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February 2015

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News from CDAS

CDAS Conference 2015: Death and its Futures

05-06 June 2015

University of Bath, UK

To paraphrase Marx, social science tells us not only how society works now, but also how it could be different and how it can be changed! So, a programme of 20 minute mind-expanding papers or other contributions will be presented that:

- envisions 21st century futures of death, dying and bereavement, e.g. predicted trends, scenarios to be avoided, future living and dying that we and our descendants can embrace
- radically re-thinks end-of-life policies and practices
- sets out future research agendas
- showcases innovative research, teaching, practice, or public engagement
- reflects on the interdisciplinary field of death studies – past, present and future.

A draft programme will be available later this month.

We are delighted to announce that [Prof David Clark \(University of Glasgow\)](#) will give the keynote address on, 'The Global Future of Dying'.

Booking for the conference is now open, details at http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html

CDAS 10th Anniversary – Booking now open

05 June 2015, 16.00 – 19.00

University of Bath

In June 2015, CDAS will be 10 years old! On Friday 5th June, the CDAS Conference will include a birthday celebration at which CDAS Founding Director Prof Glennys Howarth and her successors, Profs Alan Kellehear and Tony Walter, will speak.

We would like to invite you all to join us for an afternoon of celebration. Displays and exhibits will showcase the work of CDAS from the past 10 years, and will feature staff, associates and students past and present.

Tickets are free, and are available at http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0097.html.

Conference delegates will automatically be allocated a ticket with their conference package and do not need to book a separate ticket.

The celebration event will be followed by a conference/birthday dinner. We are honoured that Colin Murray Parkes has agreed to be our after-dinner speaker; reflecting on some of the lessons he has learned and the strange and amusing happenings he has met in a

long acquaintance with death and bereavement. Tickets for the dinner will go on sale to conference delegates and celebration attendees later in March, and will be limited in number.

Researching bereavement following a drug or alcohol-related death

Update on a 3 year (2012-2015), two-phase, ESRC funded, qualitative research project.

We are now in the final months of our project, during which our focus is on developing and launching a set of practice guidelines for improving the way service personnel respond to this group of bereaved people in the aftermath of a death.

Having interviewed 106 bereaved individuals (including 6 couples) and conducted focus groups with 40 practitioners from a range of relevant services, we have developed important new findings on how this group of bereaved people experience and cope with the substance use-related death of a family member. In particular we have identified both the challenges for bereaved people in negotiating a complex and fragmented 'system' involving a daunting array of services, which may involve a criminal investigation; as well as the pressures and constraints under which service personnel must work. These findings are informing a Working Group of 12 people, both practitioners and bereaved individuals, who are in the process of putting together a set of guidelines that can be adapted for use by practitioners from a wide range of services and who come into contact with those bereaved through substance use.

These guidelines will be launched at the project's final event: *"Bereavement following a drug or alcohol-related death: experiences, needs, support. Results and recommendations from a major research project."* Further details about the event will be made available in April.

Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet

'Death' exhibition at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (October 2015-March 2016) – Call for loans!

We are looking for help to add local colour to our exhibition. We need help tracking down items that we could display to represent two questions:

- What happens at a person's funeral in the UK?
- How do people display their grief?

For the first question we are looking for objects or photographs that best symbolise particular faith or cultural groups or items that represent an individual's plans for their own funeral.

For the second question we are looking for items that people might wear if there was a bereavement in their family or community or objects or photographs that can symbolise how a particular faith or cultural group displays grief.

If you have any ideas for items that could represent these areas or indeed have access to such items yourself please get in touch with the exhibition curators: Lisa Graves lisa.graves@bristol.gov.uk or Amber Druce amber.druce@bristol.gov.uk as soon as possible – we are hoping to get the objects to the museum by May.

Facebook adds legacy contacts

Press release from Facebook, 12 February 2015

Facebook is a place to share and connect with friends and family. For many of us, it's also a place to remember and honour those we've lost. When a person passes away, their account can become a memorial of their life, friendships and experiences.

