

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS



THE JOURNAL

ISSUE 9



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admin@bifd.org.uk

www.bifd.org.uk



Please send all Adverts,

Articles & News

c/o The Editorial Team:

journal@bifd.org.uk



**National President's
Chosen Charity**



The Presidential Team:

National President, Amanda Pink:

amandapink@bifd.org.uk

1st Vice President, Clive Pearson

2nd Vice President, Dr Philip Gore

Immediate Past President, Amanda Dalby

admin@bifd.org.uk

Chair of Education, Andrew Floyd:

a.floyd.bifd.edu@gmail.com



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Letter from the National President

Amanda Pink

Dear Members, Fellows and Students,

I hope this letter finds you well as we move into September. The Summer seems to have flown by, and with the arrival of September comes the first hints of Autumn. The days are becoming a little shorter, the evenings cooler, and before long we will notice the darker nights drawing in. This change of season often brings with it a sense of reflection and preparation, both in our personal lives and in our profession, as we look ahead to the busy months that close the year.



August proved to be a busy month, but I was fortunate to take a short break with my husband, Adrian, and our family in the beautiful coastal village of Croyde. It was a welcome chance to recharge before turning my attention back to fine-tuning the final arrangements for our upcoming Annual Conference. Alongside this, much of my time has been devoted to National Office administrative work, supporting our Board of Directors, and continuing to manage my own business, so there has certainly been plenty to keep me occupied.

One particular highlight in August was attending the official opening of the new Westerleigh Group virtual wall in Basildon on 26 August. It was a privilege to be part of this event, which showcased how technology can offer new ways for families to remember and honour their loved ones.

I am also delighted to share that our online CPD sessions are now taking place on a monthly basis. August's session focused on Bequeathal for Medical Research and we were thrilled with the excellent attendance and meaningful conversations that followed. Our next session will be held on 9 September, with the topic Some of the theories and models around grief and loss, and what Funeral Directors can do to signpost and support their clients after the funeral. If you would like to attend one of our sessions, or if you have missed a session and would like to receive the presentation, please contact admin@bifd.org.uk.

Looking ahead, I am delighted to share details of some of my forthcoming presidential engagements:

I will be attending an event hosted by the Worshipful Company of Upholders at the East India Club. The Upholders, one of the oldest livery companies in London, have a rich and fascinating heritage, including the historical provision of soft furnishings for coffins. They are keen to rekindle their ties with the funeral profession, and I believe there is genuine value in exploring this shared legacy. I also look forward to welcoming the Worshipful Master to our Annual Conference in October. More information about their work can be found at www.upholders.co.uk.

On 13 September, I will be travelling to the De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel for the Annual NAFD Conference. This is always a valuable opportunity to connect with colleagues from across our kindred associations, to hear updates on the NAFD's work, and to take part in discussions on the challenges and opportunities we all face.

At the end of the month, I will be attending the AOIC (Association of Independent Celebrants) Conference at the Village Hotel in Beeston, Nottingham. Celebrants play such an important role in supporting families, often working closely alongside funeral directors, and this conference offers an excellent chance to strengthen those connections. I am eager to hear more about the innovative ways celebrants are personalising ceremonies and to share in the conversation about how we can continue to collaborate effectively in ensuring families receive the very best care and service.

And, of course, not forgetting our own Annual Conference, which will be the final event of my presidential year. Our 43rd Annual Conference, Gala Dinner and Diploma Awards Ceremony promises to be a memorable occasion. On Saturday 25 October, between 2.00–4.00 pm, we will host an education session offering accredited CPD opportunities, with very special guest speakers from Obitus and MuchLoved. There will also be the chance to meet our Tutors and discuss the Institute's industry-leading suite of qualifications.

If you are local and not attending the full weekend, you are warmly invited to join us for this free education session at the Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel, Cippenham Lane, SL1 2YE. In addition, a small number of places remain available for the Gala Dinner only. If you would like more information, please contact admin@bifd.org.uk.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all who have supported my chosen charity for the year, The Lullaby Trust. Your generosity means the world and will make a real difference. Donations can still be made at:
www.lullabytrust.dedicationpage.org/charityoftheyear2024.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks and especially at our Annual Conference in October.

Warmest regards


Amanda Pink, Dip. FS, LMBIFD
National President, Region G

43RD ANNUAL BIFD CONFERENCE

24TH – 26TH OCTOBER 2025



The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel
Clippenham Lane, Slough, SL1 2YE

The BIFD Invites You To Conference 2025

National President, Amanda Pink, would like to invite all Members, Fellows, Students, Associates, Presidents of the Kindred Associations and all Guests to the forthcoming Conference and Gala Dinner to be held on 24th - 26th October 2025 at The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel.

The Copthorne Hotel offers comfortable and contemporary facilities, where modern comfort seamlessly blends with the historic Windsor. With 219 spacious and comfortable rooms, the 4-star hotel is the perfect base to feel relaxed and rejuvenated for our Conference Weekend.

From here, you can visit the medieval **Windsor Castle** still in use since the middle ages, see the changing of the guard and experience Windsor's rich history. The hotel is also located very close to **Legoland Windsor** perfect for our guests who would like to attend with their family.



The **Bombay Pavillion Restaurant** offers dishes inspired by the traditional clay oven 'Tandoor' and curries that stay true to their origin.

The **Motion Health Club** provides comprehensive leisure facilities and state-of-the-art gymnasium and swimming pool.

Heathrow Airport is a mere 15 minute drive and is ideally located just outside of central London, just 30 minutes away by train.

The President's Charity 2025

For her Presidential Year, Amanda is supporting The Lullaby Trust.

The charity works to educate and support new parents in the best sleep practices for their babies with the aim to prevent deaths. Their aim is to reduce the level of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) which they have helped to reduce by 81% since 1991 saving over 30,000 babies. They also support bereaved parents following the tragic and devastating loss of a baby or young child and have so far helped over 800 families. A fantastic charity that needs funds to continue its important work and any support provided to our campaign for the Lullaby Trust throughout 2025 and at Conference will be gratefully appreciated.



