



BIFD NEWS

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



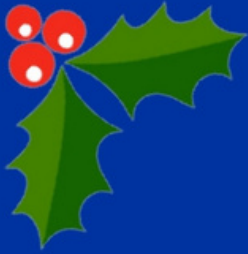
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A Festive Message from Your Presidential team



I want to start this message by wishing you all a very happy festive season from Karen & I and hope that Santa brings you everything you have asked for!

More importantly, though, I want to say a massive thank you on behalf of your families to everyone reading this for the love, care and devotion you give to those families whilst looking after their loved ones.

We are lucky that we have the best job in the world, as I'm sure you will all agree, but even we have to think of those less fortunate than ourselves at Christmas. To remember those who have left us this year, to consider anyone and everyone who will be spending the holiday alone without their family, please join us in raising a glass of something nice at 2 pm on Christmas Day.

We are known as the last responders for an excellent reason: when all else fails and no more can be done, we step up and take over the care of those who have left their families and us.

As an Institute, we have had a good 2022 educationally wise, with more students studying this year than I can remember for a very long time.

Our enquiries for membership, albeit full or student, continue at an unrelenting pace, as I'm sure Andy & David will testify.

Many of you will recall that when I was invested as your National President, I stated that my/our target for the year was to increase our tutor numbers by 12. I'm pleased to announce that following a positive engagement with you and members of the profession; we will be starting tutor training next month with an induction meeting for those that have indicated their wishes to become involved.

It is still possible to join in with this if you are interested in becoming a tutor and helping shape the future of this wonderful profession - oh, and topping up your income!



The Education/Examination weekend is now booked for March, which was a mammoth logistical nightmare in itself, and we both look forward to welcoming those attending as student or trainee tutors to what promises to be a great and informative weekend,

Good luck to one and all. Please remember that the examiners are not there to fail you; they are there to pass you!

The CPD weekend in May that my predecessor Paul is organising with our conference secretary David is shaping up to be another full-on session to help those wishing to maintain your licences. Once again, we look forward to meeting up with you all again in Chelmsford for this. I'm sure there are more details in this edition of B.I.F.D. News.

I will close this address by thanking everyone who has helped us to be the pre-eminent Educational Institute for Funeral Directors in this country, especially our Education Team, the Board of Directors and our Editor, Social Media Wizard and resident Gnome. A massive thank you goes out to you all, so as 2022 draws to its unstoppable close, we once again wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

~Jem & Karen



The British Institute of Funeral Directors

Conference: 20th – 22nd October 2023

*Alexandra House
Whittingham Drive
Wroughton
Swindon
SN4 0QJ*



Venue & Itinerary For 41st Conference & AGM

Our National President, Jeremy Mead, and his very good Lady, Karen, would like to invite all Members, Fellows, Students, Associates, Presidents of the Kindred Associations and all our Guests to the forthcoming Conference, AGM and Gala Dinner, to be held, on 20th – 22nd October 2023 at the Alexandra House, Swindon.

The Alexandra House, Swindon, offers comfortable rooms and excellent facilities for a relaxing stay. The hotel is in a convenient location with easy transport links to Swindon town centre and close to the M4. Surrounded by 20 acres of stunning greenery and is the ideal hotel for the 41st Conference for the BIFD.

The hotel has excellent facilities such as a leisure centre and gym, pool, sauna and steam room which guests can use during their stay. Why not enjoy a drink at the Alexandra House Bar and free Wi-Fi included.



President's Charity 2023

For their Presidential Year, Jeremy and Karen have chosen to support **Prospect Hospice**, in Wroughton. Since 1980, Prospect Hospice has provided the only dedicated end-of-life care service for people living in Swindon, Marlborough and North East Wiltshire, bringing care and comfort every day of the year.

Jeremy & Karen will be collecting throughout the year and all proceeds from events at Conference will go towards the charity.

The itinerary so far.....

Earlier than 20th or later than 22nd October

If you wanted to make a holiday or longer break, we have secured good rates either side of the conference.

Friday 20th October

After checking in, to your room, Jeremy and Karen invite you to join them for a 3 course dinner in **The Alexandra Suite**.

Saturday 21st October

The AGM will take place in the morning, in **The Alexandra Suite**, followed by a lovely 2 course buffet lunch in the hotel restaurant.

The evening will start, in **The Wroughton Suite**, with a drinks reception followed by a 4 course dinner with wine, followed by tea and coffee. After dinner we will have our **Diploma Awards Ceremony** and handover of Offices.

*We look forward to welcoming you all in 2023,
Jem & Karen Mead*

The British Institute of Funeral Directors Conference 2023:

20th – 22nd October 2023

Alexandra House

Whittingham Drive

Wroughton

Swindon

SN4 0QJ

The 41st BIFD Conference 2023 Rates

1. Friday Evening To Sunday Morning – THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

Friday DinnerDouble Room (2 People) £525

Saturday & Sunday Bed & BreakfastSingle Room (1 Person) £335

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Saturday Lunch Included

Saturday Evening Drinks Reception

Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee

2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

Friday DinnerDouble Room (2 People) £220

Saturday & Sunday Bed & BreakfastSingle Room (1 Person) £145

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

3. Saturday To Sunday Morning - ONLY

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & BiscuitsDouble Room (2 People) £310

Saturday Evening Drinks ReceptionSingle Room (1 Person) £195

Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

4. The Gala Banquet Dinner Only

.....£80 Per Person

Saturday Evening Drinks Reception

Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee

5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLY

.....Free To All Members & Students

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

ROOM UPGRADES AVAILABLE (Subject To Availability)

Upgrade Room.....£30 extra per room per night

TO STAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE CONFERENCE DBB

.....Double Room (2 People) £140

.....Single Room (1 Person) £100

The 41st BIFD CONFERENCE - 20th – 22nd October 2023

Alexandra House Hotel, Swindon

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:

See Rates Page To Complete Form & Payment

Tariff (1) – Full Package

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Please return, or email, your completed booking form for the appropriate amount to the Conference Co-ordinator and make payment either by Bacs or by Cheque made out to “The BIFD”:

Tariff (2) – Fri to Sat

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Bacs Payments To:

Sort Code: 60-83-01 - Account Number: 20336550

Tariff (3) – Sat to Sun

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Mr. David Gresty
C/O The British Institute of Funeral Directors
National Office
10 St John Road
Wroughton
Wiltshire
SN4 9ED

Tariff (4) – Gala Dinner Only

Total Attendees £.....

07803 955 230

Tariff (5) – AGM Only

£ No Charge

david-gresty@hotmail.com

Total Amount Due £.....

Auden

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BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS 'Educating the Funeral Profession'

RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION WEEKEND 12 - 14 MAY 2023

The British Institute of Funeral Directors are offering a unique educational weekend for like-minded professionals with a passion for further learning and improving their work skills.

Cover 8 Hours Of Yearly CPD, In One Go, Over 2 Days

Held at the Anglia Ruskin University, the delegates will get to see state-of-the-art facilities for today's medical students. An insight into body donation and how the University mortuary uses the generosity of the donors for their studies.

"A Unique Educational Weekend"

The BIFD will provide a complete weekend package, with residence at the Southend Holiday Inn Airport Hotel, eight seminars at the University, equating to eight hours CPD, with a certificate of evidence produced for each delegate at the end of the weekend.

Set in a University Environment Offering Insight into Body Donation, Hospital Embalming & State-Of-The-Art Mortuary Facilities

The weekend will also have a social element on the Saturday evening for networking, sharing experiences, catching up with old and new friends.

