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THE BIFD NEWS

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter from
The British Institute of Funeral Directors



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2021-2023
www.cpdstandards.com

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The BIFD News is an official publication of the British Institute of Funeral Directors and is published quarterly.

Whilst the Newsletter aims to encourage the fullest freedom of opinion and expression, it should be understood that unless stated, views and opinions, including those of the Editor, should not be construed as being policy of the Institute.

The British Institute of Funeral Directors accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any claim made by any advertiser within this Newsletter, or for the quality, suitability or standard of the goods so advertised.

British Institute of Funeral Directors 40th Anniversary

Members
Noticeboard

The Institute was founded on 6th February 1982 by a number of experienced funeral directors, each with an interest in education and sharing their knowledge with persons coming in to the funeral profession.

Over the past 40 years the BIFD has grown into one of the leading providers of education within the funeral service and its Diploma in Funeral Service is the highest qualification available to those within the profession. Indeed our mantra is 'Educating the Profession'.

Our qualified Tutors offer two courses: the Certificate in Funeral Service and the Diploma in Funeral Service. Both these courses are accredited by the University of Greenwich.

The BIFD strongly believes in the Continuing Professional Development of its members and those who choose to attain the required level of 12 hours annually become eligible for the Licence to Practice offered by the Institute.

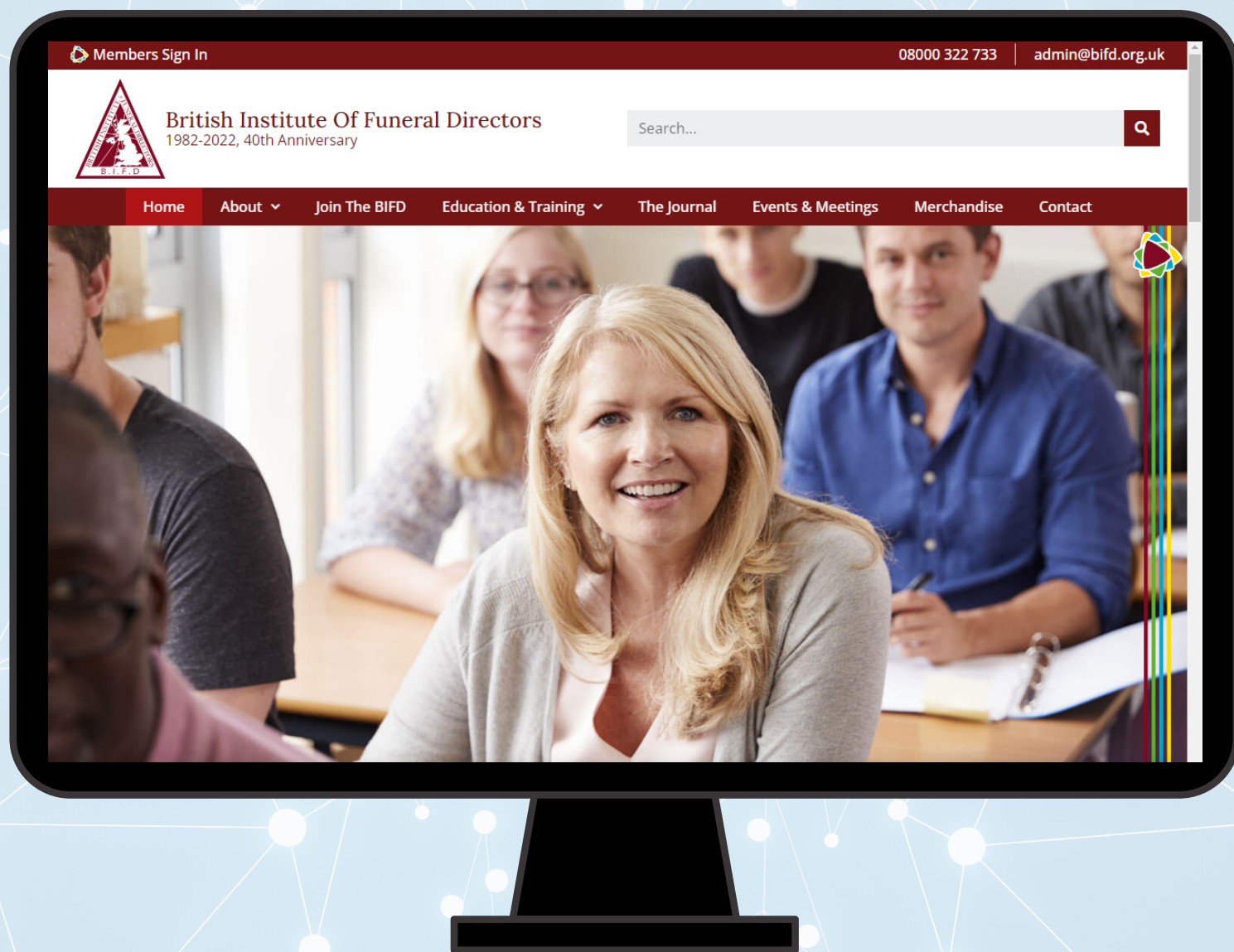
With over 300 members nationwide, you can be assured there is a BIFD member close to you. "Look for the Licence".

To commemorate our 40th year, we have a stunning tie designed by Past President, David Capper available to buy for £20.00, which includes p&p. Proceeds from the sale of the ties will be donated to National President, Paul Stibbards' chosen charity: The RNLI.

Contact Jem & Karen Mead at National Office to buy one of these exclusive 40th Anniversary designs admin@bifd.org.uk



NEW WEBSITE LIVE! WWW.BIFD.ORG.UK



After two years of hard work, we are proud to unveil our new look website.

With an exclusive members area, information about our Greenwich University Accredited courses and more, we hope you love our website as much as we do.

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Telephone: 0800 032 2733

2022/23 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Please complete this form IN FULL and return it with your payment and any supporting documents, as required.

Name:		BIFD Membership No.:
Address:		
Town:	County:	Post Code:
Telephone:	Email: please print clearly	

I hereby apply to renew my membership in the British Institute of Funeral Directors, as follows:

✓	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	SUBSCRIPTION AMOUNT		
	Licenced Full Member (CPD FORM MUST BE COMPLETED)	£185.00		
	Full Member	£160.00		
	Retired Member (voting)	£ 75.00		
	Retired Member (non-voting)	£ 50.00		
	Student Member	£ 75.00		
	Associate Member	£100.00		
✓	ADDITIONAL MEMBER ITEMS	Quantity	Cost	TOTAL AMOUNT
	Additional copies of Annual Licence <i>(ONLY available to Full Members with a Licence, as above)</i>		£10.00	£
	Member's Lapel Badge		£ 5.00	£
	Member's Window Sticker		£ 2.45	£
	Member's Tie (normal straight tie)		£12.50	£
	Member's Tie (clip-on tie)		£12.50	£
	BIFD Text Book Certificate & Diploma (cost of each)		£65.00	£

Member's Signature:	Total Additional Member Items	£
	Membership Subscription (as above)	£
	TOTAL TO PAY	£

✓	Payment Method
	Cheque - enclosed (<i>Cheques to be made payable to the British Institute of Funeral Directors</i>)
	BACS (internet banking) Sort Code: 60-83-01 Account No.: 20336550 (please quote your surname as the reference when paying by BACS / Internet Banking)

To opt out of allowing your personal information to be shared, please tick the box.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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PLEASE NOTE: If you are applying for a Licence, you must complete the 2021/22 CPD Return and enclose it with your Subscription Renewal. CPD Returns will be checked and verified and you may be contacted and requested to supply additional information if we need further verification.

