

CPD For 2011



Three questions for everyone:

I have my form, and really struggle to find the required 12 hours. It is not that I don't do CPD, I am sure I complete the hours; I am just not sure exactly what counts. Do you have any suggestions?

CPD should not be considered a chore. From the majority of members who were spoken to about their hours, the ones who put spectacular times in have maintained their record as an ongoing log rather than try to devise a list at the eleventh hour. They see CPD as an important part of their professional profile not a distraction in their day. They have a further use for their CPD record – to evidence their work on their appraisals to employees. Those who are employers themselves, use it as a mentoring aid to other colleagues.

That seems clearer, but what sort of activities count. Can I spend 12 hours trawling the Internet, and reading the BIFD Journal – will that scrape me though?

Again, CPD should not be seen as an enemy. The fact that it is currently a voluntary aspect to membership, and other professions such as solicitors are required to undertake 16 hours, and for architects the RIBA requirement is 35 hours, the 12 hours should be seen as a MINIMUM. Many members evidence 60 hours plus, and they are clearly benefitting from the experience. Activities have included:

- 4 hrs – attending CRUSE Bereavement seminar
- 2 hrs – visiting a crematorium and discussing current regulations affecting colleagues
- 1 hr – each quarter reading the BIFD Journal, or monthly trade magazines
- 4 hrs – researching cemeteries for alternative memorial stone composition
- 2 hrs – undertaking a health and safety exam online, with preparation work
- 12 hrs – attending a BIFD education weekend
- 0.5 hr – listening to a radio programme on BBC Radio 4, regarding death care

- 8 hrs – attending a First Aid training refresher
- 4 hrs – attending a Health and Safety presentation facilitated by Peninsula
- 4 hrs – reviewing methods of floral sales and composition with trade florist
- 6 hrs – devising a Training Audit Plan for staff, based on CPD
- 2 hrs – Internet research regarding consular requirements in Italy for repatriation
- 4 hrs – coffin factory visit, including newest manufacturing procedures
- 5 hrs – at Handled With Care Exhibition, attending presentation and viewing product
- 4 hrs – local hospital – bereavement services staff regarding changes in procedures
- 2 hrs – delivering training to care home staff regarding embalming process
- 3 hrs – church regulation meetings

Right I'm sold.
How can I make a start now?

You can download the necessary forms direct from the Internet on the BIFD webpage under 'membership' and make a start today. There is a further article on CPD by past president Simon Lewis still available on the webpage - print off, re-read, devise your plan and put that in as your first hour. And remember twelve hours is a start – once you get involved with it, practitioners attest to how quickly the hours stack up. Members who may not wish to pursue CPD via the voluntary licence criteria route, as professionals, may wish to undertake CPD as a duty to their clients by continuing to strive for the best. Don't subscribe to the maxim of "I know enough, I have been doing the job since I left school" in a profession as dynamic and evolving as ours the clever money is on keeping up to speed, however you do it. CPD simply provides a framework for you.