Included in the Weekend:

- Two nights Bed & Breakfast
- Return Coach from the Hotel to the University
- Lunch provided on Saturday & Sunday
- Social dinner on Saturday evening with entertainment
- 8 sessions of Educational CPD covering a wide variety of Funeral Service topics
- Certificate of attendance covering seminars attended, valid for CPD, provided by the BIFD a registered CPD provider, signed off by the seminar trainer
- Trade stands

Cost for Weekend: Complete Residential Course Per Person (BIFD MEMBER) £350
Complete Residential Course Per Person (NON-MEMBER) £390



Complete Residential Course Per Couple (BIFD MEMBERS) £550
Complete Residential Course Per Couple (NON-MEMBERS) £630

**Register your interest by emailing David Gresty
david-gresty@hotmail.com**

Hayley Bell, Dip. FD, LMBIFD Editor

I can't believe that I am writing to you for the last time in 2022. What an incredible year we have had as an Institute!

I would like to thank everyone involved behind the scenes: Immediate Past President, Paul Stibbards for an incredible presidential year, implementing our monthly CPD sessions, and I hope you will join us in May 2023 for the Residential Education Weekend.

To Jem & Karen Mead, our incredible Admin and new Presidential Team, for providing incredible support and encouragement.

The Board of Directors, for being awesome - I have thoroughly enjoyed our monthly meetings and chats, I also enjoyed spending time with you at the NFE and Annual Conference.

To Lucie Kibbey, my wonderful Deputy Editor, who continues to provide outstanding content and ideas for our publications. I am excited to see what content she brings to the table in 2023.

While we're talking about the publications, I would like to give special thanks to our advertisers and everyone who has contributed with articles this year, without you, we wouldn't have the quality content to share with our members.

To the Education and Examination Teams, for taking me under their wings as an accredited examiner and allowing me to learn from some of the best in the Institute.

On the subject of education, I would like to congratulate all of the students who successfully passed their Certificate and Diploma examinations - I have enjoyed working closely with Margaret Nicholl and Roger Clark and my fellow examiners Jane Clements, Jem Mead and David Capper.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our members, fellows and students for your support of the Institute.

I wish you and your families all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

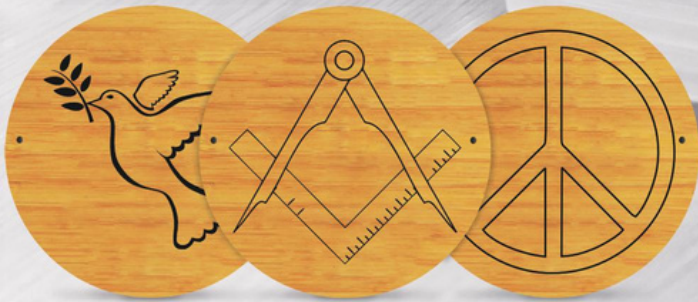
If you would like to contribute to our publications, please email me at journal@BIFD.org.uk

Hayley x



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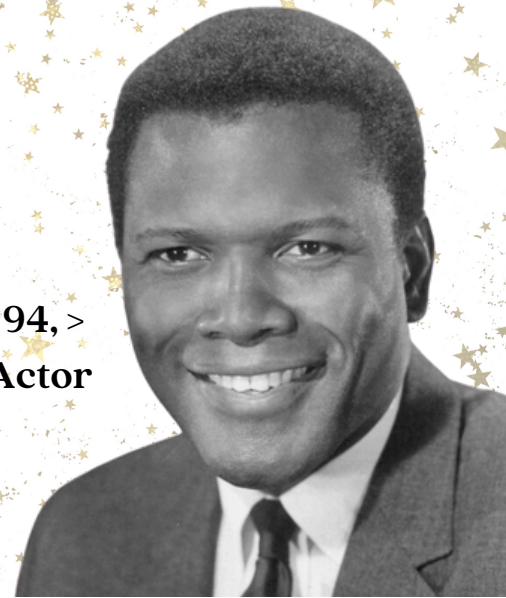
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FAMOUS DEATHS IN 2022

