

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Educating the Funeral Profession

JOURNAL



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SHAVING & MANAGEMENT OF FACIAL HAIR

Ben Whitworth is the Education and Technical Coordinator for the MazWell Group. A qualified general electrician, employee and instructor at the Institute of Electrotechnical Engineers, Ben is also an accredited tutor of the British Institute of Electrotechnical Engineers. Ben writes for a number of international funeral service publications.

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The MazWell Group Ltd
Exclusive Manufacturer and Distributor of Dodge[®] Products
Unit 11/14-15 Ardross Industrial Estate, Whitchurch
Newcastle, NSW 2288, United Kingdom
Office: +44 (0)1256 893 883
Fax: +44 (0)1256 893 888
Email: enquiries@themazwellgroup.com
Website: www.themazwellgroup.com

Maz Australia Pty Ltd
Hemlock Macquarie Drive, Unit 5, Chipping Norton 2170, Australia
5214 4055
1800 556 798
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By Ben Whitworth
Education and Technical Co-ordinator
The MazWell Group



Please contact
National Office for all
Executive, Administration
& General Enquiries:
C/O Jem & Karen Mead
BIFD National Office
10 St John Road,
Wroughton, Wiltshire
SN4 9ED

Tel: 0800 032 2733
Fax: 01920 823 261
admin@bifd.org.uk

Please send all adverts,
articles & news

c/o The Editorial Team:
Hayley Bell
journal@bifd.org.uk

Lucie Kibbey
deputyeditor@bifd.org.uk

Contacting The BIFD

National President, Jem Mead:
jem@meadfamilyfunerals.co.uk

1st Vice President, Amanda Dalby:
amandadalbyfuneralservices@gmail.com

2nd Vice President, Amanda Pink:
amanda@evelynsfunerals.co.uk

Immediate Past President, Paul Stibbards:
paul@stibbards.co.uk

Company Administrator Karen Mead:
admin@bifd.org.uk

Chair of Education, Andrew Floyd:
a.floyd.bifd.edu@gmail.com

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From The Desk Of The National President Jeremy Mead, Dip. FS, LMBIFD



Hello everyone, I trust you are all well? Well, what a month this has been for Karen & I.... The delights of the Easter bank holidays, which contained my 126th birthday!!!! (I know I don't look that old but I did have a very easy paper round...) we took the time to recoup, after a very hectic start to this year for our own business, with a pizza cooking session on my birthday for some of our children and lots of our grandchildren.

The following Wednesday, I was invited to speak at the Prospect Hospice (my chosen charity for this year) at one of their 'Lunch & Learn' sessions. It never fails to astound me how intense the questions are, and people's thirst for knowledge about what we do as Funeral Directors. It is always amazing to see the public's reaction when they are informed that we are an unregulated and unlicensed profession.



We had a Board of Directors meeting on the following Sunday afternoon, as it was the only time we could fit it in. Always great to see the rest of the team that are helping us to help you our members, and as usual, lots of outstanding items and ideas were discussed on your behalf.



The weekend on the 22nd/23rd saw us heading North to carry out the wishes of a family friend, when we scattered the ashes of a father, mother & son in their chosen place, before heading over to Harrogate to book in for the BIE Conference. Prior to the gala dinner on the Saturday evening Karen & I took a trip down to Huddersfield to Institute Tutor Clive Pearson's premises to congratulate and present 5 of his students with their Certificate in Funeral Services.

This was a great honour for me as National President. I remember when Karen got her certificate and how proud she felt that the then National President, the same Clive Pearson, had personally presented her certificate. Thank you, Clive, for allowing me the privilege of returning the favour. It was a really interesting time we spent with the students as we discussed their upcoming Diploma training and future examinations and heard all about their aspirations for progress within the profession.

Back to Harrogate for the gala dinner and the chance to meet up with the rest of the “Gong Danglers” at the usual drinks reception before being entertained by the various regions of the BIE, who had their own distinct and different ways of honouring their National President Richard Van Nes.

Since returning to Wiltshire, we had a very productive meeting with the CEO of the NAFD, Andrew Judd, where we concluded with a joint vision that if we don't all work together and present a combined front to the Government, then said Government will impose their own rules, regulation and procedures upon us with very little knowledge of how they or why they should.... Watch this space, is all I will say for now.

Karen is knee-deep in all your membership renewals at the moment as well, for which we thank those that have sent forms, if you haven't then shame on you!!!

We both are looking forward to attending the CPD/Education weekend in Chelmsford on the 12th/13th/14th of May, it looks like being an amazing time for all those who will be joining us - David Gresty & his team have some great speakers lined up for you all. It's not too late to attend, just drop us an email to admin@bifd.org.uk and we will do the rest.



The Examinations Team have already started the planning for this Autumn's Diploma and Certificate Exams, when we hope to welcome another large contingent of our students into full membership. If this is you, then please take heart and encouragement from the fact that if I could do it at 60 years old, then you can ALL pass the exams. If however, you are struggling you are more than welcome to ring us here at National Office for some words of encouragement and hopefully good advice!!!

Talking of students, Karen & I have reserved a number of places at Conference this year for you, the students, to ensure that there will be sufficient places for you to attend to receive your very well-earned awards. A Diploma Awards Ceremony is a sight to behold, and always brings on some very emotional feelings as we admire the capable hands that the future of the profession will be in. We both look forward to welcoming you to Wroughton on October 21st this year, so please make a note on your calendars.

That's enough rabbit from me for this month, so please take care of your loved ones and don't forget to look after yourselves.

Talk soonest,

Jem

Auden

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david-gresty@hotmail.com*

National President's Chosen Charity 2023



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

<i>Friday Dinner</i>	<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £525</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday Bed & Breakfast</i>	<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £335</i>
<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	
<i>Saturday Lunch Included</i>	
<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>	
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee</i>	

2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

<i>Friday Dinner</i>	<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £220</i>
<i>Saturday & Sunday Bed & Breakfast</i>	<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £145</i>
<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

3. Saturday To Sunday Morning - ONLY

<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £310</i>
<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>	<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £195</i>
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal Followed By Tea & Coffee</i>	

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £25 PP

4. The Gala Banquet Dinner Only

.....£80 Per Person

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5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLY

.....Free To All Members & Students

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

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

Alexandra House Hotel, Swindon

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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:

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Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Tariff (3) – Sat to Sun

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Tariff (4) – Gala Dinner Only

Total Attendees £.....

Tariff (5) – AGM Only

£ No Charge

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":

Bacs Payments To:

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

Mr. David Gresty

C/O The British Institute of Funeral Directors
National Office
10 St John Road
Wroughton
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You can view the gallery of images on our website www.allsops.net. If you can't see a design you want, no problem, you can send us a hi-res image and our design team can work their magic to produce a tribute to a loved one with a memorial that is as unique and special as they were.

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Alongside these bespoke scatter tubes and engraved timber products, Allsop also offer personalising on umbrellas and velveteen products. We can print company names and logos onto umbrellas with striking results, and feedback has shown that more umbrellas stay in the possession of the business!

If you're looking for something truly personal to offer families, and would like more information, please see our website: www.allsops.net or get in touch with a member of our team, on 01273 213991, who will be happy to help with any questions you may have.

