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UK: £29.00

USA: US \$54.00

Canada: CAN \$78.00

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OR STG £31.00

PUBLISHED BY

Cruse Bereavement Care

126 Sheen Road

Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR, UK

Tel 020 8939 9530

Fax 020 8940 7638

info@crusebereavementcare.org.uk

www.crusebereavementcare.org.uk

Bereavement Care is published three times a year in Spring, Summer and Winter.

All prices are inclusive of airmail postage. Payment may be made by cheque, money order or credit card (Mastercard, Eurocard, Access, Visa).

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Most back numbers available at £3.00 plus 35p postage (UK).

BEST OF BEREAVEMENT CARE

Packs of selected articles from past issues grouped in themes are available from the publishers at prices from £2.85 to £6.50.



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Cruse Bereavement Care 2002
ISSN 0268-2621

Designed by Baseline Creative,
Bath

Printed by Doppler Press,
Brentwood, Essex CMI5 9TB

EDITORIAL

Martin Newman

The first edition of *Bereavement Care* was published in Spring 1982, so that this is now our 21st year in print. Looking back at those early issues, we can find articles on the risk of suicide after bereavement; violent death and the media; bereavement in immigrants and refugees; working with bereaved children and families; gay bereavement; helping disaster victims and their families; and bereavement by suicide, to name just a few.

It would seem that, from its beginnings, *Bereavement Care* has not been afraid to discuss important and controversial subjects, all of which remain relevant today.

In this special issue we thought it appropriate to look back, but also to look forward. Both Colin Murray Parkes and Dora Black have been members of the editorial board from the outset and have contributed regularly over the years. It is therefore fitting that here both provide comprehensive reviews of areas of importance. Black draws our attention to the effect of loss on the family system, and Parkes considers how our understanding of mourning and loss has developed over the past 1000 years and looks to the future with optimism. We also review the development of the concept of PTSD and its relationship with bereavement and, in a moving account, one of our team of international editors, Henk Schut, recommends Preisner's *Requiem* to us.

2002 also marks a special year in the UK, the Golden Jubilee year of our Queen. Cruse Bereavement Care has been chosen by Her Majesty, our royal patron, as one of her six Jubilee charities. This is not only a great honour for Cruse, but sends a powerful message to the general public acknowledging the importance of work

with bereaved people everywhere. Sadly, the beginning of this year was marked by the deaths of both the Queen's mother and sister, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. We send our deepest sympathy to the Queen and other members of the royal family and remember with gratitude the many occasions in the past on which they have given support and comfort to the bereaved. The Queen and

other members of the royal family continue to be involved in helping those who have experienced loss and suffering, and in supporting services and charities involved in such work. Their dedication and commitment reminds us how helpful understanding can be at times of stress and sadness.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to *Bereavement Care* over the years by sending in articles, reviews, letters and information, and by allowing us to reproduce illustrations and papers. Special thanks are due to our team of international advisory editors and to those who have worked on regular features, such as the Barnardo's Orchard Project team's series, 'Counselling Bereaved Children', and Sheila Hodges and John Bush's abstracts. All these people have freely given their time and expertise and without them the journal could not exist.

As *Bereavement Care* enters its 21st year, perhaps we may be allowed to hope that in the next 20 years increasing research, better communications and faster travel will help to improve our understanding of loss, bereavement and trauma. If so, we can hope to be able to develop services that provide effective interventions and support to those who will benefit from them, wherever they may live.

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