Cruse News

A Message from the Chairman

The decision to extend the services of Cruse from the widowed and their families to all those bereaved by death was made at the Annual General Meeting in May, 1986 after prolonged debate within the organisation. There was very little opposition to this change of policy.

Recent correspondence in *The Observer* points to some of the changes which will result. Will widows, who always form the largest number of bereaved people who come to Cruse, now feel that their *special* needs are not being catered for? Will the emphasis on bereavement counselling cause Cruse to lose touch with the longer term needs of widows and their families?

These are reasonable doubts which must be faced if Cruse is to continue to provide the quality of care for widows and their families which is needed.

Rather than agonising over the rights and wrongs of the decision, it is to be hoped that all in Cruse will continue to work together for the welfare of all those who seek its help. Widows and their children will always be our main concern, it is for Cruse to show that the new model is capable of adding to the service without losing the values and inspiration of the old.

COLIN MURRAY PARKES
Chairman

Cruse Training Events 1988

More Area training events are now being arranged by the Training Officer, Nick Tyndall, who has now completed a year in post. The new training handbook on 'Training, Selection and Supervision' of Cruse counsellors has been launched at Area conferences. Branches are now reviewing their practice in the light of these new minimum standards.

The priorities to emerge from these conferences are for increased supervision, training for group leaders and trainers, and for courses for telephone contacts. Workshops on supervision have been held in the North East, North West, the Midlands and East Anglia, and others are planned in the other areas. A three-part training for supervisors is planned in Scotland, a workshop for counsellors in Wales and a group leaders' training day in Birmingham.

'Groups' will be the theme of the annual conference in Swanwick in May, 1988. The hows and whys of social groups will be examined, and there will be exchange of experience about small groups which have a more therapeutic air—such as for newly bereaved, young parents and relatives bereaved by suicide. For further details, contact Area Organisers or Nick Tyndall at Cruse House.

Cruse/ICAS Holiday for the Bereaved

Over the past four years Philippa Weitz, a counselling psychologist, has run holidays specifically for the bereaved (see page 5). Following the success of these holidays, Cruse and the Independent Counselling and Advisory Service (ICAS) are jointly sponsoring a new venture whereby industry, commerce and other organisations can make a contribution to the holiday. They can do this both by nominating and paying for a bereaved employee, and helping to fund a fifth or sixth former on work experience to act as one of the helpers.

The holiday, which will take place from 4th-10th July, 1988, will be held at a university hostel in Norham Gardens, Oxford, close to the University Parks. It will be led by Philippa Weitz, assisted by Nicky Halpin. The guests will include men and women from varied age groups. The emphasis will be on having a pleasant holiday with outings and activities in an understanding atmosphere, and there will be approximately 8-10 guests.

Enquiries and applications should be addressed to Philippa Weitz c/o Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR.

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Retirement

Barbara Pentreath retired at Christmas after 16 years service with Cruse, the last two as managing editor of Bereavement Care. We wish her well in her new life.

1988 subscription UK: £4.65 (incl. postage). Cruse workers: £3.65. Library rate: £9.65. Overseas: £4.00 + £1.50 postage (Europe). £2.50 by airmail outside Europe. Overseas Library rate: £9.00 + £1.50 postage (Europe). £2.50 by airmail outside Europe. Kindly remit by sterling draft payable in London.

Some back numbers available, £1.10p each copy, plus 20p postage (inland). Free index on request. Offprints of single articles available @ 40p.

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Printed by E. H. Baker & Co. Ltd., 86 Lower Mortlake Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2JH. Ref. 82814