The itinerary so far...

Friday 24th October 2025

The Board of Directors will be meeting in the afternoon.

After checking into your rooms, Amanda invites you to join her for a 3 course dinner in the hotel function suite.

Saturday 25th October 2025

The AGM will take place in the morning followed by a buffet lunch.

In the afternoon Amanda is planning an educational session... Watch this space for further information.

The evening will start with a Drinks Reception followed by a 3 course dinner with wine, plus cheese & biscuits. We will also have our Diploma Awards Ceremony and Handover of Offices followed by music and dancing until late.

Earlier than 24th or later than 25th October 2025

If you would like to enjoy a longer break, we have secured good rates either side of the Conference, so that you can enjoy Windsor for an extended stay.



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The British Institute of Funeral Directors Conference 2024:
24th – 26th October 2025

The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel
Clippenham Lane
Slough
SL1 2YE

The 43rd BIFD Conference 2025 Rates

1. Friday Evening To Sunday Morning – THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

Friday DinnerDouble Room (per couple) £675
Friday & Saturday Bed & BreakfastSingle Room (per person) £425
Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea & Coffee
Saturday Lunch Included
Saturday Evening Drinks Reception
Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal

2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

Friday DinnerDouble Room (per couple) £295
Friday Bed & BreakfastSingle Room (per person) £200
Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

3. Saturday To Sunday Morning - ONLY

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & BiscuitsDouble Room (per couple) £395
Saturday Evening Drinks ReceptionSingle Room (per person) £235
Saturday Gala Dinner – 4 Course Meal Followed by Tea & Coffee
Saturday Bed & Breakfast
Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

4. The Gala Banquet Dinner Only£85 Per Person

Saturday Evening Drinks Reception
Saturday Gala Dinner – 4 Course Meal Followed by Tea & Coffee

5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLYFree To All Members & Students

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £30 PP

The 43rd BIFD CONFERENCE - 24th – 26th October 2025

The Copthorne Slough-Windsor

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,

2 Heather Ridge Arcade,

Heatherside,

Camberley, Surrey,

GU15 1AX

07354 847 702

Tariff (4) – Gala Dinner Only

Total Attendees £.....

Tariff (5) – AGM Only

£ No Charge

Email: treasurer@bifd.org.uk

Total Amount Due £.....

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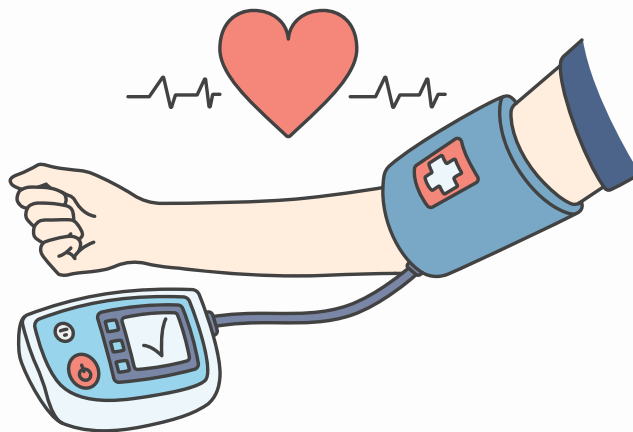
BLOOD PRESSURE THE SILENT KILLER

Clive Pearson 1st Vice President

I am generally known for my relaxed demeanour, so it came as quite a surprise during a recent health check that I have high blood pressure. This unexpected finding has prompted me to put this small article together as it is important that you check your blood pressure due to the complications which can follow.

High blood pressure, often referred to as the silent killer, quietly threatens the health of millions around the globe. Many individuals are unaware that this condition can lead to severe health issues, including heart disease and stroke. Therefore, checking blood pressure regularly is crucial for maintaining overall well-being and preventing serious health complications.

Understanding the dangers of high blood pressure is essential in recognising why regular monitoring is necessary. High blood pressure does not typically present noticeable symptoms, leading many to believe they are healthy. For instance, a study by the American Heart Association indicated that nearly half of adults in the United States live with high blood pressure, yet many remain unaware of their condition. This lack of awareness can have dire consequences, as untreated high blood pressure can cause damage to vital organs over time. People may feel fine, but without checks, the risk of heart attacks or strokes increases significantly.



The importance of routine blood pressure checks cannot be overstated. Early detection allows for timely intervention and management of the condition. For example, many countries have initiated campaigns to encourage regular health screenings, leading to better health outcomes. In Sweden, a nationwide blood pressure screening program has successfully reduced the rates of heart disease and stroke among the population. This demonstrates that proactive measures can lead to positive health changes, highlighting the significance of being aware of one's blood pressure levels.

In addition to routine checks, lifestyle choices play a critical role in managing blood pressure. A balanced diet, regular exercise, and avoiding excessive alcohol and tobacco use can significantly influence blood pressure levels. For instance, the Mediterranean diet, rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats, has been shown to lower blood pressure in numerous studies. This evidence underscores the fact that lifestyle changes combined with regular monitoring can lead to a healthier life.

In conclusion, high blood pressure remains a silent yet dangerous threat to health, making regular checks vital for prevention and management. Awareness of one's blood pressure level, coupled with healthy lifestyle choices, can greatly reduce the risks associated with this condition. **Taking action now, whether through regular screenings or making healthier choices, can lead to a longer and healthier life for everyone.** Embracing these practices not only protects individual health but also contributes to a healthier community overall.



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- The course includes lunch and light refreshments throughout the weekends
- Certificate course fees are £2,700.00 for additional information email Hayley at hayleyowenfd@gmail.com



BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Registered Office:

**National Office, 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1AX
Company Limited by Guarantee - 06230309**



NOTICE OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Members, Students, Fellows & Associate Members,

You are duly invited to attend the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the The British Institute of Funeral Directors on:

**Saturday 25th October 2025 at 10:00 a.m., at The Copthorne Slough-Windsor
Hotel,
Clippenham Lane, Slough, SL1 2YE**

to conduct the following business:

AGENDA

1 Welcome to the Meeting by National President Amanda Pink (including Minutes Silence for Members we have lost and in respect of the deceased people and families we have served).