The British Institute of Funeral Directors

Conference: 28th – 30th October 2022

Holiday Inn Airport Hotel Southend

77 Eastwoodbury Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6XG

BIFD 40th Anniversary Conference & Gala Celebration Dinner

The BIFD was established in 1982 by a group of funeral directors who believed in education and training for their profession; so that members of the public seeking to use the services of a funeral director should be able to choose wisely and get the best possible professional services on offer. It was the last Institute to have 'British' in its name. The BIFD places the educational and professional development needs of Funeral Directors at the heart of its work and promotes best practice through continual professional development. The BIFD is run by professionals for professionals; the BIFD prides itself on responding to what individuals, companies and the funeral profession needs to best serve the bereaved, now and in the future.

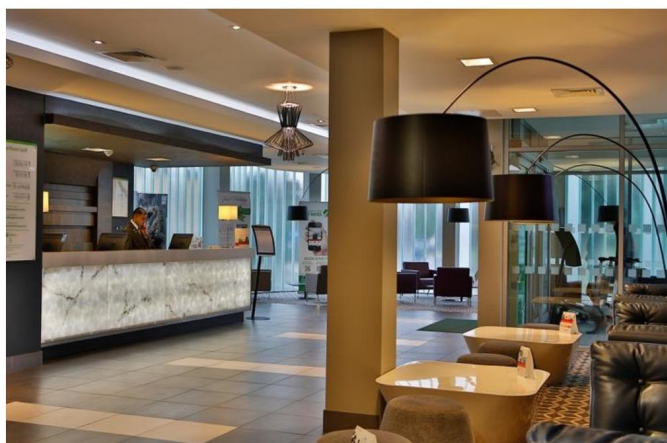
Under the current National President, Mr. Paul Stibbards, Board of Directors and Education Committee, the Institute has a progressive team dedicated to the profession and education. Now 40 years old, the Institute wants to celebrate the changes that have taken place in the profession and funeral education.

Please join us on the 28th – 30th October 2022 to celebrate the Institute's birthday but also to be there influencing the next chapter.....



Venue For 40th Anniversary Conference & AGM

The Holiday Inn Airport Hotel Southend:



The Holiday Inn Southend is situated just a short walk from London Southend Airport and a short drive from Southend Pier, making it perfect for business or leisure. The fresh, bright and **sound-proofed bedrooms** are the perfect place to relax after a long day. The award-winning rooms are designed to offer a range of facilities to enhance your stay; with comfortable beds, free Wi-Fi, flat screen TV and well-equipped bathrooms. You can also enjoy complimentary tea and coffee in your room with ample on-site car parking.

As the BIFD celebrates its 40th Birthday, The Holiday Inn Southend will be celebrating its 10th Birthday.

The 4 Star Holiday Inn Hotel Southend is gearing up to celebrate its 10th birthday throughout October 2022. Exactly ten years ago in October 2012, the Holiday Inn Southend opened and to celebrate the hotel's anniversary, Holiday Inn Southend is planning five weeks full of surprises and special promotions. For the month of October, the Rooftop Bar at the Holiday Inn Southend will be offering a host of signature cocktails for ONLY £5.00 and all you have to do is mention their 10th Birthday to enjoy a host of unique signature cocktails, any day of the week. Throughout the five-week celebration, the 1935 Rooftop Restaurant will also be offering a 2 for £29 lunch menu. Guests can enjoy a 2-course lunch; choose from a list of starters, main courses or home-made desserts and include a drink for only £29 for two people. Lunch is available Monday to Saturday from 12pm to 2.30pm. Pre booking is required.



The Holiday Inn Southend will be marking their official ten-year anniversary with a free glass of Prosecco for all guests visiting the hotel on Thursday 27th October 2022. You are invited to come along and celebrate with their dedicated staff, who will be on hand to share many of the funny stories they have encountered in the hotel over the past ten

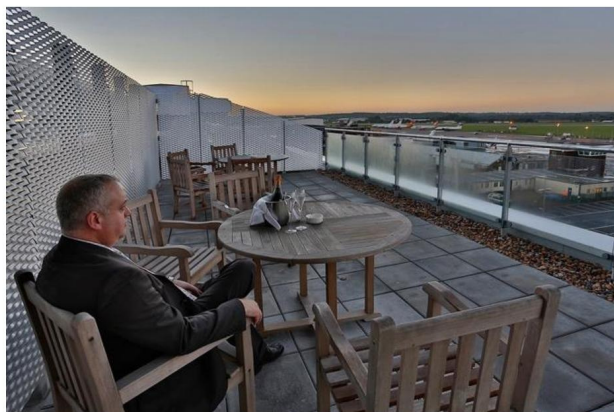
years.

The Holiday Inn Southend has had the honour of hosting 481,4927 guests in its ten years. Over one million pillows have been plumped, over 69,000 kilograms of potatoes have been peeled, while staff at the hotel's 1935 Rooftop Bar have popped over 8,000 bottles of Prosecco. To achieve this, 70 employees from 13 different nations work both front of house and behind the scenes to ensure the perfect and personal IHG service is delivered on time, every time.

With 129 rooms and suites, a ballroom and four conference rooms, as well as Essex only rooftop bar and restaurant, it is a gem on the outskirts of Southend which delivers a personal service with a focus on community responsibility. In May 2017, the hotel won the prestigious Green Tourism Award, the world's largest sustainable certification programme.



The 1935 Rooftop Bar



The 1935 Rooftop Bar is this the only rooftop bar in Essex, offering amazing views over the runway of London Southend Airport. Whilst enjoying dinner on Friday Evening, you will be able to enjoy breath-taking views of the surrounding Essex countryside and perhaps watch a plane or two take off from London Southend Airport.

The name 1935 Rooftop Bar originates from the year London Southend Airport officially opened as Southend Municipal Airport, on 18th September 1935. The start of the Second World War saw the site requisitioned by the

RAF with several squadrons from all over the world based at Southend. During this time the runways played home to the Supermarine Spitfires, Hawker Hurricanes and Bristol Blenheims.

