

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS



THE JOURNAL

ISSUE 9



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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2023-2025

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Administration & General
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BIFD National Office

Tel: 0800 032 2733

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, Clive
Pearson**

**1st Vice President, Dr Philip
Gore**

**2nd Vice President, Judith
Dandy**

**Immediate Past President,
Amanda Pink**



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Obitus

Letter from the National President

Clive Pearson

Dear members,

It has been another delightfully full and busy month. Those of you who know me well will know that music plays a big part in my life, and this past month was no exception.

I had the pleasure of playing in the orchestra for a production of the opera Sweeney Todd, which was a fantastic, if slightly macabre, musical escape.



Back in the presidential swing of things, I was honoured to attend the dedication of Hankinson-Molyneux Funeral Directors, where I had the privilege of offering the opening reflection. Celebrating new milestones and dedicating spaces built on compassion and professionalism is always one of the true highlights of this role.

With the end of my term approaching, my time as your President is drawing close to its conclusion. Before my presidency finishes, I am keen to get a few more member visits in across the country to connect in person and hear how everyone is doing on the ground.

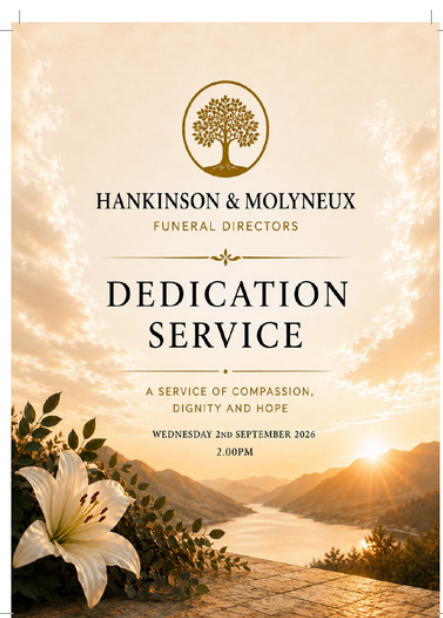
Finally, the countdown to conference is officially on. Leanne, the family, and I are very much looking forward to seeing many of you there for what promises to be an exceptional gathering.

Warmest regards

Clive Pearson

National President, Region C

Clive



BIFD FUNDRAISING WALK: CONQUERING THE YORKSHIRE THREE PEAKS FOR SAMARITANS



SAMARITANS
Leek & District

National President, Clive Pearson, took 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.



British Institute of Funeral Directors Presidents Charity Supporting the Samaritans

Help raise money to support Leek and District Samaritans

JustGiving



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Alan Smith

24th June - 4th July

Always in our hearts

Margaret Wilson

24th June - 4th July

Forever in our hearts

A loved friend



A unique way to remember



JC Atkinson

Lake View Bereavement Centre Officially Opens It's Doors



Lake View Bereavement Centre has been officially opened by Mrs Julie Spence, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and Cllr Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, marking the beginning of a new chapter in bereavement care for East Cambridgeshire and the surrounding area.

Set within a lakeside landscape near Mepal, Lake View Bereavement Centre has been designed to provide families with time, space and support to say farewell to loved ones in a way that feels personal, meaningful and dignified.

The new facility includes a multi-faith chapel overlooking the lake, a natural burial meadow, memorial gardens, Snowdrop Lodge for gatherings and wakes, and a range of spaces designed to help families reflect and remember in peaceful natural surroundings.

Mrs Julie Spence joined representatives from East Cambridgeshire District Council, project partners, funeral professionals and invited guests for a special dedication ceremony and tour of the new centre.

The opening marks the culmination of several years of planning and construction, transforming the former sand and gravel quarry into a unique bereavement facility that places nature, sustainability and community at its heart.

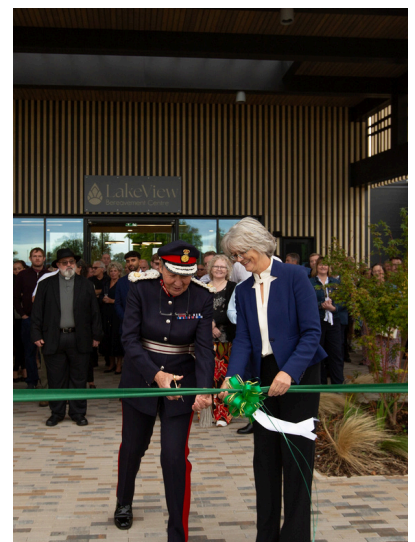
Councillor Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, said:

"Today is a proud and emotional moment for everyone who has been involved in bringing Lake View Bereavement Centre to life. From the very beginning, our ambition was to create something more than a crematorium. We wanted to create a place where families could take the time they need to say goodbye, where people could return to remember those they love,

and where the beauty of nature could offer comfort during life's most difficult moments.

Standing here today and seeing that vision become a reality is incredibly special.

Lake View belongs to the people of East Cambridgeshire. Whether someone is arranging a funeral, attending one of our bereavement cafés, walking through the memorial gardens or simply finding a moment of peace beside the lake, we hope this will become a valued community asset for generations to come."



Mrs Julie Spence, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, said:

"It is a privilege to officially open Lake View Bereavement Centre.

The care and thought that has gone into the design of this beautiful setting is evident throughout. It offers families a peaceful and supportive environment at a time when compassion, dignity and understanding matter most.

The centre will undoubtedly become an important place for local communities, not only to remember loved ones but also to find comfort, connection and reflection in its remarkable natural surroundings."

A key feature of the development is its commitment to the environment. The site has been carefully designed around existing natural features and includes habitat enhancements, a wildflower meadow and the reintroduction of native plant species. It also has one of the country's few electric cremators, helping to minimise carbon emissions while supporting local biodiversity. The centre's vision also emphasises providing exceptional care in a beautiful setting where families can remember, mourn and celebrate the lives of loved ones in ways that are uniquely personal.

