

PUSHING UP DAISIES



TODMORDEN

A community-generated festival creating conversations around death and dying
 May 16-23rd, 2015

Pushing Up Daisies is organised by a group of Tod folk who find thinking about, talking about and planning for death pretty scary. We'd like it to be easier, kinder, more communal, less frightening. And not just in the hands of professionals: more in our own hands too. So we got together, invited the rest of the town, and have come up with this.

It is a budget-free festival, so every event is offered in kindness by the person running it, hosted in kindness by each venue. This is about people meeting people, and creating support and friendship networks off their own backs.

This is our first year. Any suggestions, thoughts or feelings about what we could do next year, please email us or leave your comments at the library.

Compassionate communities state that "provided that people are encouraged to do so, everyone can have a useful role to play in promoting health and wellbeing at the end of life irrespective of their usual social roles and occupations" *



Pushing Up Daisies is the initiative of three women currently training to become Death Doulos, also known as End of Life Companions (Mary Clear, Hannah Merriman and Sue Robinson). To find out more about the training they are doing, go to: www.livingwelldyingwell.net

*Public Health Approaches to End of Life Care: A Toolkit - Karaplagiou, A. & Kelleher, A. (2013)

pushingupdaisiestod.moonfruit.com
pushingupdaisiestod@gmail.com

EXHIBITIONS:

Water Street Gallery **Q**
 Contemporary artistic perspectives (painting and sculpture) inviting conversations about death and dying. For more information: www.waterstreetgallery.co.uk

Unitarian Church **D**
 Picturing Death - we happily video and photograph weddings and christenings, but rarely take pictures of funerals - still less of our loved ones after they have died. This small exhibition explores the possibility of bringing the momentous occasion of death into the family photograph album. **Please note**, there will be photos of deceased people in this exhibition, it will be in a space separate from the main area of the church. It can be viewed throughout any of the other events at the church (Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat).

Fundevoegel **A**
 Todmorden's fairy-tale art café and venue will present an eclectic collection of works on the theme of death: Thurs - Sun 10am - 5pm

DAISIES

"Daisy People" will be dotted about the town in cafes and public places throughout the week. You will recognise them as they will be wearing **daisy badges**.

They are folk who have volunteered to be available to anyone who wants to have a conversation about any aspect of death or dying. They aren't there to give advice or make suggestions, but they will have some basic information which may be useful. They are friendly listeners, supported by Sue Robinson.



	2-4pm	6-8pm
Sunday 17th	Kava	Kava
Monday 18th	Wetherspoons	Blackbird
Tuesday 19th	Wetherspoons	Blackbird
Wednesday 20th	Vanilla Kitchen	Site Restaurant
Thursday 21st	Vanilla Kitchen	Site Restaurant
Friday 22nd	The Bear	Golden Lion

There will also be Daisy People throughout the week in Todmorden Library.