London Southend Airport is still home to the **Avro Vulcan XL426**. Due to its British aviation heritage and as a tribute to the men and women who flew the Vulcan during the Cold War, a local volunteer group known as the **Vulcan Restoration Trust** purchased and now maintains the Vulcan B2 XL426 in live ground running condition at the airport. It opens to the public at the Visit the Vulcan Days held throughout the year just a few minutes' walk from the hotel.



The British Institute of Funeral Directors Conference 2022:

28th – 30th October 2022

Holiday Inn Airport Hotel Southend

77 Eastwoodbury Crescent

Southend-on-Sea

SS2 6XG

The 40th BIFD Conference 2022 Tarif Rates

1. Friday Evening To Sunday Morning – THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

<i>Friday Dinner</i>	<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £470</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday Bed & Breakfast</i>	<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £315</i>
<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	
<i>Saturday Lunch Included</i>	
<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>	
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee</i>	

2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

<i>Friday Dinner</i>	<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £180</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday Bed & Breakfast</i>	<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £130</i>
<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

3. Saturday To Sunday Morning - ONLY

<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £275</i>
<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>	<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £180</i>
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee</i>	

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

4. The Gala Banquet Dinner Only

.....£60 Per Person

<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>	
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee</i>	

5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLY

.....Free To All Members & Students

<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	
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Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

ROOM UPGRADES AVAILABLE (Subject To Availability)

<i>King Executive Room</i>	<i>.....£25 extra per room per night</i>
<i>Superior Suite</i>	<i>.....£35 extra per room per night</i>

TO STAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE CONFERENCE DBB

<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £145</i>
<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £120</i>

The 40th BIFD CONFERENCE 2022

BOOKING FORM

Members Name: Membership Number:

Address:

Post Code: Contact Telephone Number:

Email Address: Number of Rooms Required:

Special Dietary Requirements: Yes/No Details of Diet

Arrival Date:/...../..... Departure Date:/...../.....

Attending **Partners** Name:

Attending **Guests** Names:

Attending **Children's** Names & Ages:

See Rates Page To Complete Payment

Tariff (1) – Full Package

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Please return your completed booking form and cheque, made payable to 'BIFD' for the appropriate amount to the Conference Co-ordinator:

Tariff (2) – Fri to Sat

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Mr. David Gresty

The British Institute of Funeral Directors

National Office

10 St John Road

Wroughton

Wiltshire

SN4 9ED

07803 955 230

Tariff (3) – Sat to Sun

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

david-gresty@hotmail.com

Tariff (4) – Gala Dinner Only

Total Attendees £.....

Bacs Payments To:

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Tariff (5) – AGM Only

£ No Charge

Total Amount Due £.....

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Article

Are You Generous to a Fault?

Susan Leigh
Lifestyle Therapist.

Some people are exceptionally generous. It may be because they're in a good position, with plenty of money, time, expertise or skills and they feel it's only right that they share with those would benefit from some help. Then there are those who appear to have comparatively little by way of good fortune, but are happy to give what they can to support others. They'd give their last dime if they felt it was needed, being sensitive to others and their situations.



However, some people are opportunistic friends. They're the takers in life, who regard any offers of kindness as their own good fortune. They're happy to take without a second thought. This can become an issue, especially if someone's generosity is taken for granted and regarded as an automatic right in the relationship.

It begs the question, should there come a time when you question why you're so generous, why your natural default is always to be kind, help others and rarely decline requests? There can be many reasons, and whilst most of us want to be supportive and do what we can for others, it's also important to, at times, be self-aware and gain insight into our motivation, whilst checking whether being so generous has become a problem in our life.



Some people struggle with imposter syndrome and suspect that they don't deserve their success, that they will eventually be discovered to be a fraud. They use being generous as a way to compensate others, believing that they're more worthy and entitled to any rewards. They may feel guilty at benefitting from their own success, and so donate gifts and assistance as a way to redress the balance.

Other people want to be liked and be seen as the 'good guy', always helpful to a fault, ready to share, be supportive and put others first. This can be okay on 'good' days, when there's plenty of time to spare and everyone's relaxed, but not every day is like this and sometimes saying, 'no' in a positive, yet assertive way teaches others not to expect too much too often.

How do you change, when you're generous to a fault?

Accept that being generous is your decision, your behaviour and hence, your problem. Yes, none of us should give, expecting to receive in return. But if you find that you're becoming resentful about the takers in your life and feel that it's too late to change, maybe start to view your generosity as a way of establishing some good karma. The takers will no doubt receive their just rewards at some point in the future.

It may be that others are so used to your being supportive, looking after and taking care of them that they don't realise how much you actually do. They may not appreciate how much time, effort or money you invest in helping them. So occasionally say, 'I did a big shop today', 'I collected your dry cleaning for you'. There's no need to mention everything you do, but why not intermittently put it out there.



If the other person has genuinely no understanding of what your generosity costs in terms of time, effort, finances it doesn't hurt to let them know that you've had to sacrifice lunch, spent hours on the phone, made several trips, travelled miles to help them out. At first, or as a one-off, that might have been okay, but it's very different if it becomes an expected, regular part of your routine.

If there's little or no response to this you could voice that you want some appreciation, 'a thank you would be nice!'

Just because you're happy to help, it's convenient for you to do certain things, doesn't mean that it's automatic that you should. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'we teach people how to treat us'. Ask and wait for thanks and then everyone can feel valued.

Thanks for listening



Why not suggest something they could do in return? Most people have something they can contribute by way of appreciation. Could they help with childcare, spend a little time looking after your garden, walk your dog, do some admin or PA work? They may have thought that you wouldn't value their input, especially if they see you as ultra-efficient and organised, but let them help and become part of your mutual support system.

Set boundaries, where you're firm and clear about what you will and won't do. Refusing to be guilt-tripped into being generous can be tough at first, especially if you suspect the other person is relying on your help. But your first priority has to be to take care of yourself and those closest to you. Spreading yourself too thin, wearing yourself out is not a healthy way to live your life.



You can always put a pause on being generous until there's some reciprocation. You could even float the idea of sharing tasks, where one does one thing whilst the other does something else.

Then both sides gain awareness of what's involved.

An important way to back off from being generous to a fault may be to source alternative ways they can get the help and support they need, so educating them to become more independent.

Suggest online training courses, advice centres, support groups, all of which are often readily available and sometimes free. Doing this may give them access to much of what they need and enable your relationship to become more evenly balanced.



The Land Rover Defender hearse accommodates the coffin and flowers with 4 available seats for funeral staff, whilst the support vehicle has 7 seats available.



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FUNERAL FACT FINDER

Article

Lucie Kibbey, Cert. FS

Deputy Editor of the Journal.