Today we're introducing a new feature that lets people choose a legacy contact—a family member or friend who can manage their account when they pass away. Once [someone lets us know](#) that a person has passed away, we will memorialize the account and the legacy contact will be able to:

- Write a post to display at the top of the memorialized Timeline (for example, to announce a memorial service or share a special message)
- Respond to new friend requests from family members and friends who were not yet connected on Facebook
- Update the profile picture and cover photo

If someone chooses, they may give their legacy contact permission to download an archive of the photos, posts and profile information they shared on Facebook. Other settings will remain the same as before the account was memorialized. The legacy contact will not be able to log in as the person who passed away or see that person's private messages.

Alternatively, people can let us know if they'd prefer to have their Facebook account permanently deleted after death.

Until now, when someone passed away, we offered a basic memorialized account which was viewable, but could not be managed by anyone. By talking to people who have experienced loss, we realized there is more we can do to support those who are grieving and those who want a say in what happens to their account after death.

<http://newsroom.fb.com/news/2015/02/adding-a-legacy-contact/>

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Stop, look and listen: Supporting people with dementia and their families at the end of life

25 March 2015

The Fitzpatrick Building, The National Council for Palliative Care, 188-194 York Way,
London, [N7 9AS](#)

From £120-£250 depending on fee category

Effective communication skills are crucial to providing good care for people approaching the end of their lives and in particular, for those with dementia. Dementia is a complex condition and communication can be challenging, but there are many ways to make sure that you are able to understand and communicate with each other.

Join us at this interactive workshop with national experts to explore the principles and challenges of communicating with people with dementia at the end of life, and those close to them, to gain practical skills on applying these techniques to enable you to deliver the best care.

Whether you are an experienced communicator seeking to refresh your skills, or new to dementia and end of life care, this workshop will be relevant for you.

Anybody working in palliative and end of life care: hospices, care homes, hospitals, CCGs and Health & Well Being Boards, NHS Trusts, social care and primary care, and in the voluntary and independent sectors is welcome to attend.

Expert speakers include:

- Anita Hayes, Programme Delivery Lead End of Life Care, Mental Health and Dementia, NHS Improving Quality
- Jackie Morris, retired doctor and person with personal experience of end of life care
- Joe Levenson, Director of Communications, The National Council for Palliative Care & the Dying Matters Coalition

[Register](#) for this event or for more information please contact Anamica Khare, Events & Involvement Officer (a.khare@ncpc.org.uk or 020 7697 1520).

Web: <http://shop.ncpc.org.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT00080>

How do hospice doctors broach end-of-life matters in conversations with terminally ill patients?

26 March 2015, 12.30 – 14.30

Room C1071, Queens Medical Centre, The Sue Ryder Care Centre for the Study of Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care

Convenors: Dr Ruth Parry – Principal Research Fellow and NIHR Fellow & Dr Marco Pino – Research Fellow

Communicating with terminally ill patients about the prospect of impending death is a highly delicate matter. Recent national reports in the UK have pointed to the importance of improving communication in this area (DH, 2013). Engaging in timely conversations about dying with a healthcare professional can provide patients with opportunities to

make plans for their care towards end-of-life. Evidence from qualitative interview studies suggests that, although some patients do not want to think too far ahead, others want to be given opportunities to engage in conversations about end-of-life issues.

However, healthcare professionals say they find it difficult to judge when it is appropriate to initiate these conversations. Professionals can also be concerned about causing distress or taking away hope. Our presentation examines both challenges and strategies in communicating about end-of-life by examining video-recordings in which experienced palliative care doctors engage patients and their companions in related talk.

In this presentation we describe some of the communication strategies that doctors use (picking up on 'cues', using different types of question, euphemistic talk, and addressing the wrongs and rights of actually talking about one's death) and we examine their different implications in relation to providing opportunities to discuss thoughts and feelings about the prospect of dying.

We will start with light refreshments at 12:30, presentation will commence at 13:00. The event is free of charge but please express your interest in attending the lecture via e-mail: ann.gibbons@nottingham.ac.uk or telephone: 0115 82 30706.

