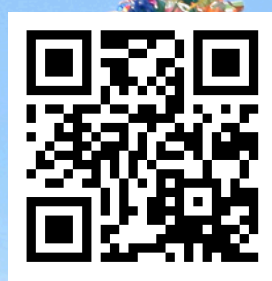


BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THE JOURNAL



ISSUE 5



Let's prevent suicide today.
Because tomorrow's too late.

SAMARITANS

If you, or anyone else is struggling you can contact The Samaritans on 116 123 any time, day or night.

For more information on The Samaritans and the work that they do visit their website

www.samaritans.org

Samaritans | Every life lost to suicide is a tragedy | Here to listen



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Letter from the National President

Clive Pearson

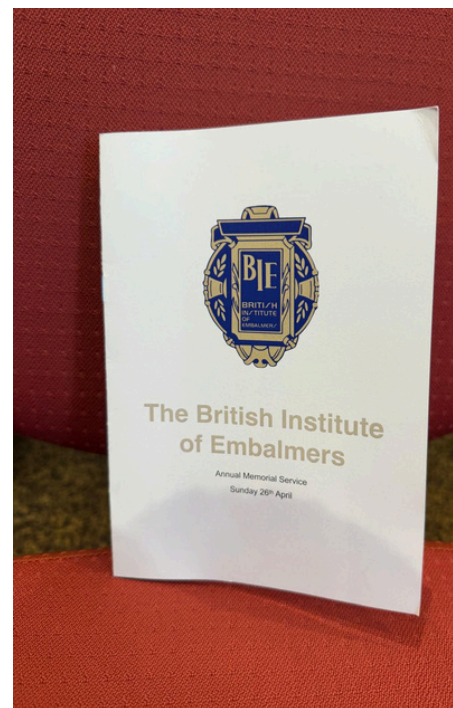
Dear Members,

It has been a busy month for the Institute, filled with significant events and important developments across our profession.

I am delighted to report that our Diploma examinations took place successfully under the expert supervision of Jane Clements. I am particularly pleased to announce that all candidates have passed, subject to moderation by Greenwich University.

This is a testament to both the dedication of our students and the quality of our educational programme. Congratulations to all who sat the examinations.

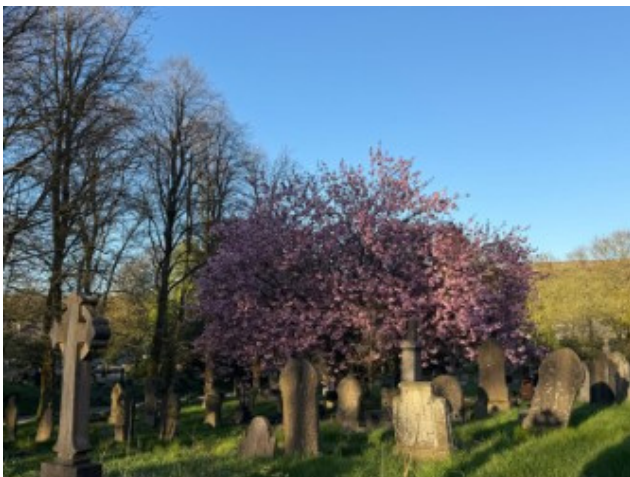
Alongside Leanne, I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Conference of the British Institute of Embalmers, which proved to be an enriching and enjoyable event for all who participated. The Sunday morning Service of Remembrance for BIE members who have passed away was a particularly moving occasion, reminding us of the profound sense of community that binds our profession together. This was followed by the Change of Office ceremony, which held special significance for me personally, as my longtime friend Maria Stibbards assumed the role of BIE President. Maria and I trained together as embalming tutors back in 2005, and it was an honour to witness this milestone in her distinguished career.



I recently attended a meeting of Region K in Kent, where we addressed several pressing concerns affecting our members, including ongoing challenges with crematoriums and pre-payment funeral plans. We also discussed the scheduling and locations for CPD sessions over the coming twelve months—watch this space for further announcements.

I visited Lilley Fields Crematorium for their CPD day, which featured trade stalls from the Funeral Supplies Association, providing valuable opportunities for professional development and networking.

I was also invited to attend a visit at Park Wood Crematorium, Elland, alongside Barry Ellis, President of the ICCM, where we had a comprehensive tour of the crematorium and cemetery facilities and



Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate seeing many of you at the National Funeral Exhibition in June. Please do come and find us to say hello, we would love to see you there.

