



THE BIFD NEWS



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

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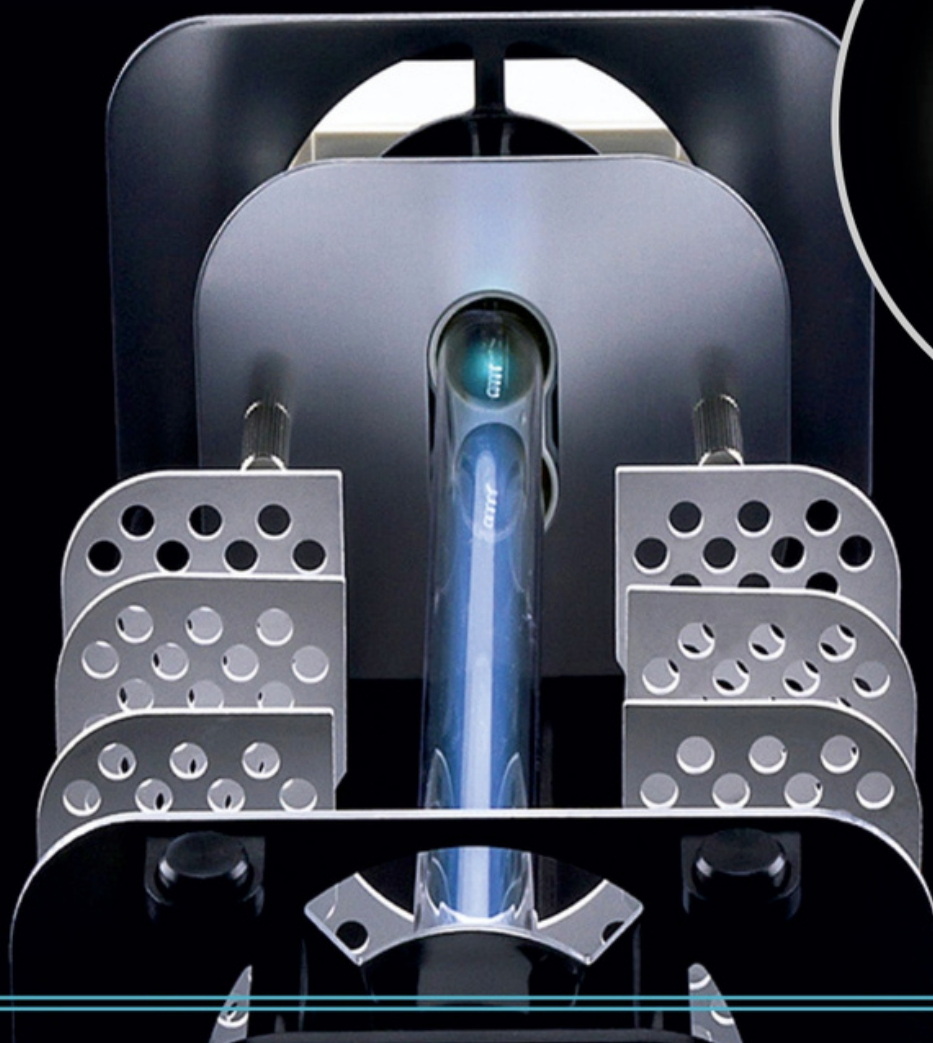


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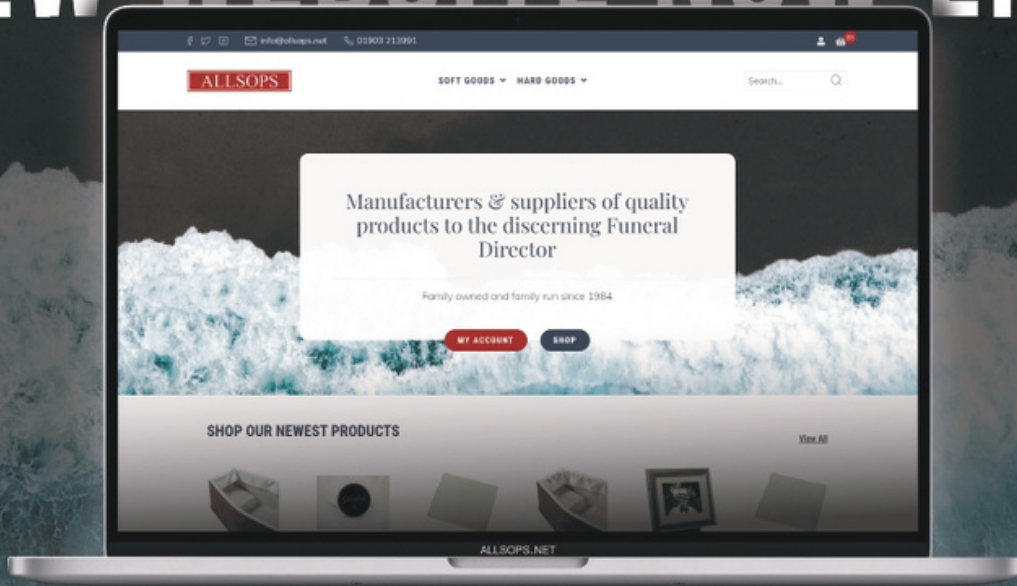


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Article

REMEMBERING A TRULY REMARKABLE MONARCH: THE LIFE & DEATH OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Hayley Bell, Dip. FD, LMBIFD

Editor of The Journal



The vast majority of Britons have never known another Monarch; the death of Queen Elizabeth, despite being 96, took the nation by complete surprise. The ripples of grief have been felt all across the world. In this article, we will look back on the life of a truly remarkable monarch and the legacy she has left.