January



< Meat Loaf, 74,
Singer & Actor



Sidney Poitier, 94, >
Actor

January

Ronnie Spector, 78, >
Singer



Gary Waldhorn, 78, Actor

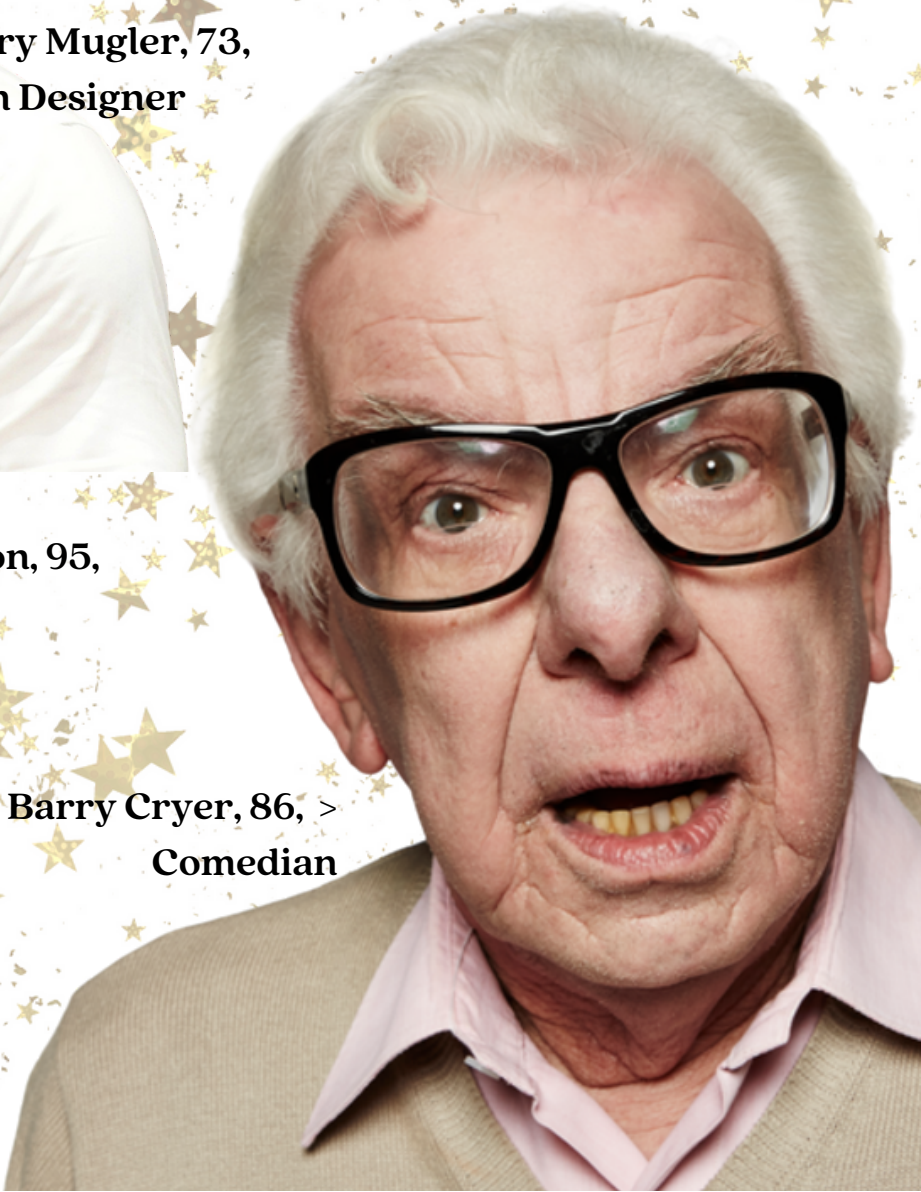
< Thierry Mugler, 73,
Fashion Designer



< Leonard Fenton, 95,
Actor



Barry Cryer, 86, >
Comedian



February

Shirley Hughes, 94,
Children's Author

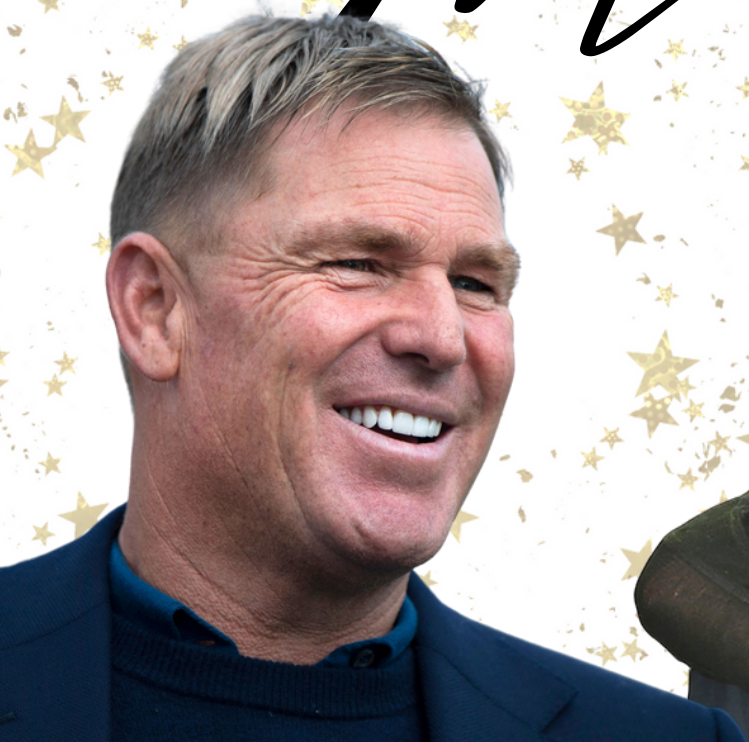


< Anna Karen, 85,
Actor



Betty Davis, 77 >
Funk Singer

March



Shane Warne, 52, Cricket Player



Taylor Hawkins, 50, Musician



< Lynda Baron, 82,
Actor

March

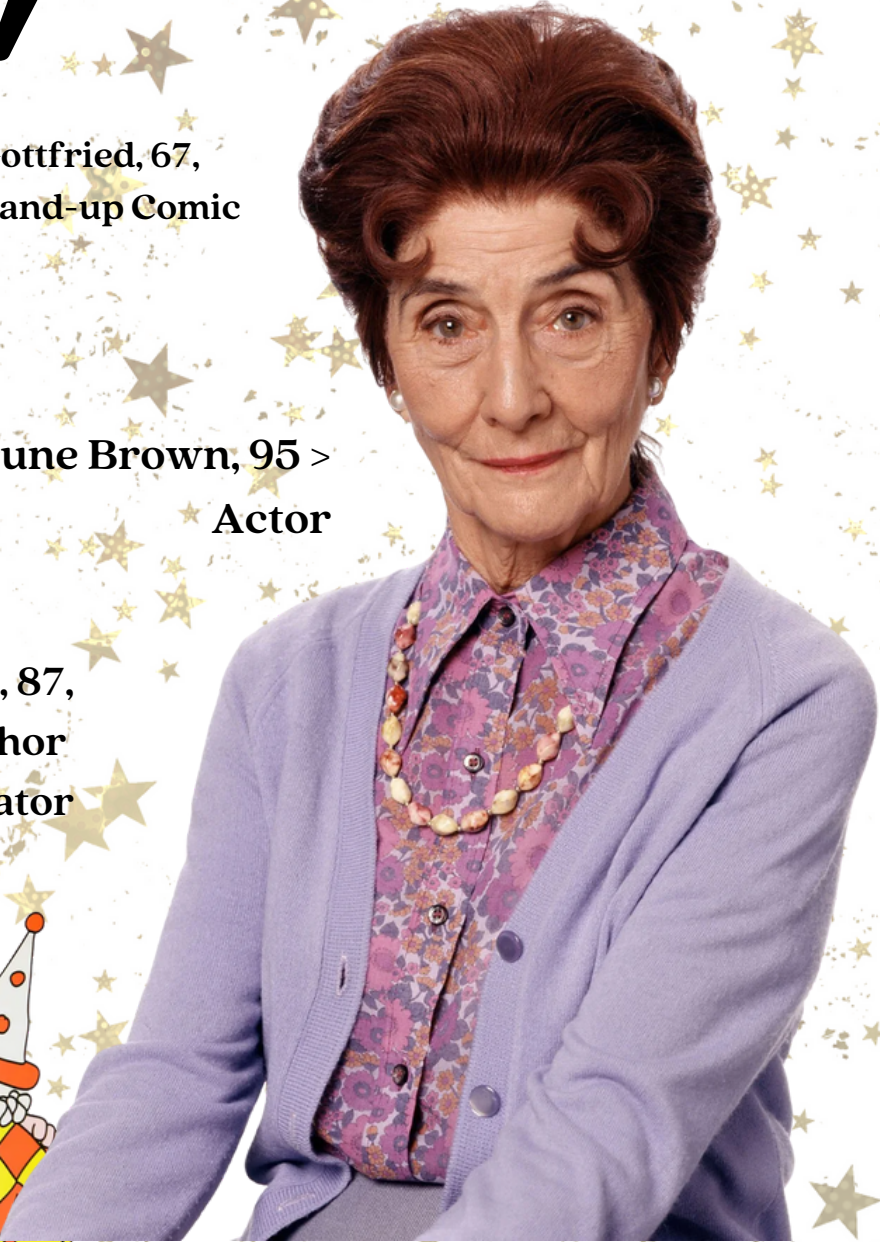