With best wishes,

Clive

Clive Pearson

National President, Region C

BIFD FUNDRAISING WALK: CONQUERING THE YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS FOR SAMARITANS



SAMARITANS
Leek & District

National President, Clive Pearson, will be taking on the Three Peaks on Thursday 4th June to raise money for his chosen charity The Samaritans

Please show your support by donating via the link, or through our social media pages.

SAVE THE DATE!

TUESDAY 23RD JUNE TO THURSDAY 25TH JUNE 2026

We're delighted to announce the dates for CBCE 2026 which will see us returning to the Hilton Utilita Bowl - Southampton

There are a number of ticket options - head over to www.cbce.org.uk to book your place today!



44th ANNUAL BIFD CONFERENCE

23rd – 25th October 2026



Mercure Tankersley Manor Hotel

Church Ln, Tankersley, Barnsley S75 3DQ

The BIFD Invites You To Conference 2026.....

BIFD National President, Clive Pearson, and his wife Leanne cordially invite all Members, Fellows, Students, Associates, Presidents of Kindred Associations, and Distinguished Guests to attend the upcoming Conference and Gala Dinner of The British Institute of Funeral Directors. The event will take place from 23rd to 25th October 2025 at The Mercure Tankersley Manor Hotel.



Tankersley Manor centres around a renovated 17th-century residence, conveniently located just a minute from Junction 36 off the M1 and offering free parking. Its 98 refurbished rooms are designed with elegant craftsmanship and bursts of colour to create an inviting atmosphere for guests. You'll find leisure amenities such as a gym, swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, steam room, and five spa treatment rooms—perfect for enjoying some relaxation during Conference Weekend (advance booking is recommended). The Woodman Restaurant offers a cozy spot by the fire where you can unwind and savour classic Yorkshire dishes.

Nearby attractions include Elsecar Heritage Centre, Cannon Hall, and Chatsworth House.

The President's Charity For 2026.....



Clive and Leanne have selected The Samaritans as the Institute Charity for 2026.

Founded in 1953 by Chad Vara, who recognised through his own life experiences the importance of listening, the organisation empowers individuals by offering a compassionate ear to callers wishing to talk about their emotions, feelings, challenges, and concerns, hoping to help them make positive informed decisions about their lives.

The Samaritans' mission is dedicated to reducing the number of individuals contemplating or attempting to take their own lives. The organisation currently provides comprehensive 24/7 telephone support across England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Its services have expanded to help individuals facing a broad range of issues, including suicide, depression, anxiety, stress, loneliness, all forms of abuse, and alcohol or drug use.

The itinerary so far...

Friday 23rd October 2026

The Education Committee is scheduled to convene in the morning, followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors in the afternoon.

Once you've settled into your rooms, Clive welcomes you to join him and Leanne for a three-course dinner in the hotel's function suite.

Saturday 24th October 2026

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the morning, and a buffet lunch will follow afterward.

In the afternoon, Clive has tentative plans for an activity of interest; further details will be provided once arrangements are confirmed.

The evening will commence with a drink's reception, followed by a three-course dinner accompanied by wine, cheese and biscuits, as well as tea and coffee. The programme will include the Diploma Awards Ceremony and the official Handover of Offices, concluding with music and dancing later in the evening.

Earlier than 23rd or later than 25th October 2026

Should you wish to extend your stay, we have arranged favourable rates for dates surrounding the Conference, allowing you to enjoy Yorkshire for a longer visit. Kindly inform us of your specific requirements, and we will endeavour to secure the most advantageous arrangements on your behalf.

The British Institute of Funeral Directors Conference 2026:

23rd – 25th October 2026

The Mercure Tankersley Manor Hotel

Church Ln, Tankersley, Barnsley S75 3DQ

The 44th BIFD Conference 2026 Rates

1. Friday Evening To Sunday Morning – THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

<i>Friday Dinner</i>	<i>.....Double Room (per couple)</i>	<i>£675</i>
<i>Friday & Saturday Bed & Breakfast</i>	<i>.....Single Room (per person)</i>	<i>£425</i>
<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea & Coffee</i>		
<i>Saturday Lunch Included</i>		
<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>		
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 3 Course Meal, Cheese & Biscuits & Tea and Coffee</i>		