The centre will also provide ongoing support for bereaved families through community events, remembrance activities and bereavement cafés, recognising that support does not end after a funeral service. This reflects the centre's broader aim of being a welcoming place that people can return to time and again.

Lake View Bereavement Centre is now open and welcoming visitors who wish to learn more about its services, explore the grounds or spend quiet time in its peaceful surroundings.

For more information, visit the Lake View Bereavement Centre website www.lakeviewbereavementcentre.com, follow it on Facebook or contact the Bereavement Services Team on 01353 665240 or email lakeview@eastcambs.gov.uk



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

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

2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

Friday Dinner	Double Room (per couple)	£295
Friday Bed & Breakfast	Single 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 & Biscuits	Double Room (per couple)	£395
Saturday Evening Drinks Reception	Single Room (per person)	£235
Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 3 Course Meal, Cheese & Biscuits & Tea and 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 – Includes 3 Course Meal, Cheese & Biscuits & Tea and Coffee	

Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLY

.....Free To All Members & Students

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

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:

.....Double Room (2 People) £POA
.....Single Room (1 Person) £POA

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 £.....



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44th Conference for The British Institute of Funeral Directors

23rd Oct - 25th October 2026



Matthew Hall from The Mazwell group will be talking about Gladys the cow who was embalmed for the Edinburgh Veterinary School. An interesting talk from one of the leading suppliers in the funeral profession.

It's not only our nearest and dearest that need to be considered when we talk about embalming as medical schools and veterinary colleges require the expert services and knowledge of embalmers and companies that supply suitable products for the profession.



*Join us for the first Continuous Professional Development session
on Saturday 24th October 2026 at 1pm*

The Dodge Chemical Company began in The United States of America when A Johnson Dodge started the company in 1893. From that day to the present, the Dodge brand and reputation has grown to become one of the most widely known names and industry leaders in the Funeral Service Profession. Our profession of Funeral Directing and Embalming has seen a great many changes over the last 100 or more years. Dodge has proudly responded to these changes; including the formulation, testing and release of the world's first formaldehyde free arterial and cavity chemicals, the first embalming machine with automatic pressure control and a waterless aspirator.



For more information get in touch
hayleyowenfd@gmail.com



"Helping you,
so you can help others"





Obitus



44th Conference for The British Institute of Funeral Directors

23rd Oct - 25th October 2026



Janeen from Obitus will be talking about the services they offer to families to help make a service more personal and bespoke.

They will also be discussing up and coming events and new updates coming in to place. There will also be a chance to ask questions or give your thoughts and ideas about future upgrades.



Join us for the second Continuous Professional Development session on Saturday 24th October 2026 at 2pm

Obitus is a 'customer first' company, dedicated to delivering more ways to say goodbye through high quality, personalised Music, Tributes, Streaming and Keepsakes for funeral services.

They work closely with Venues, Funeral Directors and Officiants across the UK to deliver better bereavement experiences for families.

Using music, photo and video, we help to make funeral services more personal, while offering more freedom for families and friends to share the moment in a way that suits them.



For more information get in touch
hayleyowenfd@gmail.com





westerleigh
GROUP



44th Conference for The British Institute of Funeral Directors

23rd Oct - 25th October 2026



Alan Jose, Michael Corish and Karen Mulligan-Cowan will be joining us to talk about the developments they have in their new crematoriums being built. There will be a discussion on funeral plans and the importance of planning ahead for families and how to support the family through this process.



*Join us for the third Continuous Professional Development session
on Saturday 24th October 2026 at 2:30pm*

Their core objective is to deliver the highest possible standards of care.

Westerleigh Group truly appreciates the social, environmental and financial benefits of providing professionally managed facilities in this highly specialist field.

We have unrivalled experience in the planning, development, operation and management of successful crematoria and cemeteries. We hope this website helps to shine a light on our extensive range of services and expertise and we would welcome the opportunity to hear how we may be able to help you deliver an improved experience to the bereaved.



For more information get in touch
hayleyowenfd@gmail.com



**The British Institute of Funeral Directors
invites Members, Students, Associate
members & Guests to a visit to
Halliday Funeral Supplies**



THURSDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2026



6.30



Visit includes a factory tour



**H2 PRENTON WAY, BIRKENHEAD,
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**For further information contact Hayley
07821 155 985**

hayleyowenfd@gmail.com



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Smashing the Stigma

For the third year running, during National Suicide Awareness Month, we are proud to host our Smashing the Stigma community event.

This event is for anyone who has been affected by suicide, whether that loss was a family member, friend or colleague. We understand that the impact of suicide reaches far beyond the individual and can leave a lasting effect on those left behind. Those attending will have the opportunity to listen to inspiring speakers and connect with others who understand their experiences. We are also incredibly grateful to Revd Julie Hardy, who has led a special reflective service each year for those who wish to attend.

Over the past three years, we have brought together local organisations that generously give their time, support, and expertise to ensure this a truly meaningful event where we come together to support one another and strengthen our community. Their presence offers visitors access to guidance, resources, and compassionate conversations at a time when they may need it most. Some of the organisations that have supported us over the years include:

- Renew Counselling
- Gamblers Anonymous (GA)
- Narcotics Anonymous (NA)
- Samaritans
- Mind
- Legend on the Bench
- Andy's Man Club
- Craig Tyler Trust
- BCCS Children's Counselling
- Papyrus
- Amparo



The loss of a loved one to suicide is deeply traumatic, and sadly, the stigma surrounding suicide and grief still exists. Many people worry about saying the wrong thing and often find themselves thinking, "What can I say?" or "I don't know what to say." As a result, some avoid those who are grieving.

Our message is simple: you do not need to have the perfect words. A hug, a listening ear, a kind gesture, or simply being present can mean more than you realise. Please don't avoid someone who is bereaved. They need support, understanding, and connection.