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FUNERAL DIRECTORS JOIN THE COMMUNITY



TREE FOR A COST OF LIVING EVENT

Picture this scene: Jane Bennett and Craig Knott, of Bennetts Funeral Directors, excitedly marked their calendars for the 19th of April. Why? They couldn't wait to attend a Cost of Living event as proud members of the Community Tree, a diverse group that has been thriving for ten years. This unique assembly of individuals hails from various backgrounds, including health authorities, Dementia groups, local councils, activity groups, and churches. They all share one common goal: to gain valuable insight into what resources are available in their community.

The event was split into two parts. The morning session was an exclusive gathering for Community Tree members, where Jane and Craig rubbed elbows with other like-minded individuals. As the sun climbed higher in the sky, the afternoon brought a more relaxed atmosphere, as members of the public wandered in to engage in casual conversations with the groups that piqued their interest.

One group that caught everyone's attention was the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System. Their mission? Encouraging people to take charge of their own health and wellbeing. Unfortunately, the number of individuals who are ready to embrace this responsibility remains limited. It's a pity, considering the support these communities could receive.

During the event, a particular slide was displayed and discussed that truly resonated with Jane and Craig. They were thrilled to see the addition of a sixth column, titled "Die Well." This new focus allows the duo to engage with communities on a deeper level, opening up conversations around a topic that is often avoided.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Start Well	Feel Well	Be Well	Stay Well	Age Well	Die Well
Chair: Paul Mitchell/ Sarah Pattison (ECC)	Chair: Alfred Bandakpara-Taylor/ Ana Harley (DCB)	Chair: Grant Taylor/ Kim Anderson (Borough Councils)	Chair: Clare Burns (Community Collaborative)	Chair: Simon Griffiths/Kay Rumsey/Anna Ramsay (ECC)	Chair: Jo McCollum (St Luke's Hospice)
Children and Young people have the best start in life	People experience good mental health and wellbeing	People are empowered to make health lifestyle choice	Adults with health or care concerns are supported to maintain healthy, productive and fulfilling lives	People live safely and independently as they grow older	Individuals nearing end of life have choices around care
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emotional wellbeingPupil AbsenceEducation/qualificationChildhood ObesityDental Decay	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Self-harmDepressionsSuicideLonelinessMH AccessIPCCSMI and LD Health Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical ActivityObesitySmokingAlcoholCommunity empowerment and developmentVoluntary Sector and Asset Mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve access and quality of health and social care servicesSupport for CarersDevelopment of Intermediate Care strategyMobilise Neighbourhood teamsLong Term Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Integration of health and social care neighbourhood teamsFrailtyRisk Stratification ApproachSocial Care market resilienceDementiaSystem Flow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Choices registerPreferred place of death

As the event drew to a close, Jane and Craig couldn't help but feel a sense of accomplishment. Not only had they made some valuable connections, but they had also played a part in bridging the gap between life and death, helping their community to better understand and embrace the importance of dying well.



The Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla

Hayley Bell, Dip. FD, LMBIFD, Editor



In this issue of the Journal, we will look at the key elements and rituals that we expect to take place on the day of the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, which will take place on 8 May 2023. We will also look at some facts about the coronation of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

WHAT IS A CORONATION?

A coronation is a great moment of national pageantry and historic rituals during which a new monarch is crowned.

The word coronation comes from the Latin 'corona', meaning a crown; monarchs are described as crowned rather than coronated. However, the ceremony itself is much more than that moment. The crowning happens near the end of the ceremony, which includes the monarch making promises to God and the people they serve, a sacred blessing, known as anointing, and the receiving of the Royal Regalia. During a coronation, the words and actions are a visible representation of the invisible duty and responsibility of the monarch.

THE VENUE: WESTMINSTER ABBEY



Founded as a Benedictine monastery in 960 AD, the church was rebuilt by Edward the Confessor in 1050. The first documented coronation at Westminster Abbey was William the Conqueror on 25 December 1066.

The Abbey's role as a coronation church influenced Henry III's rebuilding of the church in the Gothic style of architecture from AD 1245, and a large space or "theatre" was planned under the lantern, between the choir and the high altar. The first king to be crowned in the present Abbey was Edward I in 1274.

Known as the 'House of Kings' until 1760, the Abbey was the final resting place of 17 monarchs, including Elizabeth I and Mary I.

The coronation of King Charles III will mark the 40th to take place at the Abbey.

Two monarchs did not have any coronation; the boy King, Edward V, who was presumed murdered in the Tower of London before he could be crowned, and Edward VIII, who abdicated 11 months after succeeding his father before the date set for his coronation. William III and Mary II were the only joint monarchs to be crowned.

WHO PLANS THE CORONATION?

As it is a state event, a coronation is paid for by the UK Government. The organisation involves ministers, the Royal Household, the Church of England and the Commonwealth Realms. A Privy Council "Coronation Committee" is usually formed to oversee the planning, and the Earl Marshal chairs its Executive Committee. The Dean of Westminster instructs the sovereign on all matters connected with the service and assists the Archbishop of Canterbury, who always crowns the monarch.

THE LIBER REGALIS (ROYAL BOOK)

The Liber Regalis contains the ordo (order) for the following events: the coronation of a king, a king and queen and a queen alone, and details regarding the funeral of a king; each liturgy opens with a full-page illustration depicting the event.

The manuscript provided the order of service for all subsequent coronations up to, and including, that of Elizabeth I. For the coronation of James I the liturgy was translated from Latin into English. Nevertheless, with occasional adaptations to suit the political and religious circumstances of the time, the Liber Regalis remained the basis for all later coronation liturgies. The manuscript belongs to Westminster Abbey.

WHY ARE CORONATIONS HELD?

There is never a moment when we do not have a monarch. When his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, died, Charles immediately became the new monarch. This process is called accession, meaning 'to come to'. It describes how the successor comes to the throne following a monarch's death.

Within days, the accession council usually gathers at St James' Palace, London, to legally confirm that the change in monarch has taken place. A series of public accession proclamations follow in locations across the country. This would have been how the word spread about a new monarch for centuries.

For the Royal Family and the nation to grieve, there is always a significant gap between accession and the coronation.

Westminster Abbey has been the setting for every coronation since 1066. Before the Abbey was built, coronations were carried out elsewhere, including Bath, Winchester, Oxford and Canterbury.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A CORONATION?

- **THE RECOGNITION:** While standing beside the 700-year-old coronation chair, the monarch is presented to those gathered in Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The congregation shouts, "God Save The King!" and trumpets sound.
- **THE OATH:** The sovereign swears to uphold the law and the Church of England
- **THE ANOINTING:** The King's ceremonial robe is removed, and he sits in the coronation chair. A canopy of gold cloth is held over the chair to conceal the King from view. The Archbishop anoints the King's hands, chest and head with holy oil made according to a secret recipe using the 12th-century coronation spoon.
- **THE INVESTITURE:** The sovereign is presented with the Royal Regalia, a collection of objects that symbolise royalty: *The Sovereign's Ring, Orb, Sceptre with Dove, Sceptre with Cross, St Edward's Crown* and finally, *The Imperial State Crown*.
- **THE ENTHRONEMENT & HOMAGE:** The King leaves the coronation chair and moves to the throne. Peers kneel before the monarch to pay homage.

