

<p>40 Years of Bereavement Care</p> <p>It does not seem possible that Bereavement Care has evolved from an initiative which started in 1981 as Harrow Churches Bereavement Visiting Scheme. There have been a few changes over the past 40 years but our purpose remains the same: To relieve the suffering and distress caused by bereavement by offering support through the process of grieving. It may not be possible to calculate the number of people who have been supported over the years, but it is certainly into the thousands ... and that's something to celebrate! Details of how we intend to do that are currently under discussion, and we will let you know as soon as we can.</p>	<p>Annual Conference / Webinar</p> <p>Following last year's Conference which was presented as an online webinar due to the Covid restrictions, we were hoping that we would be able to hold our Annual Conference face-to-face as planned at St Helen's School, Northwood this year. However, we cannot predict the effects of reduced restrictions, greater social interaction and the resumption of international travel over the summer and how this may impact events in the autumn. The Conference Planning Group have therefore made the difficult decision to plan for a Conference Webinar again (on Zoom) on Wednesday 20th October. Content and timings are still being arranged, so it is early days; but we wanted to let you know the date and give you some advanced warning; and hope that you will be able to join us.</p>
<p>Printer Cartridge Recycling</p> <p>Do you have an ink jet printer at home or at work? You have helped us to raise £664 through recycling ink cartridges and we would be grateful of your used cartridges when you replace them. Please note that not all ink jet cartridges are worth recycling, so please check on the Recycle4Charity web-site to see whether there is any value in the cartridges that your printer uses http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/InkjetCartridges If they are listed, please drop them off to The Lodge when you are next passing, and we will send them off "in bulk" (as the green & white Freepost envelopes are no longer to be used). Many thanks.</p>	<p>National Bereavement Alliance</p> <p>You may be aware that Bereavement Care is a member of the National Bereavement Alliance. The organisation exists as a forum for both national and local bereavement organisations to meet together (currently online) to exchange information and good practice, to promote standards to improve the quality of services and to forge stronger links between organisations who have a common aim in supporting bereaved people. They are holding a free Symposium on Wednesday 19th May from 2.00 – 5.00pm on "Bereavement Support now and next: what are we learning from the pandemic?" Bookings can be made through: https://bereavementsupportnowandnext.eventbrite.co.uk</p>
<p>Urgent Need for Children & YP Visitors</p> <p>When educational establishments were closed under the Covid restrictions in 2020, bereavement referrals for children and young people understandably reduced. Now that schools and colleges are back, we are noticing an increase in the number of referrals. However, our Children's Groups need to recruit more visitors who would be willing to support children and young people. If you are interested, please contact the Bereavement Care Office asap.</p>	<p>Individual Membership</p> <p>Have you renewed your Individual Membership this year? With so many other distractions, it is easy to overlook these things. Most of our Members renew at the turn of the year, and we are grateful to those who have already done so. Others like to renew as the AGM approaches, but this is likely to be later in the year. Individual Membership Forms can be downloaded from the Bereavement Care web-site, or please send an e-mail or pick up the telephone if you need to check your Membership status.</p>
<p>Forthcoming Online (Zoom) Training</p> <p>Due to current guidelines on "social distancing", it is not possible to run our usual training courses. We will be running another of our online courses "Introduction to Bereavement Support" Webinar on Zoom next month. 2nd & 9th June 2021 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. We will be reviewing whether it will be possible to run a face-to-face 'IBT' soon, when the Covid restrictions are further relaxed.</p>	<p>Will Writing Month and Legacy Giving</p> <p>Many of you will be familiar with the television and media adverts in March and October from some of the national charities such as Alzheimer's Society, Guide Dogs and Age UK offering a special deal with solicitors who will draw up a simple Will which includes a gift to one of the charities who participate in the Free Wills Month promotion. These large charities pay to take part (and the Solicitors' fees for drawing up the Wills is taken from these contributions). We can't afford to take part in the Free Scheme, but we do have a Legacy Leaflet which we would love to send you if you would consider leaving us a gift in your Will. Please contact the Bereavement Care Office if you would like more details.</p>

If you have any contributions for the next issue, please e-mail them to the office to arrive by Friday 25th June. Please feel free to distribute this Newsletter to current and prospective supporters of Bereavement Care.