2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

<i>Friday Dinner</i>	<i>.....Double Room (per couple)</i>	<i>£295</i>
<i>Friday Bed & Breakfast</i>	<i>.....Single Room (per person)</i>	<i>£200</i>
<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>		

Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

3. Saturday To Sunday Morning - ONLY

<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>	<i>.....Double Room (per couple)</i>	<i>£395</i>
<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>	<i>.....Single Room (per person)</i>	<i>£235</i>
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 3 Course Meal, Cheese & Biscuits & Tea and Coffee</i>		
<i>Saturday Bed & Breakfast</i>		

Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

4. The Gala Banquet Dinner Only

.....£85 Per Person

<i>Saturday Evening Drinks Reception</i>
<i>Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 3 Course Meal, Cheese & Biscuits & Tea and Coffee</i>

Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLY

.....Free To All Members & Students

<i>Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits</i>
--

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £30 PP

TO STAY BEFORE OR AFTER THE CONFERENCE B&B BASIS

Please add extra dates to booking form:

<i>.....Double Room (2 People) £POA</i>
<i>.....Single Room (1 Person) £POA</i>

The 44th BIFD CONFERENCE – 23rd – 25th October 2026

The Mercure Tankersley Manor

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: £.....

Tariff (2) – Fri to Sat

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 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

Reference: BIFDCONF

Mrs Margaret Dow

C/O The British Institute of Funeral Directors
National Office,
7-9 Station Street,
Meltham,
Huddersfield,
HD9 5NX

Email: treasurer@bifd.org.uk

Total Amount Due £.....

The Strange, Spectacular World of Victorian Funerals

Victoria Wells

Deputy Editor, Region C

Victorian Britain had a fascination with death that feels almost unimaginable today.

Mourning was not private. It was public, ritualised, fashionable, and deeply tied to class, religion, and social status. Funerals became grand performances of grief, respectability, and wealth — complete with black-plumed horses, elaborate cemetery architecture, strict mourning dress codes, and even photographs of the dead.



To modern Britain, where death is often hidden behind hospital curtains and quiet crematorium services, the Victorian approach can seem almost theatrical.

But for the Victorians, death was everywhere. *A Nation Obsessed with Mourning.*

No figure shaped Britain's culture of grief more than Queen Victoria. When her husband, Prince Albert, died in 1861, Victoria entered prolonged mourning and wore black clothing for the rest of her life. Her grief became a national model of respectable behaviour.

Across Britain, mourning rituals grew increasingly formal and elaborate.

At the time, death was a far more common part of daily life than it is today. Diseases such as tuberculosis, cholera, scarlet fever, and typhoid killed huge numbers of people, while child mortality rates were devastatingly high.

Victorians believed strongly in what they called a “good death.”

Ideally, a person would die: at home, surrounded by loved ones, spiritually prepared, and able to deliver meaningful final words.

The deathbed itself carried enormous symbolic importance. Family members often preserved deeply personal keepsakes from the deceased, including: locks of hair, handwritten notes, death masks, and personal belongings.

Victorian mourning etiquette was incredibly strict, particularly for women.

Widows were commonly expected to wear full mourning black for up to two years after a husband's death. Some remained in mourning even longer.

The first phase, known as “deep mourning,” involved: matte black fabrics, no decorative jewellery, black veils, limited social activity, and an avoidance of bright colours.

Even fabrics were regulated. Shiny materials were considered inappropriate because they appeared too cheerful.

Eventually, women transitioned into “half mourning,” where muted shades such as grey, lavender, and soft purple became acceptable.

For wealthy families, mourning became a visible status symbol. The ability to withdraw from society and purchase specialised clothing demonstrated financial stability and social respectability. Men wore black too, though the rules for them were far less severe.

Victorian funerals were often enormous public events. Middle-class families feared the humiliation of a pauper’s funeral — a cheap burial organised by local authorities for those unable to pay. To avoid this social shame, many families spent heavily on funeral ceremonies, even when finances were strained.

Some funerals included professional mourners hired to intensify the atmosphere of grief.

In industrial cities, funeral processions could stretch through crowded streets while neighbours watched from windows and pavements. Death was not hidden away. It was communal and visible.



Victorians also developed a widespread terror of premature burial; the fear of being buried alive.

Medical science at the time was less reliable at confirming death, and newspapers frequently published sensational stories about people supposedly buried alive.

This fear inspired bizarre inventions known as “safety coffins.”

Some included: bells attached to the occupant’s hands, breathing tubes, emergency escape systems, and signalling devices.