EARLY LIFE

Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born to The Duke and Duchess of York (later, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother) by caesarean section in Mayfair, London, on 21 April 1926. Named after her mother, great-grandmother and grandmother, Elizabeth was affectionately called 'Lilibet' based on what she called herself as a small child.



In 1939, on the eve of World War II, Elizabeth's uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated after his marriage proposal to Wallis Simpson, an American Divorcee; this proposal caused controversy throughout the Royal Family and the Nation. Elizabeth's father immediately assumed his role as King George VI, propelling her to become the direct heir to the crown.

During World War II, Elizabeth and her sister, Princess Margaret (b. 1930 - d. 2002), were to live in Balmoral Castle in Scotland, Sandringham House in Norfolk and The Royal Lodge and Windsor Castle while their parents remained in London. She made her first radio address in 1940, speaking to other children who had been separated from their families to keep them safe. Towards the end of the conflict, Elizabeth joined the all-female Auxiliary Territorial service working as a mechanic and driver and was given the rank of honorary junior commander (female equivalent of captain at the time). At the end of the war in Europe, on Victory in Europe Day, Elizabeth and Margaret mingled incognito with the celebrating crowds in the streets of London.



MARRIAGE

Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Prince of Greece and Denmark, who spent most of his childhood in the UK, announced their engagement in 1947 after her return from her first overseas trip to Africa with her parents. They were married later that same year. Philip officially renounced his Greek and Danish titles and became a British citizen.

In 1949, Philip was stationed with the Royal Navy in Malta; Elizabeth would join him, living as an Officer's wife. Royal Commentators have speculated that these were some of the happiest years of her life, far from the public eye, being able to socialise with other officers' wives without strict protocols and security.

This sense of freedom was cut short when her father, King George's health suddenly deteriorated. When her father died in 1952, the 25-year-old Princess was on a Royal tour of Kenya with Philip, and her husband broke the news to a devastated Elizabeth.

ACCESSION

Upon her father's death, she chose to retain Elizabeth as her regnal name; thus, she was called Elizabeth II. She was proclaimed queen throughout her realms, and the royal party hastily returned to the United Kingdom, where Elizabeth and Philip moved into Buckingham Palace.

With Elizabeth's accession, it seemed likely that the royal house would bear the Duke of Edinburgh's name, in line with the custom of a wife taking her husband's surname upon marriage. Lord Mountbatten advocated the name 'House of Mountbatten'. Philip suggested the 'House of Edinburgh' after his ducal title. The British prime minister, Winston Churchill, and Elizabeth's grandmother Queen Mary favoured the retention of the 'House of Windsor', so Elizabeth issued a declaration on 9 April 1952 that Windsor would continue to be the name of the royal house. In 1960, the surname Mountbatten-Windsor was adopted for Philip and Elizabeth's male-line descendants who do not carry royal titles.

Despite the death of Queen Mary on 24 March 1953, the coronation went ahead as planned on 2 June, as Mary had requested before she died. The coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey, except for the anointing and communion, was televised for the first time. On Elizabeth's instruction, her coronation gown was embroidered with the floral emblems of Commonwealth countries.

In 1953, Elizabeth and her husband embarked on a seven-month round-the-world tour, visiting 13 countries and covering more than 40,000 miles (64,000 km) by land, sea and air. She became the first reigning monarch of Australia and New Zealand to visit those nations. During the tour, crowds were immense; three-quarters of the population of Australia was estimated to have seen her. Throughout her reign, Elizabeth made hundreds of state visits to other countries and tours of the Commonwealth; she was the most widely travelled head of state.

In 1957, Elizabeth made a state visit to the United States, where she addressed the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the Commonwealth. On the same tour, she opened the 23rd Canadian Parliament, becoming the first monarch of Canada to open a parliamentary session.



In addition to performing traditional ceremonies, Elizabeth also instituted new practices. Her first royal walkabout, meeting ordinary members of the public, took place during a tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1970.



JUBILEES

1977, Elizabeth marked the 25th Anniversary of her accession. Large-scale Silver Jubilee parties, parades and events took place throughout the Commonwealth, coinciding with her national and Commonwealth tours. An estimated 500 million people watched on TV.



2002 marked her Golden Jubilee, the 50th anniversary of her accession. Her sister and mother died in February and March, respectively, and the media speculated on whether the Jubilee would be a success or a failure. She again undertook an extensive tour of her realms, beginning in Jamaica in February, where she called the farewell banquet "memorable" after a power cut plunged the King's House, the governor-general's official residence, into darkness.



Elizabeth's 2012 Diamond Jubilee marked 60 years on the throne, and celebrations were held throughout her realms, the wider Commonwealth, and beyond. She and her husband undertook an extensive tour of the United Kingdom, while her children and grandchildren embarked on royal tours of other Commonwealth states on her behalf. On 4 June, Jubilee beacons were lit around the world. That November, Elizabeth and her husband celebrated their blue sapphire wedding anniversary.

Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee began on 6 February 2022, marking 70 years since she acceded to the throne. On the eve of the date, she held a reception at Sandringham House for pensioners, local Women's Institute members and charity volunteers.

