In this issue:  

**News from CDAS, University of Bath**  
CDAS welcomes new members of staff  
‘Affording a Funeral’ research project  
CDAS seminar 02 March 2012  
Workshop: The Sociology of Music & Funerals  

**Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet**  
Compassionate Communities UK  

**Events, seminars, symposia and conferences**  
Bereavement Research Forum symposium  
Dying Matters Awareness Week: Launch Event  
Reshaping our journey to the end  
Funeralmap Funeral and Bereavement Convention  
Cremation & Burial Conference & Exhibition 2012  
London Funeral Exhibition  

**Call for papers**  
Thirteenth Colloquium on Cemeteries  
CDAS Conference 2012  
Arts in a Time of Crisis  

**Events calendar**
News from CDAS

CDAS welcomes new staff members

CDAS are pleased to welcome two new members of staff to our team.

Trudi Gilbank joined the Centre for Death & Society in December 2011 as the Administrator for the Foundation Degree in Funeral Services. Trudi has a background in administration within the Civil Service having worked for the Insolvency Service for many years, most recently as the Senior Office Manager at the Office of the Official Receiver, Bristol. She was responsible for all recruitment, induction and training and for the day to day running of the office and the team of 30 administration staff. She worked throughout the South West as a NVQ assessor, ran recruitment campaigns across the country and was involved with various focus groups and initiatives looking into Insolvency policy and legislation.

Hannah Rumble joins us as a researcher on our ’Affording a Funeral’ project, which started in December 2011 and runs until the end of May 2012.

Hannah completed her PhD in 2010 at the University Durham. Entitled, “Giving something back”: A case study of natural burial and human experience at Barton Glebe’, this research engages with the recent innovation in British funerary rites known as ‘natural’ burial’ through an interview-based case study of one particular natural burial site called Barton Glebe in Cambridgeshire. This research was facilitated by a Collaborative Doctoral Award within the Religion and Society Programme funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

We are looking forward to working with both Hannah and Trudi over the coming months. You can contact them via our website:
Web: http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/people/

’Affording a Funeral’ research project

The Centre for Death & Society are pleased to announce the continuation of their relationship with Sun Life Direct in 2012 with a project designed to explore the Funeral Payment Scheme, part of the Social Fund.

Researchers are working to find out about the processes and experiences of applying to the Funeral Payment Scheme from those who have been both successful and unsuccessful in their applications. People are being recruited from around the UK to take part in a series of interviews which will form the basis for part of the study. Dr. Hannah Rumble, who is leading this part of the study, said, “I am concerned about the emotional and financial distress created by a benefit loan that’s supposed to help those most in need, actually it can exacerbate the problems.”

The team are also talking to Funeral Directors and agencies such as Job Centre Plus, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Bereavement Advice Centre, Quaker
Social Action and Age UK among others, to find out how the system currently works for them, and how they would like to see things change.

A further part of the research will look at how other countries around the world manage and fund funerals for those on low incomes. Dr. Christine Valentine, heading up this phase of the study, said, “A review of the approaches taken by other countries to supporting low income families in meeting the costs of funerals for their loved ones will provide important material for evaluating and informing policy and practice in our own country.”

Dr Kate Woodthorpe, leading researcher, “This is a timely and important piece of research that will provide evidence to policy makers and stakeholders about the difficulties that pay can face when it comes to paying for a funeral after a loved one has died.”

A full report on the research will be launched in Dying Matters week, 14-18 May 2012.

If you feel strongly about the issues raised in this research, or feel that you would like to contribute by being interviewed by the CDAS team, please contact the CDAS Office on 01225 386949 or at cdas@bath.ac.uk

For more information on this project as it becomes available, visit www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/research/

**CDAS seminar ‘Researching sensitive issues’**
02 March 2012, 09.30 – 13.00
3E 2.20, University of Bath

The third in our 2011/12 series, this seminar looks more broadly at how researchers in the social sciences tackle difficult and sensitive material. This seminar is open to everyone; we hope that the ensuing discussions will cover a wide range of issues that are applicable to many areas of research.

- Justin Rogers, PhD student, Department of Social & Policy Sciences
  Exploring young people’s experiences of foster care using a social capital approach
- Beatrice Godwin, PhD student, Department of Social & Policy Sciences
  Exploring the experiences of people with dementia
- Leah Wild, Teaching Fellow, Department of Social & Policy Sciences
- Joe Devine, Lecturer, Department of Social & Policy Sciences
  Exploring experiences of poverty in Bangladesh

Please email cdas@bath.ac.uk if you would like to attend. Attendance at all CDAS seminars is free of charge.

