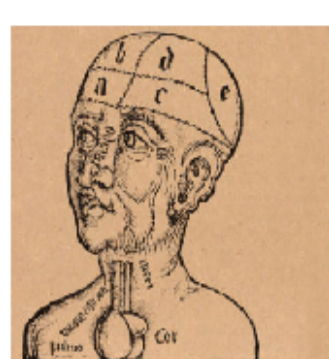




April 2012 Newsletter

Dear Friends and Supporters.

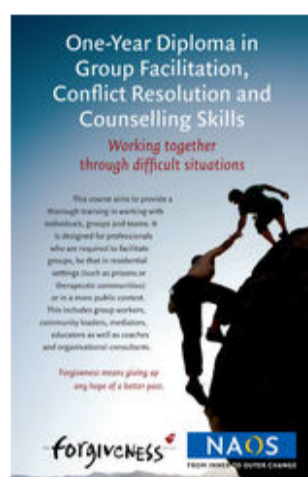
Annual Lecture: 2012



Our annual lecture this year is on 3rd July at 6.45pm at the Royal Geographical Society (London). The title of the lecture is 'The Line Dividing Good and Evil' and it will be given by Dr Gwen Adshead, Forensic Psychotherapist, of Broadmoor Hospital. This is a subject close to my heart because around the time I set up the Forgiveness Project I stumbled across a quote by *Alexander Solzhenitsyn* which seemed to perfectly sum up the underlying ethos of the charity: *"If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human-being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?"* Joining a panel discussion after the lecture and sharing some of their story will be [Marian Partington](#), [Erwin James](#) and [Kemal Pervanic](#).

To find out more and buy tickets go to our website - www.theforgivenessproject.com.

Diploma Course



Our first part-time structured training course in [Group Facilitation, Conflict Resolution and Counselling Skills](#) has been a great success. With 45 signing up for it last year we've decided to run it again from October this year. The diploma is being run in association with the training, therapy and consulting organisation, [NAOS](#) and will be held in central London.

To enquire about the 2012-13 Diploma please contact rachel@theforgivenessproject.com.

Supporters' Programme

In February we launched our new Supporters' Programme. Because this is currently such a difficult funding climate for charities, we decided that one way for the Forgiveness Project to survive would be to try to harness the extreme good will and loyal support that we've enjoyed over the years. The Supporters' Programme invites people to join at different tiers donating as little as £5 a month and as much as £3000+. I have been very moved by those who have joined and it has given me much more optimism going forward. However, the reality is that still only a very small number have actually signed up to the programme, and we need more of you to do so in order to secure our future.

Visit the [Supporters' Programme](#) page on our website for more details, or if you're interested in joining please contact simon@theforgivenessproject.com.

Prison Programme

The evaluation of our RESTORE programme that we commissioned from Middlesex University's Forensic Psychological Services is now complete with many positive results and some rich data. The evaluation adopts a mixed methods, prospective, longitudinal, controlled research design and follows two cohorts of prisoners, comparing them with similar prisoners who have not been on our programme. One exciting finding is that on a good measurement for recidivism the programme was shown to have a significant impact. The research concludes: *"The most encouraging finding is that there is almost unanimous praise for TFP's work and its impact, both from prisoners and from staff. They all highlight the powerful speakers, the sensitive facilitators and the importance of group and individual ownership of processes of change. TFP is time and again, identified as being different, as allowing prisoners and staff to step out of the normal roles required within incarceration. It fundamentally appears as a humanising, empowering intervention that provoked very strong support in evaluation participants."*

New Stories

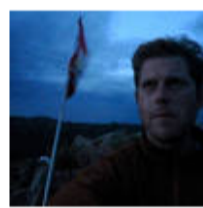
Check out some of our most recent stories –



In 1971 [Kelly Connor](#), then aged 17, was responsible for the death of a 77-year-old woman in a road accident in Perth, Australia. She has since moved to England and written a memoir about her experience. *To Cause a Death* is dedicated to both her daughter, Meegan, and Margaret Healey – the woman she killed.



In May 2009, at the age of 24, Adam Rogers moved back to his parents' home in Blackburn. One Saturday evening, just after his parents had left for a two week holiday in Malta, Adam got punched in the head protecting his friend from a random attack. He died in intensive care the following day. Just over two years later Adam's father, [David Rogers](#), met Billy – the 16-year-old who had killed his son.



From the age of 17 [Arno Michaels](#) was deeply involved in the white power movement. He was a founding member of what became the largest racist skinhead organization in the world, a Reverend of self-declared Racial Holy War, and lead singer of the race-metal band Centurion, selling over 20,000 CDs to racists round the world. He now works with a group of former US gang members and white supremacists to produce [Life After Hate](#), a monthly online magazine dedicated to basic human goodness.

Schools Resource

We have now completed most of the filming for our Schools Resource and are planning to pilot it in several secondary schools over the next few months. If you are a teacher in the UK interested in the themes of forgiveness and reconciliation please contact info@theforgivenessproject.com. We plan to launch the resource in Spring, 2013. It will consist of downloadable filmed stories and activities aimed at supporting teachers to use TFP material.

Exhibition

"I've just read all of the north wall posters in Chapel. Wow. They are so moving and beautiful. I'm not quite sure how I'm going to get any work done this afternoon – they're really incredibly affecting."

Visitor to the F Word in Keble College Chapel, Oxford – February 2012.

The F Word exhibition continues to tour the UK, Germany and the US. We are delighted to welcome on board our new US Co-ordinator, Louisa Hext. If you have any queries about hiring the exhibition in the USA or Canada you can contact Louisa at consultantshext@gmail.com. Meanwhile, [Koogito](#) carry on with their fantastic work touring the F Word in Germany.

Here in the UK, next month the exhibition can be seen at:

- [St Stephens](#), Bristol, 21 St. Stephen's Street, Bristol, BS1 1EQ (8 – 22 May 2012)
- [St Mary with St Nicholas](#), Federal Road, Perivale, Middx, UB6 7AP (20 – 27 May 2012)

If you would you would like to hire the exhibition or find out more information please contact rachel@theforgivenessproject.com.

And finally

A huge thank you to Marian Partington for donating a percentage of the proceeds of her new book *If You Sit Very Still* (Vala Publishing) to the Forgiveness Project. The book chronicles the events surrounding her sister's murder by Fred and Rosemary West and Marian's journey towards healing. This is an exceptional book. I read it in one sitting, in awe of Marian's ability to write with such beauty about something so unspeakably horrific.

We would also like to thank Frankie Owens who is raising money for the Forgiveness Project by walking from Lands End to John O'Groats. If you're interested in sponsoring Frankie in this incredible enterprise please visit his [JustGiving page](#).

Very best wishes,

Marina Cantacuzino

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