



JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 3

# THE BIFD NEWS

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



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# THE NATIONAL FUNERAL EXHIBITION 2022

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[www.nationalfuneralexhibition.co.uk](http://www.nationalfuneralexhibition.co.uk)



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**C/O Jem & Karen Mead**

**BIFD National Office**

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# 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.

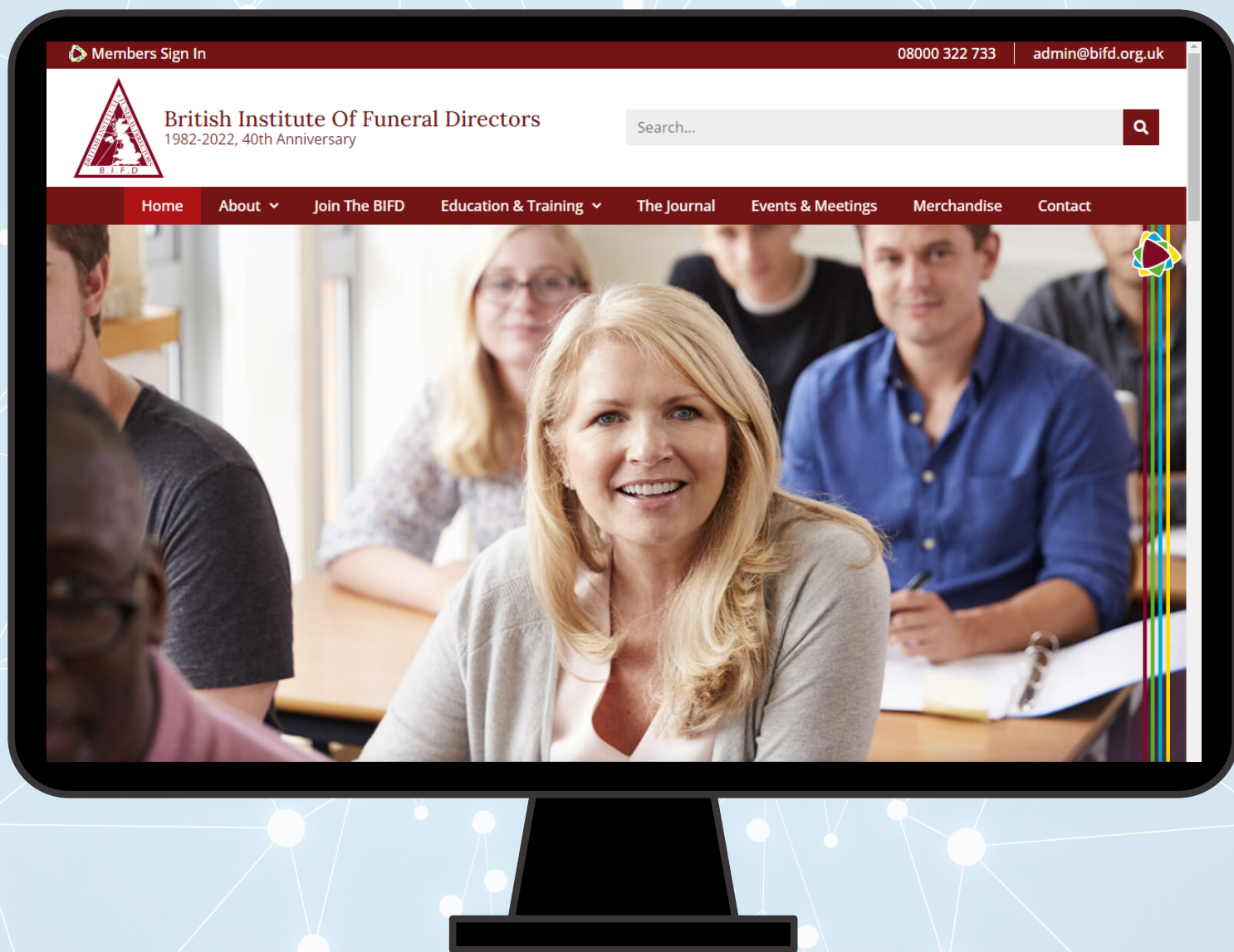
With over 300 members nationwide, you can be assured there is a BIFD member close to you. "Look for the Licence".