In her accession day message, Elizabeth renewed her commitment to a lifetime of public service, which she had originally made in 1947. During the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Elizabeth was largely confined to balcony appearances and missed the National Service of Thanksgiving. For the Jubilee concert, she took part in a sketch with Paddington Bear that opened the event outside Buckingham Palace. On 13 June 2022, she became the second-longest reigning monarch in history among those whose exact dates of reign are known, with 70 years and 127 days reigned.



REIGN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On 19 March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United Kingdom, Elizabeth moved to Windsor Castle as a precaution. Public engagements were cancelled, and Windsor Castle followed a strict sanitary protocol nicknamed "*HMS Bubble*".

On 5 April, in a televised broadcast watched by an estimated 24 million viewers in the UK, she asked people to "*take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again.*" On 8 May, the 75th anniversary of VE Day, in a television broadcast at 9 pm—the exact time her father George VI had broadcast to the nation on the same day in 1945—she asked people to "*never give up, never despair*". In 2021, she received her first and second COVID-19 vaccinations in January and April, respectively.

Prince Philip died on 9 April 2021, after 73 years of marriage, making Elizabeth the first British monarch to reign as a widow or widower since Queen Victoria. She was reportedly at her husband's bedside when he died and remarked privately that his death had "left a huge void". Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in England at the time, Elizabeth sat alone at Philip's funeral service, which evoked sympathy from people worldwide. In her Christmas broadcast that year, she paid a personal tribute to her "beloved Philip", saying, "*That mischievous, inquiring twinkle was as bright at the end as when I first set eyes on him*".

Despite the pandemic, Elizabeth attended the 2021 State Opening of Parliament in May and the 47th G7 summit in June. On the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the UK's National Health Service, she announced that the NHS would be awarded the George Cross to "recognise all NHS staff, past and present, across all disciplines and all four nations".

In October 2021, she began using a walking stick during public engagements for the first time since her operation in 2004. Following an overnight stay in hospital on 20 October, her previously scheduled visits to Northern Ireland, the COP26 summit in Glasgow, and the 2021 National Service of Remembrance were cancelled on health grounds. Later that month, Elizabeth had "mild cold-like symptoms" and tested positive for COVID-19, along with some staff and family members. She later remarked that COVID infection "leave(s) one very tired and exhausted ... It's not a nice result".



FINAL ENGAGEMENT & DEATH

On 6 September 2022, she appointed her 15th British prime minister, Liz Truss, at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. This marked the only time she did not receive a new prime minister at Buckingham Palace during her reign.

No other British reign had seen so many prime ministers.

On 8 September 2022, Buckingham Palace released a statement: "Following further evaluation this morning, the Queen's doctors are concerned for Her Majesty's health and have recommended she remain under medical supervision. The Queen remains comfortable and at Balmoral."

Elizabeth's immediate family rushed to Balmoral to be by her side. She died peacefully at 3:10 pm at the age of 96, with her death being announced to the public at 6:30 pm, setting in motion *Operation London Bridge* and, because she died in Scotland, *Operation Unicorn*.

Two of Elizabeth's children, King Charles III and Anne, Princess Royal, were by her side when she died. Elizabeth was the first monarch to die in Scotland since James V in 1542. Her cause of death was recorded as "old age".



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Article

LONDON BRIDGE HAS FALLEN TRADITIONS OF A ROYAL FUNERAL

Lucie Kibbey, Cert. FS, MBIFD

Deputy Editor of The Journal

To those of us not working within the Funeral profession, it may seem a little dark to plan your funeral service several years in advance of the event taking place, but the Royal Family have their requirements set out from an early age.

Her late Majesty played a huge role in the planning of her funeral, including some symbolism in the smallest of details.

The Queens funeral took place on Monday 19th September 2022, as I'm sure most of us watched some, if not all, of it, it will be a date hard to forget. It is estimated that around 4 billion people around the globe watched as we laid to rest the greatest Monarch of the modern world.





In the week following her death, her Majesty's coffin took a mammoth tour, starting at Balmoral Castle, where she died. From there, she was transported to Edinburgh, where she was honoured for 24 hours before being flown to Buckingham Palace.

On Wednesday 14th September, at precisely 2:22 pm, the procession to Westminster Hall began. Why the oddly specific time? It takes exactly 38 minutes to walk from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Hall—yet another example of the meticulous level of detail in the planning of the royal funeral.

Queen Elizabeth lay in state from the Wednesday until the morning of the funeral. The arrival of her coffin was greeted by Big Ben tolling before it was carried in by a carefully selected group of soldiers, who were the most outstanding pall bearers, such an outstanding group of men who did the country incredibly proud.

HRH was placed catafalque and the Archbishop of Canterbury conducted a short service, which was attended by all her children and grandchildren.

The Queen's body lay in state for four days until the day of the funeral, allowing the public to pay their respects to the U.K.'s longest-reigning monarch. Westminster Hall was open for public viewing for 24 hours a day, until 6:30 am on Monday, the day of the funeral. Within an hour of the doors opening, the line was nearly three miles long.



Those attending the viewing were asked to dress in sombre clothing. This was a way to show respect to the queen's memory, but it also helped the public feel like they were a part of the funeral in a personal way. This was intended to make them feel more connected to the monarchy and ensure their continuing support.



On Monday morning, the coffin was taken by naval carriage from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey as the royal family, including the newly crowned King Charles III, followed in procession for the three-minute walk. The coffin was then carried through the length of the Abbey and placed on a platform near the front of the chapel. This is where Queen Elizabeth married The Duke of Edinburgh and where her coronation was held.