Perhaps the biggest difference between Victorian Britain and modern Britain was how openly people lived alongside death.

Today, death is often hidden: people die in hospitals, funerals are shorter, mourning customs are looser, and grief is frequently private. Victorians experienced death much more directly.

Bodies were often kept in family homes before burial. Children regularly witnessed death. Mourning clothing made grief immediately visible in public spaces.

Funerals were not merely administrative events — they were major social rituals that reinforced family identity, religious belief, and social class.

In some ways, modern Britain has become more uncomfortable with death than the Victorians ever were.

And yet, as personalised funerals and alternative memorial rituals become more popular again, Britain may slowly be rediscovering something the Victorians understood deeply: People need ceremony to make sense of loss.



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JC Atkinson

THE BIFD CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Institute have agreed to be bound by the following code:

A Fellow and a Member shall not conduct herself/himself at any time in a manner likely to prejudice her/his professional status as a Funeral Director or the reputation of her/his profession.

A Fellow and a Member will treat with respect each dead human body. A Fellow and a Member will pledge a complete confidential relationship to those she/he is called upon to serve.

A Fellow and a Member shall not solicit funeral orders nor employ any person to do so on her/his behalf, nor shall she/he either offer or give any rewards for any recommendations.

I _____ have read, understood and agree to the BIFD Code of Ethics.

I acknowledge that if any concerns arise from my compliance with these commitments, the Board of Directors will assess the concerns and may suspend my membership of the Institute.

Signed _____

Date _____



BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

BIFD National Office 7-9 station Street Meltham Holmfirth HD9 5NX

Tel: 0800 032 2733 Email: admin@bifd.org.uk Web: www.bifd.org.uk

Email: admin@bifd.org.uk

Telephone: 0800 032 2733

2026/27 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

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

Name:		BIFD Membership No.:	
Address:			
Town:	County:	Post Code:	
Telephone:	Email: please print clearly		

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

✓	MEMBERSHIP TYPE	SUBSCRIPTION AMOUNT		
	Licenced Full Member (CPD FORM MUST BE COMPLETED)	£195.00		
	Full Member	£185.00		
	Certificate Member (non voting)	£ 75.00		
	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	£
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"/>
---	--------------------------

PLEASE NOTE: If you are applying for a Licence, you must complete the 2025/2026 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.



BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP - 2026/27

FULL NAME		
Address:		
		Post Code:
Telephone:	Home:	Business:
Mobile:		
Email:		
Website: www.		

Details of qualifications ie Diploma in Funeral Service or Diploma in Funeral Practice

Please complete and return this form to National Office with evidence of your qualifications. ie. a copy of your NAFD Diploma Certificate or IFD Cert FP Certificate. Once we have checked these we will provide you with our bank details for you to send payment prior to us issuing your membership certificate.

Are you or your company a member of NAFD or SAIF **Yes/No**

I Declare that the information furnished by me as part of this Application is correct and I agree to comply with the Rules of the Institute including the Code of Ethics.

I Acknowledge that any Membership Certificate issued to me will remain the property of the Institute

I Confirm that on termination of my Membership of the Institute, for any reason, I will return my Membership Certificate and cease using the logo or any advertisement containing reference to the Institute.

I Agree to my details being shared with Institute members

Signature:	Date:
-------------------	--------------

Please forward the completed application form to:
British Institute of Funeral Directors
BIFD National Office 7-9 station Street Meltham Holmfirth HD9 5NX
Tel: 0800 032 2733 Email: admin@bifd.org.uk Web: www.bifd.org.uk



BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - 2026/27

FULL NAME or COMPANY NAME		
Address:		
		Post Code:
Telephone:	Home:	Business:
Mobile:		
Email:		
Website: www.		

Involvement with the funeral/bereavement sector :

Please complete and return this form to National Office.

Once the Board of Directors have approved your application, we will provide you with our bank details for you to send payment prior to us issuing your membership certificate.

I Declare that the information furnished by me as part of this Application is correct and I agree to comply with the Rules of the Institute including the Code of Ethics.

I Acknowledge that any Membership Certificate issued to me will remain the property of the Institute

I Confirm that on termination of my Membership of the Institute, for any reason, I will return my Membership Certificate and cease using the logo or any advertisement containing reference to the Institute.