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](mailto:admin@bifd.org.uk)



# Have you visited our NEW website? **WWW.BIFD.ORG.UK**



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

**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.**

# Letter From Roger Clark

**Many thanks, to all of you who joined with me during the recent zoom meeting. I do hope that you did not feel that I was lecturing to you as that was not my intention. I wanted to give you confidence to go out into those communities you serve and make them more aware of your professional qualifications and expertise in a more subtle way which would actually not only promote yourself and perhaps company but also the principles of the B.I.F.D.**

**I am sure that you appreciated that I only gave you a snap shot of the subject matter than can be presented in the differing age ranges and group make ups. There was so much I could have said but I would have been locked out of my Care Home had I continued. You all have more than enough ability to produce presentations to whatever group structure you choose that are interesting, informative and sometimes humorous but always clearly demonstrating the dignity and respect for our fellow human beings that we show.**

**As I indicated Schools and 6th Form or tertiary Colleges particularly will have areas on their curriculum ranging from 'Ceremonies' or Religious Rites at the junior level to so many other aspects of human behaviour, how we have to deal with death when it occurs and your professional work is an important aspect. Consequently your contributions can complement the work of the teaching staff.**

**You will also be surprised how interested the more adult groups will be and ask many questions. Consequently you will have profound opportunities not only to dispel myths but also correct mis-information. One particular item to support out colleagues across the sea that a 'Wake' is held before the funeral and not after as often hear until I correct the informant. There are many others that I am sure you can add.**

**I do take colleagues with me into schools as often I have to present more than one lesson and they are clearly of tremendous support. I can assure you that not every presentation whether to an adult group or teenagers is the same because questions are asked and it is important that adequate, appropriate responses are given, unlike politicians!!!**

**Lastly If any of you want further advice or to use some of my photos do not hesitate to contact me or indeed Hayley Bell who kept me in order during the meeting**

**Take care and keep up the good work you all do.**



**Roger**  
**Senior BIFD Examiner**



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# BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Administration Office: 10 St John Road, Wroughton, Swindon SN4 9ED

Email: [admin@bifd.org.uk](mailto:admin@bifd.org.uk)

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	£

Total Additional Member Items

£

Membership Subscription (as above)

£

TOTAL TO PAY

£

Member's Signature:
---------------------

✓	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.



**2021/2022**  
1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

# BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Administration Office: 10 St John Road, Wroughton, Swindon SN4 9ED  
Email: [admin@bifd.org.uk](mailto:admin@bifd.org.uk) Tel: 0800 032 2733



## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RECORD

NAME:

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER:

Date	CPD provider (Please include: name, address and contact details)	Subject matter & training activity received	Comments	Number of hours
				TOTAL

*All the activities must have been undertaken between 01/04/21 - 31/03/22. No carry forwards of any description are acceptable.  
National Office will require this log in support of your Licence application for 2022/2023. This information must be retained for a minimum of three years.  
A continuation sheet may be used.*

## The British Institute of Funeral Directors

### Conference: 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

*Holiday Inn Airport Hotel Southend*

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

## BIFD 40<sup>th</sup> 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.

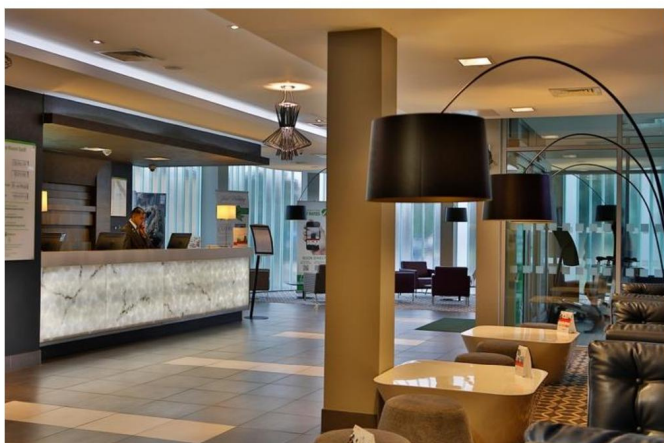
Under the current National President, Mr. Paul Stibbards, Board of Directors and Education Committee, the Institute has a progressive team dedicated to the profession and education. Now 40 years old, the Institute wants to celebrate the changes that have taken place in the profession and funeral education.

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



## Venue For 40<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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.