Wearing Black

Unless requested to wear a specific colour, it is usually respectful to wear black or dark shades to funeral services. It is believed that this tradition dates to the Roman period, where individuals would wear a dark toga (known as a toga pulla) after the passing of a loved one or family member. This tradition continued throughout British history, with the Victorians in particular favouring black as the colour of mourning.

The Word 'Funeral'

The word 'funeral' is believed to have first been used by Geoffrey Chaucer, who is often considered the father of the English language. It appeared in writing in his Middle English work The Knight's Tale, in which he refers to a 'funeral servyse' after a character passes away. It was published in 1386, making it the first written use of the word funeral that we know of.

Flowers and Candles

There is a lot of symbolism surrounding the use of flowers at funerals and it is commonplace to include flowers in a service today (with roses, lilies, and carnations particularly popular choices). However, it is believed that using flowers became particularly common in the history of funerals as they helped to mask any unpleasant odours. Technology and mortuary processes have improved, meaning this is no longer an obstacle. However the practice of bringing flowers to a funeral has endured.



Headstones

While grave markers have been used throughout British history (with Stonehenge one of our most famous ancient grave sites), engraved or carved headstones became increasingly popular in the Victorian era. Inscriptions, bible verses and messages about the loved one were often included, as well as artistic decoration. This is something that has endured today, with many choosing a bespoke headstone with beautiful carvings to honour their loved ones.



Professional Mourners

Much like traditional funeral processions today, the Romans used to hold processions to honour their dead. However, they looked very different to the type of procession you would see in contemporary Britain. The larger and noisier the procession, the wealthier or more important the deceased would be. For this reason, professional mourners were sometimes hired to ensure that the procession was as large and noisy as possible.

First Ever Cremation?

Cremation is often a common practice today, with many choosing this option over a burial. For this reason, we may often think that cremation is a relatively new process.

While it is certainly true that cremation has gained popularity since the Victorian era, the oldest evidence of cremation in funeral history is believed to be over 20,000 years old.

This archaeological evidence was found in Australia, near Lake Mungo (and is aptly known as the Mungo Lady).

Stop All the Clocks

There are many different traditions in the history of funerals that we continue to do today. However, there are some that are less commonly practised too. One of these less commonly used rituals is for mourners to stop the clocks in the room or house where a loved one passed away.

This was a popular ritual during the Victorian period and was originally thought to prevent bad luck, as well as symbolise the loved one's passage into a new life without time. It was commonly done in conjunction with covering the mirrors, closing the curtains, and turning over portraits of the loved one.



Wakes

In the history of funerals and wakes, many of the rituals or traditions we have can be traced back to pagan practises. It is thought that the tradition of a wake can be traced back to pre-Christian times, in which family members would keep a constant vigil over their deceased loved one lest they wake. It is also thought that this vigil would help to prevent evil spirits from taking hold. It is typically believed that this type of wake would be held before the funeral or burial.

Today, we tend to hold a wake after the burial or funeral service. Instead of keeping vigil over the body, we use this time to celebrate our loved one's life and grieve together with friends and family.

Obituaries

Throughout the history of funerals, obituaries or published death announcements have been somewhat commonplace. There is evidence of obituaries from the 1600s, and it was customary in the 1800s for public figures to have their death announced to the community (or the country).

However, it wasn't until the 20th century that obituaries for non-prolific individuals became common. These were often announced in the local paper, giving the date of death and the details of the funeral. This is something that is still done today, as well as the use of online methods through social media, to publicly announce a death.



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Funeral Blues

**Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.**

**Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead
Scribbling on the sky the message 'He is Dead'.
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.**

**He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.**

**The stars are not wanted now; put out every one,
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;
For nothing now can ever come to any good.**

~ WH Auden

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**Meet National President Paul Stibbards, members of the
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and our Accredited by Greenwich University Courses**

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Stand 228 | Hall 2



Friday 10 – Sunday 12 June 2022
Stoneleigh Park, CV8 2LZ
www.nationalfuneralexhibition.co.uk

Funeral Partners

West London Funeral Directors Focuses On Families By Joining Funeral Partners



Patrick Ryan & Daughter's funeral home in Greenford, London

Patrick Ryan & Daughter Funeral Directors is delighted to be able focus on serving local families while receiving the support and investment of a high-quality network by joining Funeral Partners.

After moving from Ireland and starting his own driving school in West London, founder Patrick Ryan saw an opportunity to serve the large number of Irish Catholic families in the local communities.

Patrick had some industry experience with his cousins being in the funeral profession, so he began conducting funerals in the 1960s by borrowing facilities in local funeral homes. One of those funeral homes was John Nodes Funeral Service, which many years later would go on to join the Funeral Partners family.

Patrick's popularity enabled him to set up Patrick Ryan & Son with its own premises in Ealing in 1977, which would expand to a second funeral home in Greenford in 2005. His wife Marjorie joined him to help and then, in the 1980s, his 16-year-old daughter Lynn joined the business, prompting Patrick to break from tradition and rename his business to Patrick Ryan & Daughter Funeral Director.

Lynn met her husband, Paul, who was working for the family business at the time and the two became the owners following Patrick's death. The couple faced a different industry to the one Patrick started his business in, with more time spent on necessary yet time-consuming government paperwork, processes and regulations.

As one of the few networks Patrick once enquired about joining, Lynn and Paul approached Funeral Partners first to see what its values and ethos were and whether it could support their ambitions to focus on serving families, and they found the perfect match.

Lynn said: "Funeral Partners was the only one we considered as their values very much align with ours.

"Our family name is still above the door and we conduct funerals in the same personable way that we have since the 1960s, only now with more time to spend with the families we serve."

Regional Development Director Simon Roberts said: "We warmly welcome Patrick Ryan & Daughter to the Funeral Partners family and are pleased to see Lynn carrying on as Business Principal alongside her husband and family, who will still be providing a continuity of care for their local community and ensuring the continuation of the heritage and reputation they have worked so hard to build up with their team."

CEO Sam Kershaw said: "With a rich history and proud heritage, Patrick Ryan & Daughter will continue to thrive as part of the Funeral Partners family. We look forward to supporting their growth, helping the team develop, and integrating Lynn and Paul's wealth of experience into our North-West London region."

Funeral Partners is seeking applications for opportunities in some of its London branches, for further details see:

www.funeralpartners.co.uk/jobs

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Woking Funeral Service Expands To Serve Horsell Community

Woking Funeral Service has opened a modern new funeral home in Horsell to focus on serving the local community.

The funeral home on Horsell High Street is led by Funeral Arrangers Debby Loughman and Rachel Chambers, a well-known Horsell resident who owned Ring-a-Roses florist for 27 years.

Rachel said: “Woking Funeral Service has served Horsell residents since the 1800s from their branches on Goldsworth Road and in Knaphill.