Guests were seated to the left, right and in front of the platform. The less-important guests were seated first and then rose as the casket was carried in. The most important guests, including the royal family, followed the casket in before taking their seats closest to the platform.

Funeral seating has a protocol that must be followed, based on the centuries-long precedents set. The family will enter last as a sign of their rank and also so that all eyes will be on them.



The queen's state funeral service began at 11 AM at Westminster Abbey. The last time a British monarch's funeral was held in the Abbey itself was 262 years ago, for King George II.

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, conducted a short service assisted by the Very Reverend Dr. David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster. The funeral service lasted about an hour.

There was a national two minutes of silence observed at midday.

After the service, the coffin was carried out of the Abbey, placed back on the carriage, and taken to Wellington Arch, where it was put in a hearse.



Even the hearse was symbolic, finished in a “royal claret” colour to show royalty, and was followed by a custom-designed Jaguar Land Rover. The queen’s coffin made its final journey from the Arch to Windsor Castle via a route known as the Long Walk. The family service and interment were then held at St. George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle.

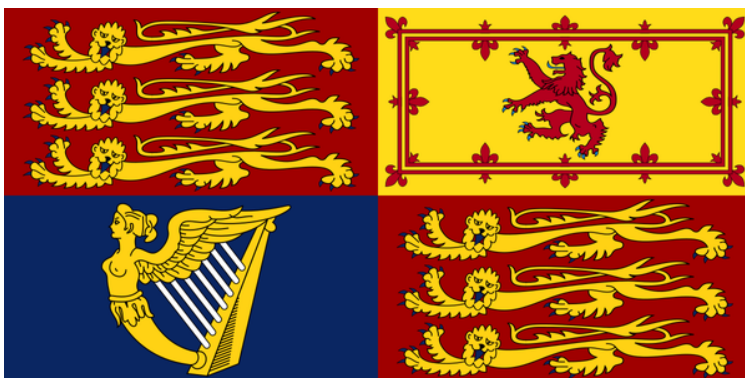
Upon arriving at Windsor Castle, the coffin was transported into St. George’s Chapel, where there was a small family service and the coffin was lowered into its final resting place, in the Royal Vault under the quire.

Queen Elizabeth II was buried next to Prince Philip, her husband of more than 70 years, who died in 2021. Her parents, as well as Elizabeth’s sister, Princess Margaret, are also interred at the King George VI Memorial Chapel, which is part of St. George’s Chapel.

WHAT ROYAL TRADITIONS DID THE FUNERAL INCORPORATE?

The Coffin

The casket was made more than 30 years ago from rare English oak and is lined with lead, as are most royal coffins, according to Leverton & Sons, the Funeral Directors to the Royal household. The lead prevents air and moisture from getting inside the casket, preserving the body longer. The same company also made coffins for Prince Philip and Freddie Mercury.



The Flag

During the funeral, the Royal Standard flag was draped over the coffin. The colourful Standard is divided into four sections: England (three yellow lions on red, and it’s on the flag twice), Scotland (red lion rampant on yellow) and Ireland (harp on blue).

The Crown

The Imperial State Crown, one of the crown jewels, lay atop the casket. The crown was created for Elizabeth’s father and showcases some of the most famous (and famously controversial) gems in the world. The main attraction is the Cullinan II, a whopping 317.4-carat diamond cut from the world’s largest diamond. It also features “the Black Prince’s Ruby,” the gem that Henry V reportedly wore into battle in 1415.



The Orb and Sceptre

A prominent feature in pictures of the queen's coronation is the orb she holds in one hand and the sceptre she holds in the other. These aren't mere objects—they were forged in 1661 and handed down to the ruling monarch for centuries. The Sovereign's Sceptre is three feet long and represents the monarch's power in the secular world. It features the 530-carat Cullinan I diamond (another piece of the infamous diamond). The Sovereign's Orb is an 11-inch hollow gold sphere topped with a cross to represent the monarch's power in the Christian world. Before the funeral, they were placed atop her casket.

Flowers

Prominently featured on the coffin was a wreath of flowers—including rosemary, English oak, and myrtle (cut from a plant grown from myrtle in the queen's wedding bouquet) and various gold, pink and deep burgundy flowers, with touches of white, cut from the gardens of royal residences, according to the royal family's official Twitter account. Queen Elizabeth's favourite flower, however, was lily-of-the-valley. King Charles also included a personal note on top of the coffin, among the flowers, to his beloved mother. It read: "In loving and devoted memory. Charles R." The "R" is an abbreviation for Rex, which means king in Latin.



The Mourning Bands

As a visual symbol of grief, members of the royal family wore black with "mourning bands," three-quarter inch-wide fabric bands, on their left arms. The exception was men in military dress. Kate, The Princess of Wales wore a traditional black netted mourning veil.



The Music

Music during the royal funeral service came from the Order of the Burial of the Dead from the Book of Common Prayer, first published in 1549. Texts, called Funeral Sentences, were broken up into three parts: Opening Sentences, sung when the priests met the body at the church; Graveside Sentences, when the body was buried or interred; and the Last Sentence, sung after the priest threw earth onto the coffin.



The Final Burial Tradition

Before a monarch's coffin is lowered into the Royal Vault, it is tradition to "break the stick." The Lord Chamberlain, a high-ranking officer of the royal household, broke his stick—a white stave given to him as part of his office. This breaking symbolized the end of their service to the queen.