The Cruse Buckinghamshire Annual Seminar

16 May 2015, 10.00 – 15.00

John Hampden Grammar School, Marlow Hill, High Wycombe HP11 1SZ

The Cruse Buckinghamshire annual seminar is now an established event for those who are engaged in the theory and practice of bereavement counselling. Attendees come from all over the southern part of England and Wales.

Following previous prestigious speakers, this years' presenter is Prof Kari Dyregrov. She is research leader at the Centre for Crisis Psychology in Bergen and also holds a part-time professorship at the Bergen University College. She is a sociologist and a physiotherapist by educational background and also holds a degree in psychology. Since 1995 she has been conducting research in the field of grief reactions after traumatic bereavement, suicide, research ethics, social support, grief groups and organization and strategies of psychosocial assistance in the communities. Also, for eight years, she has been a senior researcher in the field of suicidology at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo.

At present she is conducting a four year research project about the bereaved after the July 2011 terror killings in Norway, and is leading two RCT research projects – "*Social Networks and Families Suffering Parental Cancer*" and "*Early Intervention After Sudden Deaths*".

There is no set entry fee for the seminar due to VAT ramifications so delegates are invited to make a donation instead. Refreshments upon arrival and a buffet lunch are included.

To request a booking form or for further information, please call Anthony Tagent (01494 433266) or Mike Muller (01628 662372)

The Cruse Bereavement Care National Conference – Save the Date

07-08 July 2015

University of Warwick

Confirmed key note speakers are Robert Neimeyer, David Trickey and James Turner.

To register your interest, please email conference@cruse.org.uk

Further details will be made available at: <http://www.cruse.org.uk/conference>

7th International Cardiff Conference on Paediatric Palliative Care

08 – 10 July 2015

Cardiff University, Wales, UK.

"Medicine and Compassion: Tool for the Task...Or Dangerous Distraction?"

The call for papers for this conference has now closed, a programme will be available shortly. The conference is open to those not presenting, booking will open soon.

For further details and to book, visit the conference website:

<http://www.icpcn.org/cardiffppc2015/>

Call for papers

When is Death?

16-18 April 2015

School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester

This three day international and interdisciplinary conference will focus on the question 'When is Death?'

People tend to instinctively think of death as something that is certain and absolute, a one-way journey away from the world of the living. Where people in the medieval period saw Death striking the hour in public clocks, people in the twenty-first century can now log on to The Death Clock, which estimates our remaining time alive – down to the hours, minutes, and seconds. Can we think of death as a becoming rather than an ending? Whether we think of death as an event, as a state, or as a movement somewhere else, placing death in time exposes it as something that is uncertain in a whole range of ways. Timing death, in this understanding, must involve the recognition that a person can die differently according to different chronologies. This three day international and interdisciplinary conference will focus on the question 'When is Death?' We invite proposals for 20 minute papers which offer historical, theoretical, or individual perspectives on the timings of death.

Suggested themes include, but are not limited to:

- Legal death: When is a person legally dead? What kind of liminal zones can be teased out between legal death and other forms of death?
- Medical death: When is a person medically dead? How have definitions of medical death changed over time?
- Social death: How has and could social death take place before or after medical death? In what forms can a person continue to exist as a social entity after their death?

Please submit 300 word abstracts to sm764@leicester.ac.uk

Deadline for proposals: 6 March 2015

Further information and to book:

<http://shop.le.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=711>

Archaeology and Anthropology of Death

20-22 May 2015

RomArché 2015

Piazza Navona: École française de Rome, Stadio di Domiziano

Within a larger event, RomArché (this year at its 6th edition), promoted by Dià Cultura Foundation, will take place the 3rd edition of the meeting "Anthropology and archaeology at comparison" dedicated to the topic of Archaeology and Anthropology of Death.

Sessions:

1. The rule of exception: atypical death, atypical deceased, atypical ritual
2. The poetics of emotions: performance and ritual landscape
3. The social life cycle of bodies and things: reconstruct and rethink the ritual and social reality with material engagement, enchainment and actor network theory
4. The construction of identity/ies after death: between thanato-metamorphosis and anthropo-pòiesis
5. Panel discussion: the social dimension of funerary practices.