For the first time since 1937, the coronation of King Charles III will include the crowning of a Queen Consort. Queen Camilla will be crowned in a similar but simpler ceremony after the crowning of the King. Queen Consorts are usually anointed with Holy Oil on the head and then invested with Royal Regalia, including a ring, sceptre and Queen Mary's Crown.

THE INVITATION:

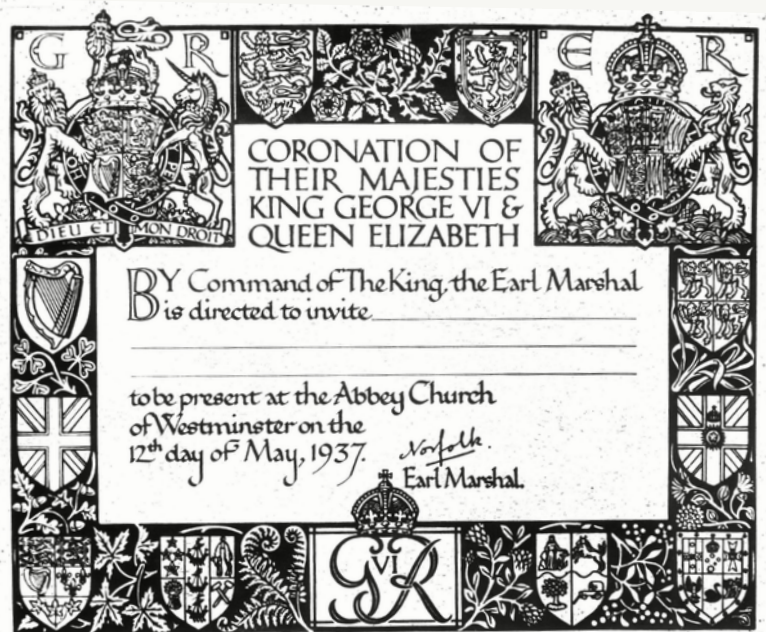


The invitation for the Coronation of King Charles III & Queen Camilla, May 2023

The invitation was designed by Andrew Jamieson, hand-painted in watercolour with gold foil detailing, and printed on recycled material. Details of the card include the "Green Man," a figure from British folklore, celebrating the new reign, as well as a meadow of British wildflowers bordering the invitation, appearing in groups of three, to signify Charles becoming the third monarch of his name.



The invitation for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, June 1953



Invitation for the Coronation of King George VI & Queen Elizabeth, May 1937

KEY ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN THE CORONATION

THE CORONATION CHAIR

The highly fragile 700-year-old coronation chair, the oldest surviving piece of furniture still used for its original purpose, was commissioned in 1296 by King Edward I, who reigned from 1272-1307 and was designed to enclose the Stone of Scone, known as the Stone of Destiny, an ancient symbol of Scotland's monarchy which Edward I had seized.

In its original Medieval form, the chair was covered with gold leaf gilding and coloured glass and decorated with patterns of birds, foliage, animals, Saints and a King.

Tourists and school children scarred the back of the chair with graffiti in the 18th and 19th centuries. Subsequently, a small corner of the chair was damaged in a bomb attack in 1914, attributed to the Suffragettes campaigning for votes for women.

In recent coronations, the high-backed gothic chair has been left uncovered, but in the Tudor and Stuart eras, it would have been covered by a lavish gold cloth.



The chair has left the Abbey on very few occasions. When the monarchy was in question, it still held its significance as the chair that Oliver Cromwell chose to be installed as Lord Protector in Westminster Hall. During the Second World War, it was evacuated to Gloucester Cathedral to avoid damage from the Blitz.

In 1996, the Stone of Destiny was officially returned to Scotland and only left again for a coronation at Westminster Abbey.

Conservation experts have spent months painstakingly cleaning the chair and stabilising the flaking gilding layers in preparation for the coronation of King Charles III and Camilla, Queen Consort.



THE HOLY OIL

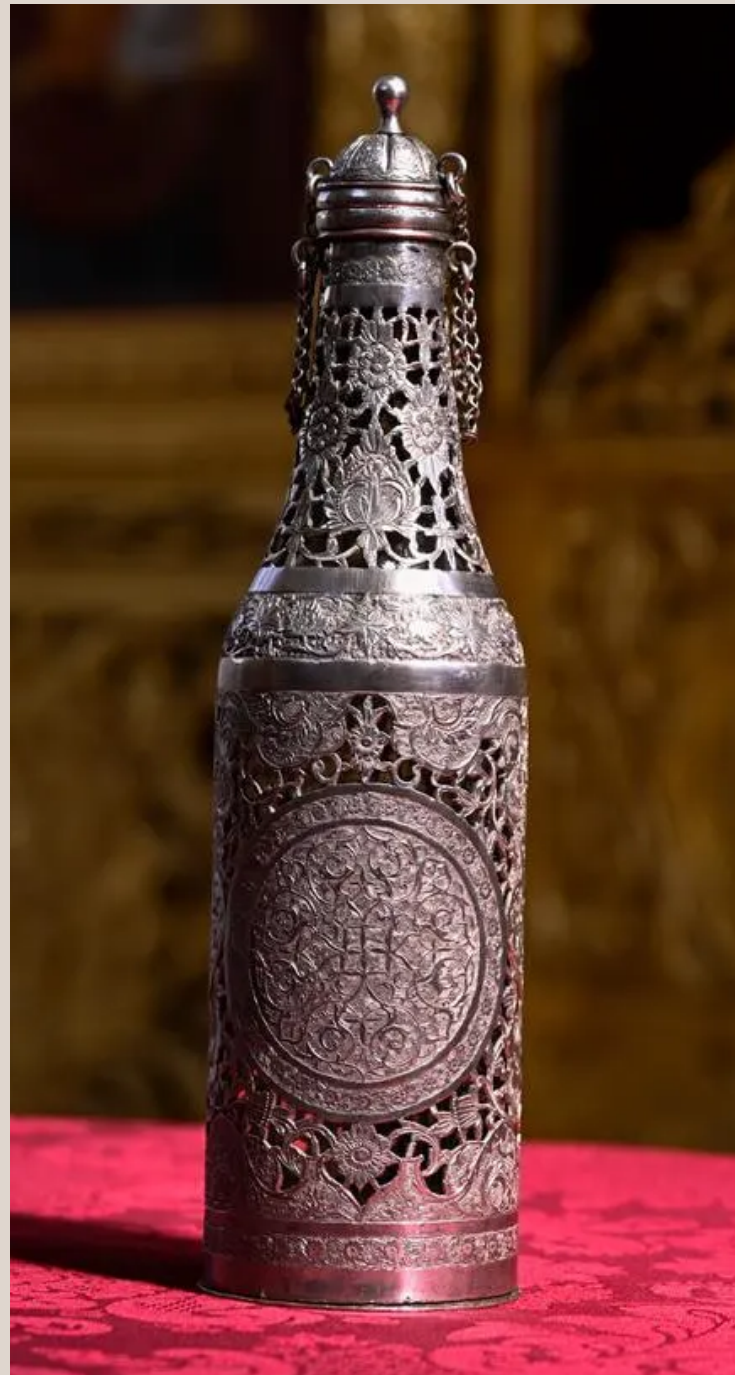
The holy oil, known as 'chrism oil', is the centre of the most sacred part of the coronation ceremony - the anointing ritual - which happens before the investiture and crowning.

