

Cruse Yorkshire & the Humber Regional Committee wish to thank all who have contributed to this Jubilee Conference and to everyone for their attendance.

Ann Cryer, MP, JP, Cruse Patron – Opening Speaker, has been out spoken in parliament on ethnic minority rights for women. MP for Keighley, her report ‘Crimes of Honour’ has been adopted by all 42 States of the Council of Europe, with many other achievements.

Dame Jo Williams, DBE, Cruse Patron – Keynote Speaker. In 2008, when Chief Executive of Mencap, addressed the Cruse Annual Conference with Leroy Binns about bereavement and learning disabilities, will again share her wealth of experience.

Debbie Kerslake, Chief Executive, Cruse Bereavement Care will provide information about current achievements and developments.

Workshops

‘Green Funerals’. **Wendy Pratt**, Green Burial Ground Manager, Tarn Moor Memorial Woodland will provide a visual and informative introduction to this style of funeral experience.

‘Beliefs in the Indian Sub-Continent’. **Hardial Singh**, a volunteer with Cruse in Craven Branch will share his knowledge and experience.

‘Families of people with dementia’. **Gill Herbert**, Chair of the Alzheimer’s Society in the Kirklees Area and also a Humanist Celebrant has conducted funerals for families who have had to endure relatives going through the stages of dementia. The workshop will focus on the emotional impact of dementia, anticipated grief and post bereavement difficulties for these families.

‘Supporting people with hearing loss’ **Jenny Harkison**, Regional Information Officer RNID (North), will provide an awareness of how we can best help people with hearing loss.

Yorkshire & the Humber Region



Jubilee Conference

“Diversity”

Cruse supports ‘anyone’ suffering bereavement

Conference Programme
10th October 2009
1000 hours

Doncaster College
High Melton, Doncaster DN5 7SJ

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Cruse Bereavement Care – 50 years

In 1959, Margaret Torrie brought together a group of widows in Richmond, Surrey. There were three million widows across the country, but none of them wanted to draw attention to their personal situation, though they desperately wanted support and encouragement. There was a strong feeling against the word “widow”, meaning ‘empty’. Margaret Torrie’s idea was that the work should be positive and outward looking – a new beginning.

Publicity in the press had drawn attention to this group and Margaret was trying to find an appropriate name for it. Out of the blue came the idea of “**Cruse**”, from the story in the Old Testament (Kings 1, Chapter 17), about a widow and her son being helped, not only over a particular problem at the time, but also to begin a new life. The widow shared the last of her food with a passing stranger without promise or thought of any return. The record says she never lacked, “The barrel of meal and the *cruse* of oil were replenished according to her need” A *cruse*, in fact, is an earthenware vessel for holding oil.

Cruse was adopted as a fitting name for an organisation built on the generosity of concerned people giving support to others for as long as this is needed. Over time, many people who themselves received bereavement support, have trained to become Cruse volunteers, supporting bereaved people for as long as their help is required.

Cruse supports men, women, children and young people, whatever their religious beliefs, who ask for help following bereavement. The client’s welfare is paramount with the work being confidential and each trained volunteer having a supervisor with whom to share the client’s situation. In this Region there are Cruse Branches serving the areas around Bridlington; Craven; Doncaster; Goole; Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Louth; Harrogate, Hull; Kirklees; Leeds; Pontefract; Wakefield; Rotherham; Scunthorpe; Sheffield and York.

Programme

0930-1000 Registration and coffee

1000 Introduction: Susan Rowlinson, Chair Y & H Region

**1005 Opening of Conference Address
Ann Cryer MP, JP, Patron of Cruse**

**1020 Keynote Address
Dame Jo Williams, DBE, Patron of Cruse
to be followed by questions.**

1115-1130 Short comfort break.

1130 Roots DVD presentation.

1145 Debbie Kerslake, Cruse Chief Executive

1230 – 1300 BUFFET LUNCH Stables Restaurant & Bar

1330 – 1430 Four workshops – delegate details in the foyer

- Green Funerals
- Beliefs in the Indian Sub-Continent
- Families of people with dementia
- Supporting people with hearing loss

1445 - 1545 Four workshops repeated.

1545 – 1600 Plenary session: Close of Conference

1600 – 1630 Tea/coffee will be served outside the main hall.

**1630 – 1700 Cruse Yorkshire & the Humber Region
Annual Business Meeting**