Whatever your views on the Royal Family, you cannot contest the devotion and pride with which her Majesty served our great country. May she rest in peace with her beloved Phillip.



This Poem was written by a friend of a friend, and I love it so thought we would share it with you all too! Lucie x

**Paddington sat down sadly on a green and quiet glade
And pulled a sandwich from his little hat made with the nicest marmalade**

**He had heard sad news this very day that the Queen's life had come to an end
He cried because that day they met she had become his bestest friend**

**They had shared some tea that very day when to the Palace he had been
invited**

He remembered he could hardly speak he was so very very excited

**He offered her his sandwich made with such love and care
She smiled at him and with a grin she showed that little bear**

**That inside of her handbag there was something she had made
And that She too kept a special sandwich made of the finest marmalade**

**Although he was just a little bear and she a regal queen
Watching her take that sandwich out her bag was the best thing he had seen**

**He wondered if anybody else would
miss her now that she had gone
And his heart was filled up to the brim
when he turned his little phone on**

**He saw that Facebook had been flooded
with her pictures old and new
And that he himself that little bear was
also in them too**

**Although today he is the saddest that he
has ever been
He will always lovingly remember the
day he had tea with the Queen**



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never to return.

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who return
but are never
the same,

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-Unknown



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Susan Leigh

WHEN IT COMES TO THE END OF AN ERA

Many people have been surprised at the way the Queen's death has affected them, the level of grief they've experienced for someone most have never actually met, let alone come to know personally. But the Queen has been a constant, steadying presence in many of our lives, calm, stable, a link to our roots.

For a young woman, who never anticipated becoming queen, she came to embody duty, loyalty, stoicism, never being seen to put a foot wrong. Over the years the way the Queen interacted with the public changed and softened, as TV and social media introduced greater accessibility and awareness of her life and activities.

She's the only monarch many of us will have known, with her presence reinforced by being on our currency, Royal Mail and even on many of the goods we buy. Annual celebrations, like the Queen's Speech at Christmas, the Trooping of the Colour, the Royal Variety Show, televised visits to charities and functions brought her regularly into our homes. Then there's the regular coverage of her various family members, with their activities.



The Queen has felt like a familiar, benevolent grandmother to many; kindly, enduring, always there. So when she died, after several intermittent bouts of bad health, it's understandable that we felt the loss personally. There followed a time to grieve for someone we felt close to, what she stood for, what she meant to us and also perhaps to grieve for our own people, now gone from our lives, who we were unable to mourn then, perhaps because there was no time, space or opportunity to reflect on their passing.

The end of her reign is truly the end of an era, and provides an opportunity for us to pause and appreciate what this past seventy years, and indeed other significant people and events have brought into our lives. What lessons can we all learn from those experiences, as we respect and value the late Queen and her dedication to her role as monarch, Head of State, ambassador as well as wife, mother and grandmother.

The end of an era can also bring with it feelings of uncertainty. What will the future hold for us, what will it look like? We may grieve for what we've lost but also experience apprehension and concern at what will replace it.



We've all had personal experience of an era coming to an end. As our days in education came to a close and we started work or left home to go to college or university we took a deep breath and knew it was a defining moment in our lives. Moving away from a long-standing family home or a multi-generational family business, or even when our grandparents died, are all significant events, the end of an era, which may be experienced personally, either alone or as part of a close-knit group.

Transitioning in our daily lives from school to university or from university to work, from living at home to suddenly becoming responsible for ourselves can be harder than we initially anticipated. It can be a shock, especially at first. Budgeting money, shopping, cooking, cleaning, all those daily chores which we perhaps took for granted and never really thought about are now down to us.

Whether we do them or not is our call.



But when something momentous happens on a larger scale, impacting the nation as a whole, it connects many people in a collective, shared experience. We're able to support each other, share stories, reflections and reinforce bonds with the people with whom we communicate, whilst providing space for us all to process grief from our personal experiences of endings and loss.

How do we cope with the end of an era?

A shared loss, like that of a much loved, long-standing monarch, is a time when people unite and share memories, reflect on other significant losses and hopefully are gentle with themselves and others. It's also important to appreciate that not everyone will feel the same way you do or react with the same intensity, and that's fine. Allow yourself to feel your own feelings, but don't demand that others share your views, sentiments or opinions. Respect their right to have their own responses, just as you expect them to respect yours.

But the end of an era also introduces new values, requirements, attitudes and approaches. It's an evolution of life, the transition we all go through at different times. And often we look back on those momentous times of growth, when new opportunities challenged and excited us, moved us out of our comfort zone, into a new phase of life. We can appreciate that those experiences helped us become the person we are today.

But just as we may only gradually notice the implications of a new era, when we have to start singing 'God Save the King', use new postage stamps, currency or see the changes in branding of many everyday products, all can serve to remind us that a new era is starting.

Similarly, in our own personal lives, the new relationships, connections and skills we gradually acquire can be a challenge, but they also provide a welcome nudge to move us out of our comfort zones into an interesting new stage of life, the beginning of a new era.



Susan Leigh, South Manchester counsellor, hypnotherapist, relationship counsellor, writer & media contributor offers help with relationship issues, stress management, assertiveness and confidence. She works with individual clients, couples and provides corporate workshops and support.