The anointing ritual has echoes of a christening or the ordination into religious orders, with the Archbishop pouring holy oil from the Ampulla (or vessel) into the Coronation Spoon and symbolically touches the sovereign on the head, chest and hands.

Reflecting modern animal-friendly sensitivities, the oil created for King Charles III does not include any ingredients derived from animals. It is made according to a centuries-old formula of olive oil scented with a mix of essential oils, sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, amber, benzoin and orange blossom.

As well as being cruelty-free, the oil has a Royal Family significance, using olives grown on the Mount of Olives at the Monastery of Mary Magdalene, where the King's Grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece, is Buried.

The Chrism Oil was consecrated in a religious ceremony at one of Jerusalem's holiest sites, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



The Chrism Oil was consecrated in a special ceremony by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, The Most Reverend Hosam Naoum.

THE ROYAL REGALIA:

A collection of objects that act as symbols of royalty

Made for the coronation of William IV in 1831, the Sovereign coronation ring comprises a mixed-cut octagonal sapphire in a gold setting overlaid with four rectangular-cut and one square-cut rubies, butted together in a gold strip setting to form a cross, with a border of fourteen cushion-shaped diamonds and a diamond on each shoulder, with a gold hoop. During the coronation ceremony, the archbishop places the ring on the fourth finger of the sovereign as a symbol of 'kingly dignity'.

Queen Adelaide's ring comprises an extended octagonal mixed-cut ruby in a gold setting, unbacked, within a border of fourteen cushion-shaped brilliants set transparent in silver collets. The gold shank is set with fourteen graduated mixed-cut rubies. Like the sovereign, the queen consort is presented with a ring during the coronation ceremony.

THE SOVEREIGN & CONSORT'S RINGS



THE SOVEREIGN'S ORB

The Orb is a representation of the sovereign's power. It symbolises the Christian world with its cross mounted on a globe, and the bands of jewels dividing it up into three sections represent the three continents known in medieval times.

Mounted with clusters of emeralds, rubies and sapphires surrounded by rose-cut diamonds, and single rows of pearls. A cross on the top is set with with rose-cut diamonds, with a sapphire in the centre on one side and an emerald on the other, and with pearls at the angles and at the end of each arm.

During the coronation service, the Orb is placed in the right hand of the monarch as they are invested with the symbols of sovereignty. It is then placed on the altar before the moment of crowning.

THE ROYAL REGALIA:

SCEPTRE WITH DOVE

Supplied for the Coronation of Charles II in 1661, the sceptre is formed from a plain gold rod, in three sections, with enamelled and gem-set collars at the intersections, surmounted by a gold monde, with an applied silver zone and arc set with rose diamonds, and a gold cross supporting an enamelled dove with outspread wings. The collars are mounted variously with rose- and table-cut diamonds, step- and table-cut rubies, emeralds, sapphires and spinels. At the base of the sceptre is a compressed spherical pommel set with further rose-cut diamonds.

The sceptre represents the sovereign's spiritual role, with the dove representing the Holy Ghost. Traditionally it has been known as 'the Rod of Equity and Mercy'.



SCEPTRE WITH CROSS

The sceptre was originally made for Charles II and comprises a gold rod, formed in three sections, with enamelled collars at the intersections, surmounted by an enamelled heart-shaped structure, which holds a huge drop-shaped diamond, Cullinan I, or the Star of Africa, weighing 530.2 carats. This structure is surmounted by enamelled brackets mounted with step-cut emeralds, and by a faceted amethyst monde, set with table and rose-cut diamonds, rubies, spinels and emeralds, with a cross above set with further diamonds, with a table-cut diamond on the front, and an emerald on the reverse. Beneath the Cullinan diamond are further enamelled brackets, representing a crown, mounted with rubies and diamonds. The pommel of the sceptre is enamelled and mounted with rubies, emeralds, sapphires and diamonds.

The sceptre was originally made for Charles II, but has undergone a number of alterations, particularly in 1820 for the coronation of George IV, when an enamelled rose, thistle and shamrock were all added to the monde. The major alteration was made in 1910, when the sceptre was altered to receive the great Cullinan diamond. The structure which holds the diamond is hinged so that the stone may be removed and worn separately, although this has been done rarely. The sceptre also had to be reinforced as the weight of the diamond is so large.



THE ROYAL REGALIA:

ST EDWARD'S CROWN

The centrepiece of the Crown Jewels. Named after Saint Edward the Confessor, versions of it have traditionally been used to crown English and British monarchs at their coronations since the 13th century.

The original crown was a holy relic kept at Westminster Abbey, Edward's burial place, until the regalia were either sold or melted down when Parliament abolished the monarchy in 1649, during the English Civil War.

The current St Edward's Crown was made for Charles II in 1661. It is made from 22-carat solid gold, 30 centimetres (12 in) tall, weighs 2.23 kilograms (4.9 lb), and is decorated with 444 precious and semi-precious stones.

Although it is regarded as the official coronation crown, only six monarchs have been crowned with St Edward's Crown since the Restoration: Charles II (1661), James II (1685), William III (1689), George V (1911), George VI (1937) and Elizabeth II (1953). Mary II and Anne were crowned with small diamond crowns of their own; George I, George II, George III and William IV with the State Crown of George I; George IV with a sizeable new diamond crown made especially for the occasion; and Queen Victoria and Edward VII chose not to use St Edward's Crown because of its weight and instead used the lighter 1838 Imperial State Crown. When not used to crown the monarch, St Edward's Crown rested on the high altar; however, it did not feature in Queen Victoria's coronation.

QUEEN MARY'S CROWN

The silver-gilt crown has around 2,200 rose-cut and brilliant-cut diamonds, and originally contained the 105.6-carat Koh-i-Noor diamond, as well as the 94.4-carat Cullinan III and 63.6-carat Cullinan IV diamonds.

It was officially announced that Queen Camilla would be crowned using Queen Mary's Crown on 6 May 2023. Planned modifications include re-setting the crown with the original Cullinan III, IV and V diamonds, and removing four of its eight half-arches. The Koh-i-Noor is to remain in the Crown of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.



FACTS ABOUT THE CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Queen Elizabeth and her Maids of Honour after the Coronation

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned on 2 June 1953 in Westminster Abbey. The service started at 11.15am and lasted almost three hours. The coronation, in a historic event was the first to be televised, most homes before the coronation did not have Televisions and, due to the special occasion, sales of TVs skyrocketed. 27 million people in the UK (out of a population of 36 million) watched the BBC's coverage of the festivities, with a further 11 million people tuning in to the wireless.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were driven from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey in the Golden State Coach - pulled by eight grey gelding horses named: Cunningham, Tovey, Noah, Tedder, Eisenhower, Snow White, Tipperary and McCreery.