I Agree to my details being shared with Institute members

Signature:	Date:
-------------------	--------------

Please forward the completed application form to:

British Institute of Funeral Directors
BIFD National Office 7-9 station Street Meltham Holmfirth HD9 5NX
Tel: 0800 032 2733 Email: admin@bifd.org.uk Web: www.bifd.org.uk



Dr Bill Webster's Visit to Brentwood, Essex

A few months ago, we were delighted to receive a call from our dear friend, Dr Bill Webster, sharing that he would be travelling from Canada to the UK. We immediately began planning for his visit, as it is always a privilege to welcome him to speak with our valued community.

Dr Webster has been a trusted friend of ours for many years, and each time he visits, we are honoured to host opportunities for him to connect with those we serve. During his previous visit, we organised two seminars—one for professionals within our community and another for anyone experiencing grief.

This year, we chose to focus on supporting bereaved residents by hosting two seminars titled *The Unwelcome Journey*. With many years of experience as a grief counsellor, Dr Webster brings both compassion and insight to his work. Those who have had the opportunity to hear him speak will understand the profound impact he has. Not only is he an engaging and thoughtful speaker, but he also shares meaningful perspectives on the grieving process, offering three practical strategies to help individuals navigate their journey towards healing and hope. His openness in speaking about his own personal experiences of loss makes his message all the more powerful and relatable.



Both seminars were fully attended, reflecting the importance of this topic within our community. We are already looking forward to welcoming Dr Webster back again in the future.

Thank you, Bill.

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Save The Date

Suicide Bereavement UK's
15th International Conference

**September
16
2026**

Venue: **Titanic hotel,
Liverpool**

Time: **9am - 4.30**
More info to follow

Different city, same light that unites us

Suicide Bereavement UK's 15th international hybrid conference is going to be our biggest and boldest yet.

🎯 Theme: Suicide Bereavement: Silence Isn't Always Golden

📅 Date: 16th September 2026

📍 Venue: Titanic Hotel, Liverpool (and online)

🕒 Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking day where new research findings will be presented for the first time.

To view our interactive flyer and to register visit https://suicidebereavementuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/4049_SBUK_Conference_2026_flyer_online_v2.pdf

Growing International Interest

This year we're excited to host the conference in Liverpool—our first time outside Manchester! There's already a great buzz, and we're thrilled to see even more international delegates signing up. So far, we have attendees from 17 countries, including Australia, the USA, Ghana, Botswana and many more.

Pre-Conference Get-Together

We're thinking about organising an informal get-together the night before the conference. If that's something you'd enjoy, please drop a quick email to debbie.wilson@suicidebereavementuk.com. If enough people are interested, we'll make it happen 😊

Early-Bird Extension

Good news! Following several requests, we've extended the **early bird registration deadline to 30th April**.

Exhibition Tables

We have space for **2I exhibition tables** in our Support Services Exhibition. These are *free for charities*, as long as they purchase two delegate places.

👉 **For more information and to register CLICK HERE**
Hope to see you in September!

Programme

Registration		8.00 am - 8.55am
Chair: Angela Samata	Welcome to the conference	9.00am
Dr Nikki Jamieson	Moral Injury and Suicide Prevention: Conceptual Foundations and Practice Implications	
Nicole Cool	From Small Beginnings to a National Suicide Bereavement Model: StandBy's Evolution	
Coffee break		
Pete Johnson	Community as a Response to Suicide	
Dr Sharon McDonnell	Unheard, Unseen, Unspoken: The Silent Struggles of Older Adults Bereaved by Suicide	
Lunch/networking		
Chair: Barry McGale		
Workshops – Delegates must CHOOSE ONLY ONE WORKSHOP		
Those attending the LIVESTREAM , will only be able to attend Workshop 1		
Click here to see Workshops 1-4 📄		
1. Geoff McDonald	Addressing the Stigma of Mental Ill Health – First Step to Preventing Suicide	
2. Lisa Bourne	How Employers Can Best Support Employees Bereaved by Suicide	
3. Allison Furlong	Holding the Pieces Together: A Whole Family Peer Support Model After Suicide	
4. Madeleine Moon	How Politics Works and How to Make It Work for You	
Coffee Break		
Dr Kathryn Gardner	Strengthening Postvention: The Impact of "PABBS" Training on Professionals Supporting Those Bereaved by Suicide	
Amber Williams	Minority Suicide Loss Survivors: Interpersonal Factors, Mental Health, and Post-Traumatic Growth	
Claire McNamey	How Are You Really Though?	