Tom Parker, 33, >
Singer



< Gilbert Gottfried, 67,
Actor & Stand-up Comic

April

June Brown, 95 >
Actor



< David McKee, 87,
Children's Author
& Illustrator

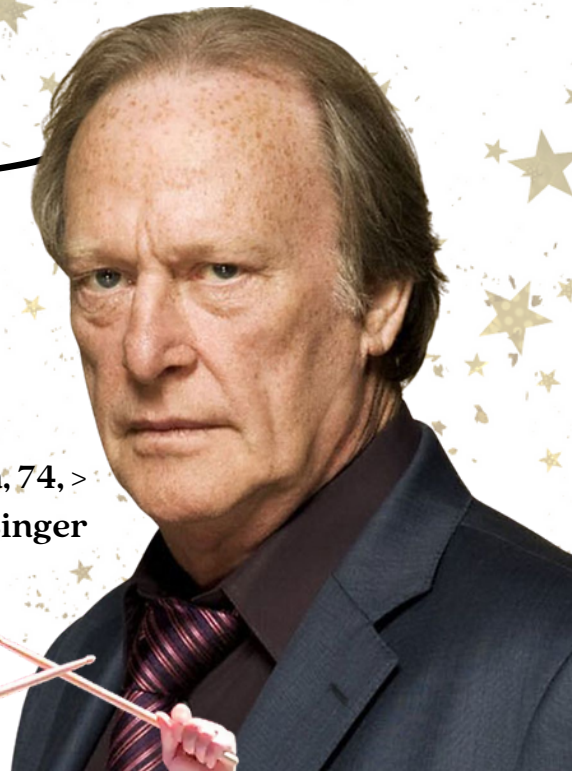


May



< Kay Mellor, 71,
TV Show Writer

Dennis Waterman, 74, >
Actor & Singer



Ray Liotta, 67, Actor



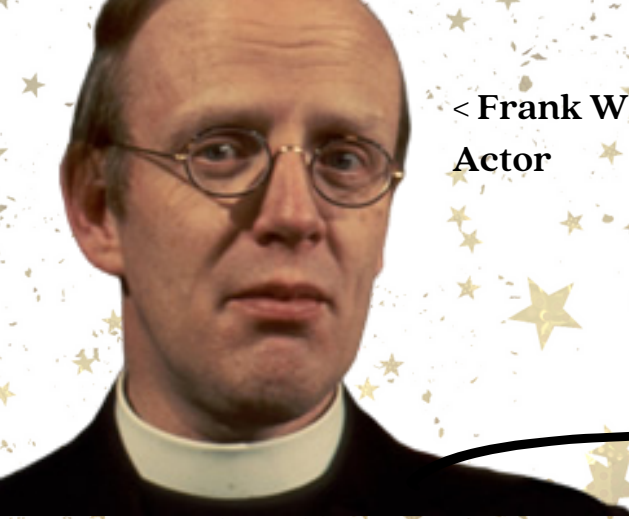
Alan White, 72, Drummer



< Lester Piggot, 86,
Jockey

Andy Fletcher, 60, >
Keyboardist





< Frank Williams, 90,
Actor

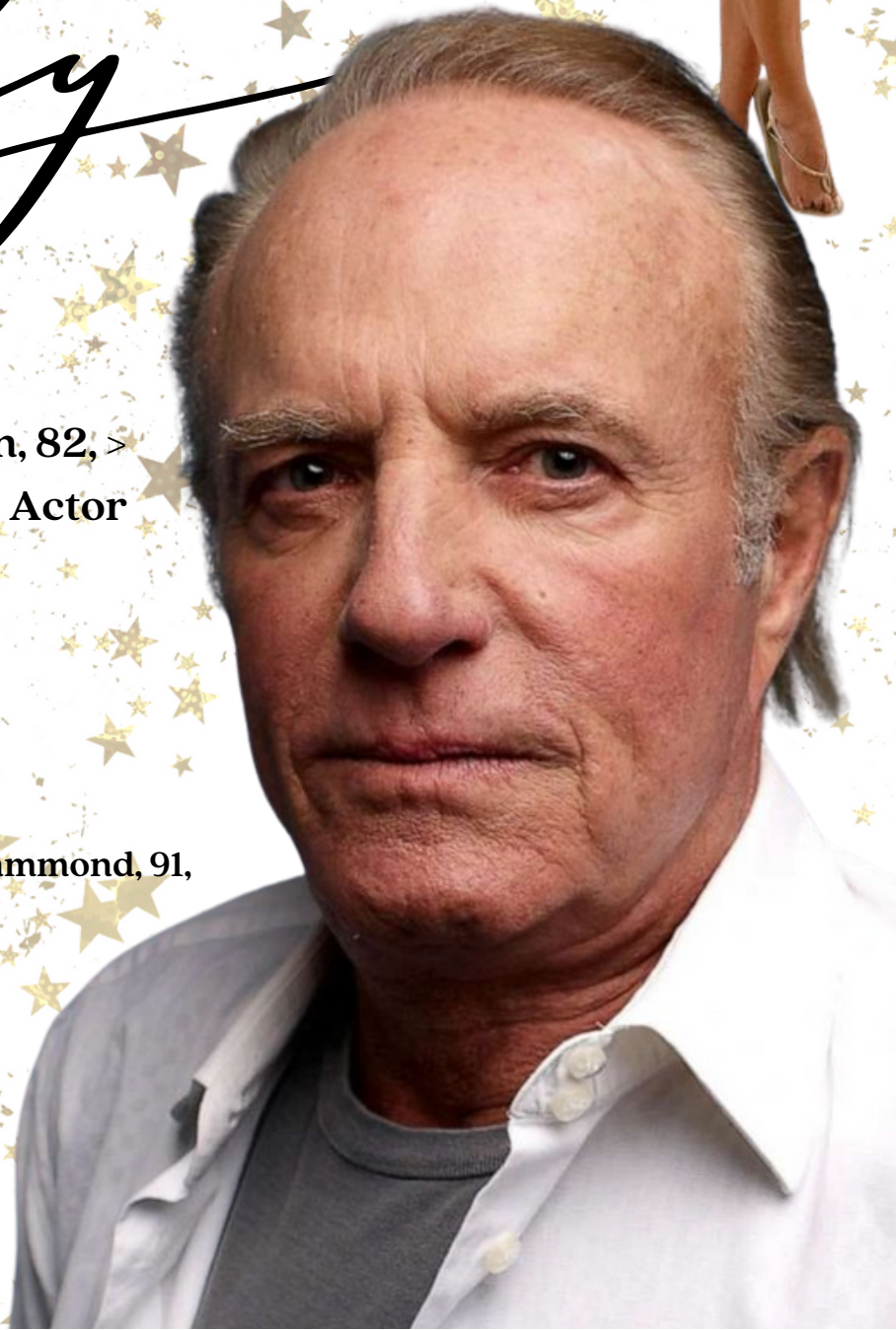
Dame Deborah James, 40 >
Podcast Host & Campaigner