Details of this and all seminars in the series can be found on our website:
Workshop: The Sociology of Music & Death (with particular reference to funerals)
24 February 2012, 11.00 – 15.30
3E 2.20, University of Bath

This workshop aims to bring together sociologists of music, and sociologists of death & dying, who have a common research interest in music at the end of life in general, and music at funerals in particular. It is a joint initiative between CDAS and Exeter Sociology of the Arts.

Further details at:
http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/news/events/index.html#music

Please contact c.staley@bath.ac.uk if you would like to participate, attaching any published or in press articles.

Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet

Compassionate Communities UK

In recent years there has been an increasing interest in, and literature on, and indeed innovative practice around, what has been termed a ‘compassionate communities’ [health promoting palliative care] approach to end of life care (Kellehear 2005, Leadbetter 2010, Sallnow, Kumar & Kellehear 2012). Such a perspective aims to embrace existing palliative care practice and skills whilst recognising the central importance of the social context of an individual, and how a continuing connection with this context can have a profound impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of a dying person, and indeed their family, friends and community.

Much work has been done in this area both nationally and internationally, and in the light of such developments at UK network has been developed to coordinate interest, research and practice. Dr Libby Sallnow, Research Fellow, St. Joseph’s Hospice, London and Jon Bowra, Assistant Director, Living Well Dying Well, are coordinating the network, and welcome information on existing projects, general inquiries, and the sharing of experiences around this area. The network will be producing a monthly newsletter, and contributions would be most welcome to this.

For more information, please email us at:
compassionatecommunitiesuk@gmail.com

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Bereavement Research Forum
15 February 2012
£55 members, £95 non-members
This year’s AGM and Symposium will take place on 15\textsuperscript{th} February (please note change of date and venue), at the Directory of Social Change in London.

The programme will include:
- Alison Metcalf, Professor of Health Care Research, Kings College, London
  ‘Inherited genetic conditions and the implications for end of life care and bereavement’
- Heather Skirton, Professor of Applied Health Genetics, Plymouth University
  ‘Across generations of family members affected by Huntingdon’s Chorea’

Lunch and refreshments are provided.
To book, please visit the website and download the booking form, or contact the BRF by email for further information.
Web: http://www.brforum.org.uk/2012/bookingform.htm
Email: bereavementresearchforum@googlemail.com

Dying Matters Awareness Week: Launch event
22 February 2012
Prospero House, London

To help you gear up for Dying Matters Awareness Week 2012, we are holding a launch event in Central London, on the week’s theme of “Small Actions, Big Difference”.

The event is designed to help support Dying Matters members with their plans ahead of the 2012 Awareness Week in May. Delegates will have the opportunity to share their ideas for events and awareness-raising activities in round-table sessions, and new Dying Matters materials designed specifically for the Awareness Week will be launched.

The afternoon event will run from 1:00pm - 5:00pm and will include presentations from some of our most active members and supporters, as well as a premiere of the new Dying Matters film "Dying to Know", produced in partnership with Red Tie Theatre and Earl Mountbatten Hospice.

For further information and to download a booking form, visit the website at:

Reshaping our Journey to the End
Death, Dying and Bereavement in the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century
The Columbia University Seminar on Death: The Third Austin H Kutscher Memorial Conference
24 March 2012
Columbia University Faculty House

This conference will address many aspects of the currently contentious and evolving environment of death and death studies in the new century. Panel topics are:
- Evolving strategies – ‘Dying in the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century’
• Dying and Death in the Social & Medical System
• New Directions in the Psychology of Death and Dying
• Narratives in the Service of Death & Bereavement
• Corporal Metamorphosis and Physical Imprints
• Ethical Implications of Decision Making

The keynote address will be given by James W Green, University of Washington. ‘Three Scenarios of Changing Metaphors and Changing Practices’

Email: ColumbiaUniversityDeathConf@gmail.com
Web: http://www.columbia.edu/cu/seminars/death/

Funeralmap Funeral and Bereavement Convention
‘It’s all about Choice’
27 March 2012
Clarendon Suite, Edgbaston, Birmingham
£110 + vat, Early bird £95 + vat when booked before 31 January 2012.

Increase your understanding when working with bereaved parents by attending the Child Bereavement Charity workshop, find out how to get your organisation’s information to bereaved people when they most need it: find out what Promession, a new method of disposal, is all about and when it will be in the UK. Add to this the opportunity to hear speakers from the Natural Death Centre and Dying Matters discussing current choices for end of life and funerals, and you can see how busy this event is. You will gain real, tangible value from attending – and YOU choose the sessions you attend.

In addition, all delegates will also have the chance to book a session with Tube4Business, which will be attending the convention. For further details, contact alan.clitherow@tube4business.com, 01253 783034

The aim of the day is to gather new information, to network with others working with the bereaved and share as much information as possible. A select range of suppliers will be exhibiting products and services and there will be an ‘Information Sharing Centre’ so bring plenty of business cards and leaflets.