Dr. Sharon McDonnell Runs Brighton Marathon

I'm delighted (and slightly stunned!) to say that I ran and actually completed the Brighton Marathon on 12th April, considering my dodgy knee. I loved the experience, but my body wasn't as keen! It was my first, and it will definitely be my last. Six hours and nineteen minutes felt like the longest stretch of my life, but I crossed that finish line, and that's what matters.



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already sponsored me. Together, you've raised £3,295, which is 82% of my goal. These funds will go directly to Postvention Trust CIC (the sister organisation of Suicide Bereavement UK) to support a study exploring the experiences and perceived needs of people bereaved by suicide who must attend an inquest.

If you haven't had chance yet and have a spare pound, I would be incredibly grateful for your support as I aim for my £4,000 target.



Come and see us
at this year's NFE



HALL 2 STAND 275
Thursday 11th June - Saturday 13th June

NAEC Stoneleigh, Kenilworth



REGION C WELCOMES



ORTHO METALS

To provide an educational talk about metal recycling that is provided at local crematoriums



Parkwood Crematorium, Park Road,
Elland, HX5 9HZ



Wednesday 18th November



6.30pm



Zoom

Meeting ID: 870 0563 1159
Passcode: 907544



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Two of the UK's largest children's bereavement charities, Winston's Wish and Child Bereavement UK, have announced that they have now merged together, marking a significant step forward in supporting bereaved families nationwide.

The charity will be known as Child Bereavement UK and reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that no child, young person or parent has to face grief alone.

The newly combined organisation brings together decades of experience, expertise and compassion, enabling the newly formed charity to reach more bereaved people than ever before.

CEO of the newly formed Child Bereavement UK, and formerly CEO of Winston's Wish, Fergus Crow shares. *"By bringing Winston's Wish and Child Bereavement UK together, we are combining our strengths so we can reach more grieving families and help people find hope as they rebuild their lives."*

Now that the two charities have merged together to form the new Child Bereavement UK, the aim is to support 130,000 young people and parents within the first year.

Child Bereavement UK will continue to support bereaved families and work with professionals, including those in the funeral industry, to offer support for grieving young people and bereaved parents.



Child Bereavement UK helps families to rebuild their lives when a child grieves or when a child dies. We offer free, UK-wide, accessible online grief support to children and young people (up to 25) who are bereaved or facing the death of someone important, and the parents and carers of babies and children who are dying or have died.

Our trained bereavement specialists are available to speak with Monday to Friday, 8am–8pm (excluding bank holidays) by phone, email, text and WhatsApp, or via our website – childbereavementuk.org

Have you thought about becoming one of our sponsors?

Benefits include, but not limited to:

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- Promotion at Conference and Events
- Promotion on CPD Invites and our website



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For further information please contact Hayley

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Boo!

Trusted Local Funeral Homes Come Together Under The Martins Name to Support More Families Across Crawley and Sussex



Ian Fletcher, Funeral Service Operative, and Chris Hatt, Area Development Manager for (Mid Kent)

C&T Radmall Funeral Services – proudly supporting families in Burgess Hill, Henfield and Horsham since 1989 – has entered an exciting new chapter by joining its sister brand, The Martins Funeral Directors in Crawley.

Both teams are part of the Funeral Partners network, and this development brings all four funeral homes together under one trusted name: The Martins. The same familiar experienced teams will continue providing the compassionate, personal care they are known for, while now being able to support even more families across the communities of Crawley and Sussex.

To mark this new chapter, there will be a Community Open Day on 25th April at the Martins Funeral Directors, 223 London Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9QU where members of the public are invited to meet the team to learn more about the bereavement support services and community activity.

Billie-Jo Roberts, Funeral Arranger, formerly of C&T Radmall, said: “We are proud of the long history we have in our local communities and now look forward to continuing that story as The Martins, working with the experienced teams across the funeral homes. Although our name has changed, the people, exemplary care and values remain exactly the same.”

The Martins team now also includes Funeral Arrangers Peter Lewis and Lucy Covey, formerly of C&T Radmall.

Adrian Cartwright, Funeral Manager at The Martins, added: “Bringing our teams together strengthens the bereavement support we offer to clients and families at one of the most difficult times of life. Our doors are always open to anyone who needs guidance, reassurance or simply wants to learn more about the services we provide.”