June

July

James Caan, 82, >
Actor



< Mona Hammond, 91,
Actor

July



< Ivana Trump, 73
Businesswoman & Fashion Designer



< Nichelle Nichols, 89,
Actor

David Warner, 80, >
Actor



Bernard Cribbins, 93, >
Actor & Singer



August



**Raymond Briggs, 88,
Author & Illustrator**



**Darius Campbell Danesh
41, Singer & Actor**



**Anne Heche, 53 >
Actor**



**<Bill Turnbull, 66
Journalist &
TV Presenter**



**Josephine Tewson, >
91, Actor**

August

**Dame Olivia Newton John >
73, Singer & Actor**



September

**< 'Cherry Valentine' >
George Ward, 28, Drag Performer**



**< Gwyneth Powell, 76,
Actor**



**Coolio, 59 >
Rapper**



Her Royal Highness
The Queen, 96



September



< Louise Fletcher,
88, Actor

Dame Hilary Mantle, >
70, Author



October



< **Sacheen Littlefeather, 75,**
Actor & Activist



< **Loretta Lynn, 90,**
Singer



< **Robbie Coltrane, 72, Actor**



< **Leslie Jordan, 67,**
Actor

Dame Angela Lansbury, >
96, Actor



November

**Dan McCafferty, >
76, Singer**



Aaron Carter, 34, Singer



**< Bill Treacher,
92, Actor**



**Leslie Phillips, >
98, Actor**



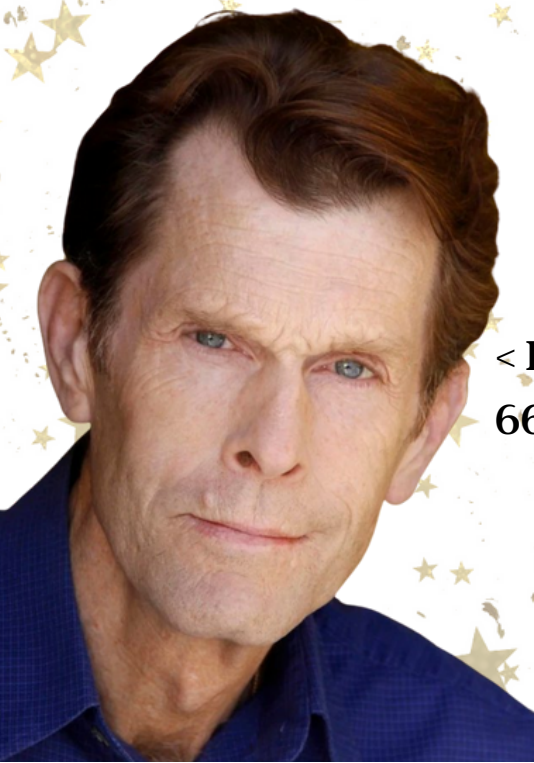
November



Christine McVie, 79
Singer/Songwriter



Keith Levene, >
65, Guitarist



< Kevin Conroy,
66, Actor



Jason David Frank, >
49, Actor

December



Ruth Maddoc, 79, Actor



Kirstie Alley, 71, Actor



**< Jet Black,
84, Drummer**

**Helen Slayton-Hughes, >
92, Actor**



December was a busy month for us, starting on 4th December with the colder weather the Billericay Christmas Market was held, the team comprising of Bridget Holley, Martyn Stephens, Craig Knott and Jane Bennett in Elf mode, playing games with the families and our gonk photo frame being a big hit too, we collected donations for St Luke's Hospice and the Alzheimer's Society. We also provided a warm area for the Flash Dance Mob from Fran's School of Dance to sit between performances and somewhere for Mayflower Morris Men too.



Back in Elf mode we made many deliveries to various foodbanks in Brentwood and Billericay and helped with providing food for abandoned cats too. Sadly as the energy crisis continues some families are having to choose between eating and heating, it is a very sad state of affairs. The abandoned cats continue to be rescued and hopefully have new homes found for them, it is a gloomy prospect when they are no longer wanted.



The following week we held our memorial service in the wonderful Regimental Chapel in Brentwood, the event was well attended, despite the very cold weather, those attending, as with all of our memorial services had a chance to light candles and place stars on the tree; refreshments were provided in the adjacent Army Reserve Centre; we should like to thank all who helped with this event.

Looking forward to 2023 we have a few plans in mind, the soapbox events are a definite, who knows what other events will crop up during the year. Happy new year everyone.



*Jane &
The Bennetts
Team*



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 Editorial Team

Lucie Kibbey, Cert. FS, MBIFD

Deputy Editor of The Journal



I would like to thank everyone involved with and who reads the journal for your support to me and the BIFD over the last year. Still, my biggest thanks go to Hayley for giving me free rein with my articles and allowing me to get involved in something I am very passionate about. It has been so much fun to work with her, and I look forward to doing much more in 2023!!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we are fast approaching Christmas, and the time of giving, it would be an apt time to talk about some things that I am a big supporter of, which is Blood Donation, Organ Donation and Donation of a Body for Medical Science.

All these options are FREE and could give someone the greatest gift of all – life. Whether it be saving it, extending it, or helping to find a cure for terminal and debilitating illnesses.





Why Donate Blood?

Blood Donation services need approximately 400 new donors daily to meet current demand, around 135,000 a year to replace those who can no longer donate and 40,000 more Black donors to meet the growing demand for better-matched blood.

The emphasis is on encouraging younger people to give blood so that there are enough supplies for the future.

How Do I Donate Blood?

Firstly, you'll need to register online to donate; after this, you can book an appointment to attend a clinic. You may not get an appointment immediately, as the blood donation service prioritises the blood types they need the most.

You'll expect to be there for 30 minutes at the donation appointment.

You will be called to a booth for a private health screening and to confirm your identity. You will also have a haemoglobin (iron) test to ensure you are not deficient before donating. You will be invited to sit/lay in a chair, and your details will be confirmed again. A blood pressure cuff will be placed on your arm to maintain pressure as your blood is taken. Your arm will be checked for a suitable vein and then cleaned with an antiseptic sponge. The needle insertion is quick and painless – these guys do this all day, every day and are absolute pros, but if you had any discomfort, they would be quick to help.

During the donation, you will hear an agitator beeping informing the staff of your blood donation progress. A full donation is 470ml and will usually take between 5 and 10 minutes. After donation, the needle will be removed, and a sterile dressing will be applied to your arm. After donation, you are asked to sit at a refreshment table, have a drink and something to eat, and wait 10-15 minutes before leaving.

Why Donate Blood? Why Not?

Unless you have a serious needle phobia or medical condition that means you can't!

Please consider donating a pint 3 times a year. Who knows who you may save.



Why Become An Organ Donor?

Firstly, doctors are obligated to make every effort to save your life above all else. So do not think that if you are on the Organ Donation register, you will not be helped in the event of severe illness or an accident.

Organ donation is a fantastic way of helping others after you have passed away. Especially those in the funeral world who know what will happen to the body once it is buried or cremated.

There are currently no age restrictions for donation, which means that you, your parents, and your children could all be donors in the sad event of their death.

The waiting list for organ donation is long; there are currently over 6,000 patients on the waiting list in the UK; over 30% of them have been waiting for more than two years, and around 500 have been waiting for over five years.

BE A THINKER.
BE A DO-ER.
BE A DONOR.



YOU COULD CHANGE 9 LIVES

Types Of Organ Donation

There are a few types of organ donation:

- Donating organs that are suitable and healthy after you have passed away
- Living Donation of one whole kidney or part of your liver (Liver lobe)
- Bone and amniotic membrane donation

Please visit the following website to find out more about these options:

www.organdonation.nhs.uk/become-a-living-donor/

How Do You Sign Up To Become An Organ Donor?

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-your-decision/>

You can visit the above website and Opt in, Opt Out, Amend or Withdraw your personal choice to be an organ donor.

There are currently almost 5,000 patients waiting for a Kidney transplant in the UK in 2022, dwarfing patients requiring a transplant of any other organ by quite a number.

How To Talk About Organ Donation With Loved Ones

Although the law around organ donation has changed to an opt out system in many parts of the UK, your family will still be consulted if organ donation is a possibility.

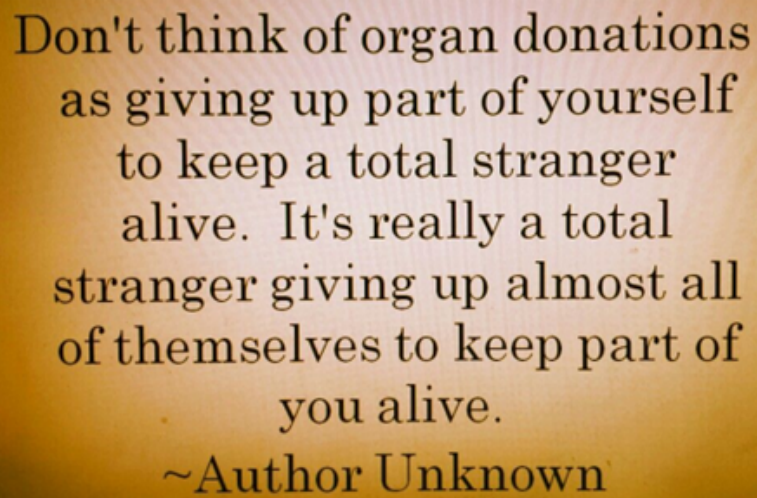
Your loved ones can overturn your decision if they aren't sure what you want, so make sure you leave them certain.