Through Smashing the Stigma, we aim to encourage open conversations, challenge misconceptions, and remind people that no one should have to face grief alone. Talking matters. Listening matters. Compassion matters.

Together, we can help break the stigma and create a community where people feel supported, understood, and never forgotten.

Warm Regards

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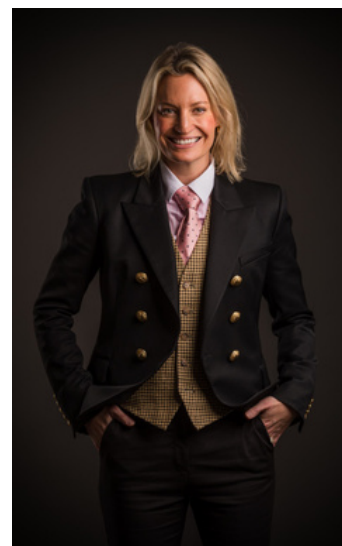


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Tea, Cake, and Mortality: The Global Rise of the Death Café

Victoria Wells

Deputy Editor, Region C



For centuries, Western society has treated death as the ultimate taboo—something to be hidden away in hospitals, spoken of in hushed tones, or ignored entirely until crisis hits. Yet over the past decade, a quiet, grassroots movement has been turning that dynamic on its head.

In coffee shops, community halls, libraries, and living rooms around the world, group gatherings centered around coffee, cake, and conversations about dying are taking place. These are Death Cafés, and they represent one of the most surprising cultural shifts in modern end-of-life literacy.

Since the movement took root in 2011, over 24,000 Death Cafés have been held across nearly 100 countries.

The underlying concept originated with Swiss sociologist Bernard Crettaz, who pioneered cafés mortels in mainland Europe during the 2000s. Crettaz believed that society's refusal to talk about death bred unnecessary anxiety and emotional isolation.

In September 2011, British web developer Jon Underwood—inspired by Crettaz's work—adapted the model for the English-speaking world and hosted the first official UK Death Café at his kitchen table in East London alongside his mother, psychotherapist Sue Barsky Reid.

Underwood launched DeathCafe.com as an open-source social model, allowing anyone, anywhere to host a meeting provided they follow a few core principles:

- Not-for-profit
- No fixed agenda
- Not grief counseling
- Confidential and respectful

Tragically, Jon Underwood passed away suddenly in 2017 at age 44. His family continues to maintain the open platform in his memory, allowing the movement to grow organically worldwide.

What draws strangers together to spend two hours talking about death?

Organisers and participants point to several driving forces:

- **Baby Boomer Reinterpretation:** The generation that reshaped social attitudes toward healthcare, birth, and retirement is now confronting its own mortality, demanding more control, transparency, and personal agency over end-of-life choices.
- **Declining Religious Affiliation:** As traditional religious structures play a smaller role in daily life, many people seek secular spaces to explore existential questions about life, loss, and legacy.
- **Practical End-of-Life Planning:** Attendees frequently use these discussions as a sounding board before making advance directives, writing wills, or choosing non-traditional funeral options like green burials or direct cremations.

Far from being gloomy or depressing, most participants describe Death Cafés as surprisingly lively, warm, and often filled with laughter.

As the motto of the movement states, the goal of increasing awareness of death is ultimately "to help us make the most of our finite lives."

By acknowledging that time is limited, participants report feeling an increased sense of presence, deeper gratitude, and clearer priorities in their daily relationships.

The surge in Death Cafés coincides with a broader global "death positive" movement, which includes the rise of end-of-life doulas, eco-burials, and digital memorialisation. By dismantling the silence surrounding mortality, Death Cafés have proven that talking openly about the end of life isn't morbid—it's a fundamental part of living fully.



DON'T FORGET!



Our next conference runs from Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th October at Tankersley Manor Hotel.

Remember to book your places soon to secure your place.

Deadline for bookings is close of play on Monday 28th September



Please use the forms in this edition and send to treasurer@bifd.org.uk to secure your place

After this date, you will only be able to attend the AGM on Saturday 24th October

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Registered Office:

National Office: 7-9 Station Street, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5NX
Company Limited by Guarantee - 06230309



NOTICE OF THE 44th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Members, Students, Fellows & Associate Members,

You are duly invited to attend the 44th Annual General Meeting of The British Institute of Funeral Directors on:

Saturday 24th October 2026 at 10:00 a.m., at Tankersley Manor, Church Ln, Tankersley, S75 3DQ

to conduct the following business:

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome to the Meeting by National President Clive Pearson (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 43rd Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th October 2025 at 10:00 a.m., at The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel, Clippenham Lane, Slough, SL1 2YE
- 6 Matters Arising from the Minutes.
- 7 Resolutions To Conference (received at National Office by 13th October 2026).
- 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 2026.
- 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 2027-28.
- 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:	Phil Gore
First Vice President:	Judith Dandy
Second Vice President:	Darren Carpenter
Immediate Past President:	Clive Pearson
National Treasurer:	Deborah Torrie
The Company Secretary:	
Editor of The Journal:	Kayleigh Ingham
Deputy Editor of The Journal	Beth Harron
Chair of Education:	

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

1. Region A – Margaret Dow
2. Region B – Vacant
3. Region C – Vacant
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 – Darren Carpenter

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 – Clive Pearson

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Registered Office:

National Office, 7-9 Station Street, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5NX

Company Limited by Guarantee - 06230309



The 44th Annual General Meeting of the British Institute of Funeral Directors

Saturday 24th October 2026 at 10.00 am

Tankersley Manor Hotel, Church Lane, Tankersley, S75 3DQ

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.