British fashion designer Norman Hartnell designed the Queen's coronation dress, it was made of white satin and featured embroidered emblems of the UK and Commonwealth in gold and silver. Other than on the day of the coronation, the Queen wore the dress on six other occasions, including the opening of Parliament in New Zealand and Australia.





As part of the 60th Anniversary celebrations in 2013, the Queen was presented with a replica of the coronation bouquet at Buckingham Palace.

The coronation bouquet was made up of white flowers comprising of orchids and lily-of-the-valley from England, stephanotis from Scotland, additional orchids from Wales and Carnations from Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man.



The then Prince Charles was the first child in a Royal Family to witness the crowning of their parent. He received a special hand-painted children's invitation to his mother's coronation.



As we look back on the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II we are reminded of the grandeur and historical significance of this event. From the intricate planning and preparation to the iconic moment of the crowning, the coronation ceremony was a true spectacle of regal elegance and pageantry. We can appreciate the significance of this event not only in British history, but also in the global cultural landscape. This ceremony captured the attention and imagination of people around the world, and has become a symbol of the enduring legacy of the British monarchy.

As we look forward to the coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, we bid farewell to a beloved monarch and welcome a new one. This transition is not just symbolic, but also marks a time of change and progress.

How Will The Coronation of King Charles III Be Different?

Aside from the Royal Family, Royals worldwide will attend the coronation, along with representatives from the Houses of Parliament and 'Leading Citizens' from the Commonwealth Countries. Charles wants to limit the guestlist to 2,000 compared to the 8,000 guests who attended Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953.

Charles wants his ceremony to be markedly shorter and more representative of different community groups and faiths. The Royal Balcony appearance following the ceremony will be a slimmed-down version of what we're used to.

While the coronation will reflect the monarch's role today, it will still be rooted in the longstanding traditions and pageantry.

The three-day celebration will include a live concert at Windsor Castle featuring performances from global Rock and Pop stars on Sunday, 7 May; simultaneously, communities are invited to share food and fun as part of the 'Coronation Big Lunch' in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship.

On Bank Holiday Monday, 8 May 'The Big Help Out' will highlight the positive the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation and encourage people to try volunteering for themselves.



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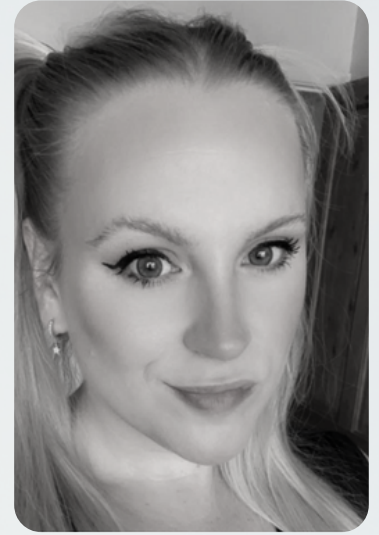
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A History of St George

Lucie Kibbey, Cert. FS, MBIFD, Deputy Editor



Most of us will have heard the tale of George and the dragon, but do you know the real history behind the legend?

St George's Day takes place on 23rd April each year to mark the death of the Patron Saint of England, who is said to have died approx. AD 303 when he was tortured and executed in Palestine, becoming an early Christian martyr.

Legend has it that St George slew an evil dragon that was plaguing a local town and saved a princess. It is traditionally a Christian celebration as the story goes that St George offered to kill the dragon only if the town converted to Christianity.

Historical evidence however points to the 'real' St George, living in Palestine in the third century who followed in his father's footsteps to become a soldier in the Roman army, and was executed for his Christian beliefs. St George is also patron saint of Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia, Catalonia, Georgia, and the Russian city of Moscow.

During the Middle Ages, people believed that St George was one of the 'Fourteen Holy Helpers' – a group of saints who could help during epidemic diseases. St George's protection was invoked against several nasty diseases, many fatal and with infectious causes, including the Plague and leprosy.

Once More unto The Breach

In William Shakespeare's Henry V, the monarch calls on Saint George during his battle cry at the Battle of Harfleur in the famous "**Once more unto the breach, dear friends**" speech, crying "**God for Harry! England, and St. George!**" Five hundred years later – during the First World War – a ghostly apparition of St George is said to have aided British troops during their retreat from Mons, and the naval commander of the Zeebrugge Raid cited the saint as inspiration.

St George Represents Those We Honour

The Order of the Garter (founded by Edward III in 1348) is the highest order of chivalry in the country and King Charles III is at the helm as Sovereign of the Garter. To this day St George's cross still appears on the Garter badge and his image is the pendant of the Garter chain.

In 1940 King George VI created a new award for acts of the greatest heroism or courage in circumstance of extreme danger. The George Cross, named after the king, bears the image of St George vanquishing the dragon. The image of St George also adorns many of the memorials built to honour those killed during World War One.



The Dragon Was Added Later

The story goes that St George rode into Silene (modern day Libya) to free the city from a dragon who had a taste for humans, but it's a story which post-dates the real George by several centuries.

Images of George and the dragon survive from the 9th century – 500 years after his death. Originally these may simply have been representations of the battle between Good and Evil. But the story was developed and popularised in the Middle Ages in a compendium of stories about saints' lives, The Golden Legend.

He Never Visited England

Although St George never visited England, his reputation for virtue and holiness spread across Europe and his feast day – the 23rd of April – was celebrated in England from the 9th century onwards.

He became popular with English kings. Edward I (1272-1307) had banners bearing the emblem of St George (a red cross on a white background) and Edward III (1327-77) had a strong interest in the saint and owned a relic of his blood. The St George cross was not used to represent England until the reign of Henry VIII.

He Wasn't a Knight Either

Although George is often depicted in popular culture as a knight in shining armour, the truth is less fanciful.

Whilst St George was depicted from the 11th century as a chivalric knight or a warrior on horseback, he was, in fact, an officer in the Roman army.

"There is a forgotten, nay almost forbidden word, which means more to me than any other. That word is England." - Winston Churchill



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'Done is a Battell on the Dragon Blak', a poem by the medieval Scottish poet William Dunbar (c. 1465-c. 1530), boasts one of the finest opening lines in all medieval poetry. The rest of the poem is pretty good, too. It takes as its theme the Resurrection, and casts Christ as a crusading knight.

Lucie x

Done is a Battell on the Dragon Blak

*Done is a battell on the dragon blak,
Our campioun Chryst confoundit hes his force,
The yettis of hell ar brokin with a crak,
The signe trivmphall rasit is of the croce.
The diuillis trymmillis with hiddous voce,
The saulis ar borrowit and to the blis can go.
Chryst with his blud our ransonis dois indoce:
Surrexit dominus de sepulchro.*

*Dungin is the deidly dragon Lucifer,
The crewall serpent with the mortall stang,
The auld kene tegir, with his teith on char,
Quhilk in a wait hes lyne for ws so lang,
Thinking to grip ws in his clowis strang.
The mercifull lord wald nocht that it wer so.
He made him for to felye of that fang:
Surrexit dominus de sepulchro.*

He for our saik that sufferit to be slane
And lyk a lamb in sacrifice wes dicht,
Is lyk a lyone rissin vp agane
And as a gyane raxit him on hicht.
Sprungin is Aurora, radius and bricht,
On loft is gone the glorius Appollo,
The blisfull day departit fro the nycht:
Surrexit dominus de sepulchro.

