us. Please e-mail any contributions for the next issue, to arrive by Monday 29th March.