

## You Never Know!

In January Pat Morris was invited to speak about the death of a child to trainee Cruse counsellors. Helen Fyalls, Minister of the Methodist church at Radcliffe on Trent was a member of that very receptive audience. Three children in Radcliffe died at about this time, and Helen was moved to propose to her church stewards that TCF should be the church's charity for the year. As you can imagine, Pat was delighted at the thought of a few hundred pounds for TCF!

There followed a year of events including coffee mornings, concerts, advent fairs and a wonderful auction. A young mother, Michelle Mills, sent letters all over the country asking for items for auction. Responses

included a hamper from Harrods donated by Mr. Al Fayad, four rounds of a golf at a local club, a tour of Nottingham Council House and tea with the Lord Mayor and Sheriff, Center Parcs day passes, trousers worn by Candice Stone from Coronation Street (!), a pen from Tony Blair and many vouchers for use in local restaurants and hairdressers.

On Sunday 12 February Pat and Jerry attended the morning service in Radcliffe and were presented with a cheque for £3,808.35. As you can imagine, they were quite overjoyed at this result!

This wonderful sum of money for TCF came as a result of a talk to a small group of people. If any readers are asked to give a talk, please say 'Yes': you never know what might arise from it!

*(Article based on Pat Morris' report)*

### Sharing Grief

James Watson was told he had a tumour when he was 14 and fought on for 15 months before he lost his battle against cancer.

His father Robert read a poem, 'The Price of Love' at the TCF annual service in St. John's Church, Newcastle. Robert paid tribute to his son and hymns and other readings were included in the service before parents lit candles and names of children were read out. Margaret White, an active member of TCF, said, 'All parents who come to the service are undergoing a life sentence because the death of a child is something we all dread and something that remains with us forever. But it is rewarding to see the relief on many parents' faces when they realise they are not alone.' (From a report that appeared originally in the Newcastle Journal)

### David

We have been able to buy a new Dell Server computer for use at Head Office thanks to a generous donation from Henry and Elizabeth Whyte. They have gladly consented to us giving the computer server the name of 'David' in honour of their son who is missed so much by his parents and two sisters.

### Hair Salon

Jackie Oldroyd from Wakefield has a hair salon and she is pleased to announce that her clients, of whom she is very proud, recently raised £215.08 for TCF.



### Doris Hawkins

Doris (aged 91) was a long standing member of the Clacton and Southend Group. She frequently sent donations over the years to TCF. Doris supplied and held lunches in her own home to raise funds for TCF and will always be remembered for all the delicious sweets she made herself. It was Doris' last wish that donations instead of flowers at her funeral should be sent to TCF, which amounted to a very generous £645.00. (Joan & Maurice Lacey, Essex County Contacts)



### "A Zummerzet Cider and Poetry Evening"

with WORZEL GUMMIDGE and AUNT SALLY, on Saturday 23rd September 2006, 7pm onwards, at St Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick. Tickets: Adults £7, Children £3.50. Buffet supper. Further details/tickets: Jenny Binden, tel: 01225 466664  
With thanks to The Orion Publishing Group Ltd, and Rev D Prothero

### TCF Groups

There are many TCF support groups around the UK. For details of the groups and our other support services phone our Helpline on 0845 123 2304 Lines are open every day between of the year 10.00 am - 4.00 pm, and 6.30 pm - 10.30 pm.

### Let Your Fingers do the Giving

Use your mobile to donate to TCF by sending a text message. It's as simple as that.

To Donate £3 to The Compassionate Friends text "TCF" to 84858 Messages charged at standard rate. You will receive two confirmation messages, charged at £1.50 each. TCF will receive your donation net

of charges applied by mobile network operators and a processing fee. If you have any questions regarding this service please call 020 7594 2222

### Breaking News!

In June, Phil Gomm is cycling 450 miles in 100 hours over the gruelling Pyrenees, including 11,000 metres of ascent and 18 mountain passes! He is doing this in memory of Louise Venn and to raise as much money as he can for TCF. To donate, see specially set up website by Marian Venn: [tp://www.justgiving.com/PhilGommPyreneenRaid](http://www.justgiving.com/PhilGommPyreneenRaid)



# TCF News

Issue No 48 Summer 2006

## The Compassionate Friends



### Sky TV's new legal channel devotes two hours to a programme on 'Loss of a Child'

Shown on 31 March between 10.00 and 12 noon this programme included sound advice from TCF's solicitor, Sefton Kwasnik and convincing contributions from one of our mums, Rosanne Kay.