DISPLAYS

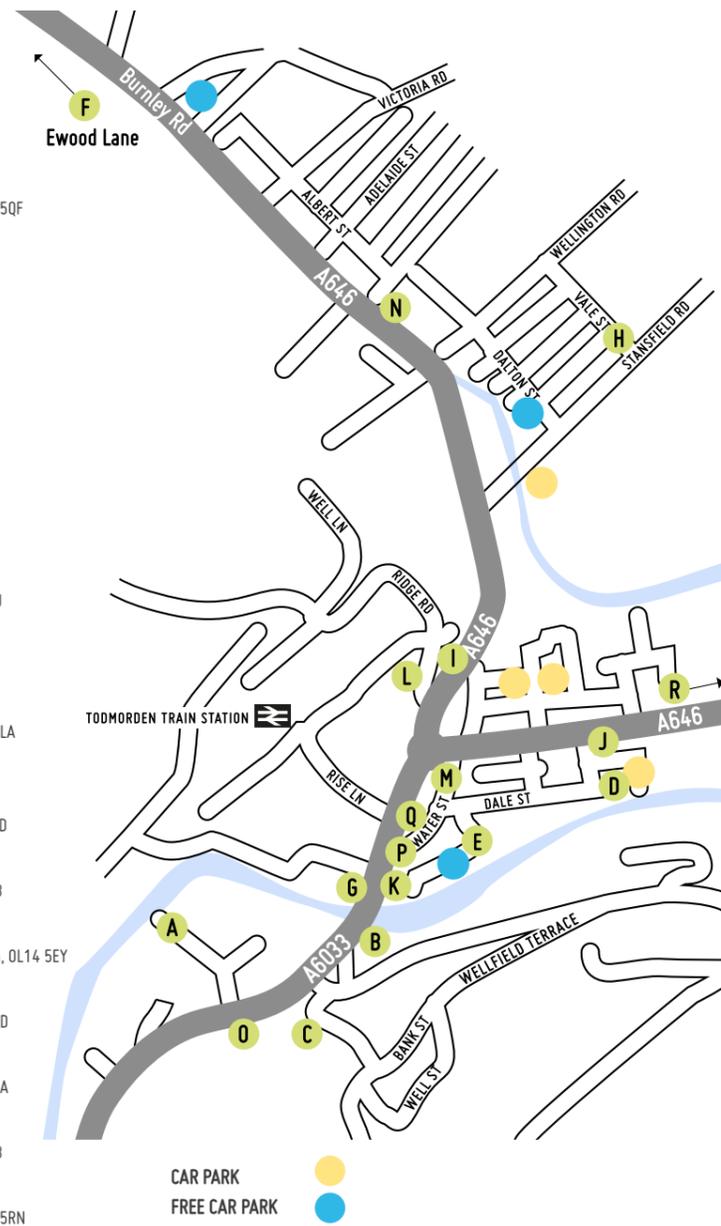
Todmorden Library **G**
 Books for all ages covering life limiting conditions, grief, loss and dying. This will be complemented by artefacts from Calderdale Museums.

Todmorden Health Centre **R**
 Information leaflets will be available throughout the week relating to Overgate, organ, body and tissue donation.

- > **Wednesday 20th, 12-2pm:**
 Amanda Kirwan will be on hand to talk about her personal experiences of kidney transplant, the many issues around donation, and the lives she has seen blossom with 'new' life.
- > **Thursday 21st, 1-3pm:**
 Learn about your local hospice: Overgate. Meet one of the specialist team and ask any questions about services provided.

VENUES:

- Fundevoegel** **A**
 1 Salford Way, Todmorden, OL14 7LF
- The Golden Lion** **B**
 Fielden Square, Todmorden, OL14 6LZ
- Todmorden Community Resource Centre** **C**
 Old Bakery, Lever St, Todmorden, OL14 5QF
- Unitarian Church** **D**
 Honey Hole Road, Todmorden, OL14 6LE
- The Fielden Centre** **E**
 Ewood Lane, Todmorden, OL14 7DD
- New Oddfellows Hall** **F**
 Oxford Street, Todmorden, OL14 5PU
- Todmorden library** **G**
 Rochdale Road, Todmorden, OL14 7LB
- Tod Studios** **H**
 Stansfield Road, Todmorden, OL14 5DL
- Creative with Nature** **I**
 17 Burnley Road, Todmorden, OL14 7BU
- Todmorden Funeral Service** **J**
 30 Halifax Road, Todmorden, OL14 5QG
- Kava** **K**
 31a Rochdale Road, Todmorden, OL14 7LA
- The White Hart (Wetherspoons)** **L**
 Station Approach, Todmorden, OL14 7BD
- Blackbird** **M**
 23 Water Street, Todmorden, OL14 5AB
- Vanilla Kitchen** **N**
 Back Patmos, Burnley Road, Todmorden, OL14 5EY
- Site Pizza Restaurant** **O**
 43 Rochdale Road, Todmorden, OL14 6LD
- The Bear** **P**
 29 Rochdale Road, Todmorden, OL14 7LA
- Water Street Gallery** **Q**
 25 Water Street, Todmorden, OL14 5AB
- Todmorden Health Centre** **R**
 Lower George Street, Todmorden OL14 5RN



This festival is community-generated and has been created out of the kindness of local folk. Almost all events are free. There will be collection tins at each one, feel free to be generous. Every penny will go to covering essential costs.



SATURDAY 16TH MAY

LOVE & DEATH (FILM)

TIME: 7pm
VENUE: Fundevogel Art Cafe **A**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book. Food available.