She's author of 3 books, 'Dealing with Stress, Managing its Impact', '101 Days of Inspiration #tipoftheday' and 'Dealing with Death, Coping with the Pain', all on Amazon & with easy to read sections, tips and ideas to help you feel more positive about your life.

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SIX FACTS ABOUT THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II

- 1** She bought her wedding dress with WWII ration coupons
- 2** She owned over 30 Corgis. Her first was called 'Susan'
- 3** She was the only person in the UK who did not need a driver's licence
- 4** Her 70 year reign spanned 14 US Presidents (meeting all but one), and 15 UK Prime Ministers
- 5** She was the first British Monarch to visit the People's Republic of China
- 6** She was the patron of more than 600 organisations and charities.



Funeral Partners

Celebrates 15 Years

Funeral Partners proud of growth, resilience and investment while maintaining traditions, quality and service of a family-run business

When Sam Kershaw joined Funeral Partners as Chief Operating Officer in 2016 with decades of experience in the funeral profession, he was surprised by its small, intimate family feel.

The business, founded by Phillip Greenfield in 2007, was already a leading funeral services provider in England. But its ethos and culture mirrored the traditional family businesses whose heritage and commitment to serving local families it sought to maintain.

Funeral Partners' 15th anniversary makes the business seem so young compared with the decades of history amongst the businesses within its network, with some dating back 100, 200, even 300 years. However, it is a key milestone and an achievement worth celebrating.



Above: Sam Kershaw



Above: Phillip Greenfield

Phillip Greenfield founded Funeral Services Partnership with the aim of offering funeral businesses an alternative to the two big corporates, Co-op and Dignity, and the family business culture was central to his vision.

“I wanted to create a culture which aligned with the type of businesses we would be acquiring,” Phillip explained. “We would keep the local identity of acquired businesses and invest in property, fleet and people to raise standards to premium level. We would take the administrative burdens away and allow them to concentrate on what they do best.”

Since Sam took over as Chief Executive Officer in 2018, Funeral Partners has become the fastest-growing funeral service provider in the UK. It expanded into Northern Ireland, which added 18 branches and 11 brands to the network and grew significantly across the UK to more than 230 funeral homes, with 1,000 employees now delivering more than 25,000 funerals each year.

“I’m proud that despite the relatively fast growth, we’ve maintained that family feel,” Sam says. “That’s our intention. Our aim is continued growth, but in a manageable way, while protecting our culture and core values.”

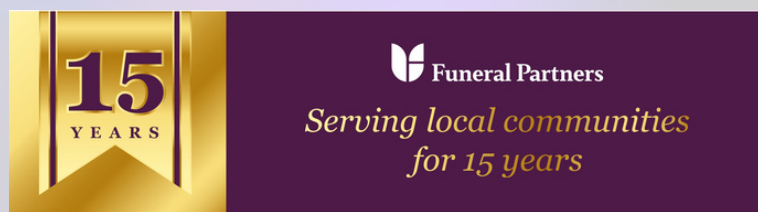
Investing in people, property, fleet, technology and marketing remains key to Funeral Partners’ strategy, continuing to evolve the customer experience and meet families’ expectations.

Acquisitions are the primary focus of the growth strategy, working closely with and integrating former owners and the local team into the business, maintaining their heritage and allowing them to shape the role they wish to retain.

With Funeral Partners now made up of 130 former family-owned businesses, managing the exceptions and unique local nuances is no mean feat.



John Nodes Funeral Service, London, an early acquisition which dates back nearly 200 years.



Sam said: “We have doubled in size in five years, in an environment in which we saw very unusual circumstances, we faced a global pandemic and an unprecedented period of increased regulation and upheaval for the profession.”

Despite these challenges, Sam said: “We have built a reputation for being the acquisition partner of choice in the profession.

“We want to involve former owners in the future of their business because they have built up the reputation and community relationships which underpin their success. And our growth creates opportunities for their teams to develop their careers.”

Sam pays tribute to the teams who are at the heart of Funeral Partners’ 15 years of success, working proudly and professionally every day to care for every grieving family member and to support their local communities.

Despite wider choice, the growing interest in unattended funerals, DIY funerals, environmentally friendlier funerals and more unusual requests for processions, services and wakes, Sam says most families still want fairly traditional and personalised funerals, arranged compassionately by highly-trained professionals. For the next 15 years and beyond, that will remain at the core of Funeral Partners' service offering, while building on its success, evolving and innovating to meet the needs of its clients.



Above: Judi Edwards

‘There is always someone at Funeral Partners who knows the answer’

Judi Edwards, one of Funeral Partners' longest serving employees, reflects on her career and the changes she has seen during the last 15 years.

Judi Edwards had been a Funeral Director for five years at Huntleys Funeral Services in Redditch when it became the first funeral home to be acquired by Funeral Partners. She has seen a lot of change in the industry and within the business under Funeral Partners' stewardship, with positive developments in terms of standards and day-to-day operations.

Judi said: “I remained at Huntleys post-acquisition and felt comfortable and secure with Funeral Partners being the new owner as the network grew. By 2011, I was promoted to the role of Operations Manager for the Midlands.”

As Funeral Partners' growth continued, Judi's career prospered. “In my current role, I get involved in acquisitions. As I was part of the first acquisition, I know what it feels like to transition to Funeral Partners so can help the people in those businesses and reassure them.”

Judi reflected on how far the business has come: “I am really proud of Funeral Partners and the people who work in the team. We loyal and enthusiastic teams and management. “Based on my experience, for new acquisitions it is really beneficial to be part of Funeral Partners as they provide all the support services that the individual funeral homes don't have, like marketing, HR, finance, payroll, and quality assurance.