“As a florist, I’ve had the pleasure of working with them for 15 years and have often suggested that they open in Horsell. I was over the moon to be given the opportunity to help make this a reality.”

The new premises have been renovated with Rachel in mind, as she has multiple sclerosis. The branch includes touchscreen technologies, wheelchair access, automatic doors, livestreaming equipment and Bluetooth devices.

The modern features mean Woking Funeral Service’s Horsell branch will use less paper and contribute towards reduced waste and carbon emissions.

Debby explained: “By making their premises so accessible to people with disabilities, Woking Funeral Service will be welcoming to a large number of people.

“Having lived locally for the last 25 years, I look forward to meeting, and being able to help, more of this wonderful community under the Woking Funeral Service name.”



From left: Funeral Arrangers Debby Loughman and Rachel Chambers at Woking Funeral Service, Horsell.



Situated on the bustling high street with on-site parking, accessible bus routes and a prominent window display, Woking Funeral Service looks forward to welcoming residents to its modern funeral home and getting involved with the thriving community.

Regional Development Manager James Ray said: “We’re very proud of our community initiatives at Woking Funeral Service.

“We’ve helped families raise over £436,301 for charities like Woking & Sam Beare Hospices through MuchLoved, the online bereavement platform, on behalf of their loved ones, and we can’t wait to do more for the Horsell community.”

Rachel concluded: “The village and local businesses have been very welcoming to us. We have only been open for a short period of time and are pleased to already be helping families.”

Whether it’s to discuss funeral arrangements, seek advice or just say hello, speak to the friendly team at 78 High Street, Horsell, or visit www.wokingfunerals.co.uk for more information.

Get in touch to inquire about a special opening discount of £300 off Funeral Plans until 31st May 2022 by emailing woking.horsell@funeralpartners.co.uk or calling 01483 910 070.

Woking Funeral Service, part of the Funeral Partners network, can be contacted by phone 24 hours a day, with their Goldsworth Road funeral home being open on Saturdays between 9am and 1pm.



NAFD Yorkshire Presidential Chain Stays Within Funeral Partners



(L-R) Funeral Partners colleagues support the new NAFD Yorkshire president.

From left: Clive Kirk, Business Principal at Turners Funeral Service;

Leanne Rookledge, Manager at Turners Funeral Service and President of the NAFD Yorkshire Area Federation; Melanie Torley, Operations Manager at Hammertons Funeral Directors; Dawn Eastwood, Funeral Director at Wombwell Funeral Service; Steve Fox, Funeral Service Operative at Wombwell Funeral Service; Matthew Barber, Chief Operating Officer at Funeral Partners; John Sidlow, ADM at Funeral Partners; and Phil Barr, RDD at Funeral Partners.

The outgoing President of the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) Yorkshire Area Federation has been succeeded by a fellow Funeral Partners colleague after a unanimous vote at the annual general meeting.

John Sidlow, Area Development Manager at Funeral Partners, handed his presidential chain to Leanne Rookledge, Manager at Turners Funeral Service in Conisbrough and Bramley – part of the Funeral Partners family of funeral homes – after three years of service in the role.

Leanne said: “It was a fantastic evening that brought together hardworking colleagues from across the industry in Yorkshire following a day of interesting and thought-provoking educational sessions.

“I’m honoured to have been voted in as the new President of the federation and will work hard over the next two years to follow in John’s footsteps and continue to strengthen the Yorkshire area.”

The President of the NAFD Yorkshire Area Federation is responsible for upholding the high standards of the NAFD and protecting the rights and interests of its members across Yorkshire.



Following the banquet, the new president was able to present her father, Clive Kirk, Business Principal at Turners Funeral Service, with honorary federation membership status.

Leanne said: “I’m so proud of my dad’s achievements; his dedication and passion for the funeral profession, as well as for the NAFD, make him very deserving of this honorary membership.”

New NAFD Yorkshire president Leanne Rookledge presenting her father, Clive Kirk, with honorary membership status.

Clive, Leanne and John were supported on the night by their colleagues Matthew Barber, Chief Operating Officer at Funeral Partners; Phil Barr, Regional Development Director at Funeral Partners; Melanie Torley, Operations Manager at Hammertons Funeral Directors; Dawn Eastwood, Funeral Director at Wombwell Funeral Service; and Steve Fox, Funeral Service Operative at Wombwell Funeral Service.

John added: “The federation has a bright future with Leanne leading the charge. She’s a diligent, meticulous and very caring funeral professional who will always keep members’ best interests at heart.”

NAFD President Kate Edwards said: “John has represented members in Yorkshire superbly across three very challenging years for the funeral profession and, on behalf of the National Association of Funeral Directors, I would like to thank him for his support for all funeral directors across the county, during the pandemic.

Congratulations too to Leanne, on her installation as his successor. I wish her a fulfilling and enjoyable term of office as Area President.

“It is fantastic to see such a vibrant regional network, not only offering their members opportunities to enhance and develop their knowledge but also to come together and support each other on key local and national issues”.

Funeral Partners

Funeral Partners is the UK's third largest funeral business with more than 200 funeral homes staffed by over 650 dedicated funeral professionals, serving communities across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Chief Executive Sam Kershaw has over 35 years' experience in the funeral profession, joining the business back in 2016 as Chief Operating Officer. Funeral Partners, celebrating its 15-year anniversary in 2022, has grown rapidly, building a strong reputation as a well-run, high-quality funeral services business overseeing more than 20,000 funerals each year.

It now includes more than 125 family businesses, which have entrusted their reputation and heritage to Funeral Partners.



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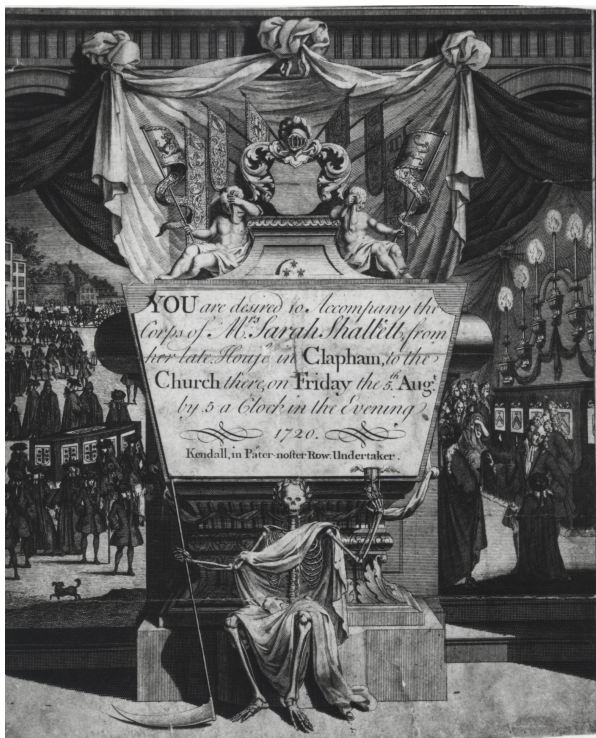