1975 comedy in Czarist Russia where a neurotic soldier and his distant cousin make their way through tumultuous times. Although they take divergent paths in life, they come together as they seek to find the perfect spouse and lover. And try to assassinate Napoleon. Comedy. Starring Woody Allen and Diane Keaton. Directed by Allen.

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

LIFE, END OF LIFE AND LIVING ON DONATION

— Amanda Kirwan

TIME: 1:30–3pm
VENUE: Upstairs at The Golden Lion **B**
PRICE: Free — No need to book.

After 27 years on dialysis and 4 kidney transplants Amanda has a lot to say about the joys of living, of giving, and looking at positive approaches to the end of her life. Full of information yet remaining personal, this talk with Q and A will be an insider's view of living on donation.

STORIES FROM THE EDGE — Hannah Merriman

TIME: 3–5pm
VENUE: Upstairs at The Golden Lion **B**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

An evening of spoken word, poetry and storytelling about moments on the edge. Somewhere between life and death. A hotch-potch of local poets and performers will share their very personal tales of being on, or witnessing, that edge. Bring your own stories for afters!

MONDAY 18TH MAY

CREATIVE MEMORIES — Wonderful Women led by Mary Clear

TIME: 10am–3pm
VENUE: Todmorden Unitarian Church **C**
PRICE: Donations accepted — No need to book.

A drop in day incorporating 3 activities suitable for all ages:

- Shoebox Shrines — bring a shoe box and mementoes of your loved one, human or otherwise, to make a beautiful little shrine. Either leave it on display during the festival or take it home.



- Memory Wall — bring a photo of your loved one to display on the Memory Board. Write a message to display with the photo if you wish, and light a candle too.

- "Before I Go" — string up your bucket list ideas on a parcel tag and see them blow in the wind.

Together these activities will bring the Church alive with the wishes of the living and love they have for those already gone.

GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER — Mike Hall

TIME: 6–7pm
VENUE: Todmorden Community Resource Centre **D**
PRICE: FREE — Book at mikehallacib@btconnect.com or on 07970 690 565

A practical, no nonsense approach to this challenging subject. Mike Hall, with over 40 years' experience of financial planning will cover: Planning your Will, Lasting Power of Attorney, Trusts, Advance Decisions to Refuse Treatment and Organ/body/tissue donation. This illuminating talk will be followed with time for questions from the floor.

VALEDICTORY (PLAY) — Madelt Theatre

TIME: 7:30pm
VENUE: Todmorden Unitarian Church **C**
PRICE: £2 (all proceeds to go to Pushing Up Daisies)
No need to book. Pay on the door.

Tom & Sarah have differing views on how their disabled daughter should face the end of her life. Holly, their daughter's nurse, has had experiences in her past that have made her reevaluate her own opinions on end of life care.

'Valedictory' is a new one-act play looking at the issues surrounding the topical debate around assisted dying & tries to imagine how one family would cope as they agonise over the right thing to do.

Made It Theatre are a Hebden Bridge-based company championing new writing. www.madeittheatre.co.uk

TUESDAY 19TH MAY

ERR, I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT...

Hutch Hutchinson

TIME: 7–9pm
VENUE: Upstairs at The Golden Lion **B**
PRICE: FREE — Book via pushingupdaisiestod@gmail.com

Hutch has spent fifteen years exploring the communication skills needed around end of life. He would like to invite you to share what you know, and to learn from others' experiences in an environment where there are no wrong answers and any idea can be tried out.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY SUICIDE: SPACE TO TALK.

Gillian Brooks

TIME: 10am–12pm or 1.30–3.30pm
VENUE: Todmorden Community Resource Centre **D**
PRICE: FREE — Places limited to 4 per session. Please book via gillybrooks@talktalk.net or 07410 986381

This is an opportunity to share the particular feelings which come from the loss of a loved one to suicide; an opportunity to meet others who have been similarly affected. Supported by Gillian Brooks who has personally experienced loss through suicide, and currently works as a bereavement counsellor. This session is focused on peer support. Refreshments provided.

WIT (FILM) — Todmorden Library

TIME: 2pm
VENUE: Todmorden Library — Meeting Room **E**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Golden Globe nominated film recounting the story of a renowned professor who is forced to reassess her life when she is diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Starring Emma Thompson, directed by Mike Nichols.

GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER — Mike Hall

TIME: 6–7pm
VENUE: Todmorden Community Resource Centre **D**
PRICE: FREE — Book at mikehallacib@btconnect.com or on 07970 690 565

A practical, no nonsense approach to this challenging subject. Mike Hall, with over 40 years' experience of financial planning will cover: Planning your Will, Lasting Power of Attorney, Trusts, Advance Decisions to Refuse Treatment and Organ/body/tissue donation. This illuminating talk will be followed with time for questions from the floor.

THE LAST DANCE — Gil Burns

TIME: 6:30 — 8pm
VENUE: Fielden Centre **F**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Dance and Death have walked hand in hand since Prehistoric times. Ancient civilisations and modern ones alike have used dance to celebrate and ritualise passings. This unique dance workshop will focus on a few of these and look at languages of movement in saying farewell. Open to all www.gilburnsdance.moonfruit.com.

3 VALLEYS GOSPEL CHOIR

TIME: 7pm
VENUE: Todmorden Unitarian Church **C**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

An evening of uplifting gospel, spiritual and folk songs celebrating life and acknowledging death. Tea and cakes, tipples and possibly a communal singalong at the end. Todmorden's fantastic 3 Valleys Gospel Choir will move and entertain you for the evening.

THURSDAY 21ST MAY

GOOD GRIEF! — Hannah Merriman

TIME: 6.30–8.30pm
VENUE: Fundevogel Art Cafe **A**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Hannah, after several deaths in the family, came to feel she just didn't grieve like other people. As if she wasn't "British enough", too noisy, too public about it all. And felt alone in that. Until she discovered how other cultures did it, and good grief that was a relief! This is an audio tour of what she found and would like to share. Plenty of time for discussion.

ERR, I'M NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT...

Hutch Hutchinson

TIME: 7–9pm
VENUE: Upstairs at The Golden Lion **B**
PRICE: FREE — Book via pushingupdaisiestod@gmail.com

Hutch has spent fifteen years exploring the communication skills needed around end of life. He would like to invite you to share what you know, and to learn from others' experiences in an environment where there are no wrong answers and any idea can be tried out.

WALKING WITH DEATH — Jen Altman

TIME: 7–10pm
VENUE: New Oddfellows' Hall **G**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.
Enquiries: jennifer@bodyknowledge.plus.com

A taster workshop in which we use two powerful practices to travel the path into death and help us to see death as a friend. Jen Altman is a therapeutic healer who has run workshops on dying for many years.

REQUIEM FOR THE DARKNESS — Debbie Sharp

TIME: 9pm onwards
VENUE: Fundevogel Art Cafe **A**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Live sound and word performance by director and artist at The Penthouse (Manchester) and Fundevogel. Debbie's practice often works within a space of memory and mortality. She's interested in the history of time, the ancient, and fragments of life and death. This piece will look into the darkness of the in-between, the void of existence.

FRIDAY 22ND MAY

LIVING AND DYING WITH ALZHEIMER'S

— Shelagh Robinson

TIME: 11.30am–12.30pm
VENUE: Todmorden Community Resource Centre **D**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

The first thing Shelagh noticed was that she got lost driving familiar routes, and found it more difficult to park her car. She also found her computer and other gadgets harder to operate. About four years ago, the 74-year-old counsellor received a devastating diagnosis: dementia. Shelagh shares her thoughts on preparing for death and dying while living with Alzheimer's.

TRANSFORMING MEMORIES — UPCYCLING ASHES

— Mary Clear, Rosie Clear and Heather Gallivant

TIME: 12.30–3pm
VENUE: Todmorden Unitarian Church **C**
PRICE: FREE — Email mary@incredible-edible-todmorden.co.uk

Come and make a 'Final Fling' seed bomb with your loved ones ashes, human or otherwise. You will need paper egg box, ashes, favourite seeds and a pinny. Watch a practical demonstration on making beautiful stone angels, bird baths and other fabulous ways of keeping mementoes. We will eat cake, share memories and discuss the things we want in a supportive fun atmosphere.