E-mails sent to the programme afterwards included praise for one of our founder members, Joe Lawley, who introduced the programme with a moving 20 minute account of the loss of his son followed by a typically articulate description of the founding of TCF. Recommendations from viewers included a knighthood for Joe, especially as we had recently heard that Tom Jones got one for his singing!



### Ken Broom and Tracey Cruise: Fundraising

At the beginning of 2005, having seen an appeal for desperately needed funds, and as TCF is a charity close to our own hearts we decided to find a way in which we could help.

As well as helping TCF continue, we wanted to do something in memory of our own angels Carrie and Emma. Having seen stamps for sale on the internet, and being aware that Derek had an established collection area in the south, we decided to do some research into whether it would be feasible to start collecting in our area, without affecting what Derek was doing.

After much careful planning we started to approach companies and little by little we built our circle of collectors. In total we have distributed about 8/900 letters seeking stamp donations and we now have a regular base of around 90 collectors. Some are very small amounts some are substantial. Our collectors are from many sections of the business community and include the chairman's office of probably the world's most famous department store. Those who we contacted who are not collecting are now at least aware that TCF exists and what it does.

Such was the response that we produce a collector's newsletter to keep our supporters informed. The newsletter is popular and after each issue there is a surge of stamps. We even have a sponsor who is kindly supporting two issues with a sizeable donation. Our best month's sales were in December when we raised just under £500.00, and the total for our first year was £3,103.55. Sales in our



Butterfly Bookmarks

second year are already ahead of our first, even though we are only 2 months in. We have been humbled at people's generosity

and willingness to help. As well as the stamps, we are finding people offering us all kinds of things to sell from jewellery and an antique tea pot to a miniature army of vintage lead soldiers! All of which was much appreciated and sold on ebay. These, along with donations

from local companies have raised in the region of £1000.00 on top of the stamp sales. In an effort to keep the money coming in we are exploring new avenues. We currently have TCF car stickers for sale. Our latest line has just been delivered. (photo attached) These are gold plate and enamel butterfly bookmarks, which we will be selling at £2.00 each or 3 for £5.00 inc postage. (available from Ken). All profits of course to TCF.



Ken and Tracey

### The Editor of TCF Newsletter

*My name is Mick Wilson and this is the fourth edition of TCF Newsletter that I have edited. I hope you like its new look! Here is a picture of my wife Barbara and me, taken at last year's Vancouver Conference. We lost our eldest daughter Sarah when she was 36 years old in a white water rafting accident in the Cotahuasi valley in Peru, in the deepest canyon in the world. Although her body has never been found we know Sarah will always be part of this wondrous planet of ours and we will always love her.*

To contact me please e-mail: [mick.wilson11@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mick.wilson11@tiscali.co.uk).  
Tel. - 01284 728608.



Mick and Barbara

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## IS THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY? HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE?

TCF Gathering 2006 - 29th Sept - 1st Oct  
The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

*"Strength for To-day, Hope for To-morrow"*

### A TCF Scottish Quilt wins FIRST PRIZE in the group work section at a recent Scottish Quilt Championship!

A few years ago Ruby Henderson and Gilly Thomson decided it would be good to produce a Scottish TCF Quilt that was similar to the butterfly quilts produced in England. However, they wanted a different theme. Gilly was inspired by the Eskimo legend of the stars, which reads:

*Perhaps they are not the stars,  
But rather openings in the heavens  
Where the love of our lost ones  
pours through,  
And shines down upon us  
to let us know they are happy.*

It took a little time to find the right blue material with stars on it. Ruby and Gilly made up the packs for folks to make their own star. They were both touched by how different each square became.

As Gilly says, 'Just as our children are unique.' In October 2005 the quilt was entered into the Annual Autumn Quilt Show at Ingliston near Edinburgh, organised by the Fabrications Patchwork Magazine and won first prize in the category of Group Work.

Spend a lovely weekend in a beautiful part of the country where you will be given a warm welcome, feel safe amongst other bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings, and make new friends or renew old friendships.

A full programme of workshops, discussion group, speakers, and therapies are arranged, but you can participate as much or as little as you like.