2 Roll Call: Members present will announce their name, town, region and any office held.

3 Apologies for Absence.

4 To Adopt Standing Orders.

5 Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 19th October 2024 at The Cedar Court Hotel, Lindley Moor Road, Huddersfield, HD3 3RH

6 Matters Arising from the Minutes.

7 Resolutions To Conference (received at National Office by 13th October 2025).

The Board of Directors propose a new membership called "Certificate Membership", to enable members who have completed the Certificate in Funeral Service course and will not be going on to take the Diploma course stay as members.

Certificate Members

10a.1 Certificate Membership shall be open to individuals who, at the date of their application:

10a.1.1 are 16 years of age or above;

10a.1.2 whose applications are acceptable to the Directors and

10a.1.3 who have completed the Certificate in Funeral Service, or an Equivalent Qualification.

10a.2. A Certificate Member shall be entitled to:-

10a.2.1. to receive any publication of the Company; and

10a.2.2. attend any General Meeting of the Company.

10a.3. A Certificate Member shall not be entitled to:-

10a.3.1. Vote on matters put before any General Meeting of the Company.

10.4. Once a Certificate Member shall have been awarded the Diploma or completed satisfactorily an Equivalent Qualification they shall be entitled to apply to become a Full Member and provided they submit a Full Membership Application within 3 calendar months of being awarded the Diploma or satisfactorily completing an Equivalent Qualification, they may remain a Certificate member until their Full Membership Application has been determined but thereafter their Certificate Membership shall automatically cease. Where such Certificate Member fails to make a Full Membership Application within such period of 3 calendar months his student Membership shall automatically cease on the expiry of that period.

8 Education Report

9 Administration, Company Secretary & Director's Reports

10 To receive the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31st March 2025.

11 To appoint auditors of the Company to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which the financial statements are laid before the Company:

Hughes & Co, The Stables, Broseley Hall, Church Street, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5DG

12 To fix subscription rates for 2026-27.

13 To appoint the nominated individuals listed below as Honorary Officers, such individuals having been nominated in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 28.3 of the Company's Articles of Association:

National President:	Clive Pearson
First Vice President:	Phil Gore
Second Vice President:	Judith Dandy
Immediate Past President:	Amanda Pink
National Treasurer:	David Gresty
The Company Secretary:	Amanda Pink
Editor of The Journal:	Kayleigh Ingham
Deputy Editor of The Journal	Vacant
Chair of Education:	Andrew Floyd

14 To re-elect as directors the following individuals who are retiring by rotation in accordance with the Articles of Association: –

1. Region A – **Vacant**
2. Region B – **Vacant**
3. Region C – Hayley Owen
4. Region D – **Vacant**
5. Region E – **Vacant**
6. Region F – **Vacant**
7. Region G – **Vacant**
8. Region H – David Capper
9. Region J – Sophie Cross
10. Region K – **Vacant**

15. Adjourn the meeting to the Gala Dinner where the awards ceremony and handover of offices will take place

***Please remember that only members, students, associates and fellows can attend the AGM part of the weekend, no guests are allowed to this part of the conference and ONLY Fully Registered Members can vote.**

Thank you

By The Order of The Board
Secretary & National President – Amanda Pink

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Registered Office:

National Office, 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1AX

Company Limited by Guarantee - 06230309



The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the British Institute of Funeral Directors

Saturday 25th October 2025 at 10.00 am

The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel, Clippenham Lane, Slough, SL1 2YE

STANDING ORDERS

1. A question will be decided by a show of hands, unless a poll be demanded by the Chairman, or by 10 members entitled to vote either present in person or by proxy. No question shall be declared carried by a ballot vote unless such question has received at least two-thirds of the ballot votes cast. In a case of equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the Chairman shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.
2. During debate, speakers must go to the microphone and announce their Name, Town and Region before they address the Chair
3. Speakers include all Members (both voting & non voting) and students.
4. A member proposing or seconding a resolution must be present at the meeting.
5. The motion "To pass to the next business" shall take priority over all amendments, and, if carried by a majority, shall allow the meeting to proceed immediately with the next business on the Agenda.
6. The mover of the original motion shall have the right to reply when discussion has been closed. No new matter may be introduced or further discussion permitted before the vote is taken,
7. Discussion shall cease if a motion "that the question now be put" is proposed by a Member not having previously taken part in the discussion.
8. A Member shall speak only once in a discussion on a motion or amendment, except by permission of the Chairman, who must also allow other Members the same privilege.
9. All amendments shall be dealt with separately. When an amendment is proposed and seconded, discussion shall be continued to that amendment and a vote taken. If carried, the original motion is then put to the meeting in its amended form, when it is open to discussion and further amendment. If the original motion stands and discussion proceeds.
10. The Chairman shall have the power to adjourn the meeting or to settle points of order not otherwise dealt with in these Standing Orders.
11. Any Member, who has an urgent need to keep a mobile telephone switched on in the meeting, shall sit immediately adjacent to a door and leave the meeting room as soon as a call is received.

VOTING

ONLY Full Voting Members are eligible to vote, and ONLY if they have paid their current subscriptions.

ONLY A Raise of Hand can be used for voting.

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are invited for the election of Fellows/Members of the Institute to the following positions
2025/26:

National President

Proposed By

Seconded By

First Vice President

Proposed By

Seconded By

Second Vice President

Proposed By

Seconded By

National Treasurer

Proposed By

Seconded By

Company Secretary

Proposed By

Seconded By

Editor of The Journal

Proposed By

Seconded By

Deputy Editor of The Journal

Proposed By

Seconded By

Resolutions To Conference.....

.....

Proposed By.....

Seconded By.....