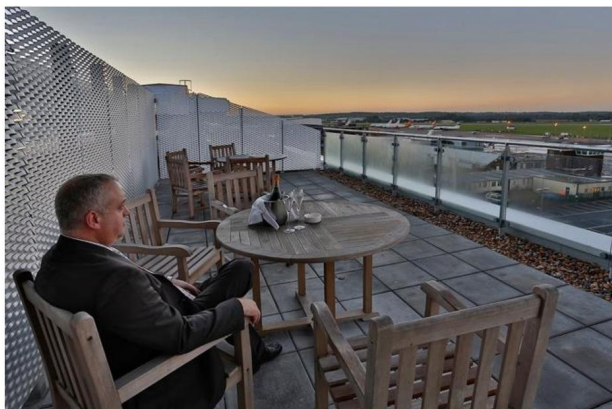
years.

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:

28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

*Holiday Inn Airport Hotel Southend*

77 Eastwoodbury Crescent

Southend-on-Sea

SS2 6XG

## The 40<sup>th</sup> 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 &amp; Sunday Bed &amp; Breakfast</i>	<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £315</i>
<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee &amp; Biscuits</i>	
<b><i>Saturday Lunch Included</i></b>	
<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>	
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea &amp; Coffee</i>	

### 2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

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

### 5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLY

*.....Free To All Members & Students*

<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee &amp; 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 £.....

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#### Tariff (5) – AGM Only

£ No Charge

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Article

## The BIFD at the NFE 2022

**Hayley Bell, Dip. FD, LMBIFD**  
**Editor of the Journal**

The much-anticipated return of the National Funeral Exhibition took place over the weekend of 10th - 12th June 2022 at NAEC Stonleigh.

National President Paul Stibbards was joined on the BIFD stand by 1st Vice President Jem Mead, National Office Administrator, Karen Mead, Past President David Capper, Accredited Tutors Sally Walton & Andy Floyd, Region G Director Amanda Pink & Editor of the Journal & Accredited Examiner, Hayley Bell.



After a few years of waiting, we received a warm welcome to the National Funeral Exhibition

The weekend was spent talking to Funeral Directors about the benefits of becoming a member of the Institute, our rich 40-year history, professional licensing, as well as our Accredited by Greenwich University Courses: Level 3 Certificate in Funeral Service & Level 4 Diploma in Funeral Service, which are the highest level of qualification available to funeral professionals in Europe.

Following the exhibition being postponed during the pandemic, we were pleased to be able to finally see so many familiar faces during the weekend, including colleagues, BIFD members & many of our advertisers were also exhibiting.



'Look for the Licence'



Busy chatting about the Institute & our courses



(L-R) Sally Walton, Karen Mead, Hayley Bell, Jem Mead, David Capper & Paul Stibbards

We handed out leaflets to those who stopped to chat with us, along with the limited edition notebook & pen designed by our National President, as well as this, we also had exclusive 40th anniversary ties available to buy which were designed by Past President David Capper, with all proceeds raised being donated to this year's chosen charity The RNLI.

We managed to all take some time to look at the other exhibits to grab some goodies of our own, & attend some of the incredible lectures held over the weekend. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible, we'll see you again in 2024!





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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## THE MODERN ERA OF FUNERAL DIRECTING: THE PERSONAL TOUCHES

Article

*Lucie Kibbey, Cert. FS*

*Deputy Editor of the Journal*

Back in the early 1900's the most we could offer as a personal keepsake from a deceased was a lock of hair or at best a wet ink fingerprint. But in more recent years there has been a surge in some weird, but also wonderful options for personalising a loved one's service to another level. Below are some of the options I've come across and some I have researched that I think are an excellent additional option to the more usual funeral service options.

## Digital Fingerprints

**This is an option we offer to every family we look after, even if they never make use of them, we offer the chance to have the fingerprints stored on file so that they can access them later if they choose and can then use them for sentimental items.**



## Fingerprint Jewellery

**This is a product that we have procured many times for our families, beautiful pieces of jewellery with a loved one's fingerprint embedded and etched into the metal or glass. We have used companies such as Legacy Life Expressions for Fingerprints and EverWith Jewellery for Ashes.**



## Fingerprint Bears

Another option, which is a nice idea for younger members of the family, are Fingerprint Bears, which can bring some comfort to a child who may want something personal to cuddle of a lost relative.



## Ashes into Glass

One of my favourite products is this beautiful paperweight, offered by Ashes into Glass and just a stunning way to have a lost loved one on display without it being obvious that cremated remains are within.

## Ashes into Flowers

Not to be outdone by the paperweight, there is also the option of having ashes inserted into gorgeous hand-blown flowers. Several sites offer these, in varying styles, one of my favoured being Spirit Pieces.