LONDON VERSUS THE PROVINCES: KENDALL OF PATERNOSTER ROW AND CHANDLER OF SHREWSBURY

Dr. Julian Litten, FSA, Hon. MBIFD

In the 1720s two similar trade cards were in circulation amongst the funeral furnishing trade. Interestingly, both were purchased as blanks, with the central cartouche being used for overprinting. The first is a funeral invitation card issued by Kendall of Paternoster Row, City of London to the funeral of Mrs Sarah Shallett from her house in Clapham to the church of St Paul's, Clapham on 5th August 1720. The second is a trade card *per se*, issued by Richard Chandler, Arms-painter and undertaker of Kill Lane, Shrewsbury. The similarities of the two cards are so great that it is impossible that both were by different artists. Note, for example, the two dogs – obviously the same creature, but in reverse – and the identical escutcheons on the pall of the shouldered coffins.

To digress slightly, Sarah Hallett, the subject of the Kendall funeral invitation, was the widow of Arthur Shallett (1650-1711), a wealthy London coal merchant and sometime Member of Parliament for the borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. On his death he was buried in the church of St Paul's, Clapham into which brick grave his widow was deposited on 5th August 1720. Unfortunately, St Paul's, Clapham was demolished in 1774 and though most of its monuments were incorporated into the new St Paul's built on the same site in 1815 none of the ledger-stones were retained, thus the site of the Shallett vault is now lost.



Illus 1: Invitation card issued by Kendall of Paternoster Row, City of London. 1720.
Private Collection

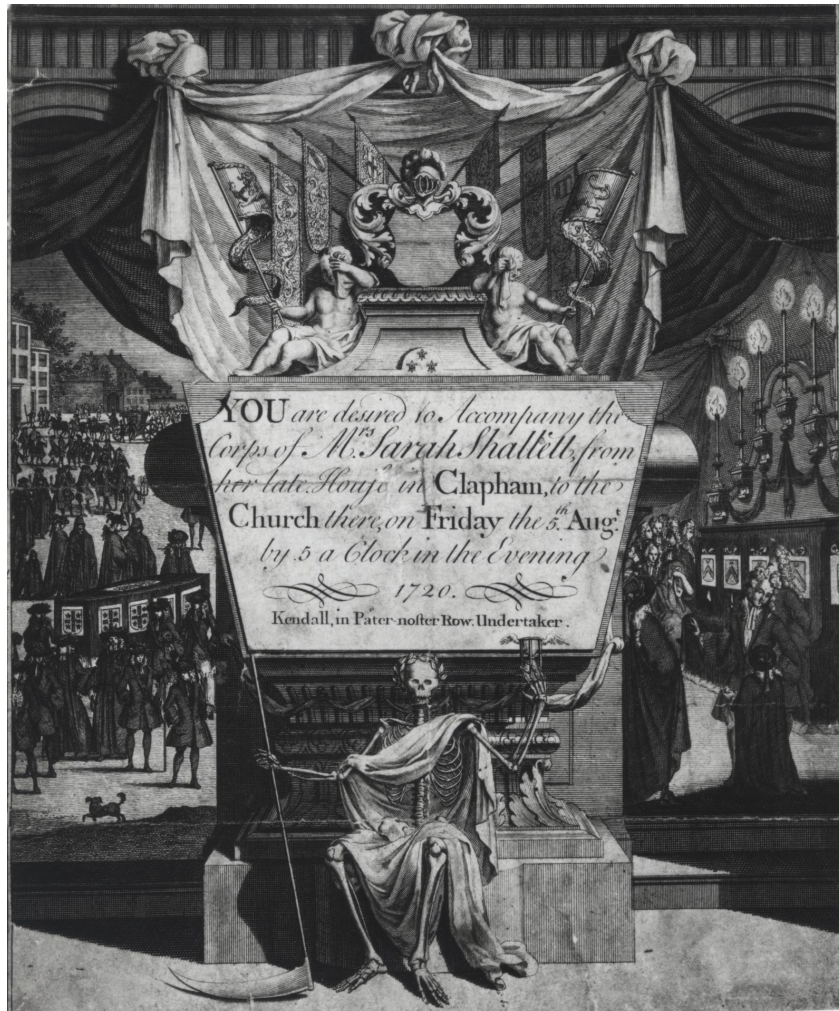


Illus 2: Trade-card of Richard Chandles of Kill Lane, Shrewsbury. 1720s.
Private Collection

From the Chandles trade-card we gather that he was able to provide funerals complete with 'Coffin, burying Suit, Pall, Hangings, Silver'd Sconces & Candlesticks, Cloakes, Hatbands, Scarves, Favors, Funerall Escocheons, Coaches, Herse, Wax Lights, flambeaux, Links, Torches, Tickets, &c' and all 'performed after ye same manner as by ye Undertakers at London.'

A close comparison of the two cards show that the images have been reversed, with the evening funeral shown on the left-hand side of the Kendall invitation appearing on the right-hand side of the Chandles trade-card. However, the right-hand side of the Kendall invitation depicts the interior of a church with mourning and a figure in the foreground looking down into a brick grave, whereas the left-hand side of the Chandles trade-card shows a horse-drawn eventide heraldic funeral. But let us have a closer look at these images.

First, the Kendall invitation card. The centre panel represents a neo-classical sarcophagus, surmounted by two weeping cherubs, each holding a bannerol above which is blank cartouche surmounted by a helm with four standards and four flags. The whole of this upper section is backed by elaborate drapery of black lined white.



At the base of the sarcophagus sits the skeleton of Time, holding an hour-glass and a scythe, wearing a laurel wreath. To the right is the depiction of the church interior, with the pallied coffin on trestles against the wall. On the left-hand side is the street procession, led by two attendants with 'links', which is to say candelabra. They are followed by the shouldered coffin, the hem of whose pall is held by friends of the deceased (the pall-bearers), the whole followed by cloaked mourners and then another pair of attendants with links who are followed by the general mourners in everyday clothes. In the background there is a mourning coach, six-in-hand, approaching a three-storey house whose door is flanked by a pair of mutes.

The Chandles trade-card is similar. The evening street procession is now on the right-hand side, but is less busy than that shown on the Kendall invitation as it omits the six in hand carriage, but the mutes are still there flanking the door of the house from which funeral party has departed.