The grit victour agane is rissin on hicht,
That for our querrell to the deth wes woundit.
The sone that vox all pail now schynis bricht,
And dirknes clerit, our fayth is now refoundit.
The knell of mercy fra the hevin is soundit,
The Cristin ar deliuerit of thair wo,
The Iowis and thair error ar confoundit:
Surrexit dominus de sepulchro.

The fo is chasit, the battell is done ceis,
The presone brokin, the ievellouris fleit and flemit,
The weir is gon, confermit is the peis,
The fetteris lowsit and the dungeoun temit,
The ransoun maid, the presoneris redemit,
The feild is win, ourcumin is the fo,
Dispulit of the tresur that he yemit:
Surrexit dominus de sepulchro.

JAMES BROWN & SONS COMMUNITY FUND INCREASED TO £25,000 TO HELP ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO BENEFIT PEOPLE IN BELFAST

After a successful first year helping 19 organisations in and around Belfast, the James Brown & Sons Community Fund is returning to provide charities and not-for-profit organisations with valuable support at a crucial time. Local Funeral Directors James Brown & Sons have been serving the people of Greater Belfast since 1904 and have increased the money available this year to £25,000 for projects which benefit local communities in the city and the surrounding areas.



James Brown launching the Community Fund in his family name

Speaking about the fund, James Brown said:

“It was an honour for me to see £20,000 distributed to such a wide range of worthy causes last year in our family name. I’m very pleased that this year, supported by our parent company Funeral Partners, we will be able to provide even more support with £25,000 in the James Brown & Sons Community Fund available to good causes.

Times are hard for many of us right now, but things are especially difficult for the most vulnerable in society with the cost-of-living crisis. I hope, this fund will not only help these organisations survive but continue to thrive and carry on their remarkable work. Whatever your size and whatever your goals, I would encourage you to apply for the James Brown & Sons Community Fund if your project fits into our four key focus areas of health, education, employment opportunities and poverty or social deprivation. Last year we assisted everything from schemes which aim to prevent isolation and loneliness to a Social Supermarket which redistributes surplus produce to families in food poverty for a nominal fee. There were also vital funds for a gardening community to buy new equipment, amongst many other incredible causes.”

Applicants to the fund must represent communities within a three-mile radius of James Brown & Sons located on Belfast’s Newtownards Road, Lisburn Road, Knockbreda Road, and Dundonald, Newtownabbey and Whiteabbey.

The fund aims to benefit projects which are addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged in the community which are led by people who demonstrate a clear understanding of community need. Groups can apply for grants of between £300 and £1,500 to fund a whole project, or part of a larger scheme where the rest of the funding has already been secured. The first application window opened on March 6 and runs until April 3 with successful applicants set to be informed by May 1. Other rounds of applications will open in July and November 2023.

To apply for a grant, or for more details about qualifying criteria visit

www.jamesbrownfuneraldirectors.com



CHARITY HONOUR FOR FOOTBALLING FUNDRAISER AHEAD OF LATEST CELEBRITY MATCH



Jamie Groves and Charlotte Styles at Goals 4 GOSH



A funeral firm manager who has tirelessly raised money for a children's hospital has been made an official ambassador for their charity.

Jamie Groves, Regional Development Director at Funeral Partners, has co-organised two star-studded football matches in the last 18 months called Goals 4 GOSH, raising more than £60,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity (GOSH Charity).

And his work – carried out alongside fellow volunteer and co-organiser Charlotte Styles – has been officially recognised with the two becoming volunteer community ambassadors for GOSH Charity.

Jamie Groves at Great Ormond Street Hospital where he was inducted as a volunteer community ambassadors for GOSH Charity

This year's Goals 4 GOSH match will be played once again at Crystal Palace's Selhurst Park stadium on Bank Holiday Monday May 29. The GOSH Charity volunteer ambassadors are a network of volunteers who represent the charity to raise funds and awareness of the great work done at the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

Jamie, who lives in Croydon, said: ***"It's an absolute honour to have this title – I couldn't have imagined that when we had the idea to organise a football match back in 2020, it would lead to this. I am really proud of what we have achieved, and to get this official recognition is amazing. Being in the ambassador programme covers a lot. I'll be invited to several meetings a year to discuss future plans for the hospital and get the chance to share ideas and give opinions on plans. There will also be a chance to go to speak or support at a variety of events."***

Jamie added: ***"We're working on making this year's Goals 4 GOSH bigger and better than ever before, with more details about the schedule to be announced soon. It's going to be a brilliant day for the entire family."***

Head of Community Fundraising at GOSH Charity, Marina Barnes, said: ***"We are delighted to be welcoming Jamie as our latest volunteer ambassador. His fundraising efforts through Goals 4 GOSH so far have made a huge difference to the lives of seriously ill children at GOSH, and we can't wait to see what he will bring to his new role."***



Jamie Groves takes possession

For more information and ticket details, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/goals4gosh/>

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PETER'S SADDLING UP TO RAISE CASH FOR HOPE HOUSE IRELAND

A well-known retired Funeral Director is taking on a tough cycling challenge to raise cash for a charity which provides vital respite for cancer patients.

Peter Mulholland, 70, from Mulhollands Funeral Directors will be part of the Etape Loch Ness event next month where more than 6,000 participants follow a 66-mile closed road route around the famous freshwater site including a gruelling hill climb.

Along with his friend Jim Adams, Peter will be fundraising for Hope House Ireland – a charity which provides a place for cancer patients and their carers to stay for rest and recuperation during or after their treatment.



Jim Adams, Funeral Partners Business Development Manager Emma Moore, Hope House Ireland Trustee Sam McCullough and Peter Mulholland

Mulhollands Funeral Directors has branches in Carrickfergus and Larne and is part of the Funeral Partners network. The company will match fund the first £1,000 raised for Hope House. Although he is a keen cyclist, often clocking 200 miles per week, Peter said the near-five-mile climb involved in the event would be a tough challenge.

"I took up cycling in 2010 when I was told I needed to do more exercise to lose a bit of weight – there are so many benefits mentally and physically," he said.

"The event is a challenge especially the climb, which is really quite steep, and to be honest, it fills me with a bit of trepidation, but I am sure I will finish it, somehow. Cycling in a group is so different to cycling individually so I'm sure I will complete the course. Hope House is about 14 miles from where I live in Carrickfergus, and I wanted to support a smaller local charity. With the current economic situation, charities, especially the smaller ones, will be struggling for funding. I've known people who have used Hope House and they've told me it is absolutely out of this world. The work they do is fabulous, and I am happy to support them."

Megan Rodgers, Hope House General Manager, said: ***"We are so grateful that Peter and Jim have chosen Hope House Ireland as their charity. The chance to rest and recuperate away from the pressures of hospital treatments and appointments is so precious and any money raised will go towards providing this."***

The ride takes place on April 23. To sponsor Peter and Jim, visit www.justgiving.com/Peter-Mulholland10 or you can donate at Mulhollands Funeral Directors in Irish Quarter South, Carrickfergus or Exchange Road in Larne.