44th Annual General Meeting of the British Institute of Funeral Directors
Saturday 24th October 2026, 10:00 a.m., Tankersley Manor Hotel, Church Lane, Tankersley, S75 3DQ

NOMINATION FORM

Nominations are invited for the election of Fellows/Members of the Institute to the following positions 2026/27:

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:	Phil Gore
First Vice President:	Judith Dandy
Second Vice President:	Darren Carpenter
Immediate Past President	Clive Pearson
National Treasurer:	Deborah Torrie
The Company Secretary:	
Editor of The Journal:	Kayleigh Ingham
Deputy Editor of The Journal:	Beth Harron
Chair of Education:	

Nomination Forms should be sent to:

National Office: 7-9 Station Street, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5NX

Deadline for Nominations & Resolutions: 13th October 2026

44th AGM of The British Institute of Funeral Directors – Proxy Form

Registered Office: National Office: 7-9 Station Street, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5NX

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 the following:

Alternate Nominee: _____

as my proxy to attend, speak and vote upon my behalf at the 44th AGM held on Saturday 24th October 2026 at 10.00am, and at any adjournment of the meeting held, at Tankersley Manor Hotel, Church Lane, Tankersley, S75 3DQ.

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 43rd Annual General Meeting, Saturday 25th 2025, The Copthorne Hotel, Windsor. _____

7. Resolutions To Conference received at National Office by 13th October 2026 _____

10. To Receive The Treasurer's Report & Financial Statements For The Period Ending 31st March 2026 _____

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 2027 – 28 _____

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	Phil Gore	_____	_____
First Vice President	Judith Dandy	_____	_____
Second Vice President	Darren Carpenter	_____	_____
Immediate Past President	Clive Pearson	_____	_____
National Treasurer	Deborah Torrie	_____	_____
The Company Secretary		_____	_____
Editor of The Journal	Kayleigh Ingham	_____	_____
Deputy Editor of The Journal	Beth Harron	_____	_____

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	Margaret Dow	_____	_____
Region B	Vacant	_____	_____
Region C	Vacant	_____	_____
Region D	Vacant	_____	_____
Region E	Vacant	_____	_____
Region F	Vacant	_____	_____
Region G	Vacant	_____	_____
Region H	David Capper	_____	_____
Region J	Sophie Cross	_____	_____
Region K	Darren Carpenter	_____	_____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / 2024

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: 7-9 Station Street, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5NX**
Received by the Company no later than 13th October 2026
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, 7-9 Station Street, Meltham, Huddersfield, HD9 5NX no later than 13th October 2026. 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.

**Report of the Directors and
Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026
for
British Institute Of Funeral Directors**

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

British Institute Of Funeral Directors

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

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British Institute Of Funeral Directors

Company Information for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Directors: Mr D E Capper
Mr D C Carpenter
Miss S Cross
Ms J A Dandy
Ms M I Dow
Dr P S Gore
Mr C J Pearson

Registered office: 7-9 Station Street
Meltham
Holmfirth
West Yorkshire
HD9 5NX

Registered number: 06230309 (England and Wales)

Accountants: Hughes & Co.
The Stables
Broseley Hall
Church Street
Broseley
Shropshire
TF12 5DG

British Institute Of Funeral Directors

Report of the Directors for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Directors

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 April 2025 to the date of this report.

Mr D E Capper
Miss S Cross
Dr P S Gore
Mr C J Pearson

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

Mrs H Barker-Owen - resigned 26 February 2026
Mr D C Carpenter - appointed 25 October 2025
Ms A J Dalby - resigned 25 October 2025
Ms J A Dandy - appointed 25 October 2025
Ms M I Dow - appointed 25 October 2025
Mr A Floyd - resigned 26 February 2026
Mr D Gresty - resigned 26 February 2026
Ms A J Pink - resigned 26 February 2026

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the board:



.....
Mr C J Pearson - Director

05/08/2026

Date:

**Chartered Certified Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of
British Institute Of Funeral Directors**

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 2026 which comprise the Income Statement, Balance Sheet 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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at accaglobal.com/rulebook.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of British Institute Of Funeral Directors, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. 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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants as detailed at <https://www.accaglobal.com/gb/en/technical-activities/technical-resources-search/2009/october/factsheet-163-audit-exempt-companies.html>.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company 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 loss 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.

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

Date:

British Institute Of Funeral Directors

**Income Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

	2026	2025
	£	£
Turnover	72,671	103,631
Cost of sales	272	373
Gross surplus	72,399	103,258
Administrative expenses	108,563	79,072
Operating (deficit)/surplus	(36,164)	24,186
Interest receivable and similar income	1,766	2,154
(Deficit)/surplus before taxation	(34,398)	26,340
Tax on (deficit)/surplus	726	409
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	(35,124)	25,931

The notes form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet
31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Current assets			
Stocks		880	850
Debtors	4	20,348	9,641
Cash at bank		65,406	111,994
		<u>86,634</u>	<u>122,485</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	2,730	3,457
		<u>83,904</u>	<u>119,028</u>
Net current assets			
		<u>83,904</u>	<u>119,028</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>83,904</u>	<u>119,028</u>
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		83,904	119,028
		<u>83,904</u>	<u>119,028</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The 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 05/08/2026 and were signed on its behalf by:


.....
Mr C J Pearson - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

British Institute Of Funeral Directors

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

British Institute Of Funeral Directors is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Turnover

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

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Taxation

Taxation for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income Statement, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was NIL (2025 - NIL).