This event is for bereavement officers, PALS staff, nursing home staff, funeral directors, bereavement charities, grief counselors, celebrants, clergy, bereavement midwives, cemetery managers, Chaplains, embalmers, memorial masons and other funeral industry suppliers.

Talks include:
- ‘It's all about choice’ introductory talk, Rev Dr Peter Jupp
- Current funeral environmental issues and myths, Rosie Inman Cook, Natural Death Centre
- End of life choices, Sam Turner, Dying Matters Coalition
- How Promession works and when it will be launched in the UK, Meredyth Mellor, Promessa UK

A number of workshops will also be taking place, covering how to get information to people when they need it, working with bereaved parents, organ and tissue donation and leaving bodies to medical science, and how to
set up a local bereavement group. Full details are available on the CDAS website.

For further information and to book, contact:
Tel: 0845 004 8608
Web: http://funeralmap.co.uk/events

Cremation & Burial Conference & Exhibition 2012 (CBCE 2012)
02-04 July 2012
The Hilton Newcastle Gateshead

The dates have now been announced for this well-established conference in 2012, 02-04 July, which this year will take place in Newcastle.

Further details will be made available on the website shortly. In the meantime, you can contact the conference organisers by email.
Email: info@cbce.org.uk (Cremation & Burial Conference & Exhibition)
        conference@cremation.org.uk (The Cremation Society)
        fbcasec@btconnect.com (Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities)
Web: www.cbce.org.uk

London Funeral Exhibition
07-08 July 2012
Chiltern Woodland Burial Park

‘If you go down to the woods today’

The Funeral Exhibition with a difference, this event is open to the public and to trade. Set in 72 acres of mature woodland, exhibitors will be in the beautiful Woodland Hall, courtyard and woodland.

Space is available now for exhibitors to book, £150 per space (6m x 4m). Exhibitors need to supply their own tables, chairs and canopies, refreshments will be provided free of charge.

For more information and to book your space, contact:
Tel: 01494 872158
Email: angie.whitaker@woodlandburialparks.co.uk
        Peter.taylor@woodlandburialparks.co.uk

You can find more information on last year’s event at:
http://www.woodlandburialparks.co.uk/London-Funeral-Exhibition-2011.ice
Further details of the programme will be announced here closer to the date.

Call for papers

Thirteenth Colloquium on Cemeteries
11 May 2012
University of York

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas  cdas@bath.ac.uk
A call is now being given for papers for the Thirteenth Colloquium on Cemeteries, 2012.

This event takes place in York every year and comprises a day meeting of scholars with an interest in cemeteries and burial. Disciplines that are routinely represented include historians, art historians, sociologists, anthropologists, historical archaeologists, landscape architects, conservators and policy analysts. The Colloquium often draws international speakers. A key aspect of the Colloquium is its informality and the time that is given to question and debate, making it a highly valuable forum in which to present new and emerging research. Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to:
Dr Julie Rugg, Cemetery Research Group, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD
Abstracts are also accepted by email: julie.rugg@york.ac.uk.

Please ensure that the abstract is in Word format. Queries about the event should in the first instance be directed by email to the address given.

The deadline for abstracts is 31st March 2012.

CDAS Conference 2012: Dying in the Digital Age
09-10 June 2012
Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute (BRLSI), Bath

The 2011 CDAS Conference, Death & Dying in the Digital Age, was possibly the first ever to bring together computer scientists and death studies researchers. Reflecting the literature, the most coherent body of the 2011 papers referred to post-death phenomena, specifically digital mourning and legacy, and a selection of those papers will appear in a special issue of Bereavement Care in spring 2012.

By contrast, research into how digital technologies affect the interactions and experiences of those near the end of life – the frail elderly, the terminally ill – is much more limited and fragmented. Considerable research has been done on technologies to sustain people’s physical wellbeing toward the end of life, but very little on technologies to sustain their social lives.

So for 2012 we invite papers that look at digital technologies that enhance the social wellbeing of those nearing the end of life. Topics can include, but are not limited to, the modelling, development or use of technologies that promote social inclusion, blogs, social networking, health & social care technologies, narrative analysis, etc. Our aim is to bring together the fragmented research and knowledge in this area.

Twenty-minute papers are invited from computer scientists, system engineers, formal modellers, HCI specialists; social scientists and death studies researchers; scholars of culture, media and literature; health and care professionals; software developers & entrepreneurs; and those themselves nearing the end of their life. Abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 12 March 2012.

The University of Bath’s Centre for Death & Society (CDAS) has extensive contacts in death studies, palliative care, the funeral industry, gerontology,
and computer science, and is in a unique position to promote engagement between computer sciences and death studies.