Follow these simple steps to get your conversation started:

- Get the facts and do your own research
- Find a talking point – perhaps if it comes up in a TV show or Film
- Relax – have the chat over a cuppa, a car journey or whilst out shopping
- Be Honest – make your feelings and beliefs heard

There is a real worldwide shortage of people willing to donate their organs, the below chart from 2021 shows the UK as being the fifth highest in the world with the rate of deceased organ donors.

Donation after circulatory death has increased substantially over the last two decades, from 42 donors in 2001-2002 to 612 in 2021-2022, representing 44% of all deceased organ donors in this year.



Don't think of organ donations as giving up part of yourself to keep a total stranger alive. It's really a total stranger giving up almost all of themselves to keep part of you alive.
~Author Unknown

What happens to my organs after I Die?

The donor's blood type, height, weight, the hospital postcode, and other data are entered into national database system to begin the organ allocation process. Appropriate candidates are found for whom the donor's organs are the best match. Timing is especially important at this step and during recovery.

The National Organ Retrieval Services (NORS) teams deliver a high-quality service performing a procedure that is highly challenging, both technically and emotionally.

The Organ Retrieval Service is underpinned by robust quality and clinical governance support systems. From start to finish the procedure is carried out with the utmost respect for the donor and in accordance with the family's wishes.

The NORS teams work relentlessly, and with the highest dedication, to offer the best quality organs for all patients awaiting an organ transplant in the UK. The opportunities to improve and respond to the challenges posed by this practice are regularly reviewed by National Regulatory and Advisory bodies integrated in the national legal and ethical framework.

The organ retrieval operation can take place only after consent authorisation has been obtained. The different types of organ donors, Donors after Brainstem Death (DBD) or Donors after Circulatory Death (DCD), pose unique challenges to surgeons and to all members of the NORS teams. Nevertheless, the core principles of the operation apply to both categories of donors.

The procedure consists firstly in assessing the suitability of the organs and excluding the presence of major contraindications to donation that could pose a risk to the potential recipients. The retrieval operation is very challenging because of the physiological anatomical variations and/or pre-existing conditions of the donor. Both the cardiothoracic and abdominal NORS teams cooperate, alternate, or work simultaneously at the operating table. The cardiothoracic organs may not always be suitable for transplantation, so most organ retrievals are performed by abdominal teams only.

Retrieving the organs requires a highly skilled lead surgeon who is competent, accredited, and capable of identifying and respecting the complexity of the donor's anatomy. All lead surgeons are competent in dissecting the most delicate structures of the human body, preserving the relevant anatomy, and ensuring a safe and successful transplantation.

Once removed, the organs are again assessed individually, and the quality of the organ is relayed to the transplanting team. Organs that are not intended to be transplanted are NOT retrieved unless specified and agreed at time of consent authorisation.

Organs are then safely packed into boxes that keep them cool while in transit to the transplant centre. On arrival, the transplant surgeon will again check the quality of the organs before proceeding to the transplant operation. The retrieval operation is concluded with the team debriefing.



Donating Your Body To Medical Science

You many have recently watched a Channel 4 programme called My Dead Body, which followed the extraordinary moving story of Toni Crews, a young mum with a rare terminal cancer who charted her illness online before donating her body for medical research and public dissection.

It has sparked a lot of debate and discussion online about donating your body after death, so I thought it may be useful to give some information about how this works and how you can sign up for it, if you are eligible. Donating your body to a medical school is a valuable gift - your donation will become an important resource for training healthcare professionals or for research.

Firstly, you need to find and contact your local medical school, who can give a more in-depth list of questions and answers and also their own process in accepting your body for donation, including consent forms. The minimum age for donation is 17 and you will need to make your wishes known in writing (and witnessed) prior to death. Consent cannot be given by anyone else after your death.

If you are accepted after your death, the medical school will liaise with the hospital or funeral home to transport your body to their research centre.

After this they will use your body in various ways for testing, exploration, and training.

A memorial service can be held instead of a funeral service.

Medical schools will usually arrange for donated bodies to be cremated, unless the family request the return of the body for a private burial or cremation.

WHOLE BODY DONATION SAVES LIVES”

” We bridge the gap between donors and medical researchers and educators. Anatomical donation is an imperative part of advancing medicine by improving surgical procedures and curing disease.

If you would like a wider discussion about any of these, please feel free to email me lucie@evelynsfunerals.co.uk and I am always happy to chat.

Lucie x

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Matching Painted Interior

Funeral Directors with Deep-Rooted Family Ties is Latest Addition to Funeral Partners Network



The team at Eaves Funeral Service Philip Eaves, Michael Jolly and Julia Jolly

A family funeral directors say the chance to keep their own DNA was a major factor in agreeing to join the Funeral Partners network.

Eaves Funeral Service was formed by William Eaves – better known as Billy – and his business partner Derek Crosby in November 1961 and have been serving the community in Whitehaven, Cumbria, ever since.

Michael said: “The name Eaves has become synonymous in the area with funerals.

“When, sadly, there is a death in the family, people will call for Billy Eaves, even though he hasn’t conducted a funeral since 2015.”

The family connections run even deeper at Eaves Funeral Service with Billy’s father, Billy Snr, helping out in the early years, his brother Richard working for 20 years as a Funeral Director and his wife Margaret running the administration for a long time. His daughter Julia – Michael’s wife – then took over from her mother as Office Manager.

Eaves Funeral Service also have a track record of charity and community work, previously raising more than £12,000 for Hospice at Home West Cumbria and sponsoring local sports teams.

Michael said they were hoping their new agreement with Funeral Partners would allow them to do more similar work.

“For us, working with Funeral Partners will help safeguard the future of the business,” he said.

“It would be a terrible shame if we just disappeared one day, and, although we hope to be around for a good few years yet, there is no natural successor in the next generation of the family.

“When discussions with their representatives got serious, it just felt like the right move.

“They have a genuine respect for our business and recognised how important it was to retain our own DNA.

“We can learn a lot from them, and they can also learn a lot from the good things we do.”
Sam Kershaw, Funeral Partners CEO, said he was delighted to welcome Eaves to their network.

He said: “It has been a true family affair at Eaves with two generations working in the business over the years establishing its impeccable reputation for value and high standards, deep rooted at the heart of the Whitehaven community.

“We welcome the team to our family of funeral homes and will work together to respect their good name and grow the business to ensure their family legacy lives on.”



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07834 531822 sam.kershaw@funeralpartners.co.uk

Steve Wilkinson, *Mergers & Acquisitions Director*
07528 970531 steve.wilkinson@funeralpartners.co.uk

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 **Funeral Partners**

Funeral Partners

Funeral Directors Collected for Vital Local Charities Helping People this Winter

Kind-hearted West Yorkshire Funeral Directors have supported two local charities by collecting useful items for people who may need help during the winter months.