A PAGAN CELEBRATION OF EASTER

Lucie Kibbey, Cert. FS, MBIFD, Deputy Editor

Everybody loves Easter – whether it's the chocolate bunnies or egg hunts – but did you ever stop to think where these traditions came from? How did a celebration of Christ's resurrection come to be celebrated with rabbits and chocolate eggs? Well, we have these traditions because Easter was originally a pagan festival – much like Christmas. As Christianity gained popularity, a lot of pagan customs and rituals were integrated into Christian festivals like Easter.

While Christmas was a celebration of the winter solstice, Easter was a celebration of the spring equinox for the pagans. Pagans lived their lives in strong accordance with nature's rhythms and patterns, and solstices and equinoxes were sacred times. A solstice marks the longest or shortest day of the year, while an equinox symbolises the day when there is balance between daylight and darkness. This shows the end of one season and the beginning of another. In the northern hemisphere, Easter falls on the spring equinox, when winter is coming to an end and nature is experiencing a rebirth and renewal. This is naturally a cause for festivities and celebrations, as the darkness comes to an end and plants and leaves start to regrow after the cold winter.

Around mid-300AD, Christianity was increasing in popularity in Rome, then the centre of the world. In 312, the emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and put an end to the ongoing persecution of Christians. However, he knew that just because he had converted, it didn't mean that pagans would stop following their rituals and traditions. So, he slowly started to adopt existing pagan rituals into Christian festivities.



In 325 AD, the church council – known as the Council of Nicaea – first decided that Easter’s celebration should fall on the Sunday after the first full moon of the spring equinox. And thus, Easter Sunday was born, and symbols associated with nature’s rebirth and renewal came to be associated with the rebirth or resurrection of Christ.

In most of Europe, the Easter celebration gets its name from the Jewish festival of Passover, which occurs at a similar time to the spring equinox. So, in Greece, Easter is called Pascha, in Italy it is Pasqua, in France it is Paques, and in Denmark it is Paaske. But in Germany and English-speaking countries like England, Easter took its name from the pagan goddess Eostre – the goddess of spring and fertility.

Now that we’ve come to understand Easter’s original nature as a celebration of spring, the symbolism starts to slowly make sense.

Where did Easter Eggs come from?

Eggs are a symbol of new life and rebirth, just as nature returns to life after the cold of winter or Jesus is resurrected after the crucifixion. Decorating and eating eggs on Easter first became a custom during the Middle Ages, when people would decorate and eat hard boiled eggs following Easter Sunday mass after fasting throughout Lent. This ritual is still popular in many Eastern European countries, where you’ll find families hand painting and eating actual (non-chocolate) eggs on Easter.



Why is Easter associated with a Rabbit?

Now the eggs may make sense, but how did a rabbit come into all of this? This symbolism can be especially strange when you consider the fact that rabbits don’t even lay eggs! But it all ties back to the concept of fertility, rebirth, and renewal as celebrated by the pagans. The sacred symbol of the goddess Eostre was a hare, and rabbits have long been considered a symbol of fertility due to their ability to reproduce quickly and in large numbers.

But the first official mention of rabbits or hares in association with Easter was only made in 1722, in a folklore book written by Georg Franck von Franckenau, a German writer.

One of the stories recounted in this book mentions an Easter hare that hides coloured eggs for children to find – the first written mention of an Easter egg hunt. Since the book was a collection of folklore, it's reasonable to suggest that Easter egg hunts were already a custom at the time.

In the 19th century, the greeting card industry experienced a boom. This was because more people were able to send and receive letters and parcels by post. As a result, card companies – like Hallmark – started to really market holidays with fun and festive greeting cards. Easter was one of them. Cards started to appear with cute illustrations of rabbits and Easter eggs, popularising the connection between Easter, bunny rabbits, and colourful eggs.



Why do we eat Chocolate at Easter?

So, when did we stop eating hard-boiled eggs and start eating chocolate eggs and bunnies instead? Around the same time that greeting cards were booming. In Germany, it was popular to eat sweet edible Easter bunnies – though these were made from a sugared pastry. At the time, chocolate was consumed as a beverage rather than a solid sweet and was still rather bitter as cocoa is known to be.

However, Cadbury, then still a new company, was experimenting with solid forms of chocolate.

They jumped on the Easter bandwagon and started marketing chocolate Easter eggs. We never stopped eating them, and today chocolate Easter eggs and bunnies are one of Easter's biggest treats.

Why do we eat Hot Cross Buns at Easter?

OK, so what about the infamous hot cross buns? Believe it or not, hot cross buns are another pagan tradition. These were taken from the Saxons, who would bake fresh bread in honour of the goddess Eostre. The fresh buns would be marked with a cross. At the time, the cross represented the four quarters of the moon, four seasons, and wheel of life. It's easy to see why hot cross buns were adopted to Christian festivities, where the symbol of a cross has a strong connection to the crucifixion of Christ.





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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.”



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WHY HAVE A GOOD MIX OF CONTENT ON YOUR FUNERAL HOME'S FACEBOOK PAGE?

Eímer Duffý, FIT Social Media

When it comes to your funeral home's Facebook page do you have a good mix of content? What do you post on your Facebook page and do people engage with comments, likes and even share out?

A Facebook page that has a good mix of content can help your funeral home connect with the community.

And from there build a loyal following and trust. Let's start with some of the benefits of having a good mix of content and then look at a few ideas of what to post.



Benefits:

- **Builds Trust:** By sharing a mix of content, you can show that your funeral home is more than a business. And that you care about the families you serve and how you can help.
- **Provides Comfort and Support:** Posting about a range of topics is key. From educational content, stories and inspirational quotes. All can help to provide comfort and support to those who are grieving.
- **Promotes Engagement:** Encourages your audience to engage with your page with interesting and relevant topics. This increases likes, comments, tagging of others and even sharing your posts.
- **Increases Brand Awareness:** Showing your support by promoting community events and sharing photos and videos. This can increase brand awareness and build connections. And from there relationships with other businesses and organisations in your area.
- **Attracts Potential Families:** By providing valuable content you will build more trust with your audience. And help increase footfall into your funeral home,

Now the dreaded question is 'What to Post?' This is something that can be a challenge but here are some post ideas to get you started and help you stand out.

Post Ideas:

- **Educational Content:** You can share educational content related to funerals, grief and bereavement. This can include tips on how to cope with grief, or how to plan a funeral.
- **Stories and Memories:** Sharing stories and memories of those who have passed away can be a powerful way to engage. A great way to connect with your audience.
- **Community Events:** You can use your Facebook page to promote local events and fundraisers. Helping you build relationships with other businesses and organisations in your area.

More Post Ideas:

- **Inspirational Quotes:** Another great way to provide comfort and support. Helping your audience at their time of need. Quotes for example related to grief, hope and healing.
- **Photos and Videos:** Give insight into your funeral home. Also who you are and your staff. Photos and Videos can help to humanise your funeral business and build trust with your audience.

In Conclusion:

Your Facebook page is an important tool for you to use to connect with your community. And from here build trust with your audience.

