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EDITORIAL

David Trickey

BEREAVEMENT CARE IS ADAPTING and developing in many ways that we hope will make it of even more use to those helping bereaved people. We have recently introduced article abstracts, mainly replacing the Editor's Notes. The abstracts should help readers decide which articles to read when, and also act as reminders in the future. This, together with a change in the style of references will enhance the journal's standing and may help in our attempts to be listed in more academic databases. I am particularly pleased about these changes as I have always been keen to increase the journal's academic acceptability, whilst maintaining its accessible style. We are also considering ways to publish electronically to increase and ease access to the journal.

In this issue we launch another exciting development, the Broader Horizons series. This is a direct response to readers' requests to cover subjects beyond bereavement, but linked to it. We open with Martin Newman's contribution on depression (p34), an excellent overview of an important topic. Watch this space for future articles covering therapy for children, Cochrane reports, and use of the internet and libraries. Please do let us know if you would like any other topics covered and we will do our best to find an appropriate expert to enlighten us.

Also in this issue Colin Murray Parkes takes us back to basics and invites us to think very carefully about one of the fundamental tools of our trade – words. Brian Cranwell describes his useful research which tells us what bereaved children think about decisions that are made around them. This will raise awareness for some and confirm assumptions for others. It will also provide some useful data for those of us who work predominantly with children and often feel that we are having to act as advocates for them. Jenny Hunt, Gracy Andrew and Philippa Weitz describe the development, use and evaluation of a tool for improving support for the bereaved within their communities. The instrument offers a systematic way to enable groups to compare how bereaved people feel and act with what their culture allows or expects, at different times after the bereavement. Finally, as part of our Bereavement in the Arts series, Dora Black shares with us her cultural and clinical expertise by linking Tolstoy's 'father kills mother' story with her own professional experiences. Taken together, we hope you will find this issue a well-balanced feast with something for everyone. ●

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Photo by Jürgen Lenz

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