Our keynote speaker on Saturday morning is Dr Ann Dent who gave an inspiring address at last years AGM. On Saturday afternoon 'A Walk to Remember' is being organised through Cirencester Park (where the Royals play Polo). It is a gentle stroll through the park to Cirencester town, where you may wish to stop and explore the Corinium Museum, Historic Church or shops before you continue up the hill to the college. You may get friends and family to sponsor your walk in memory of your child to support TCF. In the evening we all meet together for The Gathering Dinner. On Sunday we have our Candlelighting Service, followed in the afternoon by our AGM, before a final Closing Ceremony

There really is something for everyone including Music, Poetry, and Craft workshops.

Cirencester is very accessible - by road from the M4 & M5. An hourly National Express coach runs from London, by rail via Kemble, and Bristol airport is less than an hour away.

### SECURE A PLACE TODAY WITH A £25 DEPOSIT DETAILS BELOW

If you haven't already booked please remember a £25 Deposit secures your place and booking forms can be obtained from John and Irene Baldock on 01634 718299, TCF Office 0845 1203785, or downloaded from the TCF website [www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk)

In order to make the weekend a success we are looking to obtain help from a number of volunteers in the following areas:-

1. Registration and welcome
2. Discussion Group Leaders
3. Quiet Room
4. Gathering Dinner Table hosts
5. Candle Lighting service

If you feel you could help in these areas or others please contact Marian on 01242238745 or email [mvbr31413@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mvbr31413@blueyonder.co.uk)

We look forward to meeting you at the Gathering.

Marian Venn  
Events Director



Award Presentation:  
Gilly (holding prize) and Ruby



## 'Victims and Witnesses:

*'Raw deal or fair treatment?' - Thursday 29 June 2006  
Morrison Hall, Atkin Building, Gray's Inn,  
Inns of Court School of Law, London*

Places are still available for the Conference at the Inns of Court School of Law. The aims of the conference will be: to improve practitioners' awareness of what can be done to ensure victims and witnesses get fair treatment, to promote best practice in inter professional responses to sudden and violent death, and to answer the question: 'Is a victim centred approach compatible with the legal process?'

Speakers: Ken McDonald QC (DPP), Lawrence Gant (A & E Consultant), Jack Goble (Fire Investigator, London Fire Brigade, and Magistrate), ACC John Broughton (ACPO), Diana Youdale (Compassionate Friends), Joyce Plotnikoff (Consultant to the Home Office and Office for Criminal Justice Reform on vulnerable witnesses). They will talk about the practices and procedures in place in their organisation to support victims and witnesses.

The afternoon programme will consist of workshops based on case studies, illustrating good and bad practice, to explore.

Delegates are invited from the Police, Social Services, fire and ambulance services, healthcare practitioners, lawyers, voluntary sector, and emergency planning Departments.

Conference fee will be £90 per person, with a £10 reduction per person for 2 or more booked in a single booking.

This is a must attend, low-cost professional development event for organisations dealing with sudden, violent death.

For further details & booking forms please contact: [alison.lee.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:alison.lee.1@city.ac.uk) Alison Lee, Marketing & Recruitment, The City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HD

Or visit: [www.tcf.org.uk](http://www.tcf.org.uk) and click onto events for a link to online booking registration.

## NATIONAL TCF VACANCIES

### Do you have a few spare hours each week to take on the rewarding work as a Trustee of TCF or even the role of Chairman of TCF?

Do you have a few spare hours each week to take on the rewarding work as a Trustee of TCF or even the role of Chairman of TCF?

As from the AGM on 30th September 2006 the post of Chairman of TCF will be vacant in addition to other Trustee posts. Some of the key areas of management that we need help with are; Community Fundraising; Corporate Support; Policies, Procedures & Guidelines; Professional Networking; Publications; and the Website.

As a Trustee you would be responsible for controlling the charity's management and administration, and developing the organisations aims, objectives and goals, in accordance with TCF's governing document, and legal and regulatory guidelines.

The Board of Trustees works together as a team and consists of skills, knowledge and experience so that the charity is well governed and runs effectively, economically, and appropriately to its size and complexity.

Do you have relevant skills that you can offer, and an interest in the management of TCF?

For further information on the roles & responsibilities of a Trustee please contact: Diana Youdale, Chairman, TCF, 53 North Street, Bristol BS3 1EN, email: [chairperson@tcf.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@tcf.org.uk)

Please read and complete the enclosed nomination form and return it to: TCF, 53 North Street, Bristol BS3 1EN. Alternatively you can request further details via the National Office and somebody will get back to you.

Nominations need to be submitted by the 31st July 2006.