The consent of the Member or Fellow must have been obtained prior to nomination

The Board of Directors have recommended the following candidates:

National President: Clive Pearson
First Vice President: Phil Gore
Second Vice President: Judith Dandy
Immediate Past President Amanda Pink
National Treasurer: David Gresty
The Company Secretary: Amanda Pink
Editor of The Journal: Kayleigh Ingham
Deputy Editor of The Journal: **Vacant**
Chair of Education: Andrew Floyd

Nomination Forms should be sent to:

National Office, 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1AX

Deadline for Nominations & Resolutions: 13th October 2025

43rd AGM – PROXY FORM

Registered Office: National Office, 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Camberley, Surrey,
GU15 1AX

Company Limited by Guarantee - 06230309



Name of Member: _____

Membership Number: _____

Address of

Member: _____

Before completing this form, please read the explanatory notes:

I, being a Member of the Company, appoint the Chairman of the meeting or (see note 3)

Alternate Nominee: _____

as my proxy to attend, speak and vote upon my behalf at the 43rd AGM held on Saturday 25th October 2025 at 10.00am, and at any adjournment of the meeting held, at The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel, Clippenham Lane, Slough, SL1 2YE.

I direct my proxy to vote on the following resolutions as I have indicated by marking the appropriate indication with an 'X'. If no indication is given, my proxy will vote or abstain from voting at his or her discretion and I authorise my proxy vote, or abstention from voting, as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter which is properly put before this meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS:

FOR

AGAINST

4. To Adopt Standing Orders

5. Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting, Saturday 19th 2024, The Cedar Court Hotel, Lindley Moor Road, Huddersfield, HD3 3RH.

7. Resolutions To Conference received at National Office by 13th October 2025

The Board of Directors propose a new membership called "Certificate Membership", to enable members who have completed the Certificate in Funeral Service course and will not be going on to take the Diploma course stay as members.

Certificate Members

10a.1 Certificate Membership shall be open to individuals who, at the date of their application:

10a.1.1 are 16 years of age or above;

10a.1.2 whose applications are acceptable to the Directors and

10a.1.3 who have completed the Certificate in Funeral Service, or an Equivalent Qualification.

10a.2. A Certificate Member shall be entitled to:-

10a.2.1. to receive any publication of the Company; and

10a.2.2. attend any General Meeting of the Company.

10a.3. A Certificate Member shall not be entitled to:-

10a.3.1. Vote on matters put before any General Meeting of the Company.

10.4. Once a Certificate Member shall have been awarded the Diploma or completed satisfactorily an Equivalent Qualification they shall be entitled to apply to become a Full Member and provided he submits a Full Membership Application within 3 calendar months of being awarded the Diploma or satisfactorily completing an Equivalent Qualification, they may remain a Certificate member until their Full Membership Application has been determined but thereafter their Certificate Membership shall automatically cease. Where such Certificate Member fails to make a Full Membership Application within such period of 3 calendar months his student Membership shall automatically cease on the expiry of that period.

10. To Receive The Treasurer’s Report & Financial Statements For The Period Ending 31st March 2025

11. To Appoint Auditors of the Company Until the Next General Meeting:
Hughes & Co, The Stables, Broseley Hall, Church Street, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5DG

12. To Fix Subscription Rates 2025 – 26

13. To Appoint the Nominated Individuals As Honorary Officers and such Individuals Having Been Nominated In Accordance With the Provisions of the Company’s Articles of Association:

National President	Clive Pearson		
First Vice President	Phil Gore		
Second Vice President	Judith Dandy		
Immediate Past President	Amanda Pink		
National Treasurer	David Gresty		
The Company Secretary	Amanda Pink		
Editor of The Journal	Kayleigh Ingham		
Deputy Editor of The Journal	Vacant		

14. To Re-elect As Directors, The Following Individuals Who Are Retiring by Rotation in Accordance With The Provisions of Regulation 28.2 of the Articles of Association:

Region A	Vacant		
Region B	Vacant		
Region C	Hayley Owen		
Region D	Vacant		
Region E	Vacant		
Region F	Vacant		
Region G	Vacant		
Region H	David Capper		
Region J	Sophie Cross		
Region K	Vacant		

Signature: _____
Date: _____ / _____ / 2025

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE PROXY FORM

1. As a Member of the Company, you are entitled to appoint a proxy to exercise all or any of your rights to attend, speak and vote at a general meeting of the Company. You can only appoint a proxy using the procedures set out in these notes.

2. Appointment of a proxy does not preclude you attending the meeting and voting in person, however, should you attend in person your proxy appointment will automatically be terminated.

3. The proxy must be a member of the Company and to appoint a proxy other than the Chairman of the meeting, insert their full name on the line after 'Alternate Proxy'. If no name is provided the Chairman will be deemed your proxy. Where you appoint someone other than Chairman, you are responsible for ensuring they attend the meeting and are aware of your voting intentions.

4. To direct your proxy how to vote on the resolutions, mark the appropriate line with an 'X'. If no voting indication is given, your proxy will vote or abstain from voting at his or her discretion. Your proxy will vote or abstain from voting as he or she thinks fit in relation to any other matter which is put before the meeting.

5. To appoint a proxy using this form, the form must be:

- **Completed & Signed**

- **Sent or delivered to the Company at National Office:** 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1AX Lane

- **Received by the Company no later than 13th October 2025**

6. Any power of attorney or any authority under which this proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the proxy form.

7. If you submit more than one valid proxy appointment, the proxy received last before the latest time for receipt of proxies will take precedence.

8. In order to revoke a proxy instruction, you will need to inform the Company by sending a signed hard copy notice clearly stating your intention to revoke your proxy appointment to National Office, 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1AX no later than 13th October 2025. If you attempt to revoke your proxy appointment but the revocation is received after the time specified then, subject to the paragraph directly below, your proxy appointment will remain valid.

9. Communication – Except as provided above, members who have general enquiries about the Meeting should contact **National office by email (admin@bifd.org.uk)**. No other methods of communication will be accepted.