Melia Powell Funeral Service volunteered their branch in Sandbeds, Keighley, as a drop-off point for Parents of Pre-Loved Items (POPI) – a baby bank which provides items for youngsters aged up to five-years-old – and Homeless not Hopeless – a charity dedicated to assisting those who don't have a place they can call home.



Melia Powell Funeral Director Craig Greenwood with a pair of pyjamas donated for Parents of Pre-Loved Items

POPI were asking for new children's nightwear, in sizes from newborn to five years, which will be distributed to local families in need as part of their Winter Pyjama Appeal. And for Homeless not Hopeless, donations of warm gloves and hats, toiletries, drink cartons, snacks or supermarket vouchers were needed to support homeless people.

Funeral Director Craig Greenwood said it was important for the business to help the community with initiatives like this.

"We've worked with POPI before and we were delighted to collect for them again," he said. "This was our first time collecting for Homeless not Hopeless, but everyone has seen the great work they do around the Bradford area.

"They're two completely different causes but both fantastic in their own way – we are pleased to be able to help support people who might find the winter months difficult."

Melia Powell Funeral Service is part of the Funeral Partners network. For more information on arranging a funeral with them, visit www.meliapowellfuneralservice.co.uk/

15
YEARS

About Funeral Partners

Funeral Partners is the UK's third largest funeral business, with more than 230 funeral homes staffed by over 1000 dedicated funeral professionals serving communities across England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Chief Executive Sam Kershaw has over 40 years' experience in the funeral profession, joining the business back in 2016 as Chief Operating Officer. Funeral Partners, celebrating its 15-year anniversary in 2022, has grown rapidly, building a strong reputation as a well-run, high-quality funeral services business overseeing more than 25,000 funerals each year.

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

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 **JC Atkinson**

PRESIDENTIAL TEAM'S CHOSEN CHARITY

MEAD FAMILY FUNERALS SUPPORTING



Sheryl Crouch, head of income at the hospice said: “We are thrilled to have been nominated by Mead Family Funerals as their chosen charity to support throughout the term that Jem Mead will be President for the British Institute of Funeral Directors. What an honour for us to be the beneficiary of any fundraising while Jem is serving, we are so very proud and humbled to have been chosen.

It comes at a time when our income remains greatly affected from the lack of overall fundraising income we were able to generate during the pandemic. Over two years of cancelled fundraising events and nearly a year with our shops closed, compounded by no increase to our 25% statutory funding, has left us with a gap in income this year too. It therefore makes this support even more special and greatly appreciated.

The money raised will have a huge impact on the lives of those in our local community; it will be used to care for people at the end of their lives and to support their family with many of the practical things that come with the death of a loved one, including supporting them through our bereavement service.

On behalf of all the patients and families that we care for, I want to say a big thank you to Jem and everyone at Mead Family Funerals for selecting us as charity of the year”.



Prospect Hospice is your local adult hospice and delivers with no charge to patients and their families, care, comfort and confidence, around the clock, every day of the year, to a community of 300,000 people across Swindon, Marlborough and north east Wiltshire. The services costs £7.5million to deliver and being funded only 25% from statutory sources Prospect Hospice relies on fundraising events & activities, the generous donations of the community and local business support, to help raise the income to deliver our care.

REGIONAL NEWS

Richard Vines and colleagues from Hallmark Funerals in Kingstanding, Birmingham, sponsored the two 'Light Up A Life' events held in Birmingham during December. Richard attended both events meeting members of the public, ministers, and the fundraising teams in the hospice as they all came together to remember those who had passed away this year. There was music and poems read through the service and a moment of reflection where the tree of remembrance was lit.



Light up
a Life 22



A Spokesperson from Hospice UK said:

"Thank you to everyone who came to this year's Light up a Life events and remembered and celebrated those who have brought joy and light into our lives.

At this busy time of the year, Light up a Life gives us a chance to pause and remember with our families, friends and one another, and it was a privilege to share the evenings with you. We hope you found comfort in being part of the events and seeing your lights shine out on our special Christmas trees.

"We'd like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to our incredible performers who volunteered their time to be at the events:

- *The Band of the West Midlands Fire Service, Rock Choir Birmingham, Lichfield, Solihull and Sutton Coldfield*
- *The Eclectic Band*



"And the local groups and businesses who so kindly supported us:

- *Hallmark Funerals*
- *The Blakemore Foundation*
- *Saba and The Ahmadiyya Muslim Association*
- *Local branches of Asda*

These special events would not be possible without you and we're really grateful for your support.

Thank you to everyone who made a dedication for your loved one and donated during the evening.

**Together you have raised an incredible
£47,167.33!**

Every penny you've donated in memory of your loved ones means The Hospice Charity Partnership can continue to light up the lives of patients and their families in the future."

Hannah Crawford, In Memory Fundraiser said:

"Remembering loved ones that are no longer with us can be particularly difficult at this time of year, but Light up a Life should always have an element of celebration. We should celebrate the people they were, and what they meant to us; what they still mean to us. The lights that shine in our hearts cannot be diminished. They are something sacred and everlasting. When we miss someone, we acknowledge the impact they had upon our lives, and if we carry them within our hearts, their essence will be ever present.

Charitable donations raised during the Light up a Life campaign will go towards helping our patients and their families spend valuable time together, whilst providing comfort, care and support. At almost £50,000, the people of Sandwell, Birmingham and beyond, have really shown such incredible generosity, which will help so many people with life-limiting illnesses through difficult times. I couldn't be more thankful, to each and every one of them"



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Scotland The Brave To Scotland The Grave

Lucie Kibbey, Cert. FS, MBIFD
Deputy Editor

There is something hidden deep within all of us, that makes us question our heritage and history. Around 18 months ago I decided to try and locate my maternal grandfather's grave. I had never met the man, I knew no date of birth or death, all I knew was that he had died and was buried somewhere in Scotland.

So, I began with his name and a single photograph of him riding a military horse in the army. I didn't even know the regiment.

I contacted a few distant family members, to see if they had any further details, but there was no trace of the man. Having no parents to ask, I embarked on a year long journey that would lead me to finding out my entire family tree. I took his name – Peter John Ryan, possibly one of the most common names you could come across and began delving into websites.

I joined and paid for a membership to Ancestry UK and started to build my family tree. Beginning with myself and working upwards.

My grandfather being of a military background seemed to hinder the process and for months I had no results returned, regardless of what or where I searched.

Eventually, I managed to find my grandmothers details and it listed a marriage certificate to him. From there I found his death certificate, which listed his place of death as Arbroath Infirmary.

Then began the fun part, of using online grave registers to try to locate his grave, I assumed somewhere in Arbroath. Which happens to have 19 cemeteries and churchyards.

Finally, I located him, in Arbroath Western Military Cemetery, and to my surprise along with him was my grandmother's ashes. There was a real poignancy in discovering that they had re-united in death.

So armed with finally knowing his resting place, I decided it was time I went and met the man, so to speak.

I planned a little adventure over a weekend in November, to fly up to Edinburgh, hire a care and go and find the grave and lay some flowers.

I was nervous and apprehensive of how I might feel about it all. If I would care at all? If I would care too much?

My flight up was late afternoon on a Friday, arriving around 6pm and after I had picked up my lovely Peugeot 208 hire car, I went to find my accommodation in Stirling.

As I drove out of Edinburgh and towards Falkirk, I was mesmerised by The Kelpies, stunning and shining out of the trees in the winter darkness and heavy rain.