Abstracts to be submitted by 20 March 2015.

Further information: <http://www.romarche.it/the-convention> (English)

<http://www.romarche.it/#/il-convegno/> (Italian) Email: info@diacultura.org

Centre for Spirituality Studies Research Day: Spirituality and Popular Culture / Arts

18 June 2015

Centre for Spirituality Studies, University of Hull

Scholars of religion have long been pointing out that going to the movie theatre, to a museum or an arts gallery can sometimes be experienced as religious/spiritual event

during which the individual makes an encounter with the transcendent, that which is perceived to be not from this world. But popular culture and art themselves often portray spiritual experiences and transcendent encounters. When they do, they rely on aesthetic means and sometimes very stereotypical understandings of what such an encounter might look like. The religious/spiritual element, however, goes beyond the mere moment, the aesthetic/spiritual experience, the visual, or that what is depicted. Online and offline fan culture keep the discourse about popular culture and arts alive. Provocatively one could argue that fans perpetuate the spiritual experience through space and time thus creating.

Call for Contributions:

This research seminar will discuss questions of spirituality in popular and artistic contexts. We invite discussion contribution on any topic in relation to spirituality and arts and popular culture and are particularly interested in the following themes:

- Encountering popular culture / art as encountering the transcendent
- Portrayals of spiritual experiences in pop culture and the arts
- Fan culture online/offline - fan spirituality
- The artist as spiritual guide
- Film and cinema as spiritual practice and experience
- The museum (or gallery) as spiritual place
- Comic books and graphic novels and spirituality
- How to do research on spirituality and popular culture/arts / new directions
- New directions in popular culture spiritualities:

As the scholarship on religion/spirituality and popular culture is maturing (but often still not seen as serious scholarship by disciplines with a longer tradition), it is also time to think about new directions in the research of "popular culture spiritualities" and "artistic spiritualities".

Further details and a full call for papers: <http://www2.hull.ac.uk/fass/centre-spirituality-studies/research-days/popular-culture.aspx>

International Cremation & Burial Conference & Exhibition 2015

06 – 08 July 2015

Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon

With the International Cremation Federation holding its General Council Meeting at this year's event, CBCE 2015 will be a truly international event focusing on innovative approaches to improve excellence in all aspects of the provision of burial and cremation services and their development. The goal of this year's event is to continue to bring together like-minded individuals and organisations from across the globe to discuss important issues and developments in the death care industry.

The event will be of particular interest to representatives from cremation and burial authorities, whether local authority or private sector, in the UK or from elsewhere in the world, who wish to keep abreast of the latest developments affecting their services and facilities.

Case studies are sought which address issues in cremation, burial, and related topics. Two sessions have been allocated as part of the main sessions for oral presentations; posters will be presented during the refreshment and lunch breaks.

This is a rare opportunity to present to an international bereavement-focused audience in the UK, and submissions are encouraged from anyone with an interest in this field who would like to share their research and practice findings with delegates. We welcome submissions from scholars, students, social workers, health care workers, and other professionals within the death care industry. Cross-cultural, historical and comparative work is encouraged, which should be aimed at involving individuals engaged in the provision of cemetery and crematoria services.

Oral presentations should be approximately 20 minutes in duration and the presenter should be willing to participate in a short question and answer at the conclusion of the presentation.

Abstract Submission Closes – Thursday 9 April 2015
Author Notification of Acceptance - Wednesday 29 April 2015

Family Troubles Symposium: Care and Change in Diverse Contexts

16 September 2015

University of Reading, UK

This inter-disciplinary symposium aims to explore family relations, care and 'troubles' in diverse contexts. The symposium will reflect on the powerful, often emotive discourses associated with 'family' in different cultural and policy settings and explore the (potentially troubling or troubled) changes, caring practices, and intergenerational relations that shape family lives over time and space. We are interested in papers that address a diversity of caring practices, 'troubles' and family relations in both the global North and South.