Company registration number 06230309 (England and Wales)

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	Mr D E Capper Miss S Cross Mr A Floyd Mrs H Barker-Owen Mr C J Pearson Ms A J Dalby Ms A J Pink Mr P S Gore Mr D Gresty	(Appointed 19 October 2024) (Appointed 25 November 2024)
Secretary	Ms A J Pink	
Company number	06230309	
Registered office	2 Heather Ridge Arcade Heatherside Camberley Surrey GU15 1AX	
Accountants	Haines Watts Cirencester Limited Old Station House Station Approach Swindon Wiltshire SN1 3DU	

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Directors

The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

Mr J P Mead	(Resigned 19 October 2024)
Mrs K V Mead	(Resigned 19 October 2024)
Mr D E Capper	
Miss H E C Bell	(Resigned 20 November 2024)
Miss S Cross	
Mr A Floyd	
Mrs H Barker-Owen	
Mr C J Pearson	
Ms A J Dalby	
Mr G Easton	(Resigned 19 October 2024)
Ms A J Pink	
Mr P S Gore	(Appointed 19 October 2024)
Mr D Gresty	(Appointed 25 November 2024)

Small companies exemption

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board

.....
Ms A J Pink
Director

Date:

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE PREPARATION OF THE UNAUDITED STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of British Institute of Funeral Directors for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of income and retained earnings, the statement of financial position and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <https://www.icaew.com/regulation>.

This report is made solely to the board of directors of British Institute of Funeral Directors, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of British Institute of Funeral Directors and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the board of directors of British Institute of Funeral Directors, as a body, in this report in accordance with the requirements of the ICAS as detailed at <https://icas.com/icas-framework-preparation-of-accounts>. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than British Institute of Funeral Directors and its board of directors as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that British Institute of Funeral Directors has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus of British Institute of Funeral Directors. You consider that British Institute of Funeral Directors is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of British Institute of Funeral Directors. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

Haines Watts Cirencester Limited

Chartered Accountants

Old Station House

Station Approach

Swindon

Wiltshire

SN1 3DU

Date:

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Income	2	103,631	100,710
Cost of sales		(373)	(981)
Gross surplus		103,258	99,729
Administrative expenses		(79,072)	(105,359)
Operating surplus/(deficit)		24,186	(5,630)
Interest receivable and similar income	4	2,154	2,054
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation		26,340	(3,576)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)		(409)	(390)
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		25,931	(3,966)
Retained earnings brought forward		93,097	97,063
Retained earnings carried forward		119,028	93,097

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Stocks	5	850		921	
Debtors	6	9,641		11,937	
Cash at bank and in hand		111,994		93,605	
		<u>122,485</u>		<u>106,463</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(3,457)</u>		<u>(13,366)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>119,028</u>		<u>93,097</u>
Reserves					
Income and expenditure account			<u>119,028</u>		<u>93,097</u>
Total members' funds			<u>119,028</u>		<u>93,097</u>

For the financial year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on and are signed on its behalf by:

.....

Ms A J Pink
Director

Company registration number 06230309 (England and Wales)

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Company information

British Institute of Funeral Directors is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Heatherside, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1AX.

1.1 Accounting convention

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 are the first financial statements of British Institute of Funeral Directors prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition to FRS 102 was 1 April 2023. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS 102.

1.2 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost comprises direct materials and, where applicable, direct labour costs and those overheads that have been incurred in bringing the stocks to their present location and condition.

Stocks held for distribution at no or nominal consideration are measured at the lower of cost and replacement cost, adjusted where applicable for any loss of service potential.

1.3 Taxation

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from net profit as reported in the income statement because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting end date.

2 Income

The total turnover of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the England and Wales.

3 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (excluding directors) employed by the company during the year was :

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	-	-

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

4 Interest receivable and similar income

	2025 £	2024 £
Interest income		
Interest on bank deposits	2,154	2,054
	<u>2,154</u>	<u>2,054</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Investment income includes the following:		
Interest on financial assets not measured at fair value through surplus or deficit	2,154	2,054
	<u>2,154</u>	<u>2,054</u>

5 Stocks

	2025 £	2024 £
Raw materials and consumables	850	921
	<u>850</u>	<u>921</u>

6 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Prepayments and accrued income	9,641	11,937
	<u>9,641</u>	<u>11,937</u>

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	414	480
Corporation tax	19	390
Accruals and deferred income	3,024	12,496
	<u>3,457</u>	<u>13,366</u>

8 Members' liability

The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding £1.

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Income				
Subscriptions		65,023		45,796
Education tutors		8,700		1,275
Conference		23,681		31,555
Advertising		6,227		1,699
CPD weekend		-		20,385
		<u>103,631</u>		<u>100,710</u>
Cost of sales				
Opening stock	921		1,600	
Purchases	302		302	
Closing stock	<u>(850)</u>		<u>(921)</u>	
Total cost of sales		<u>(373)</u>		<u>(981)</u>
Gross surplus	99.64%	103,258	99.03%	99,729
Administrative expenses				
Computer running costs	602		602	
Conference expenses	22,590		36,989	
CPD weekend	-		19,537	
Accountancy fees	3,083		3,317	
Bank charges	102		87	
Insurance	1,625		1,487	
Printing and stationery	734		1,097	
Publications	2,608		2,124	
Telephone and internet costs	215		497	
BIFD Administration	27,177		22,684	
Education committee expenses	12,786		12,283	
Directors and President expenses	4,298		3,156	
NFE expenses	<u>3,252</u>		<u>1,499</u>	
		<u>(79,072)</u>		<u>(105,359)</u>
Operating surplus/(deficit)		24,186		(5,630)
Interest receivable and similar income				
Bank interest receivable	<u>2,154</u>		<u>2,054</u>	
		<u>2,154</u>		<u>2,054</u>
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	25.42%	<u>26,340</u>	3.55%	<u>(3,576)</u>



MINUTES

42nd Annual General Meeting

19 October 2024 at 10.30am | Cedar Court Hotel, Lindley Moor Road, Huddersfield HD3 3RH

ATTENDANCE

Roll call: Amanda Dalby (National President, Region C), Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G), Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C), Andrew Floyd (Education Chair, Region B), Hayley Bell (Public Relations Officer/Examinations Chair, Region G - *minutes*), Judith Dandy (Region G), Beth Harron (Region C), Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A), Hayley Owen-Barker (Tutor, Region C) David Barker (Region C), Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G), Richard Ryland (Region B), Paul Stibbards (Past President, Region F), Andrew Western (Region J), David Capper (Past President, Region H), Dr Philip Gore (Region K), David Gresty (Past President, Region J), Victoria Howcroft (Region C), Alan Puxley (Past President, Region G), Sue Puxley (Region G), Judith Brandwood (Region C), Deborah Torrie (Region C), John Butterworth (Hon. Member, Region J), Margaret Goodwin (Hon. Member, Region J), Skye Knight (Region C), Shaun Thorpe (Region C), Craig Metcalf (Region J).