4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026	2025
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	20,348	9,641

British Institute Of Funeral Directors

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026**

5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	414
Corporation tax	336	19
Accruals and deferred income	2,394	3,024
	<u>2,730</u>	<u>3,457</u>

British Institute Of Funeral Directors

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

		2026		2025
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Subscriptions	43,259		65,023	
Education tutors	1,917		8,700	
Conference	24,605		23,681	
Advertising	2,890		6,227	
		72,671		103,631
Cost of sales				
Opening stock	850		921	
Purchases	302		302	
	1,152		1,223	
Closing stock	(880)		(850)	
		272		373
Gross surplus		72,399		103,258
(99.63% 2025 : 99.64%)				
Other income				
Deposit account interest		1,766		2,154
		74,165		105,412
Expenditure				
Insurance	1,676		1,625	
Telephone	553		215	
Printing and stationery	157		734	
Computer costs	1,002		602	
Conference expenses	29,984		22,590	
Publications	3,131		2,608	
BIFD administration	26,390		27,177	
Education committee expenses	6,441		12,786	
Director and President expense	834		4,298	
NFE expenses	1,315		3,252	
Accountancy	3,311		3,083	
Legal fees	33,126		-	
Donations	500		-	
		108,420		78,970
		(34,255)		26,442
Finance costs				
Bank charges		143		102
Net (deficit)/surplus		(34,398)		26,340

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements



MINUTES

43rd Annual General Meeting

25th October 2025 at 10am | Copthorne Hotel Slough-Windsor, Cippenham Lane, Slough, SL1 2YE

ATTENDANCE

Roll call: Amanda Pink (National President, Company Secretary, Region G) Robert Head (Region G), Hayley Owen-Barker (Director Region C), David Barker (Region C), Deborah Torrie (Region C), Graham Torrie (Region C), Emma Hunter (Tutor in Training, Region G), David Parslow (Tutor, Region G), Sally Walton (Past President and Tutor, Region G), Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A), Kevin Dow (Region A), Peggy Snell (Region G), Allie Winchcombe (Region G), Keith Snell (Region G), Roger Clarke (Past President, Examiner, Region G), Andrew Floyd (Chair of Education, Region B), Rosalyn Pratt (Region G), Judith Dandy (Region G) Jonathan Ryland (Region B) Andrew Western (Region J), Robert Rowntree (Past President, Region G), Richard Van Nes (Region K), Matthew Hall (Region K), Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G), Warwick Cobbett (Region K), Lucy Griffin (Region G) Tim Ocean, Robert Buin, Phil Perry (Obitus), Kayleigh Ingham (Public Relations Officer, Region C – Minutes), David Gresty (Past President, Treasurer, Region J), Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C), Dr Philip Gore (2nd Vice President, Region K)

Apologies for Absence: David Capper (Past President Region H), Amanda Dalby (Immediate Past President, Region C)

Proxy Votes Received: 13, via Karen Mead, Tim Welch, Jane Clements, Tom Dilnot-Smith, John Wells, Darren Carpenter, Amanda Dalby, Andrew Naylor, Alan Puxley, Susan Puxley, Roger Hickling, Jane Bennett, Paterick Walesby

WELCOME

National President Amanda Pink welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. Checked cars and registration completed. 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: David Gresty (Treasurer Region J)

Seconded: Sally Walton (Past President Region G)

All in favor.

MINUTES OF THE 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Approval of minutes of the 42nd AGM held at 10.30am on Saturday 19th October 2024 at Cedar Court Hotel, Lindley Moor Road, Huddersfield, HD3 3RH

Proposed: Jonathan Ryland (Region B)

Seconded: Margaret Dow (Past President Region A)

All in favor.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None Received.

RESOLUTIONS TO CONFERENCE (RECEIVED AT NATIONAL OFFICE BY 13th OCTOBER 2025)

Clive Pearson states there are membership problems for those that have done Certificate but have not gone on to do Diploma. Goes through Certificate membership details, as per agenda.

Proposed – Clive Pearson (1st Vice President Region C)

Seconded – Warwick Cobbett (Region K)

ALL IN FAVOR

Margaret Dow – what is equivalent qualification to become a Certificate Member?

Clive Pearson and Amanda Pink confirm anyone who studies with NAFD or IFDC Level 3 can be Certificate member. This will up our membership numbers for people between Certificate and Diploma, if they don't study straight away.

Andrew Weston – Will fees will coming in under subscriptions?

Amanda Pink - Yes

Robert Rowntree – What happens to associate membership?

Amanda Pink – will still be same

Adrian Pink – NAFD offer to others, can we?

Amanda Pink – yes we can offer it

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

No more important time than now for education. Institutes like us need to lead the way, but it's a big ask, and requires people to work together. Thanks everyone for the work they are doing to continue.

Student numbers are constant. Very low and need to get numbers up. About 1 dozen per year for each course. Introduction Course is more popular than Certificate and Diploma. We need to convert interest into carrying on though. Need to make Introduction course more often and looking at doing it more frequently.

Textbooks Update. Ongoing. Halfway through Diploma, but lots to do due to many changes over the last few years. Group has been set up to approve them soon. Certificate update is due to start soon.

Diploma in Teaching level 5. Tutors are expected to be above the level they are teaching so tutors should be on level 5 to teach the Diploma. 6 people started. 4 should be completed by Easter 2026 which will satisfy Greenwich and within house.

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

As of 1st April, we have 290 members, including 19 students. We have a new database for members showing who are members and who has not renewed

68 not renewed including:

- 25 full
- 26 licensed
- 14 associates
- 3 retired

Doing what I can for emails to reach members. July emails are when reminder to renew membership is stopped. Emails go out to all members. Only 60% of emails are opened from statistics.

We are getting lots of enquiries about education from all 3 courses. Sometimes 5-6 per day.

Warwick Cobbett – Any feedback on why not renewed?

Amanda Pink – occasionally we do get emails saying why, but not always. Membership is up on last year though, but it is fairly steady.

Andrew Western – The ones that have renewed, are they long standing members, or new?

Amanda Pink – those that have, are long standing generally.

Andrew Western – those that have been contacted, have they responded

Amanda Pink – no.

Sally Walton – We did have lots of positive feedback from NFE. Hopefully something has come of that.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: DAVID GRESTD (TREASURER)

As of 31st March 2025, pre-tax profit of £26,340. Huge amount of thanks to Amanda, Journal and BoD. Expenses have gone down for meetings, to next to nothing.