There are many benefits to sharing a good mix of content. You can provide comfort and support to those who are grieving. It raises engagement, increases brand awareness and attracts potential families. Why not use some of the post ideas mentioned to create a Facebook page that reflects your funeral home.

Would you like to leverage your Facebook page? What about your website, your Google Business Profile and more? For more information on how I can assist you please visit my website: www.fitsocialmedia.ie



**Thank you for reading,
I hope you found this
helpful.**

~Eimer

Eimer Duffy is a Social Media/Digital Marketing Consultant and Trainer for the Funeral Industry. Assisting Funeral professionals to gain a better online presence and build communities and trust online. Live online interactive sessions for all knowledge levels with the benefit of being held at a time to suit your diary via Zoom.





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MOTHER OF TWO RAISES MORE THAN £55,000 FOR THE HOSPICE THAT CARED FOR HER HUSBAND



A MuchLoved tribute fund, set up by an Ipswich mother of two, has raised more than £55,000 for the hospice that cared for her husband. Christina Wise's husband Andrew passed away at St Elizabeth Hospice in March 2014. He was 41.

MuchLoved enables funeral directors to offer their clients outstanding bereavement support with a beautiful tribute page. It also enables their clients to collect funeral donations for any charities of their choice. And it enables funeral directors to easily display service details and arrangements in one place on their website.

'Andy was a very loyal, kind, caring and thoughtful person,' Christina recalls. 'He was a larger than life character who would always leave an impression on whoever he met.'



Andrew & Christina Wise with their two children

Andy was diagnosed with advanced kidney cancer in 2011. He spent nine weeks in total being cared for by the hospice.

'The hospice became a second home, and a second family to us,' said 49 year-old Christina. The children have fond memories of movie nights and pizza nights there with their daddy. 'Without St Elizabeth Hospice it would have been a much tougher journey and our appreciation for everything they did holds no bounds.'

Christina set up the MuchLoved tribute page after Andy died and set out to raise £30,000. 'I set up the tribute page as part of my healing,' she said. 'It helped me to write to his story and to feel that I was doing something good, it gave me a focus.'

'It was good to know that we were giving back to the hospice which helped so much and to know that other people would benefit from the amount we raised.'

Fundraising has included everything from vintage tea parties to a dinner dance and a disco. It was Andy's 50th birthday in 2022 and Christina did a skydive. Her son Oliver had his hair shaved and raised hundreds of pounds.

MuchLoved is an online tribute charity which enables people to create a personalised, and free online tribute site in memory of their loved one where they can share memories, thoughts and stories with families and friends as well as light candles, add music, photos and videos.

They can also collect fundraising donations for a special charity or project in their name, organise events, and celebrate anniversaries. MuchLoved works in partnership with hundreds of charities including St Elizabeth Hospice.

'I look at the page when anyone puts on a donation,' said Christina. 'I look at it at Christmas, and on Father's Day, on Andy's birthday and if I'm doing a fundraising event.'

'It helps with the grief because it's positive. It makes me feel loved and that Andy isn't forgotten. It's nice to know that he's still thought about and his life is celebrated.'

'It's fantastic to be able to see the funds going up. I can't believe the amount we have raised, and I want to raise more. It shows how many people loved Andy and what they think of us. I think it just helps to know that I have that support.'

'Andy didn't want to leave us; he didn't want to go. He couldn't face the thought of not being there for us. I think he'd be pleased and proud of the amount that has been raised in his memory.'



St Elizabeth Hospice is an independent Suffolk charity, which every year delivers care to over 3,000 patients and their families throughout East Suffolk, Great Yarmouth and Waveney, who are living with a progressive or life-limiting illness.

These services cost £12.9m to facilitate each year, with the charity raising 70% of funds via revenue streams and the generosity of the community through support of its retail shops and fundraising activities.



Since 2015, they launched Zest - a young adult service which supports those aged 14 and above with progressive & incurable illnesses. They work closely with children's hospice services to ensure young adults have a smooth transition into adult care, tailored treatment and services they need to be able to enjoy life to the full.



They've been providing services in Great Yarmouth and Waveney since 2019, in partnership with East Coast Community Healthcare. In 2023, services in Great Yarmouth and Waveney merged with the organisation East Coast Hospice.

much loved

THE ONLINE TRIBUTE CHARITY



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The award-winning online funeral notice, donations and tribute service from MuchLoved. In partnership with over 500 funeral directors, together we have raised over £130 million for UK charities and good causes.



much loved



Kindred Association Vacancy: *Quality Assurance Assessor*

Hours: As and when required

(The peak times are March to September. Inspection dates and times to suit both the assessor and funeral director/associate member).

Due to changes in the funeral profession, SAIF is looking to expand their Quality Assurance Assessors.

They are looking for enthusiastic and professional people who share SAIF's commitment in supporting and benchmarking the profession independently. The ideal applicant will have either worked in the funeral profession or have extensive knowledge of the industry to carry out assessments of funeral directors and those companies who handle/care for the deceased.

The assessor will be responsible for arranging their own schedules, for which administration support will be given from the SAIF business centre. The successful applicants will be proactive and work with the current team of assessors to provide an efficient and effective assessment that meaningfully involves and promotes positive outcomes through a supportive process and sign posting of good practice for the clients. As this role is working remotely and across different counties the applicant will be require to travel and have access to email.

If you have:

- **Extensive experience and/or knowledge of working within the funeral profession**
- **Excellent written and verbal communication skills**
- **Able to work on your own initiative**
- **Proficient in using technology**

Then SAIF would like to hear from you.

Please forward on no more that 2 A4 sides for your application ensuring it covers your experience and reasons for application in strictest confidence to claire@saif.org.uk by 30 August 2023.

SAIF values equality and diversity and recognises the benefits this brings and therefor welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

If you have any questions, then please contact Claire Day at the SAIF Business Centre on 01279 726777 or 0345 230 6777 or by email to claire@saif.org.uk



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2023/24 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

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

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

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	Licenced Full Member (CPD FORM MUST BE COMPLETED)	£185.00		
	Full Member	£160.00		
	Retired Member (voting)	£ 75.00		
	Retired Member (non-voting)	£ 50.00		
	Student Member	£ 75.00		
	Associate Member	£100.00		
✓	ADDITIONAL MEMBER ITEMS	Quantity	Cost	TOTAL AMOUNT
	Additional copies of Annual Licence <i>(ONLY available to Full Members with a Licence, as above)</i>		£10.00	£
	Member's Lapel Badge		£ 5.00	£
	Member's Window Sticker		£ 2.45	£
	Member's Tie (normal straight tie or clip on)		£10.00	£
	Member's 40 th Anniversary Tie (straight tie) – all funds from tie sales donated to the National Presidents chosen Charity.		£15.00	£
Total Additional Member Items				£
Membership Subscription (as above)				£
TOTAL TO PAY				£

Member's Signature:

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

To opt out of allowing your personal information to be shared, please tick the box.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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PLEASE NOTE: If you are applying for a Licence, you must complete the 2022/23 CPD Return and enclose it with your Subscription Renewal. CPD Returns will be checked and verified and you may be contacted and requested to supply additional information if we need further verification.



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