Apologies for Absence: Jeremy Mead (Immediate Past President, Region G), Karen Mead (National Treasurer, Region G), Rev. Kevin Dow (Region A), Roger Clark (Past President, Region G), Sally Walton (Past President, Region G), Samuel Roy (Region H), Rodney Major (Region G), Roger Hickling (Region F), Rosalyn Pratt (Region G), Jacqueline Mitchell (Region F).

Proxy Votes Received: 8

WELCOME

National President Amanda Dalby welcomed everyone to Yorkshire and thanked them for their attendance. A minute's silence was held in memory of members we have lost and in respect of the deceased people and families we have served.

TO ADOPT STANDING ORDERS

Proposed: Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C)

Seconded: Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region C)

All in favour.

MINUTES OF THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Approval of minutes of the 41st AGM held on Saturday 21 October 2023 at the Alexandra Country House Hotel, Whittingham Drive, Wroughton, Swindon, SN4 0QJ

Proposed: Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C)

Seconded: Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G)

All in favour.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None Received.

RESOLUTIONS TO CONFERENCE (RECEIVED AT NATIONAL OFFICE BY 12 OCTOBER 2024)

None Received.

EDUCATION REPORT: ANDREW FLOYD (CHAIR OF EDUCATION, REGION B)

Tutor Training: It was confirmed that three people attended an information session on 11.10.2024. Subsequently, six people have committed to registering to take the Diploma in Teaching (DIT, level 5).

This course will be predominantly held via Teams, with x4 in-person observed classes per candidate in their place of teaching, which will be completed by Andrew Floyd.

The cost will be £3,500 per candidate (negotiated down from £5,900 there is a cohort of 6, and we will be facilitating the observation aspect of the assessment). A pathway to PgCE is embedded into this course, should candidates wish to continue with their learning.

The DIT course will start on 1 November 2024, with the end-point assessment in June 2025. Tutors with an existing level 4 qualification will be known as 'BIFD Approved Tutors' and will be able to teach the Certificate in Funeral Service and present the Introduction to Funeral Service only.

Tutors with a level 5 DIT qualification will be known as 'BIFD Accredited Tutors' and will be able to teach the full suite of courses.

Revision of Textbooks: Due to the many changes that have been implemented since the last revision in 2020, the Education committee has suggested that a textbook committee be formed as a working group to make changes to the textbook, all relevant members of the education team will be approached to form the committee (of 4 or 5 people). The Education committee will be also approaching BIFD members who may be able to assist the committee with specific chapters (e.g. Scotland, Embalming, Repatriation, etc.) chapters will need be prioritised in order of importance.

Certificate in Funeral Service Cohort: Currently there are 28 candidates enrolled in the revised academic year Certificate in Funeral Service (September 2024 – February 2025).

Introduction to Funeral Service: The last Introduction course was facilitated online six months ago, we have had around 350 interested parties in this course, with the majority indicating that they would prefer to attend an online session. Andrew commented that the Institute will facilitate four of these sessions online throughout the year, and any of the approved tutors are welcome to hold in-person sessions in addition to these four webinars.

It was mentioned by having tutors personally curate these sessions enables them to build a potential relationship with those who may wish to progress onto our suite of courses.

It was agreed that a fee of £175 per candidate be charged. It was suggested that there would be a minimum number of cohorts to cover the fee for the presenter.

Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A) took to the podium to share changes to Repatriation of a deceased person to Scotland, stating that a Coroner's Interim Death Certificate would now be accepted as part of the paperwork.

Thanks were expressed to the Education team for their continuing hard work.

ADMINISTRATION, COMPANY SECRETARY & DIRECTORS' REPORTS: AMANDA PINK (1ST VICE PRESIDENT, REGION G)

Finance and Membership:

£107,155.45 held across both accounts.

270 full members, with 28 new student members.

Amanda discussed the updates that she has been working on regarding the Institute's database including updated student details which will streamline booking examination venues. A further discussion was held regarding student

memberships, and it was agreed that moving forward one membership certificate would be issued for two years signed by the current national president and chair of education, again to streamline the process.

Update to National Office's Registered Address:

BIFD National Office, 2 Heather Ridge Arcade, Heatherside, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 1AX.

Proposed: Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G)

Seconded: Hayley Bell (Public Relations Officer/Examinations Chair, Region G)

All in favour.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON BEHALF OF KAREN MEAD (TREASURER, REGION G)

The Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the period ending 31 March 2024 were provided as detailed in the September 2024 issue of the Journal.

Proposed: Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G)

Seconded: Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G)

All in favour.

Thanks were expressed to the current and previous administration team for keeping the accounts in a healthy position and very good order.

TO APPOINT THE AUDITORS OF THE COMPANY

To hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which the financial statements are laid before the Company: **Haines Watts Cirencester Ltd. Old Station House, Station Approach, Newport Street, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 3DU.**

Proposed: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)

Seconded: Alan Puxley (Past President, Region G)

All in favour.

TO FIX SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2025-2026

John Butterworth (Honorary Member, Region J) commented that as membership is down compared to the previous year, perhaps we should raise our subscription rate slightly to ensure that the Institute's finances remain healthy. Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G) said that from National Office's records it had been noted that associate members were down on the previous year, the cost-of-living crisis was being felt by a lot of people and was good reason for the subscription rates to remain as it was.

Subscription rates for 2024-2025 were fixed at the previous year's rate.

All in favour.