“As Funeral Partners has grown, experienced people from the funeral homes and profession have moved into some of the support services roles and we have recruited managers from other industries, so there is a lot of experience there to call upon. There is always someone at Funeral Partners who knows the answer and is willing to help.”

Thinking of selling your business? Be part of our story...

“ The assurances Funeral Partners gave me on investments, the team and the running of the business during our discussions have been fulfilled, and the future of Burnham Funeral Services is secure. Everything is business as usual and even better for the brand going forwards, and I am very positive about our future. ”

Richard Marsh
Burnham Funeral Services

Find out more from former owners about their story so far. corporate.funeralpartners.co.uk

Hear from Funeral Partners Chief Executive Sam Kershaw



and members of the Senior team about who we are and what the acquisition journey is like, including helpful tax advice from Freeths Solicitors.



**For an informal, confidential free valuation or conversation
about selling your business now, or in the future, call:**



Sam Kershaw
Chief Executive Officer
07834 531 822
sam.kershaw@funeralpartners.co.uk



Steve Wilkinson
Mergers & Acquisitions Director
07528 970 531
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corporate.funeralpartners.co.uk

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Lifeboats



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'Perfect' Memorial In Place At Funeral Home Where Beloved Businessman Spent Thousands Of Hours Serving Community

A lasting tribute to a popular businessman has been installed at a funeral home he established more than four decades ago.

A memorial bench is now in place at Mulhollands in Irish Quarter South, Carrickfergus, in memory of founder Robert Mulholland.

Known to most as Bob, he established Mulhollands in 1966 and, sadly, the first funeral he had to arrange was that of his own father, Reeves.

After more than 40 years leading the business, Mr Mulholland sadly died in 2008, aged 79, following a brave battle with a variety of health issues.

His son Peter, 70, joined the firm shortly after it was founded, retiring in 2017. However, he has recently returned in an advisory role.

Peter said: “As a family, we are so pleased that, 14 years after his death, Bob's memory and contribution within the community has been acknowledged in a very simple but very moving way.

“I've attended a funeral since the bench was installed and was happy to witness two young ladies sitting on it, chatting away in the bright sunshine – it was the perfect tribute.



Back row - Colin McIlwaine FD, Pat Braden (former employee), Beverley Brown, Marketing Manager, Joan McAllister (former employee), Emma Moore, Business Development Manager, Julian Hodgkinson, Regional Development Manager Front Row – Peter Mulholland and partner Linda Christie

“My father was so totally dedicated to the business his family perhaps didn't see him as much as we would have liked but whenever we did have precious family time it was so warm and so happy.

“There was only ever one way to do things for our customers– the right way – and that was the high standards he demanded, whether it was family or business.”



Peter Mulholland with his partner Linda Christie

Mulhollands is now part of the Funeral Partners network, and they installed the bench – alongside a photographic display which can be viewed in the reception area - following a suggestion by Funeral Arranger Margo McNamara.

“Bob was well respected by everyone in the community and his name is still frequently brought up by families coming into the office,” Margo said.

“Where the bench sits allows everyone to see this well-deserved tribute.”

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- 
- A photograph showing several hands clasped together in a supportive grip, with a ring and a watch visible on the hands.
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 - Home Insurance
 - Store Cards
 - Pension Providers
 - Car insurance
 - Water Suppliers
 - Streaming Services
 - Loyalty Schemes
 - Social Media Accounts
 - Subscriptions
 - Telephone Companies
 - Pet Insurance

PLUS MORE



At Bennetts, we have supported charities associated with baby loss for many years. Pregnancy and baby loss is a devastating and uniquely personal experience and for many it is a heart-breaking and challenging reality.

Since 2017 Bennetts has held an annual memorial service, during Baby loss Awareness week, to support local bereaved families and parents. This is held at a different church each year switching between Billericay, Brentwood and Hutton.



In 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic, our memorial tree was adorned with pink and blue ribbons naming each baby we remembered, and the tree was blessed by Rev Stuart Hull. This was filmed and featured on our Facebook page.

Our window display during Baby loss Awareness week raises awareness about pregnancy and baby loss and promotes the good work of local bereavement charities; Aching Arms, Lexy Dolls and Our Grieving Hearts.

The window at Bennetts is lit up with the distinctive pink and blue lights during Baby loss week and we work with local businesses and Brentwood Council to adopt the pink and blue lights outside their premises.

On Sunday the 9th of October 2022 the service was live-streamed, and it has been viewed by many on Facebook. If you would like the link to the service, please get in touch.

15
YEARS

 Funeral Partners

*Serving local communities
for 15 years*

Funeral Homes Mark Baby Loss Awareness Week With Touching Tributes

Funeral directors in North Yorkshire have shown their support for Baby Loss Awareness Week with a pink and blue tribute and kind donations to hospitals.

People in Richmond saw John Blenkiron and Sons Funeral Directors lit up in pink and blue illuminations to show its support for the awareness week which ran between October 9 and 15.



*John Blenkiron and Sons in pink and blue for
Baby Loss Awareness Week*

Baby Loss Awareness Week, now in its 20th year, is an opportunity for everyone in the baby loss community and beyond to come together to remember and commemorate our much-loved and missed babies.