## Ashes into Space

**Fly me to the moon .... What better place to be scattered than above the atmosphere and amongst the stars! When we first received literature from this company a few years ago I was instantly intrigued and went on to do a lot of research into how and what they do. In short, your cremated remains are carried in a gas balloon over 30km above the earths surface to “near space”. At this point the scatter vessel opens and gently releases the ashes, all whilst filming on camera pods from multiple angles so you can witness it all.**



## Webcasting / Visual Tributes

**Webcasting and Visual Tributes have been available for some time now and became very popular sadly during the Covid-19 Pandemic. I think that there is a real need for more technology like this, where we can save more of the carbon footprint by mourners dialling in to a service, rather than travelling the length of the country. The financial benefit in fuel and accommodation alone is a reason to consider Webcasting a service. Visual Tributes are also a lovely way to give a gathering a graphical reminder of the person and their life.**

## Alternative Funeral Vehicles

I've saved this area until last as there are quite a few options out there and I wanted to list some of the ones we have used but also seen other Funeral Directors using. Traditional Hearses and Horse and Carriage will always be the most popular options for funerals, usually to do with costs. But there is now an array of vehicles that play up to personality traits such as Motorcycle Trikes, Bike and Side Car, Pink/Leopard Print Hearses, Pick Up Trucks, Low Loaders, and Tractors. But my Top 3 are .....

### Land Rover Defender Hearse



### Rainbow Hearse



### Only Fools & Horses Hearse



## Bennetts Funeral Directors Welcome Renowned Grief Expert During Seminars & Hold Annual Memorial Service

Bennetts Funeral Directors have been offering bereavement support in the community of Brentwood and surrounding areas for over a decade. Last month we hosted two seminars at St. Peter's Church, Hutton led by renowned grief expert Dr Bill Webster.

Dr Bill Webster is the author of the successful community grief programme, *The Grief Journey*. Bennetts have been delivering the six week course in the community for many years and offering a standalone course at Christmas time for people experiencing their first Christmas without their loved one. Dr Bill Webster lives in Canada but travels to the UK to give talks about his own experience of grief having lost his first wife, Carolyn and more recently his son, Steve.



Renowned Grief Expert Dr Bill Webster

Using his lived experience, Dr Bill led a seminar for newly bereaved people on the Tuesday evening. He talked about the importance of a meaningful good-bye, something denied to many people who lost a loved one during the pandemic. The evening ran for several hours as people stayed behind to ask more questions and share their own experiences.

In his second seminar aimed at professional care givers, Dr Bill reflected on how people in a caring role responded to the excess deaths resulting from the pandemic.

Dr Bill predicted a 'tsunami of grief' will follow as the world opens up again. Something the panel of experts concurred with when the second half of the seminar began with representatives of the NHS, a local secondary school and a local care home. The panel discussion was an opportunity to hear first-hand the experiences of working through the pandemic, the lasting impact of the pandemic and ways of coping with what they had witnessed.



On 22nd May Bennetts Funeral Directors held their annual memorial service in the beautiful Regimental Chapel in Brentwood. It was a time for comfort and reflection, there was the opportunity to light a candle and to meet and chat to others afterwards whilst refreshments were served.

# Falklands War

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**Hayley Bell, Dip. FD, LMBIFD**  
**Editor of the Journal**

**In 2022, Her Majesty the Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee after 70 years of service.**

Many events took place throughout the UK and beyond to celebrate this incredible achievement. Millions of people around the world tuned into live events as TV channels and reporters flocked to London to cover the official events over a blockbuster four-day weekend.



**TOP: The Queen paired a powder blue Angela Kelly outfit with a diamond Brigade of Guards brooch which she wears to every Trooping the Colour**

The celebrations began on Thursday 2nd June with the Queen's Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour) which saw more than 1,500 Soldiers and Musicians, around 240 horses and the Irish Guards Mascot, Turlough Mor the Irish Wolfhound come together at the Horseguards Parade in London.

14,000 members of the public and members of the Armed forces community watched the ceremony, which finished with the traditional RAF flypast and Balcony moment.

Beacons were then lit throughout the UK and Commonwealth in the evening.

**LEFT: The Queen pictured with Prince Louis, The Duchess of Cambridge, Princess Charlotte, Prince George and The Duke of Cambridge on the Balcony.**



Other senior working royals who also attended the Balcony were Prince Charles & The Duchess of Cornwall, The Earl & Countess of Wessex, Princess Anne, The Duke & Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent and Princess Alexandra.