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY OFFICERS

To appoint the nominated individuals listed below as Honorary Officers, such individuals having been nominated in accordance with the provisions of **Regulation 28.3** of the Company's Articles of Association:

National President: Amanda Pink

Proposed: Adrian Pink (Past resident, Region G)

Seconded: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)

All in favour.

First Vice President: Clive Pearson

Proposed: Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G)

Seconded: Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A)

All in favour.

2nd Vice President: Dr Philip Gore

Proposed: Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C)

Seconded: Alan Puxley (Past President, Region G)

All in favour.

Immediate Past President: Amanda Dalby

National Treasurer: David Gresty

Proposed: Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G)

Seconded: Clive Pearson (Past President, Region C)

All in favour.

The Company Secretary: Amanda Pink

Proposed: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)

Seconded: Sue Puxley (Region G)

All in favour.

Public Relations Officer: Hayley Bell

Proposed: Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A)

Seconded: Andrew Floyd (Chair of Education, Region B)

Majority favour, x1 abstention.

Deputy Editor of the Journal: Vacant

Chair of Education: Andrew Floyd

Proposed: Hayley Bell (Public Relations Officer/Examinations Chair, Region G)

Seconded: Sue Puxley (Region G)

All in favour.

Following the appointments, Dr Philip Gore (Region K) took to the stand and addressed the members to re-introduce himself.

RE-ELECTION OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS

To re-elect as directors the following individuals who are retiring by rotation in accordance with the Articles of Association:

REGION A: Margaret Dow

Proposed: Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C)

Seconded: Hayley Bell (Public Relations Officer/Examinations Chair, Region G)

All in favour.

REGION B: Vacant

REGION C: Hayley Owen-Barker

Proposed: Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G)

Seconded: Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C)

All in favour.

REGION D: Vacant

REGION E: Vacant

REGION F: Vacant

REGION G: Hayley Bell

Proposed: Amanda Pink (1st Vice President, Region G)

Seconded: Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C)

Majority favour, x1 abstention.

REGION H: David Capper

Proposed: Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A)

Seconded: Hayley Bell (Public Relations Officer/Examinations Chair, Region G)

All in favour.

REGION J: Sophie Cross

Proposed: Clive Pearson (2nd Vice President, Region C)

Seconded: Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G)

All in favour.

REGION K: Vacant

MEETING ADJOURNED TO THE GALA DINNER

The meeting was adjourned at 11.30am for the meeting to conclude at the Gala Dinner, that evening, where the awards ceremony and handover of offices took place.



WE HAVE SOME ADVERTISING SPACE COMING UP

Adverts can be either 1/2 page, full page or inside full back cover

Packages include:

12 adverts per year

2 Editorials per issue

Link on our website

Advert can be changed every month if you wish

The Journal is available on our website, social media and is printed to certain people

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Humphris Funerals Celebrates 90 Years of Sponsorship with Banbury United FC



Funeral Partners' Area Development Manager Emma Hollis, centre, with Martin Humphris, former owner of Humphris Funerals, and the team.

Humphris Funerals, a trusted name in the community for nearly 150 years, is marking a remarkable milestone – 90 years of continuous sponsorship of Banbury United Football Club.

Humphris Funerals, part of the Funeral Partners family of high-quality funeral homes, has proudly served their community for close to 150 years. They have sponsored Banbury United since 1935, making them the club's oldest continuous sponsor.

Funeral Partners' Area Development Manager Emma Hollis said: "Banbury United is more than just a semi-professional football club; it's a cornerstone of our community. We feel everyone involved shares our commitment to friendship, wellbeing and bringing people together. The club is owned by their members and rely on a network of volunteers and community support, and it's why this sponsorship continues to mean so much to us, even 90 years on.

"Every season brings excitement for supporters of The Puritans. We believe the players will really go the extra mile to mark our 90-year sponsorship milestone with the Club's best season yet! We have increased our sponsorship, taking a pitch side advertising board at the ground and an advert in the official matchday online programme.

"Sponsoring Banbury United is a fun and meaningful way to give back. We are proud to continue our support, and we look forward to the season ahead.

“Supporting our local community has always been a big part of what we do here. Recent projects have seen us collecting Easter eggs for Let’s Play, a project which supports children with additional needs, and starting a friendship group to combat loneliness.”

Wayne Farrell, Chairman of Banbury United FC, said: “Humphris Funerals’ remarkable 90 years as a sponsor of Banbury United is a stark reminder of the critical and enduring relationship between the Club and the town. In the 1935-36 season, Banbury Spencer, as we were called then, competed in the Birmingham Combination league in what was our second season at the current stadium. Through wars, changes in Club ownership and various team promotions and relegations, Humphris Funerals’ support of Banbury United has been steadfast. It’s a clear demonstration of a business that understands commitment and service to the community. On behalf of everyone at the Club – our supporters, staff and volunteers, players and fellow sponsors – we congratulate Humphris on their total of 150 years in business in Banbury.”

For more information about their community work visit <https://www.humphrisfunerals.co.uk/> or be the first to know about upcoming community projects on Facebook via <https://www.facebook.com/HumphrisFunerals32AlbertStreet>.

About Funeral Partners:

Funeral Partners is the UK's third largest funeral business, with more than 290 funeral homes staffed by over 1000 dedicated funeral professionals serving communities across England, Scotland, Wales 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 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 150 family businesses, which have entrusted their reputation and heritage to Funeral Partners.

Third largest Funeral Service Provider in the UK.
Over 280 branches, 140 family businesses.



Take time out, find your balance

Funeral Partners is growing faster than ever before, supported by our family's strength. Offering a safe pair of hands and a secure future with our commitment to high standards.



As a business owner, take control to protect your legacy



Sam Kershaw
Chief Executive Officer
07834 531822
sam.kershaw@funeralpartners.co.uk

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



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

corporate.funeralpartners.co.uk

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Why Grief Support Matters: New Research Links Prolonged Grief to Long-Term Health Risks

Grief is a universally human experience, but one which varies hugely from individual to individual. A study by researchers in Denmark has found that people experiencing intense, prolonged grief after the death of a loved one are nearly twice as likely to die within ten years. The research offers compelling evidence that grief isn't just emotional, it can also have serious, long-lasting impacts on our physical and mental health. At MuchLoved, we believe this strengthens the case for early, compassionate bereavement care and better grief education for all.