DEPARTURES (FILM) — Todmorden Library

TIME: 2:00pm
VENUE: Todmorden Library — Meeting Room **E**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Oscar winning Japanese film 'Departures' tells the tale of a newly unemployed cellist who mistakenly takes a job preparing the dead for funerals. As he learns and carries out the rituals used in preparing the dead for their final rest, Daigo finds his true calling in life. Starring Masahiro Motoki, directed by Yōjirō Takita.



MAKE YOUR OWN SHROUD — Jen Altman

TIME: 2.30–5.30pm
VENUE: Tod Studios **H**
PRICE: Small charge to cover cost of materials.
Please book via jennifer@bodyknowledge.plus.com

Decorate a commemorative shroud using paint, print, photos, stitch... We will provide materials, techniques, ideas and conversation. Sue Donnelly and Jen Altman are artists with recent experience of accompanying the dying. Jen runs workshops on facing our fear of dying. Workshop may be be messy!

GOING GRACEFULLY: SHARING OUR STORIES ABOUT GOOD DEATHS — Bardy McNair

TIME: 7–9pm
VENUE: New Oddfellows' Hall **G**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

A workshop for us to tell stories about 'good' deaths. From personal experience, from literature, films, other peoples' stories... whatever. Bring writing, pictures or artefacts to help tell our stories; we may write stories there and then. We could make a display to inspire others, encouraging them to know that a good death is possible.

SATURDAY 23RD MAY

FAIR TRADE COFFIN MORNING AND WILLOW MEMORIAL MAKING

TIME: 10am–1pm
VENUE: Creative with Nature Workshop & Gallery **I**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Drop in, have a coffee and look at Natural Endings' willow and Fair Trade bamboo woven coffins. We can answer all your coffin questions. Creative With Nature are on-hand to help you craft a small bio-degradable willow and copper memorial to commemorate someone special.

www.naturallengings.co.uk — www.creativewithnature.co.uk

OPEN SESSION — Todmorden Funeral Service

TIME: 10am–1pm
VENUE: Todmorden Funeral Service **J**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Judith Brandwood, who is both qualified and experienced in all aspects of funeral arrangements, is opening the doors of Todmorden Funeral Service. You will have an opportunity to look around the facilities, learn how someone is cared for after death and have the chance to ask Judith questions about any aspect of funeral planning.

MR WILSON'S SECOND LINERS

TIME: 3–4.30pm
VENUE: The Golden Lion **B**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

Mr. Wilson's Second Liners, hot off their China tour, will be creating some serious atmosphere in Todmorden this Saturday. 90s Manchurian classics meets New Orleans jazz — "a funeral rave without the body". This is going to be pretty wild!



DEATH BY POWER POINT — Mary Clear

TIME: 7–9pm
VENUE: Todmorden Unitarian Church **C**
PRICE: FREE — No need to book.

A power point presentation of truths, ideas, memories and personal stuff.

Delivered by a very alive person, who has had some brushes with death. Find out what led this woman to train as an end of life death doula. Not for the squeamish. Not for the judgementalists. Not for the narrower persons. Followed by:

A Dead Good Quiz — Mary, Sue Robinson, Hannah Merriman

Pub quiz meets Funeral Parlour entrance exams. Go solo or join a team for everything from the weight of organs to the rules about burial. May get gory! Tipples and nibbles to finish off the week.

Please note: we know death and dying can be painful topics to explore. The views expressed in each workshop are those of the person running it, it's possible you won't agree with them. And it might not be the right time for you. Go safely, gently, look after yourselves. You can speak to a Daisy person if you want to talk.

Todmorden artist group, The Fielden Project, will initiate a new project around the festival themes culminating in a new work to be released by the group as a publication in autumn 2015.

Our friends at the Calderdale Dying Matters Partnership will be organising a day of live music, discussion, art and much more at the Hebden Bridge Town Hall on Sunday 24th May, from 10am — 4pm.

There will also be a screening of *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, on Thursday 21st May, 7.45pm at the Hebden Bridge Picture House.

Thank you: Molly Cockcroft, Mike Hall and Shirely Fielder at UCCA, Gil Burns, Gig, Roberta Crossley and Jon Medcalf, Calderdale MBC, Tracy Wilson and Todmorden Health Centre, Calderdale Dying Matters Partnership. Lastly but definitely not least, all the people who have given their time to put on events or volunteer as a Daisy!