To the left is an elaborate eventide heraldic funeral, the six-in-hand funeral car being preceded by six cloaked riders bearing banner and bannerols, and two attendants with flambeaux. Behind the funeral; car are four six-in-hand mourning coaches. Above the sarcophagus is a shield of arms with mantling and crest, the whole against an elaborate knotted sheet flanked by an array of ten pennants and bannerols. At the base of the sarcophagus reclines a black shrouded skeleton of Death – this time wearing a bracelet on its right wrist – and with its right foot clutching a spear and its left hand a sceptre. To the left of the figure is a discarded crown and mitre emblematic of Death conquering the monarchy and the episcopacy.

Not to put too fine a point on it, the eighteenth-century funerary trade was far more elaborate than that of the Victorian age. The Georgian undertaker knew an understood panoply, creating a fearful and elaborate spectacle never to be repeated, putting today's funerals to shame. Lucky Sarah Shallett in 1720 to have been accompanied to the grave by such pomp. One wonders what she would have got had she died in 2022!

**© Julian Litten, FSA, Hon. BIFD
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Rosedale Funeral Home, with homes in Norfolk and Suffolk, have been providing group support to the bereaved for many years. Through their groups they have seen people move from feeling suicidal and hopeless to building a new life with meaning and purpose.

They have now developed an interactive training course for funeral directors and other professionals to enable them to facilitate their own courses within their organisation, church or charity. The courses are accessible to anyone wherever they are located with training taking place online via Zoom over two half-day sessions.

The course fully equips delegates to become effective, safe and supportive facilitators and able to run their own Bereavement Support Programme.

Rosedale Funeral Home Director Anne Beckett-Allen says bereavement groups are key to providing effective support. She said: "Sadly, research shows that bereavement is a contributing factor to mental ill health and suicide, if not adequately supported through bereavement, some people can sink into a downward spiral of anxiety, depression, feelings of hopelessness, suicidal thoughts and attempts.

"We've found that holding structures, informative and well facilitated bereavement groups help on a number of levels including; connecting people together to combat loneliness, normalising thoughts and feelings experienced by the bereaved, giving insight into what the grief process entails, and creating an ongoing mutual support community after the course finishes."

The next course is taking place on 14th and 15th July. For more information, visit www.rosedaletraining.co.uk/services/running-your-own-bereavement-support-programme

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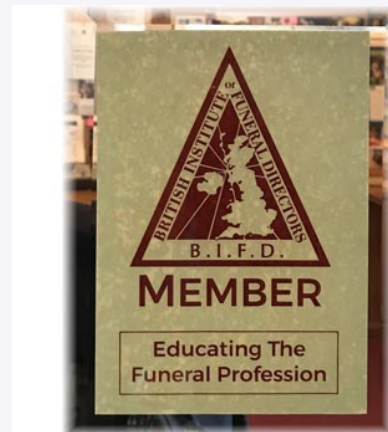


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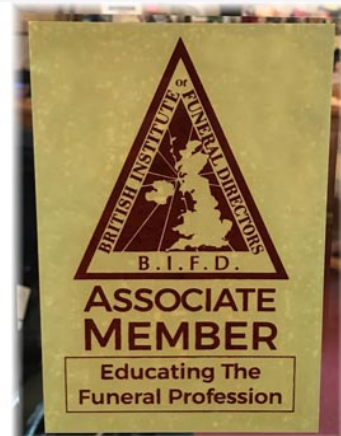
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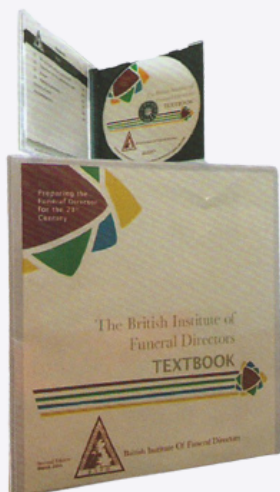
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TAMWORTH CO-OP FUNERAL BOSS TO RETIRE AFTER OVERSEEING 30 YEARS OF UNPRECEDENTED CHANGE



Tamworth Co-operative Society's long-serving general funeral manager is retiring at the end of the month following a distinguished 30-year career in the town. Amanda Woodward is moving to Spain to start a new life in the sun with her husband David after leading her team through a time of unprecedented change in the funeral industry.



Tamworth Co-op's chief executive, Julian Coles, paid tribute to her, saying she had always provided exceptional leadership, especially during the 'two very challenging years when we were so significantly affected by Covid-19.'

"During her time here, Amanda has constantly been at the forefront in terms of introducing change, enabling families to have much greater choice and flexibility when organising funerals. She sets extremely high standards and is very hard working and hands-on," he added.

"She would often tell me the next day of '2am moments' where she would wake up in the middle of the night having thought of a new idea.

"She will be greatly missed by everybody at the Society, and we send our sincere thanks and warmest wishes for her retirement."

Happy Retirement



Amanda Woodward is retiring as general manager of Tamworth Co-operative Society's funeral division at the end of March.

When Amanda (55) first arrived in Tamworth in 1992 the funeral division consisted of an office in Upper Gungate and a small branch in Atherstone. It has greatly expanded under her watch and now employs more than 40 people across funeral homes in Tamworth, Uttoxeter, Woodville, Heath Hayes, Pelsall, Coseley and Great Wyrley. The main premises in Upper Gungate have also been hugely extended and improved to include a full catering service with a licensed bar.

In 2011, she was instrumental in setting up the pioneering Bereavement Advice Centre which will soon move to a new location in Colehill as part of the town centre redevelopment project.

“One of our major aims was to dispel some of the fear and mystery surrounding bereavement and funerals in general,” she said. “The bereavement centre has achieved that for many people. It also provides a lifeline to those devastated by the death of a loved one.”

In more recent years Amanda has also been delighted to see the Society’s annual Christmas Carol Concert and Memorial Service become established as a main highlight of the town’s festive calendar. The event, held at St Editha’s Church, attracts hundreds of people who are not just invited to embrace the festive spirit, but also to celebrate lost loved ones together. The most poignant part of the service is when the church is lit with a sea of tribute candles.



Reflecting on her long career, Amanda clearly remembers turning up for her job interview as a young woman. She was ‘full of butterflies’ as she waited to be grilled for the job of deputy funeral manager.

In an ever-increasing state of terror, she found herself positioned at the head of the table facing questions from a mainly male board. Feeling way out of her depth, she was convinced she would never get the job let alone be promoted to general manager just four years later.

One of the interviewers was senior manager John Leonard Scriven who was to have a huge influence on her career. He died at the age of 85 in 2015 and Amanda led his funeral cortege dressed in her finest formal regalia.

“I had to ensure that he had the perfect funeral as it was the final thing I could do for him,” she recalled.

Amanda says the biggest change she has witnessed in the funeral industry is the sheer scale and flexibility of the services offered.

“At one time the only choice was a traditional funeral service on a religious theme. Some people still want that, of course, but today a funeral can include just about any conceivable aspect a person might request. They can even have their ashes dispersed by fireworks.