In the morning of Friday 3rd June, a Service of Thanksgiving was held at St Paul's Cathedral which was attended by Senior Royals and Parliamentarians who were joined by 400 members of the public honoured for key roles they have played in their communities in the 2,000 strong congregation to celebrate the 70-year reign of the Queen, who, due to experiencing discomfort during Trooping the Colour, was absent from the service.



The Duchess of Cambridge, The Duke of Cambridge, The Duchess of Cornwall and Prince Charles during the service



Prince Harry and Meghan arrive at St Paul's Cathedral

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle were seen in public with members of the Royal Family for the first time since their controversial exit from Royal Duties over two years ago.

During the service which was led by the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, Prime Minister Boris Johnson read from the New Testament.



Prime Minister Boris Johnson read from the New Testament in front of the 2,000 strong congregation

The Queen was also absent from the 243rd Epsom Derby on Saturday 4th June, with Princess Anne appearing as her representative in the Royal Box.

The Princess Royal attended Derby Day with her husband, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Lawrence and children Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall who was with former Rugby player husband, Mike.



Princess Anne waving to the crowd from the Royal Box



40 Jockeys wearing the Royal Racing Silks form a Guard of Honour

The Queen's Jubilee Celebrations included 40 Jockeys who have ridden for the owner-breeder, donning the Royal Racing Silks and forming a Guard of Honour before the National Anthem was sung.

Five of the Monarch's former racehorses were also paraded.



'And They're Off!' At The 243rd Epsom Derby



**'Ma'amalade Sandwich Your Majesty?'**

The Queen made a surprise appearance in a pre-recorded comedy sketch with Paddington Bear.

On Saturday evening, a star-studded Jubilee Party at Buckingham Palace was watched by a crowd of around 22,000 people, with millions more tuning into BBC, Sky and ITV Broadcasts at home.

Although the Queen did not watch the Party at the Palace in-person, she did make a surprise appearance in a pre-recorded comedy sketch with Paddington Bear.

Queen and Adam Lambert accompanied by 34 Royal Marine Drummers opened the musical performances which took place over three stages and featured Sir Rod Stewart, Duran Duran, Craig David, Alicia Keys and others.

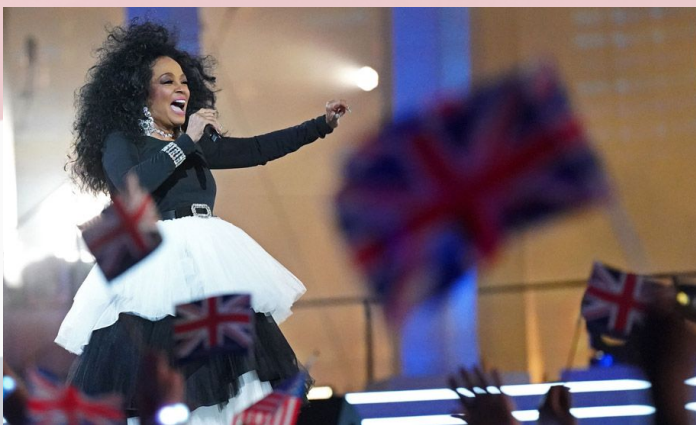


Queen Guitarist Brian May performed on the Victoria Memorial

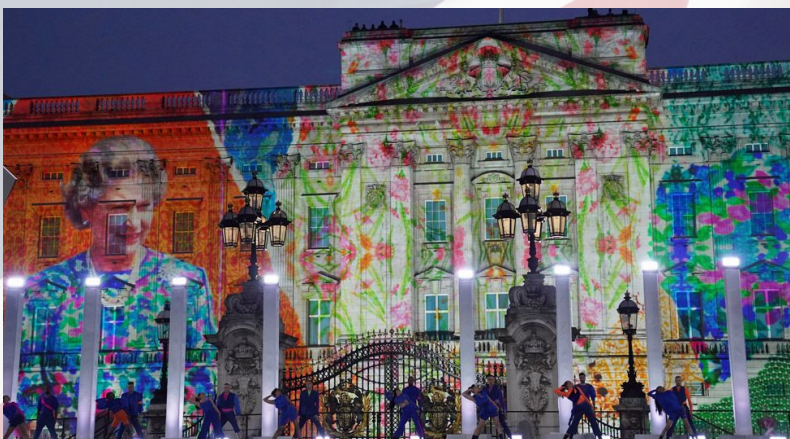
The event included speeches from the Duke of Cambridge and the Prince of Wales, as well as a celebration of West End Musicals featuring Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber and the casts of various musicals.