As of Friday, the bank had £103, 072 which is higher than when I took over. Still got some money to come in but the conference is paid. Amanda has worked really hard to help the accounts and get membership up.

Proposed: David Gresty (Treasurer Region J)

Seconded: Andrew Floyd (Chair of Education Region B)

ALL IN FAVOR

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

Proposed: David Gresty (Treasurer, Region J)

Seconded: Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G)

All in favor.

TO FIX SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 2025-2026

Membership increases to £175 for full membership, £195 for Licensed membership.

Associate membership to stay the same, retired voting and nonvoting, and students stay the same. Certificate membership, to be same as student membership.

Proposed: David Gresty (Treasurer, Region J)

Seconded: Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C)

All in favor.

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: Clive Pearson

Proposed: Adrian Pink (Past resident, Region G)

Seconded: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)

All in favor.

First Vice President: Dr Philip Gore

Proposed: Amanda Pink (National President, Region G)

Seconded: Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A)

All in favor

2nd Vice President: Judith Dandy

Proposed: Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C)

Seconded: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)

All in favor.

Immediate Past President: Amanda Pink

National Treasurer: David Gresty

Proposed: Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G)

Seconded: Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C)

All in favor.

The Company Secretary: Amanda Pink

Proposed: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)

Seconded: Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C)

All in favor.

Public Relations Officer: Kayleigh Ingham

Proposed: Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C)

Seconded: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)

All in favor

Deputy Editor of the Journal: Victoria Wells
Proposed: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)
Seconded: Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G)
All in Favor

Chair of Education: Andrew Floyd
Proposed: Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C)
Seconded: Amanda Pink (National President, Region G)
All in favor

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: Kevin Dow (Region A)
Seconded: Amanda Pink (National President, Region G)
All in favor.

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 favor.

REGION D: Vacant

REGION E: Vacant

REGION F: Vacant

REGION G: Adrian Pink
Proposed: Amanda Pink (National President, Region G)
Seconded: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)
All in favor

REGION H: David Capper
Proposed: Margaret Dow (Past President, Region A)
Seconded: Amanda Pink (National President, Region G)
All in favor.

REGION J: Sophie Cross
Proposed: Clive Pearson (1st Vice President, Region C)
Seconded: Adrian Pink (Past President, Region G)
All in favor.

REGION K: Darren Carpenter
Proposed: Phil Gore (2nd Vice President, Region K)
Seconded: David Gresty (Past President, Region J)
All in favor

Margaret Dow – It's worth noting all new directors are past presidents.
Amanda Pink - Younger ones are needed instead of recycling older ones.

Warwick Corbett – In the current financial crises, can it help having a direct debit for monthly membership payments rather than one lump sum?

David Gresty – It has been tried in past, people have lapsed, and more work for admin to chase and police. Are they members or not if they lapse? When do we say they are no longer members?

Amanda Pink – Once membership forms are in, Certificates are sent for a year. If on a monthly payment, when do certificates get sent out? People showing certificates but not members. People are still renewing in September.

Margaret Dow – If people are paying in September, why does it end in March?

Amanda Pink – It's too much work to have different dates.

Andrew Western – thanks to everyone involved in CPD online, it's needed for anyone who doesn't have meetings in Regions or those where meetings aren't popular

MEETING ADJOURNED TO THE GALA DINNER

Amanda Pink invited everyone to the education afternoon.

David Gresty thanked Amanda for all the work that she has done over the past 12 months, and getting the Institute name out there at events.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.39am for the Education afternoon and Gala Dinner.



The British Institute of Funeral Directors invites you to Quinn Hearse & Limousine



Monday 5th October 2026



6:30pm



13, Garvaghy Road,
Portglenone, Co. Antrim,
BT44 8EF



hayleyowenfd@gmail.com



Quinn
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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



OrthoMetals.



HAYLEYOWENFD@GMAIL.COM

Curriculum Changes Welcomed by Children's Bereavement Charity

- **Child Bereavement UK has been campaigning for grief education within the curriculum**
- **The changes will ensure that pupils are taught about grief in Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) lessons**

The UK's largest provider of grief support to young people and parents bereaved of a baby or child, Child Bereavement UK, is welcoming changes to the English school curriculum in September.

For the first time, the topics of grief, death and bereavement will be discussed as part of the curriculum in English classrooms, fostering a sensitive space to explore feelings around loss.

In the updated guidance, there is a specific provision for schools to ensure that pupils are given the opportunity to learn 'That change and loss, including bereavement, can provoke a range of feelings, that grief is a natural response to bereavement, and that everyone grieves differently' in Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) lessons.

Also highlighted in the guidance is *'How families and relationships change over time, including through birth, death, separation and new relationships.'*

Child Bereavement UK has been a strong advocate for covering grief topics in schools, working directly with education settings and schools to train and equip teachers to sensitively and confidently support bereaved pupils in the classroom.

Most recently, the charity has worked alongside funeral director and former President of the National Association of Funeral Directors John Adams, who spearheaded the campaign to include grief in the curriculum and drew on his own personal experiences of childhood bereavement.

As an advisor to Child Bereavement UK, John comments, "Death touches every family and every community, yet for so long it has been one of the few universal experiences that we have struggled to talk about. Creating a dedicated space within education doesn't mean teaching children to be sad; it means teaching them to be compassionate, resilient and supportive of one another. It also gives teachers confidence. Many educators have told me they desperately want to support bereaved children but are frightened of saying the wrong thing. Having grief and bereavement recognised within the curriculum provides reassurance that these conversations are not only acceptable but important."



Estimates suggest that there is a bereaved child in every classroom, suggesting that alongside being a sad fact of life as children grow into adults, education settings currently have grieving pupils in their community.