“Instead of a hearse, some people prefer to be taken on their final journey in a vehicle which has some significance to their life. This could be a camper van, a fire engine or a motorcycle and sidecar.”



•Amanda’s proudest moment was being appointed President of the British Institute of Embalmers in 2017.

eleesele

One of the most surprising requests she received was to have a coffin built in the shape of a skip for a scrapyards owner.

Being made national president of the Co-operative Funeral Service Managers’ Association was a significant milestone in Amanda’s career. She was only the second woman in its history – dating back to the 1940s - to hold the position.

But her proudest moment of all was the day in 2017 she was named president of the British Institute of Embalmers, a prestigious organisation which also operates several Divisions overseas.

“That was the moment I finally broke through the glass ceiling of a traditionally male-dominated world. In the corporate world, it was very difficult for a woman to become an embalmer when I started out in the funeral industry in 1983. I was told women just don’t do things like that.

“So, I thought right I’ll show you. I’m doing it whether you like it or not and paid for it myself.”

During her year as president, Amanda clocked up thousands of air miles, even travelling to Australia as part of her official duties.

Prior to moving to the Tamworth Co-op, she worked for a different funeral firm in Leicestershire where she started out as a 16-year-old receptionist.

One of her most bizarre experiences professionally was when she had to exhume a monk from Mount St Bernard Abbey in Whitwick. The monk had been buried for more than 40 years, but his bones needed to be sent to Rome for canonisation.

Amanda was also a member of the funeral team which had the sobering task of handling the Kegworth air disaster in a supportive capacity.

On the lighter side, Amanda still smiles at the memory of seeing flowers bearing the name MOM inadvertently placed upside down in a hearse “It pulled up in front of everyone outside the church and I’m not sure the word ‘WOW’ was very appropriate, but thankfully the family saw the funny side too. They realised that, whilst we always strive to handle things in a correct and respectful way, we are also human beings.”

Her toughest days in the funeral industry have come recently. “The pandemic has been the most challenging period of my life. Even though we braced ourselves, it was still like being hit by a tsunami.

“We didn’t know what to expect and you could sense the fear amongst the staff. In the industry there was talk of limited coffin supplies and the prospect of mass graves which thankfully never happened. But it was an incredibly tough period and there were times when we took in very significant numbers of people who had died from Covid.”

As key workers, she said the staff had no option to work from home where it was easier to keep safe.



•Amanda pictured with her deputy Glen Speak who will soon be taking over the general manager role.

“There was no possibility of furlough for our staff either. I think the hardest single thing of all was being restricted in helping people in a personal way at a time they needed it most. We couldn’t physically go near families or welcome them into our catering suite. That went completely against the grain in a caring profession. We felt desperately sorry for people and felt their pain. It weighed heavily on us all.

“Families were only allowed to have six mourners at a funeral service. There were no limousines at times, no singing and no hymn sheets. On some occasions there were no ministers either because of the need to isolate. Family members were distraught that they were prevented from attending funerals of loved ones. I’ll never forget seeing security teams employed at crematoriums to ensure the rules were not broken.”

Amanda’s career also turned full circle during the pandemic as her role became more hands-on.

“Instead of managing the business from a distance, I was back attending funerals and directly supporting families. I was doing the very things that attracted me to the funeral industry in the first place. In that sense it was very rewarding.”

On an optimistic note, Amanda said the situation at Tamworth’s main funeral home has ‘pretty much returned to normal.’ She says she will always look back with enormous pride at the way her staff coped throughout the pandemic.

“It has been incredible to work with so many amazing people. Honestly, I could not have been more privileged and proud to work with colleagues like that.”

Although excited at the prospect of living in Spain, a country she has visited since 2005, Amanda feels emotional at the prospect of leaving the Tamworth Co-op.

“It has been the best organisation in the world I could have chosen to work for. The people, the values...just everything about it.

“The chief executive, the management team, the board, the members and of course all the staff have been wonderful. It’s been such a special place to spend a large part of my life and I’ll miss it greatly. I can’t thank everyone enough. That also includes some incredible colleagues that are no longer with us – unforgettable people like Mr Scriven and my former colleague Bill Galvin.”

Amanda, who has a son, John, says that despite moving overseas she will visit her old colleagues whenever she can. Once she settles in her adopted country, she is also thinking of using some of her professional skills in a voluntary capacity.

“I’d like to set up a bereavement support group over there for expats, and who knows I may even organise a Christmas event on similar lines to the one in Tamworth.”

Glen Speak, deputy general funeral manager of the funeral division, will take over as general manager from April 1.

“Glen joined us in 2015 and I can wholeheartedly say that the future of the funeral division is in excellent hands,” added Amanda.

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TRIBUTES



FFMA AGM 15th November 2021

Stratford-Upon-Avon

On the 15th November the FFMA held its AGM which was extremely well attended, followed by an enjoyable dinner, including representatives from a number of kindred organisation. Providing an opportunity for individuals to make new contacts and discuss issues from across the sector.

In addition to the AGM a guest speaker was invited to address FFMA members on the increasing interest in the environment and sustainability.

Issues which the FFMA are seeking to address through its own Environment Committee.

The speaker, Brendan Day, set out details of the new Greener Globe Funeral Awards (GGFA), building on existing awareness across the sector these new environmental standards are awarded to funeral directors who can demonstrate a desire to understand and control the impact of their business on the environment.

The GGFA is a pragmatic scheme developed to support funeral directors meet client needs on the environment, whilst also reducing costs. It guides and supports those companies whose values align with the growing environmental awareness of the public. Providing an environmental standard that will demonstrate to clients and the wider sector that the funeral director is committed to addressing the challenge of the climate emergency.

There are 4 levels, to achieve the Bronze Achievement Award, a business must commit publicly to the GGFA's 'Trusted Environmental Policy'. The next step is to complete an online Sustainability Audit Questionnaire. Once the audit has been completed and accepted, the business receives the Silver Achievement Award. For the Gold Achievement Award, the business is required to adopt and implement a short-term strategy, which builds on the opportunities for improvement identified at the previous stage. Here, the focus is on smaller, more manageable steps which can be taken immediately to reduce the business's carbon footprint. The aim is to achieve a significant short-term impact, without demanding an inordinate amount of time and resources. The Platinum Achievement Award focuses on a more long-term strategy. To receive the award, a business must outline and adopt a plan for addressing more fundamental issues relating to their environmental impact.

For more information go to www.ggfa.co.uk

The FFMA will continue to monitor the progress of the Greener Globe Funeral Awards, as the public becomes increasingly environmentally aware this will impact on their choice of funeral directors and the types of funerals they want. Representing suppliers to the funeral sector, the FFMA are committed to ensuring our members can provide a full range environmentally friendly products and services.

Alun Tucker

FFMA Chief Executive



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