Dance troupe Diversity performed a routine to British songs from the Queen's 70-year reign, including tracks from The Beatles, The Bee Gees and David Bowie.

The Jubilee Party at the Palace, which also included Olympic athletes, and stunning visual displays was closed by Diana Ross, which was her first UK performance in 15 years.



Diana Ross' performance closed the Party at the Palace



(Left) As darkness fell, stunning visual displays were projected onto Buckingham Palace, including images of the Queen over her 70-year reign.

The Jubilee weekend came to a close on Sunday 5th June with the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, the spectacular procession was led by the 260-year-old Golden State Coach with a Hologram of a Young Queen Elizabeth II waving to the crowds.

The Pageant was formed of four acts, the first 'For Queen and Country' was a military spectacle celebrating the UK Armed Forces along with Military Personnel from across the Commonwealth.



Decorated Open-Air Double Decker Buses Transported many of the 150 'National Treasures'

Act 3, 'Let's Celebrate' Harnessed Creativity, Ingenuity, Humour and Community Spirit in a mash-up of Street Theatre, Music-on-the-Move, Urban Dance and the very best of Carnival, May Day, Fiesta and Mardi Gras.

for the finale, Act 4 'Happy and Glorious' Ed Sheeran, who, along with members of the viewing public invited to become part of the performance, gathered to pay tribute to the Queen who, despite her previous absence due to her poor mobility, made a special appearance on the Balcony much to the delight of the thousands of performers and spectators

(RIGHT) The Queen made a special appearance on the Balcony alongside (L-R) The Duchess of Cornwall, The Prince of Wales, Prince George, The Duke of Cambridge, Princess Charlotte, The Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Louis.



A Hologram of the Queen waved to the crowd from the Golden State Coach during the pageant.

The second act, titled 'The Time Of Our Lives', was a vibrant display of British life since the coronation in 1952, moving through a transformation of popular culture over the last 70 years.

Featuring 150 'National Treasures' including TV Personalities, Musicians, Chefs, Designers, Sportspeople and Artists such as Sir Cliff Richard, Heston Blumenthal, Alan Titchmarsh, James Martin, Basil Brush, Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean among others.



(TOP) Ed Sheeran closes the festivities at the Palace Gates



Elsewhere, and to mark the occasion, eight UK Towns were granted City Status: Bangor in Northern Ireland, Colchester, Doncaster and Milton Keynes in England, Douglas the Isle of Man, Dunfermline in Scotland, Stanley in the Falkland Islands and Wrexham in Wales.

With over 200,000 Big Jubilee Lunch Events held in the UK and more than 600 across the commonwealth over 60 countries, communities, families and neighbours joined together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

On behalf of the National President, Board of Directors, Members, Fellows and Students, the British Institute of Funeral Directors would like to congratulate Her Majesty on her milestone 70-year reign.



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## David Gresty



National President, Paul Stibbards, had been doing quite a bit of work with the BSI, over the past year, to see if our Institute could work with their Institute to benefit our membership. The BIFD is registered as the only current provider of CPD in the Funeral Profession and in recognition of this standard we had achieved, the Institute was offered a free stand and an invitation to the BSI Conference.

The BSI was founded, in London in 1901, as the Engineering Standards Committee in London.

It then extended its standardisation work and became the British Engineering Standards Association in 1918, adopting the name British Standards Institution in 1931.

In 1998 a revision of the Charter enabled the organisation to diversify and acquire other businesses, and the trading name was changed to BSI Group. The Group now operates in 195 countries. The core business remains standards and standards related services, although most of the Group's revenue comes from management systems assessment and certification work. The Group is currently working to Make A Better World and Making Excellence A Standard.

Day 1 of the Conference was held as a virtual event, which our National President attended, and hosted a number of talks and Q & A sessions.

Day 2 of the Conference was an in-person event at The Etc. Venues, St. Paul's London. The Institute had a free stand in the exhibition hall and was represented by The National President and David Gresty.