Fergus Crow, CEO of Child Bereavement UK, comments, “We are pleased these crucial changes to the curriculum finally come into place from September. These are changes we have campaigned for over many years. Through our work, we know how important it is for children and young people to learn about grief, loss and bereavement in safe, age-appropriate and planned ways.

Learning about the range of emotions that come with such difficult experiences means pupils will be supported over time to understand how people experience and express grief in different ways, and it will help them learn more about how to support friends and peers, and where to look for trusted help and support if they need it. We need to put our trust in our teachers and schools to do this well, but we must also make sure they are equipped with the skills and confidence they need to teach sensitive topics like this, and that means more access to specialist training and resources.

Many schools already do this, and many children and young people are referred for help to charities like Child Bereavement UK by dedicated teachers and support staff. We hope this curriculum change means many more will now follow.”

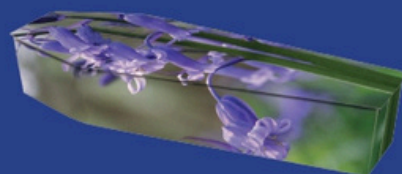
Child Bereavement UK provides training which has been specifically developed for teachers and professionals working within the education sector. See the full range of courses on our training page, or contact schools@childbereavementuk.org to ask us about bespoke training for your school, nursery, college or educational setting.



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) and parents bereaved of a baby or child.

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

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Londonderry Funeral Directors Celebrate 135 Years With New Office and Funding For Local Good Causes



Funeral Manager Wayne Glenn (centre left) with Adair & Neely staff at their new premises

This summer, Adair & Neely Funeral Directors celebrated 135 years of supporting families across the Londonderry area with care, compassion and professionalism.

To mark this impressive anniversary milestone, the funeral firm have moved to updated new Waterside offices at 84 Duke Street, Londonderry, where they can better serve clients with improved facilities.

They also proudly launched the Adair & Neely Community Fund as a way of giving back to the communities that have supported the firm for generations.

Up to £2,0000 is available from the funding pot to support local charities, voluntary organisations, community groups and grassroots projects that are making a positive difference to people's quality of life across Derry/Londonderry and the surrounding areas. Projects must align with one or more of four categories: Health, Education, Employment Opportunities, and Poverty and Social Deprivation.

Branch Manager Wayne Glenn said: "Community organisations play a vital role in bringing people together, supporting vulnerable individuals and creating opportunities for local people to thrive. Through this special anniversary initiative, we want to help those groups continue their valuable work and strengthen the communities we are proud to serve."

Local not-for-profit organisations and community groups can find more information, an application form and guidance on how to apply on the Adair & Neely website: <https://www.adairneelyfuneraldirectors.com/community-fund/>

You can also find Adair & Neely on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Adair-Neely-Funeral-Directors-100071389988494/>



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Southport Funeral Director Marks 40 Years Caring for Families – And Sets His Sights On 50



Ruth Meadows, Divisional Operations Manager at Funeral Partners, presents Michael Rushton with a celebratory award for 40 years' service.

A Southport funeral director who has supported thousands of families through some of the most difficult moments of their lives has celebrated 40 years in the profession and says he has no intention of stopping yet.

Michael Rushton Dip. FD, of M Rushton Funeral Directors, has spent all his life in the Southport area, growing up in Banks and beginning his career as a trainee in 1986 at a small family funeral directors in Southport.

Shortly after, he joined Tony Jolly, the original owner of Moistors Funeral Directors in Southport, who he credits for much of his own professional work ethics, before opening his own business, M Rushton Funeral Directors, in 2016.

Michael was very happy to see Tony at the celebration.

Four decades into his career, he is still meeting families and regularly conducting funerals in the community he has served for so long – prompting friends and colleagues old and new to mark the milestone with a small celebration.

Reflecting on his 40 years, Michael said: “It means everything to me that I am still caring for families, visiting families and conducting funerals regularly after all these years. I’m looking forward to seeing my 50th year in the profession that I care so much about.”

Presenting Michael with a commemorative plaque, Division Operations Manager Ruth Meadows said, “Michael is humble as always, but we could not let this moment pass without acknowledging all that he has contributed over such a long period of time.”

Advertorial

Throughout his career, Michael has always regarded caring for bereaved families as an honour and privilege rather than simply a job. The scale of Michael's impact was shown in a special card presented to him containing messages from his team, fellow funeral professionals, clergy, ministers and others who have worked alongside him over the years.

There was another surprise waiting outside the funeral home to mark his anniversary – a specially created knitted postbox topper from Southport Hookers. Michael has personally thanked the group and is making a donation in recognition of their gesture.

Now part of the Funeral Partners network of family funeral homes, M Rushton Funeral Directors continues to serve local families while Michael has been able to spend more time supporting his family.



Michael Rushton with the knitted postbox topper from Southport Hookers outside the funeral home.

Michael said: “I have gone from being on call 24/7 to working more part-time hours, which allows me to help care for my disabled children who need me, while still being able to work with my team and care for my community. That means so much to me.”

Looking back over his career, Michael said his greatest thanks was reserved for the families who have placed their trust in him and his colleagues over the past four decades.

He added: “I would like to thank every family who has entrusted me with their loved one, as well as all my colleagues, professionals, ministers, clergy and the wonderful people I have met over the years.

“Most importantly, I would like to acknowledge every single person I have had the privilege of caring for. May they rest in peace, surrounded by the love we all send to them.”