The conference will be held in the centre of the world heritage city of Bath, in the amenable surroundings of the Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institute (car park nearby, Bath Spa station 10 minutes walk, Bristol Airport 1 hour). The cost, £45 for a single day, £80 for the weekend, includes lunch and refreshments. There will be opportunities to socialise over a drink on Friday evening or meal on Saturday evening (neither included in price). There is plentiful accommodation nearby, which delegates need to arrange for themselves.

Conferece updates, a booking form and accommodation links at: 

The Arts in a Time of Crisis
02-03 November 2012
St. Christopher’s Hospice

This International Symposium aims to examine the role of the arts during a time of unprecedented change and challenge.

History shows that during times of complex change and increasing uncertainty, the creative arts can often act as both a catalyst and as a context to address crisis and to unravel and make sense of major societal issues. This symposium will provide a forum in order to explore current arts practice, education and research in end of life care. Leading practitioners, educationalists and researchers will come together with those with an interest in the field to share and understand contemporary thinking around a range of creative arts disciplines in the framework of end of life care. The aim will be to formulate an effective response to the increasing cut backs and the diminishing support for creative arts services during a time of increasing financial austerity. The central question for debate will be ‘Can the creative arts not only offer a cost effective and dynamic response, but also a fundamental response, to both living and dying in a changing world?’

This International symposium will offer opportunities for debate, dialogue and forward planning through:

- Examining innovative responses from arts services to the current financial crisis
- Re-defining the possibilities for the arts in End of Life health and social care, including dementia and work with older people
- Examining and relating policy, theory and practice
- Exploring the potential and possibility for the arts during a time of change and exploring competences needed for artists to work successfully within a changing world.

We are searching for successful stories and projects about how artists are adapting their services in order to deliver more useful possibilities for those affected by end of life issues within a changing world. The deadline for entries is 01 June 2012.

For further information, visit the St. Christopher’s Hospice website

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas   cdas@bath.ac.uk
## Events Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>15 Feb 2012</td>
<td>BRF Symposium and General Meeting</td>
<td>Directory of Social Change, London</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bereavementresearchforum@googlemail.com">bereavementresearchforum@googlemail.com</a></td>
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<td>23 Feb 2012</td>
<td>Setting up and facilitating bereavement support groups</td>
<td>Sobell Study Centre</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sobellhospiceoxford.org/">http://www.sobellhospiceoxford.org/</a></td>
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<td>02 Mar 2012</td>
<td>CDAS seminar: Researching sensitive issues</td>
<td>University of Bath</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/news/seminar/index.html#sensitive">http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/news/seminar/index.html#sensitive</a></td>
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<td>27 Mar 2012</td>
<td>Funeralmap: Funeral and Bereavement Convention</td>
<td>Clarendon Suite, Edgbaston, Birmingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20 Apr 2012</td>
<td>Training the trainers: developing training programmes in bereavement support</td>
<td>Sobell Study Centre</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sobellhospiceoxford.org/">http://www.sobellhospiceoxford.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>25-27 Apr 2012</td>
<td>2nd Nordic Symposium of Death &amp; Dying</td>
<td>Helsinki, Finland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Ilona.kemppainen@helsinki.fi">Ilona.kemppainen@helsinki.fi</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>05-10 May 2012</td>
<td>Memento Mori: Technology design for the End of Life</td>
<td>Austin, Texas</td>
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<td>11 May 2012</td>
<td>13th Cemeteries Colloquium</td>
<td>University of York</td>
<td><a href="mailto:julie.rugg@york.ac.uk">julie.rugg@york.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>17 May 2012</td>
<td>The Bereavement Pathways Project</td>
<td>St. Christopher's Hospice, London</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stchristophers.org.uk">www.stchristophers.org.uk</a></td>
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[www.bath.ac.uk/cdas](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas)  cdas@bath.ac.uk
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<td><strong>London Funeral Exhibition</strong></td>
<td>Cotswold Woodland Burial Park</td>
<td><a href="http://www.woodlandburialparks.co.uk/London-Funeral-Exhibition-2011.ice">http://www.woodlandburialparks.co.uk/London-Funeral-Exhibition-2011.ice</a></td>
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<td>13 Sept 2012</td>
<td><strong>Attachment Theory – Latest thinking</strong></td>
<td>St. Christopher’s Hospice, London</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stchristophers.org.uk">www.stchristophers.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>05 Dec 2012</td>
<td><strong>Violent death</strong></td>
<td>St. Christopher’s Hospice, London</td>
<td><a href="http://www.stchristophers.org.uk">www.stchristophers.org.uk</a></td>
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Please do let us know of any events you think would be of interest to other subscribers. You can find more details on all of these events, and events featured in previous newsletters, on the CDAS web pages [http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/news/index.htm](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/news/index.htm)