

2020

Bereaved by Drug & Alcohol Abuse Virtual Conference

Via Zoom Conferencing

Morning 10.00am to 12.00 mid-day

Conference Facilitator Peter Cartwright, Speakers: Noel McDermott and Julia Sabin

Afternoon 1.00pm to 3.00pm

Speakers: Tammy Masefield, Peter Cartwright and James Sabin

With performances by Celtic singer Ado Matheson throughout the day.

Saturday 10th October 2020

Sadly, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have taken the decision to hold a virtual conference online this year using Zoom Conferencing with our very experienced host Jasmine Plowright. We still have the same team supporting you as in previous years.

As it's our Founders 70th birthday this October, we felt that a donation of £7 (or something with £7 in it!) via the online payment system Eventbrite is all that's needed to be able to register to take part.

Please click the link below to donate and take part in this year's event.

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**Lives Worth
Talking About**

Our 2020 Speakers...



Peter Cartwright
Specialist Bereavement Counsellor

Peter has over twenty years of experience of both counselling bereaved people and supporting families affected by a loved one's drug or alcohol use. He has brought these two strands together to develop a specialism in substance-related bereavements through his work as a counsellor, trainer, researcher and author. He is the lead author of 'Supporting people bereaved through a drug- or alcohol-related death', the first book to specifically address how to support and counsel these marginalised bereaved people, and published in September 2020.

He works with DrugFAM to provide training and clinical supervision to their staff and volunteers, and facilitates their quarterly bereavement support group.



Ado Matheson

Songs from the Heart

Ado Matheson is a Celtic singer and songwriter inspired by his family tradition of music especially his late Grandfather who was crowned 'Celtic Bard' in the 50's for his writing. Ado has lost many members of his family and friends through addiction. However the greatest tragedy was losing his dear younger son William to heroin in 2013. His music and writing are helping him to heal and come to terms with his grief. He hopes above all else that his music will reach out and touch the hearts of those who have been there regardless of time and circumstances.



James Sabin

When I was just nine years old my world was turned upside down when my eldest brother Daniel died of a drugs overdose. Since then I have tried hard to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs especially in schools to young people so that the same does not happen in their families. I have become a Young Persons Ambassador for DrugFAM. at the conference this year I will be speaking about my achievements in this role and sharing what it is like to be in this role. I am proud to be a part of DrugFAM.



Noel McDermott
Broadcaster, Licensed Psychotherapist
and Founder of international mental health
organisations

apioneering health and social care professional with over 25 years, industry experience. Passionate about bringing high quality care and support to the vulnerable, Noel is an advocate of community care and the power of a stepped care model that includes the affected individual, their family and in some instances their workplace.

Noel's career within the mental health industry started in 1996 when he undertook a post graduate qualification as a therapist, he has been licensed ever since. Noel is also in recovery himself from alcoholism and addiction himself having suffered from PTSD and has been clean for 10 years.



Tammy Masefield

I'm 34 years old and I'm married to Mark. We have a two-year-old son Charlie. Mark is a serving soldier and we are currently based in Catterick, North Yorkshire.

I lost my mum in 2017 after she had battled heroin addiction and depression for a long time. She was 53 years old when she died. I grew up with my dad and we had a strained relationship with my mum from an early age. I've been through some hard times and I found it hard to get my head around all the struggles my mum had, DrugFAM have helped me find my way through these tough times and I'm in a much better place now.



Julie Rose

I have worked for Nationwide Building Society for thirty years, and in many departments across the years. My son Scott was a budding carpenter with the world at his feet until he met Heroin. We spent many years trying to get him clean through treatment programmes and rehabs, however after coming out of a rehab in Holland, he went back to heroin and used his last fix which killed him. He was 28 years old. I decided to write about my story and what happened. The book is called Tenacity which is now published. I found the journey of writing a healing process which helped me immensely along with going back to my music and playing violin, which I started as a child. I do believe that if you find something your passionate about it will give you strength to go on.



Gill Owen-Conway

After stepping down from the Director of Chiltern Branch of Samaritans Elizabeth contacted me and I began as a volunteer for DrugFAM. Shortly afterwards, I was asked to facilitate the High Wycombe weekly support group for families affected by active substance and alcohol use.

In 2018 I was asked to take up the post of Helpline Manager. I have also had the privilege of working closely with many bereaved clients. I also enjoy public speaking for DrugFAM.



Elizabeth Burton-Phillips QVA MBE

Elizabeth is perhaps best known as the author of 'Mum, can you lend me twenty quid? What drugs did to my family' a story that has now been read by over thousands of people in the UK and translated into six languages. The book describes how an "ordinary" family was devastated by drug addiction which drove Simon's twin brother, Nick, to end his own life in 2004, aged just 27. She was awarded an MBE in the June 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours List for 'services to people who experience drug addiction and their families' Her charity was further awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in May 2017. This award is given by the Queen to an individual for outstanding service to the community. The MBE is in recognition of her unwavering and tireless contributions to raise awareness of the impact of drug and alcohol addiction on families.

Agenda for the The 12th Annual DrugFAM Bereavement Conference: **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT: DIVERSITY AND GROWTH**

09.40 Log on to Zoom available from this time

10.00 Start

Peter Cartwright will open the conference (and will link and introduce all subsequent parts of the day)

10.10 **Ado Matheson** singing

10.15 Key note speaker 1: **Noel McDermott**

10.55 Whole conference short participation activity

11.00 Bereaved mother: **Julie Rose**

11.30 Small groups sharing their experiences, facilitated by a member of DrugFAM staff

12.00 **Peter Cartwright** ends the morning but asks people to stay logged on

12.05 Lunch break for an hour

Ado Matheson, bereaved father to sing from Songs of The Heart for last 15 minutes

01.05 Peter welcomes everyone back

01.10 Bereaved daughter: **Tammy Masefield**

01.40 Key note speaker 2: **Peter Cartwright**

02.10 Comfort break or whole conference participation activity

02.15 Bereaved brother: **James Sabin**

02.45 Remembering our loved ones. Light a candle at home and join the candles lit across the country **Ado Matheson** sings.

02.55 **Peter Cartwright** closes the conference: He will thank the DrugFAM staff, volunteers and all the speakers. He will ask you to fill in a short feedback form before we all say goodbye.

03.00 End

03.15 Log off

Please note both **Gill Owen-Conway** and **Elizabeth Burton-Phillips** will be available to support anyone who is struggling.

You can email them on gill@drugfam.co.uk or Elizabeth@drugfam.co.uk