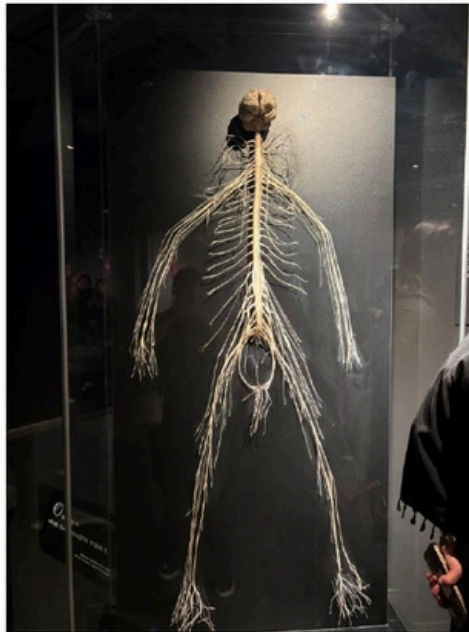
The Amazing Work of Body Worlds

By Beth Harron.

History Behind Body Worlds

Body Worlds turned 30 in 2025, which I had the privilege to go and visit their permanent museum in Amsterdam. Body Worlds was created in 1977 by anatomist Dr Gunther Von Hagens, who sadly passed away in July this year. He invented plastination which revolutionised anatomical education. In 1995 Dr Gunther and his wife, Dr Angelina Whalley presented the first Body Worlds exhibition to the public.

Body Worlds doesn't just focus on conveying anatomical knowledge. They aim to inspire visitors to live consciously, to pay more attention to their health, recognise their physical potential and limitations. They also want you to reflect on what it means to be a human and how impressive the



human body is.

Body Donation

The Institute of Plastination (IFP) is the administrator for the body donation programme for Body Worlds.

Body donors have written instructions that they will forgo burial in the event of their death and that their body will be transferred to IFP for the purpose of anatomical teaching, research and medical education. The organisation can reject a body donation if they see the need to as there are strict requirements the body donor must meet.

- They must have written a consent form that IFP must have on their files.
- The body donor must have died a natural death.
- The body donor must largely be intact.
- The body donor must also be an organ donor. They believe organ donation is a priority.

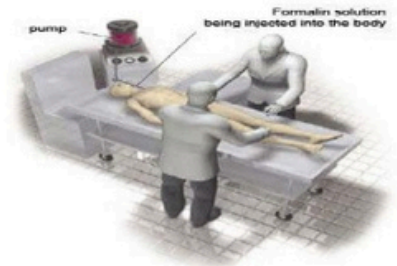
What is Plastination?

Plastination is a process designed to preserve the body for educational and instructional purposes. Plastinates are dry, odourless and durable.

Plastination Technique

1) FIXATION AND ANATOMICAL DISSECTION

Formaldehyde or other preservation solutions are injected through the arteries to kill all bacteria and to prevent decomposition. This can take between 3 to 4 hours.



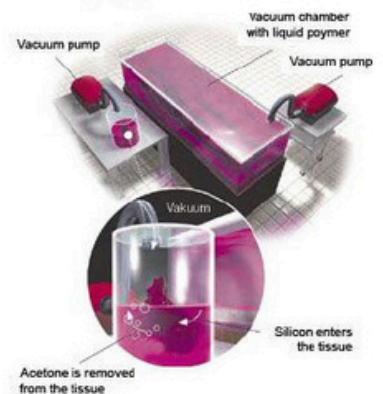
2) REMOVAL OF BODY FAT AND WATER

Water and soluble fats are dissolved from the body in a bath of acetone. Under freezing conditions, the acetone draws out all the water and replaces the water inside the cells.



3) FORCED IMPREGNATION

The Specimen is placed in a bath of liquid polymer. By creating a vacuum, the acetone boils. As the acetone vaporizes and leaves the cells, it draws the liquid polymer in so that it can penetrate every cell. This part of the technique takes 2 – 3 weeks.



4) POSITIONING

Every anatomical structure is properly aligned and fixed with the help of wires, needles, clamps and foam blocks. This can take weeks even months to get the right position.

5) CURING

Depending on the polymer used, this is done with gas, light or heat. This is to protect the specimen from decomposition. Each specimen takes 1,500 working hours and normally takes 1 year to be complete.



Poker Player Trio

These body donors were 'Actors' in the James Bond film, Casino Royale. Their presentation differs as much as their poker playing strategies.



Player on the left-

The abdomen was opened, yielding a view of the intestinal loops.

Player in the middle-

Created by separating the frontal bone, nasal bone and both cheek bones from the posterior skull bone.

Player on the right-

Both parietal bones were lifted to make the brain visible from behind. The brain was horizontally sectioned and folded out.



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MuchLoved Grant Supports Memorial Tree at Princess Alexandra Hospital



MuchLoved Charitable Trust has awarded a grant to The James Foundation to support a memorial tree at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, creating a lasting place of remembrance for families affected by baby loss.

The James Foundation works to raise awareness, understanding and support for parents and families who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death. Its mission is to help families through one of the most traumatic experiences any person can face, offering practical support, advice and compassion while acknowledging each baby, each family and each person's grief.

Kelly Matthews, Founder of The James Foundation said: "This generous grant is helping us take a significant step towards creating our second stainless steel baby loss memorial tree project, a lasting space for remembrance, reflection, and connection for families affected by baby loss. The funding is enabling us to bring this important project closer to reality, creating a tribute that will honour and remember babies gone too soon for many years to come. By supporting this project, the grant is not only contributing to a beautiful public memorial, but also helping us provide a place of comfort, support, and shared remembrance for all who visit it."

Remembrance is central to MuchLoved's purpose. Through its grants scheme, MuchLoved Charitable Trust supports projects that help people remember and honour those they love, while also improving understanding and support around grief and bereavement.

The grant reflects a shared commitment between MuchLoved and The James Foundation: to help ensure that people facing bereavement feel less alone, more supported and able to find meaningful ways to keep love and memory present.

For families affected by baby loss, the memorial tree will be a place of comfort, recognition and continuing connection.

Further details

<https://thejamesfoundation.co.uk/>

<https://www.muchloved.com>

<https://www.muchloved.com/gateway/muchloved-grants/>



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