The week provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the impact of pregnancy and baby loss; the importance that bereavement support plays in the ongoing bereavement journey; and of the vital work that is needed to improve pregnancy outcomes and to save babies' lives.

Rebekah Taylor, Funeral Director, said: "We hope turning our beautiful funeral home pink and blue will spark conversations about baby loss and give local bereaved parents and families an opportunity to talk about their precious babies.

"After my own daughter died in 2018 from complications following her birth, this charity and cause have become very dear to my heart. We have cared for many bereaved parents who have lost their child or baby. This is a way for us to show them support and let them know we think of them often."



Rebekah Taylor with the baby loss memory board

This year Baby Loss Awareness Week explored the theme of Stepping Stones and how someone whose baby has died finds themselves on a new path they never expected to be on.

Clea Harmer, Chief Executive of Sands and Chair of the Baby Loss Awareness Alliance, said: "Following their loss, families find themselves on a new path they never expected to be on. This year, Baby Loss Awareness Week focuses on the steps along that journey, and how they are different for everyone. Some steps along the journey can feel harder than others, but there is always a hand to support anyone when they feel unsteady.

“I hope that John Blenkiron and Sons being lit up pink and blue during October will help reassure anyone who finds themselves on this journey, whether recently bereaved or longer ago, that there is a community that exists to help with whatever is needed: advice, support or simply someone to listen and walk by their side.”

The team at W. Storey Funeral Service in Guisborough have donated dozens of knitted cribs for babies who have sadly died prematurely to help grieving families. The tiny beds are used when parents spend precious moments with their babies who have died. They can ensure they look comfortable and are treated with the dignity they deserve. Volunteers have been working since February on the project.

Now 100 of the cribs have been shared between North Tees and The James Cook University Hospital during Baby Loss Awareness Week, with W. Storey also holding several more which will be used when arranging babies' funerals.

The team at W.Storey started with one person making a crib, before launching social media appeals for wool, containers to use as bases and people willing and able to knit them.

Several yards of wool have been donated, and one kind visitor to the funeral home spent £50 on containers to ensure the project could go ahead.

Funeral Arranger Francesca Capaldi has been co-ordinating the efforts. She previously worked in a hospital as a Bereavement Support Officer and knows the difference these tiny cribs can make. “As early as 12 to 14 weeks, the baby will be fully formed and for them to be laid to rest in one of these little cribs can be such a comfort for the parents,” she said. “The call for them in hospitals is huge. The success of this has all been down to the kindness and generosity of our community who got involved – the person who made the very first one whose pattern we have used, the individual who gave us so many containers and then the members of the community and knitting groups who have spent time creating so many. “These little cribs do make such a difference to the parents – I’ve seen it first-hand, we are grateful that we are able to help families when coping with the loss of a baby.”

John Blenkiron and Son’s and W. Storey are both part of the Funeral Partners network. For further information about Baby Loss Awareness Week visit www.babyloss-awareness.org.



Funeral Arranger Francesca Capaldi, Mortuary Assistant Sara Hutchinson, Funeral Services Operative Jonathan Bishop and Mortuary Assistant Andy Fitzgibbon at North Tees Hospital



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REGIONAL NEWS

Region J held their first in-person meeting, since well before Covid was ever invented, on Thursday 29th September.



The meeting was held at Halliday Funeral Supplies Ltd. in Birkenhead and was wonderfully hosted by family owner and current President of the FSA (Funeral Suppliers Association) Philip Halliday.

Philip put on the most amazing refreshments for the members and gave a very informative and interesting tour of his factory which had undergone great expansion over the last ten years.





The Region's Director Andrew Cross stepped down from the role and his daughter Sophie Cross was voted in as the Regions Director. Andrew was thanked for his dedication to the role over many years and Sophie was welcomed in, knowing that the position was continuing in safe hands.

All other offices remained in place with Andrew Western as Chairman, Margaret Goodwin as Secretary and David Gresty as Treasurer.

It was a very successful meeting and was lovely to have National President Paul Stibbards in attendance. There was great excitement for the future of the Institute and the Region.



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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



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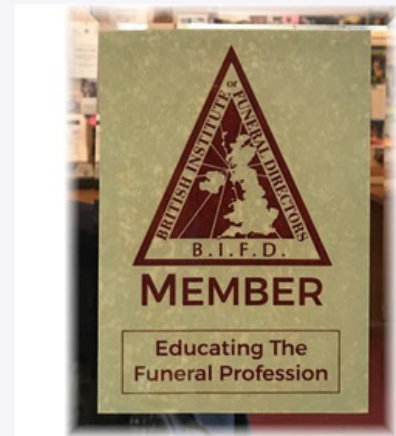


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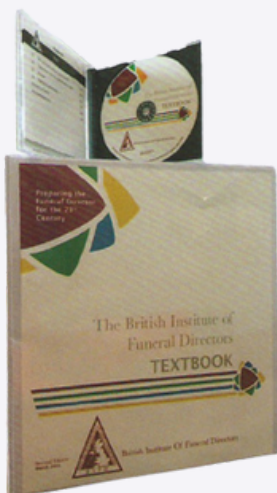
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New logo.



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Our new name, FSA (Funeral Suppliers' Association), is a celebration of our growth and wider range of services that we are now able to offer. Our new logo is an eye-catching abstract design. The leaf and flame represent the purpose and sustainability of our organisation. The flame is also a nod to the FFMA logo.

The FFMA will continue separately as a self-interest group for coffin manufacturers and their work with the coffin accreditation scheme.





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