The funeral directors has partnered with The Apple Tree Centre and the Hindu community in Crawley to ensure that families choosing traditional Hindu funeral services receive care that truly reflects their beliefs, culture and wishes – delivered with dignity, authenticity and compassion.

As it enters a new chapter, The Martins is launching a Community Fund this summer to support charities and good causes.

Further information about the Open Day and Community Fund will be shared on Facebook @The Martins.

Local Charities Share Community Funding from Johnstone Funeral

Directors

Two community projects making a positive impact on people's quality of life in and around Johnstone have each received a £750 financial boost thanks to John Roach Funeral Directors' Community Fund programme. The recipients are:

Thorn Athletic Community Trust – an award of £750 will help support their 'Coaches of the Future' programme, which helps young people gain recognised Scottish Football Association training and qualifications, learn transferable skills and improve their earning potential, while at the same time providing engaging and fun activities for their local community.



Pauline Ower (Funeral Service Manager), Mark McGee (Thorn Athletic), Natasha Craig (Funeral Arranger)

ASN Collective – the £750 award will enable the purchase of specialist garden furniture at Milldale Day Opportunities, based at the On-yx in Linwood, where the collective provides facilities for carers of young adults with disabilities. Each attendee gets activities that contribute to improving mental wellbeing, social interaction and creativity.

Presentations were made by two members of the programme's judging panel: Pauline Ower, Funeral Manager at John Roach and Natasha Craig, Funeral Arranger.

Pauline Ower said: "We are delighted to be able to offer support to these great projects in the Johnstone area. Both organisations are making a real difference to people's lives, providing much-needed facilities and meaningful support to people. We're proud to help them continue their work."

Natasha Craig added: "The John Roach Funeral Directors' Community Fund gives us the opportunity to highlight the positivity and support that's happening right on our doorstep. We're looking forward to seeing these projects develop."

The team at the Johnstone Funeral Directors launched their grants programme in February with the aim of the providing financial support for community-based projects that benefit people who live within three miles of their funeral home in Houstoun Square. Projects must be non-profit and align with one or more of the fund's categories; Health, Education, Employment Opportunities and Poverty or Social Deprivation.

The second cycle of their Community Fund grants, when a further £1,500 will be available for good causes, will open for applications on June 29.



Pauline Ower, Linda Murray, Gillian Murray, Annmarie Miller, Lesley Orr, James Cameron, Joyce Gerrard, Natasha Craig

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BBC Radio 4 'Last Word – Doing Death Differently'

Civil Ceremonies was pleased to be visited by BBC Radio 4 in January wanting to see a Funeral Celebrancy Course in progress and record content for their forthcoming series on 'Doing Death Differently'. The series aims to consider how attitudes to death, dying and the way we memorialise our dead have changed.

The timing marks 20 years of Last Word, and the series was broadcast throughout April, with the following episodes focussing on different aspects of death.



Episode 1 – Shall we talk about death

Episode 2 - The Funeral

Episode 3 - Lay this body down

Episode 4 - The Power of things

Episode 5 - Being Remembered

You can listen on this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m002v9d9> and find the episodes easily on BBC Sounds.

Civil Ceremonies' training for funeral celebrants is included in Episode 2 – The Funeral and interviews were recorded with Anne Barber and Darren Barker, funeral director from Central Coop. It is a very interesting series which includes; attitudes to direct cremation, funeral costs, end of life plans, bespoke funerals, living funerals, alternative methods of disposal, digital legacy, how physical possessions are dealt, and the technology available now to capture aspects of a life. Worth a listen!



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Lelleyfield Crematorium

A day of CPD

President Clive, attended Lelley Fields Crematorium in Hull. The crematorium hosted a comprehensive CPD (Continuing Professional Development) event that brought together industry professionals for a day of learning and collaboration.



The event featured a series of informative CPD talks designed to enhance knowledge and skills within the funeral profession. Members of the Funeral Supplies Association also attended the gathering, with several exhibitors setting up trade stands to showcase the latest products and services available to the industry.

The day proved invaluable for networking, providing funeral directors and associated professionals with the opportunity to connect, share experiences, and build relationships within the sector. The combination of educational content and trade exhibition created a dynamic environment for professional growth and industry engagement.



The successful event was expertly organised by Christine Walker-Kelley, Crematorium Manager at Lelley Fields, whose meticulous planning ensured a smooth and productive day for all attendees. The crematorium's facilities provided an ideal setting for this important gathering of funeral service professionals.

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