Grief That Doesn't Ease

The Danish study followed over 900 bereaved people for more than a decade who had lost their partner, parent or other family member. While many adapted well over time, a significant group showed persistent, high levels of grief symptoms.

The study found that people in this group were:

- Almost twice as likely to die within the subsequent 10-year period
- Significantly higher users of healthcare services
- More likely to take medication for depression, anxiety, or sleep problems

This isn't to say grief always leads to illness, but it underlines that when grief remains unsupported, the consequences can be profound.

Why Accessible Bereavement Support is Essential

Not everyone who struggles with grief will feel comfortable seeking professional help, and even fewer will know where to turn. Many will be unaware of all the physical symptoms that can manifest in grief.

That's why it's vital that bereavement care is made visible, accessible, and free from stigma. At MuchLoved, we see every online tribute not only as a space to remember and share, but also as providing access to emotional support. From lighting a candle or sharing a story, to accessing live bereavement counselling through services like GriefChat.

As Catherine Betley, grief counsellor and Head of Charity at MuchLoved, says:

"It's normal for bereaved people to feel the impact of grief for months or even years. But when grief becomes prolonged and overwhelming, we must ensure support is available - not just for emotional wellbeing, but for long-term health."

The Role of Grief Education

This study also highlights the need for more grief-literate communities, such as:

- Healthcare professionals better trained to spot prolonged grief
- Employers who understand the impact of bereavement on staff
- Schools and workplaces that create space for open conversation
- Families and friends who know how to offer real support

The good news? Grief education in the UK is evolving. Public campaigns, workplace initiatives, and digital platforms are all helping people understand that grief is not linear, and that support may be needed long after the funeral has passed.



What We Can All Do to Support People Close to Us Who Are Bereaved

Connection with family, friends and community matters a great deal for bereaved people. Feeling that their loss is acknowledged and that they have the support of family and friends can make all the difference. There are some simple things we can all do to show we care:

- Understand that grief takes time, and that sometimes it can be too much to handle alone
- Offer the bereaved person opportunities to remember, express how they feel and connect with others who may be sharing the same experience
- Continue to talk about their grief and the person they have lost, even if we might prefer to shy away from it



A Final Thought

It's clear that offering access to effective bereavement support is a health imperative. This new research reinforces what many grieving people already know: that love and loss affect the whole self. With the right support, we can help each other carry grief in ways that feel less lonely, and ultimately, more healing.

The report can be read here: [Frontiers | Grief trajectories and long-term health effects in bereaved relatives: a prospective, population-based cohort study with ten-year follow-up](#)

At MuchLoved, we're committed to providing support for bereaved families, in partnership with charities and funeral businesses. If you have questions about the MuchLoved service, please contact our Support team. Email support@muchloved.com or call our team on 01494 722818

The Future of Personalised Funerals

Personalisation isn't a "nice to have" anymore - it's now at the very heart of modern funerals. Families increasingly want a farewell that feels unique, and funeral professionals are right at the centre of making that happen.

At Obitus, we recently ran a survey with our professional users, and the message came through loud and clear. Almost everyone (97%) said families are asking about personalisation. It's no longer the odd request; it's something families now expect as standard. They want choice, flexibility, and the ability to shape a service that really reflects the person they've lost.



Music and Media Take Centre Stage

When it comes to how families personalise, two things top the list almost every time: music and visual tributes. Nearly 99% of you told us these are the most common and meaningful ways families make a service their own. Music choices and photo or video tributes are often described as the moments that move people most.

But that's not where it ends. Families also use colour themes such as clothing or flowers(61%), bespoke montages such as video (37%), and themed coffins (36%) to make the day feel personal. Then there are the other, but just as meaningful touches: personalised orders of service, mementos, poems, and spoken tributes.

What Families Really Value

Your feedback also showed some clear themes about what matters most to families:

- They want the whole experience to feel seamless and stress-free, with professionalism and care at the centre.
- They want services that feel unique, not "off the shelf."
- They really value music and tributes above all else.
- They appreciate guidance and support to help them make the right choices.
- And above all, they want authenticity- something that feels true to their loved one.

A Changing Landscape

Of course, the world of funerals is shifting. Direct cremations are on the rise, often driven by cost pressures, and many of us worry this leaves families without the closure they need. At the same time, more families are turning towards celebrations of life, choosing colour, creativity, and alternative locations. Celebrant-led services, storytelling, and technology, from streaming to slideshows, are fast becoming the norm rather than the exception.

What families value most



Looking Ahead

From our findings, we can see that funerals are becoming less about sticking to tradition and more about celebrating each unique life. The challenge, and opportunity, for us all is finding the balance: keeping services affordable while still offering creative, meaningful, and memorable ways to say goodbye.

We'll be digging deeper into this soon with a joint survey with the BIFD to hear what you as a membership think too. Together, we can build a clearer picture of how the profession is evolving and how we can support families.

For more insights, ideas, and resources on personalisation, head over to www.obitus.com

Deliver a seamless funeral service, anywhere

We know how important it is to honour loved ones with dignity and care—wherever the service takes place. That's why we've designed the **Maestro Lite Portable**, the ultimate mobile audio-visual solution that brings a professional, reliable service to any setting.



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Obitus

DON'T FORGET!!!!!!

Our Conference Runs from October 24th - 26th this year
At The Copthorne Slough - Windsor Hotel

Places are limited so please use the forms included in this
edition to book your places



Our President Amanda Pink is bringing the Institute back to its
roots of Education and Saturday afternoon will be filled with meet
and greets and talks from various people.

This afternoon is open to members of the public who wish to know
more about what we do. Alternatively, you can explore the facilities of
the Hotel or have a wander around Windsor

Saturday Night will include a drinks
reception, followed by a 3 course meal.
and the Handover of Offices. Students
who have passed their exams, will be
presented with their certificates

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