This day of the event held an exhibition hall and various talks with Question-and-Answer Sessions throughout the day in the theatre hall. We attended the first session which was a very informative talk by Bianca Miller who was runner up in the TV programme The Apprentice back in 2014. Ms Miller's talk was an interesting topic of how to bring out the entrepreneurial "you", regardless of whether you intend to start a business, run a business or work for a business. She gave great inspiration which we felt worked well within the Funeral Profession as well as any other sector. No matter what your role, you should always be pushing your boundaries, ideas, self-promotion & determination to produce the best of yourself, the company and service and best standards in the sector. The main points we took away which we thought were applicable to the Funeral Profession were:

- Build your personal brand in the organisation (promote your unique attributes)
- Network within the Company and the Profession as a whole
- Be Intrapreneurial (act like an entrepreneur within the Company)
- Representation Matters (be individual and stand out for the right reasons)
- Be clear about your goals

This talk was followed by a Q & A session on "are we future ready"? This was an interesting debate looking at past, modern and potential future technology. It was said that you could not be 100% future ready when you cannot exactly predict the future. For example, 20 years ago would anyone have thought it possible to have a phone that also takes pictures, stores all your music, acts as a computer, fits in your pocket and you can pretty much run your digital life on it. It was a very interesting debate, and the bottom line was that you cannot standstill and must keep up and move with the times.

After lunch we attended a second session which was about the future and where standards play a part in it. Thomas Homer-Dixon (Founder and Director of the Cascade Institute), live streamed from Canada, talked about how standards were more important than ever in a changing world of international political uncertainty, aggressive/radical leaders, global warming, war, the environmental impact of industry & everyday living, and a need to reach carbon zero. The talk included changes to electric and renewable energies and the reduction of fossil fuels and pollution. His talk demonstrated the emergency that industry is in to slow, stop and/or reverse the damage that has already been done. The talk was particularly interesting to find out that creating electric and low polluting solutions, such as electric cars, can have a huge carbon use in their creation. They can also have a huge humanitarian issue attached to them. The answer was that although, there are massive issues attached to creating low/zero carbon solutions, these are sadly a price to pay for the alternative which would be devastating for the whole planet! It was a hard- hitting talk and debate.

Our stand caused some interest amongst exhibitors and delegates as we were, not surprisingly, the only Funeral Service Provider there. A standards organisation in the hall, had membership for businesses and organisations that monitored the standards of their supply chain. Therefore, in the funeral profession, each Funeral Director, would ensure that everything at every level of supplier, to your own production and the ongoing chain met British Standards. This is to ensure quality and service, not only to the customer, but the environment, humanitarian issues, welfare etc. This organisation was keen to work with the BIFD.



National President Paul Stibbards

Our stand was also visited by David Bell, the Director of Standards Policy BSI who was hosting the conference, had a very good chat with us. He was very interested in the fact that there are no official standards to the Funeral Profession, except for what the CMA has recently implemented so far. He was interested to look at our Institute to do a work study on the Profession which we thought could be amazing and a way forward for our Institute.

To conclude, Paul and David would recommend that our Institute looks further at getting official standards accreditations for our members. The conference we attended was very interesting in how standards can affect our business and us personal in a very positive way which can only be a good thing for our clients, the care we offer not only to our families we serve but also our colleagues and the service providers we work with.

**If anyone is interested in the Institute pursuing standards for the Funeral Profession or in what we achieved from attending the BSI Conference, please do not hesitate to ask us:**

**National President Paul Stibbards: [paul@stibbards.co.uk](mailto:paul@stibbards.co.uk)**

**David Gresty: [david-gresty@hotmail.com](mailto:david-gresty@hotmail.com)**

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# Prokey: Vaccination solutions for professionals, key workers, and volunteers on the front line.

“Prokey is what we might call a product of the pandemic,” says David from Dundee who launched the company in September 2021 with his friend and business partner Graham Thoms, CEO of Pharmadoctor.



“During lockdown we spent a lot of time on video calls chatting about my role as a health and safety officer at work and the difficulties I had trying to organise vaccinations for my team through the traditional GP route.

“Even prior to the pandemic GP practices in my area and across the country had stopped providing private vaccination services and once Covid hit, that was it.”

The pair discussed how they could collaborate so that David could access vaccinations for his team via the Pharmadoctor network.

“We spent hours brainstorming and putting together a business plan before deciding that Prokey was not only a service my company needed, but also one that could benefit every funeral director as well as other key workers, professionals and frontline volunteers across the UK.

“Health and safety officers are tasked with the time-consuming job of collating vaccination histories and working out what vaccines each team member requires to protect them when carrying out their job,” he explains.

“Harder still, we face the further headache of trying to facilitate the prescription and then getting staff vaccinated without it all costing the earth.

“The Prokey service takes care of all of the above and more, with team members’ vaccination histories available when requested, reminders around next doses, booster jabs or blood tests sent automatically.