A nice bite to eat in the Brewers Fayre opposite my chalet, I had the BEST views of Stirling Castle. Scotland really began to capture my heart and I could understand why my Grandad had chosen to settle there in his retirement. You couldn't not find peace and beauty in the surroundings and landscapes; it was breath taking.

The following morning, after a quick visit to McDonalds for breakfast and a video call to the children to check that they were still looking after Daddy for me, I began the drive up to Arbroath. The journey was quiet, winding country roads with very few passing cars. I'd stopped for flowers before hand and seeing them on the passenger seat was a stark reminder that sometimes that's all we have left; the ability to lay a tribute on a piece of stone or ground.

The cemetery itself is vast, but well-kept and well-marked.





The cemetery office had already sent me the grave number and position, so I parked up and went looking.

Sadly, it does not have a memorial marking it, so I had to do some pacing and counting to find the right one, but eventually there they were – Nanny Jean and Grandad Peter.

I became overwhelmed with emotion and cried, for the Nan that I did know and love and for the man that I didn't. What would he have thought of me and my family I'd created. Would he be proud of me and my siblings?

I stood in the freezing wind and driving rain for a good 20 minutes, tears flowing, and prayers said in my head.

When I left, I promised to return – to mark the grave properly and to bring my children to visit.

The rest of the day was sombre, I drove the scenic route back along the coastal paths and went up to the Wallace monument to have a look at its fantastic architecture. And of course, I had a little wander around the local Crematorium – Stirlingshire Crematorium, a very beautiful setting for a service.



The evening was quiet, I went back to the Brewers Fayre (it was stumbling distance to the chalet I'd booked!) and raised a glass of red wine to the pair of them, thanking them for giving me a reason to get away for a few nights.

The whole process taught me a lot – the intricacies in finding how, where and when someone passed away and where their remains are laid to rest is not simple, but it can be done with patience and determination.

And on my flight home I decided to find a little reminder of Scotland to bring home, and it has pride of place on the Christmas Tree....

Lucie x



What to post on Social Media for 2023 as a Funeral Director or Funeral Home?

Eimer Duffy, Social Media/Digital Marketing Consultant & Trainer for the Funeral Industry

2023 is around the corner, and now is the time to start thinking about what to post on Social Media in the new year. Social media can be a great way for Funeral Directors and Funeral Homes to connect with those who have recently faced loss, as well as users interested in topics related to funerals such as pre-planning which has become very topical. Video is the most popular form of content but having a good mix of other types are just as important such as photos, podcasts, articles, polls and anything interactive.

Here are some Social Media Ideas for Funeral Directors and Funeral Homes in 2023:

- Highlighting the importance of pre-planning funerals and memorials.
- Introduce yourself and who is on your team and what you do.
- Tips on how to navigate grief and loss with recommended resources, books etc...





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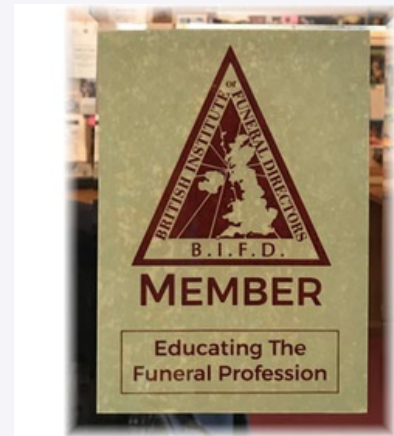


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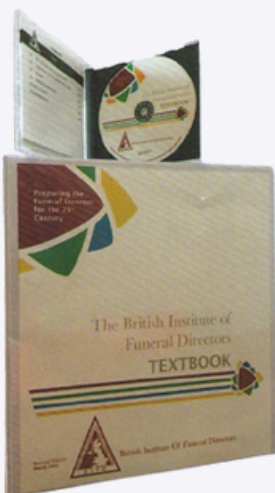
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REGIONAL NEWS

Walter C. Parson Funeral Directors is delighted to announce some changes to their Board of Directors as the custodianship of the business is passed to the next generation of the family.

Following a Board Meeting on 19th November 2022:

Graham May retired as Chairman of the Board, a position he has held since the death of his wife Pat in 2012 and having originally started work at WCP in 1973.

Stephen Ware was appointed Chairman of the Board. John Ware was appointed as Managing Director of the Company.

Graham May and David Parslow remain as Company Directors.



Chairman Stephen Ware said “I was appointed as Managing Director in December 1999, so after a hectic 23 years as Managing Director and taking the firm from 4 branches in 1999 to the twelve that we have today with the many ramifications involved in that process, I consider it time to step down and let the next generation take the helm.

I have the utmost confidence that John will take the Company on to bigger and better things and I wish him all the luck in the world!

With the most grateful thanks to all the staff, past and present who have helped me enjoy the last 23 years.”



Walter C. Parson
Funeral Directors

May the New Year
bring you peace, joy
and happiness.



*"We would like to thank all
our customers and wish you all the best for 2023.*

*Our chosen charity for 2023 is
the South Downs National Park.*

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*This is one of the many environmental
initiatives that we will be focusing
on next year and in the years to come."*

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- Adam Masters, Managing Director

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FSA NATIONAL PRESIDENT, PHILIP HALLIDAY, REFLECTS ON HIS FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE



My, oh my!! How quickly the past year has passed. Is it really 12 months since I was privileged to be installed as President of the, then, Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association which has smoothly transitioned into the Funeral Suppliers' Association.

Over the past year it has been my pleasure to oversee the change of Association name which has been well received in the funeral industry. Also, the growth in membership as many frontline suppliers of services and goods to the sector have joined the FSA and, hopefully, there is further growth to come.

As the FFMA we were well received at the SAIF AGM in March (Edinburgh – where Immediate Past President Bob Tomes & his wife Shirley deputised for Karen and I). This was quickly followed by the BIE (April in Durham), NAFD (May in Newport), then the name change to FSA and the FBCA & Cremation Society Conference and Dinner (June in Southampton – where we were represented by Chief Executive Alun Tucker), ICCM (September in Kenilworth), AOIC (October in Bristol), NAMM (October in Bolton) and BIFD (October in Southend-on-Sea). So many acronyms and a tour of the UK!

Add to that the National Funeral Exhibition in June, the NAFD Autumn General Meeting last month as well as Dedication / Anniversary services with the Westerleigh Team in Stirling, Sirhowy, Bristol and Aylesbury.....I get exhausted just writing this!

A huge thank you must be afforded to our Chief Executive Alun Tucker for the enormous amount of work he puts into the Association on our behalf. Alun, along with Carl and his team at Trident Marketing UK Ltd, handled the re-brand professionally and diligently and our membership are delighted with the outcome. A special mention too for Alan Jose and the soft power he wields in ensuring we are visible at numerous Westerleigh events which gives us the chance to talk to crematorium staff about the FFMA Coffin Accreditation Programme and raise their awareness of the values of such a scheme.

A common thread throughout all these events is the opportunity to meet with Fellow Presidents of the other Funeral Associations and to share each others' knowledge and concerns that arise. To be able to do so in a friendly environment is greatly appreciated.

The only low point over the last year has been the sad loss of our beloved Monarch, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our national comfort blanket has been removed, though the early indications are that King Charles III is doing His utmost to restore a sense of national spirit and reassurance.

The next 12 months look very exciting for our Association as it continues to grow. Who can say what the future holds? After all, I didn't expect to be on my third Prime Minister since taking Office!

In closing, Karen and I wish you all best wishes for 2023.



FSA

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&
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