

Good Funeral Awards 2014



The 2013 Good Funeral Awards, which took place in Bournemouth in September, celebrated excellence in the funeral industry. At the awards ceremony, hosted by actress Pam St Clement, we were delighted to see some of our Dying Matters members recognised. Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds were the winners of 'Best Internet Bereavement Resource' for their film 'Say Their Name,' produced with charity The Compassionate Friends. Jean Francis (pictured), an Interfaith Minister, won an award for 'Most Significant Contribution to the Understanding of Death'. The weekend-long event also saw talks from industry experts and discussions at Death Cafés. Our congratulations to all the winners. ●

Upcoming events

The Dead Good Show
Fannie & Fox Gallery, Penryn,
Cornwall

31st October-30th November

This exhibition showcases the work of 16 different artists on the theme of death

Death Café
Borley Green, Bury St Edmunds
25th November

Drop into this death cafe for an evening of life, death, cake and contemplation

Cruse Bereavement Awareness Training
City YMCA, London
19th November

Learn how to support bereaved clients and colleagues at this training day

Death and the only beauty that lasts
Hilfield Friary, Dorset
22nd-24th November

A weekend retreat exploring dying, death and bereavement

Email info@dyingmatters.org or call 08000 21 44 66 for more information

New film from Medway CCG

In October, Medway Clinical Commissioning Group held a premiere for their powerful and informative new short film 'My Wishes: an End of Life Care Story' at Priestfield Stadium, Gillingham.

The fictional film follows a person diagnosed with cancer through preparations made for his death. It shows how NHS staff and family members can help to support a person who is dying.

The launch event had over 100 people in attendance, including members of the public, NHS staff and other health and social care professionals. Medway CCG's Graeme Hendry, who wrote the film and



organised the event, hopes to build an active Dying Matters community group in the Medway area.

You can watch the film online at www.youtube.com/NHSMedwayCCG ●

Make the most of Will Aid this November

WILL
25
YEARS
WILL
WILL
WILL

If you haven't yet made a Will, there's no better time to do so than during November, which is Will Aid month.

Participating solicitors draw up a basic Will for clients **without charging their usual fee**. Instead, they invite their clients to make a donation to Will Aid. The suggested donation level is **£90** for a basic single Will or **£135** for a pair of basic mirror Wills. Donations are then shared amongst the nine Will Aid charities to help people in need in the UK and around the world.

We encourage Dying Matters members to take advantage of this opportunity - and if you have already put your own plans in place, why not spread the word to your loved ones or work colleagues?

To find a participating solicitor in your area, call the hotline on 0300 0300 013 or visit www.willaid.org.uk ●

Gentle Dusk Future Matters training

We were pleased to hear recently about the continued success of Gentle Dusk's Future Matters Programme, which focuses on training and supporting volunteers, from a wide range of third sector organisations and community groups, to become End of Life Care Planning Volunteers.

Commissioned by NHS London and delivered across North Central London, the programme trained 31 volunteers in 2012/13. Within the first 6 months, information about end of life and advance care planning was passed on to over 700 people, and a further 3,300 individuals were reached through leaflets, articles and electronic records. The diversity of trained volunteers enabled reach into varied communities with workshops being delivered in Gujarati, Spanish and using sign language and interpreters.

The programme has been further commissioned by the London Borough of Barnet and Islington CCG for 2013/14 and is already making positive progress.

Visit www.gentledusk.org.uk for details. ●

**"Drink to me,
drink to my
health, you
know I can't
drink any more."**

Last words of Pablo Picasso