We invite papers that address the following themes, in relation to diverse contexts and cross-cultural perspectives (but are also open to other related topics relevant to the symposium title):

- Meanings of 'family', family practices and (troubling) changes in family lives
- Children's and young people's family lives and intergenerational dynamics
- Care and interdependencies in diverse household forms
- Emotions in researching family troubles
- Vulnerability, social protection and support for 'troubled' families
- Responses to death and 'bereavement' in cross-cultural perspective
- Living, dead or dying bodies and family caring practices

These contentious, emotive and sensitive issues pose questions and dilemmas for policy makers, practitioners and service users, as well as researchers and academics interested in issues of family change, care and support.

Registration fee (includes lunch and refreshments): £30

A small number of bursaries for registration fees and/or travel expenses are available for postgraduates/ practitioners/ unwaged (funded by the RGS-IBG Geographies of Children, Youth and Families Research Group). Please provide details of expected travel costs when enquiring about this. Contact: r.evans@reading.ac.uk.

Please send your paper title, abstract of a maximum of 250 words and contact details by 1st April 2015 to Ruth Evans (r.evans@reading.ac.uk).

Please feel free to make informal contact in advance if that would be helpful. Further details at: <http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/deathinthefamilyinsenegal/>

Jobs and study opportunities

University of Winchester 175th Anniversary Studentships for Home/EU students

Department of Theology, Religion and Philosophy

Applications are invited from suitably qualified individuals wishing to undertake doctoral research within Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Winchester. We offer specialist supervision many areas including death, religion and culture.

Deadline for Applications is Friday 13 March 2015

Interviews are to be held in May, awards commence on 1 September 2015

Find out more about the application process:

<http://www.winchester.ac.uk/research/students/HowToApply/Pages/Applications.aspx>

Death and Meaning Making in Europe

10-14 August 2015

Radboud University, The Netherlands

€450

Death is expected to play an increasing role in the European societies of the near future, due to factors like aging populations, early diagnosis coupled with prolonged dying, rampant individualism, greater physical and social mobility, environmental degradation and, most recently, the threat of terrorism or a pandemic. Furthermore, end-of-life decisions have become a hotly debated issue. Traditional meaning systems crumble, new and more personalised forms of religiosity arise. Cremations are on the rise while cemeteries have difficulty to remain.

This confrontation with death and dying is revealing, as it shows the most important cultural values by which people live their lives how their experiences are conveyed and enacted in concrete practices. The study of death practices not only discloses meaning,

but also offers insights into meaning making and creating community. Meaning making in relation to death also reveals what people consider most important in life.

The Netherlands offers a distinctive context in this respect, as there is a massive decline here in traditional ways of coping with death, dying and disposal, due to increasing secularisation and individualisation. At the same time a tremendous creativity is emerging. This provides interesting and fruitful perspectives on changing European ways of dealing with death.

These new developments ask for a multidisciplinary approach in the research on personal, social, cultural, and religious aspects of death, dying and bereavement, which been developed by the Centre for Thanatology, part of Radboud University's Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies.

In this course you will be introduced to the multidisciplinary study of death and dying, its historical and cultural aspects, its rituals and beliefs, in Europe and the Netherlands in particular. The course will include a short introduction into the history of death and dying and case studies on death practices among Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Neo-pagans, and non-believers. Changing beliefs concerning the afterlife, the post-self, and reincarnation will be also be discussed. You will find out more about new ways of dealing with death and mourning in present day Dutch art and literature. During the week there will be a guided tour to a cemetery and a crematorium.

After this course will be able to:

- Interpret present-day practices concerning death and dying as the result of recent historical developments and of changing patterns of meaning
- Analyse the structure and the levels of meaning in rituals of death and disposal
- distinguish the main types of dealing with death and dying in Europe
- Relate the changing practices to the transformation of religion and spirituality in Europe

This course is designed for students in the Humanities with a strong interest in changing cultural attitudes towards death and dying and in the transformation of religion, spirituality, and meaning making in Europe.

Participants should have some basic knowledge in the field of the major religious traditions in Europe.