“My enthusiasm for Prokey comes from a desire to see all funeral director teams protected and working safely. Our motto is ‘Let us look out for you, while you are looking after others.’

“Everyone I have spoken to who fulfils the health and safety officer role in particular can see the enormous value the Prokey offering represents, both in time saved and in looking after the company wallet.”



*Prokey was created by our founder Dave Wightman, a Funeral Director, Health & Safety Officer and lifeboat volunteer, to address the unmet need for occupational health vaccination services.*

visit <http://prokey.uk> to learn more.



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 Plant thou no roses at my head,  
 Nor shady cypress tree:  
 Be the green grass above me  
 With showers and dewdrops wet;  
 And if thou wilt, remember,  
 And if thou wilt, forget.

I shall not see the shadows,  
 I shall not feel the rain;  
 I shall not hear the nightingale  
 Sing on, as if in pain:  
 And dreaming in the twilight  
 That doth not rise nor set,  
 Haply I may remember,  
 And haply may forget.

**Christina Rossetti**



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## ***How To Run Your Own Bereavement Support Group***

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](http://www.rosedaletraining.co.uk/services/running-your-own-bereavement-support-programme)



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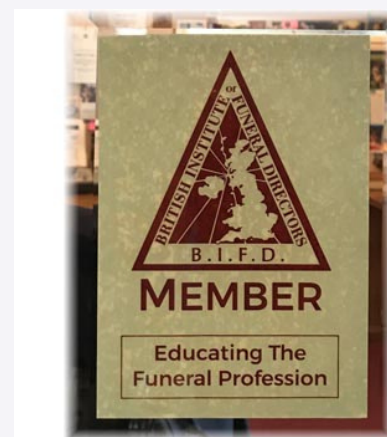


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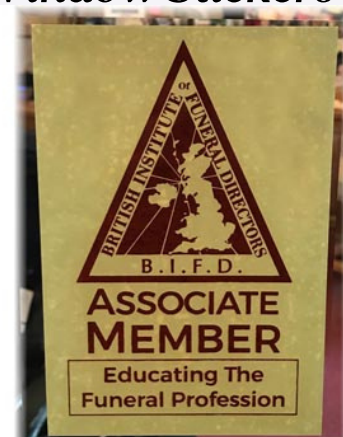


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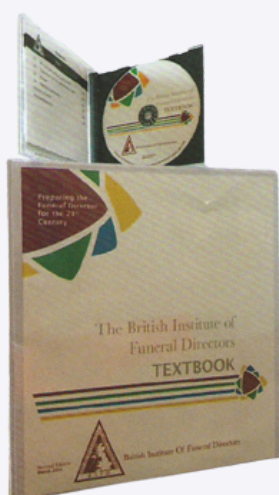
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## **NEW NAME FOR TRADE ASSOCIATION AS FUNERAL SUPPLIERS' ASSOCIATION IS LAUNCHED**

At a meeting of the FFMA membership held recently it was unanimously decided to rebrand the FFMA to the FUNERAL SUPPLIERS' ASSOCIATION although we shall be retaining the FFMA as a self interest group for coffin manufacturers and the Coffin Accreditation Programme.

Formed some 80 plus years ago the FFMA has always been seen as a trade body for coffin manufacturers. However, over the past four years membership has grown and now represents a wide range of providers of services to the funeral industry.

Yes, coffin manufacturers but also Celebrants, Clothing Manufacturer & Supplier, Professional Counsellors, a Memorial Mason, Refrigeration Specialists and Installers, Mortuary Equipment, Funeral Vehicle Specialist, Insurance Brokers, Motor Cycle Funerals, Funeral Service Journal and a Crematorium Group.

Chief Executive Alun Tucker says 'The name Funeral Suppliers' Association will be all encompassing of these members and will hopefully encourage others to join.'

Why the growth? The FFMA seen a leading trade association which represents its members on the Deceased Management Advisory Group and at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Funerals & Bereavement as well as having a higher profile through articles and advertising in the trade press.

The FFMA is recognised at Government level working with the Cabinet Office through the Pandemic where, at the outset little thought was given to how a funeral is delivered and the contribution made by those providing a necessary service but whose work goes unseen.

A full launch of the Funeral Suppliers' Association will take place at the National Funeral Exhibition.

The FFMA will continue as a self interest group for coffin manufacturers to continue their work with the coffin accreditation scheme, however all will be members of the new association.



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