More information: radboudsummerschool@ru.nl
<http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummerschool/courses/philopsophy-religion/@969980/death-and-meaning/>

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
08 Jan – Oct 2015	Good Grief Training	London	www.griefencounter.org.uk/professionals/training/
03 Mar 2015	NCPC training workshops: The Mental Capacity Act & Advance care planning	London	http://ncpc.org.uk/mca-acp
04 Mar 2015	Grant application workshop	Taunton Racecourse	http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/gaw.htm
11 Mar 2015	Loss and Bereavement Awareness Public Workshop	London and Manchester	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
25 March 2015	Stop, look and listen: Supporting people with dementia and their families at the end of life	London	http://shop.ncpc.org.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT00080
26 March 2015	How do hospice doctors broach end-of-life matters in conversations with terminally ill patients?	Queen's Medical Centre	ann.gibbons@nottingham.ac.uk
08-11 Apr 2015	ADEC 37 th Annual Conference	San Antonio, USA	http://www.adec.org/Annual_Conference_Home.htm
16-18 April 2015	When is Death?	University of Leicester	http://shop.le.ac.uk/browse/product.asp?compid=1&modid=1&catid=711
11-16 May 2015	4 th International Public Health & Palliative Care Conference	Bristol, UK	http://www.phpci.info/#!about1/c1f7j
15 May 2015	Cemeteries Colloquium	University of York	http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/
15 May 2015	Trauma, Grief, Loss: The Art of Bereavement Conference	UCA Farnham, Surrey	http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/artofbereavement
16 May 2015	The Cruse Buckinghamshire Annual Seminar	High Wycombe	Anthony Tagent (01494 433266) or Mike Muller (01628 662372)

18-24 May 2015	Dying Matters Week	Nationwide	http://dyingmatters.org/
20-22 May 2015	Archaeology and Anthropology of Death	Rome	http://www.romarche.it/the-convention
31 May – 05 June 2015	Residential Research Retreat	Ammerdown Conference Centre, Bath	http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/rrr.htm
05 June 2015	CDAS 10 th Anniversary Celebration	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html
05-06 June 2015	CDAS Annual Conference, 'Death Studies – past, present and future'	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html
18 June 2015	Centre for Spirituality Studies Research Day: Spirituality and Popular Culture / Arts	University of Hull	http://www2.hull.ac.uk/fass/centre-spirituality-studies/research-days/popular-culture.aspx
06-08 July 2015	Cremation & Burial Conference and Exhibition	Holiday Inn, Stratford on Avon	http://www.cbce.org.uk/index/html
07-08 July 2015	The Cruse Bereavement Care National Conference	University of Warwick	http://www.cruse.org.uk/conference
08-10 July	7th International Cardiff Conference on Paediatric Palliative Care	Cardiff University	http://www.icpcn.org/cardiffppc2015/
10-14 Aug 2015	Death & Meaning Making in Europe	Radboud University, The Netherlands	http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummer-school/courses/philosophy-religion/@969980/death-and-meaning/
17-18 Aug 2015	2 nd International Death Online Research Symposium	Kingston University	http://deathonlineresearch.net/
02-05 Sept 2015	Death, Dying and the Disposal of the Body (DDD12)	"1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania	http://death-studies.ro/?page_id=292
02-04 Sept 2015	Reflections on Revenge: an International Conference on	University of Leicester	revenge@le.ac.uk

	the culture and politics of vengeance		
09-12 Sept 2015	5 th International Conference on Advance Care Planning and EoLC (ACPEL)	Munich, Germany	http://www.acpel2015.org/home.html
16 Sept 2015	Family Troubles Symposium: Care and Change in Diverse Contexts	University of Reading	http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/deathinthefamilyinsenegal/
23-26 Sept 2015	The Worlds of Violence	Giardini Naxos, Sicily	www.paneuropeanconference.org
24 Sept 2015	Suicide Bereavement Conference	University of Manchester	www.suicide-bereavement.co.uk
04-06 Nov 2015	Material traces of mass death: the exhumed object	Marseille, France	objetsfosses@gmail.com

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

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas