BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THE JOURNAL

ISSUE 10



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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The CPD Standards Office
CPD PROVIDER: 60065
2023-2025
www.cpdstandards.com

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Please send all Adverts, Articles & News c/o The Editorial Team:

journal@bifd.org.uk

National President's Chosen Charity

SAMARITANS

The Presidential Team:
National President, Clive Pearson

1st Vice President, Dr Philip Gore
2nd Vice President, Judith Dandy
Immediate Past President, Amanda Pink

SUPPORTERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Auden Funeral Supplies
Bennetts Funerals
Colourful Coffins
Funeral Partners
J C Atkinson
Muchloved
Obitus

The BIFD Journal is an official publication of the British Institute of Funeral Directors and is published online monthly. Whilst the Journal aims to encourage the fullest freedom of opinion and expression, it should be understood that unless stated, views and opinions, including those of the Editor and Deputy Editor, should not be construed as being policy of the Institute. The British Institute of Funeral Directors accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any claim made by advertisers within this Journal, or for the quality, suitability or standard of the goods so advertised. All images used are subject to fair usage, and are sourced via Canva Pro, Unsplash+ or the advertiser.

Letter from the National President

Clive Pearson



Dear members,

It has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding month, filled with meaningful conferences, wonderful celebrations, and vital visits across our sector starting with attending the National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) conference where we had a wonderful evening followed by the change of office the following morning.







We were then deeply honoured to attend the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) conference this month, where it was a privilege to see presented diploma certificates to everyone who successfully passed their ICCM diploma.

Congratulations once again to all the achievers on their hard work!

Following that, we enjoyed a fantastic evening with the National Association of Monumental Masons (NAMM). We then wrapped up the final conference of our presidential year with the Association of Independent Celebrants (AOIC). There is truly nothing quite like these events for catching up with old friends, forging new connections, and strengthening our professional community.



Our CPD visits have also kept us wonderfully busy. You can read more about these journeys further on in the journal, Halliday Funeral Supplies where we had a fascinating tour of the factory, offering a great inside look at their operations and how coffins are manufactured, and the Northern Ireland Division with a journey across the sea to tour Fergus Quinn's factory, where their bespoke hearses and limousines are crafted.

Education, and providing quality education is at the very heart of why the British Institute of Funeral Directors (BIFD) exists. This year, we have been tremendously successful in delivering both in person and online CPD events, and I am pleased to share that many of next year's sessions are already planned and in motion.
Thank you all for your continued support as we bring another wonderful presidential year toward a close.

Warmest regards

Clive

Clive Pearson
National President, Region C



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



British Institute of Funeral Directors Presidents Charity Supporting the Samaritans

Help raise money to support Leek and District Samaritans

JustGiving

Falling Leaves

Little leaves fall softly down
Red and yellow, orange and brown
Whirling, twirling round and round
Falling softly to the ground

Little leaves fall softly down
To make a carpet on the ground.
Then, swish, the wind comes whistling by
And sends them dancing to the sky.

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Create a bespoke memorial nameplate for a coffin in minutes. Add names, dates, messages, photos and meaningful designs using our easy online APP designer, then we'll professionally print and deliver it ready to use.

DESIGN Access our unique APP designer.

PERSONALISE Add names, dates, pictures, designs.

QUALITY Professionally printed with exceptional detail.

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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.

Accredited cpd

The MazWell® Group

Exclusive Manufacturer and Distributor of **DODGE®** Products



44th Conference for The British Institute of Funeral Directors

23rd Oct - 25th October 2026

Matthew Hall from The Mazwell group will be talking about Glady's 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 Continous 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"

BRITISH INSTITUTE of FUNERAL DIRECTORS
B.I.F.D.

Accredited cpd

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 Continous 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

BRITISH INSTITUTE of FUNERAL DIRECTORS
B.I.F.D.



44th Conference for The British Institute of Funeral Directors

23rd Oct - 25th October 2026

Alan Jose, Michael Corish and Karen Mulligan-Cowan will be joinging us to talk about the developements 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 Continous 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 thiswebsite 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



Celebrating 20 Years of Professional Service in Newton Abbot and Torquay



Walter C. Parson Funeral Directors recently proudly celebrated 20 years of service in the Newton Abbot and Torquay area.

40 guests attended an event at their Newton Abbot premises in King Street on 22nd September 2026 to mark the occasion.

Walter C. Parson was established in 1842 at Stoke Climsland, Cornwall, as a builder and undertaker. The business passed from father to son until 1945 when the business focussed exclusively on funerals, slowly expanding until 1999 when there were four offices in Plymouth. Wally Parson retired in 1999 and the company was bought by his sister Pat May (née Parson), her husband Graham May and her son Stephen Ware. They decided that they needed to expand the business in order to help more families in a greater geographical area and following negotiations which started in 2005, they acquired Hugh Mills & Gaye in July 2006. The business had 2 premises – one at Queen Street in Newton Abbot and one at Babbacombe Road in Torquay.

Hugh Mills & Gaye was established in 1805 by Hugh Mills, primarily a builder but also an undertaker. Hugh Mills merged with Maurice Gaye to form Hugh Mills Gaye & Company Limited in 1966 and went on to become one of the largest and most respected local builders and funeral directors in the area, constructing many of the local landmark churches and buildings.

Don Hocken joined the business in 1976 and became a Company Director in 1980. The firm were delighted that Don was able to join them at the celebration event, having worked with Walter C. Parson from 2006 when Hugh Mills & Gaye was acquired, until his retirement in 2016.

In 2009, the Newton Abbot office was relocated to Kings House, King Street, to purpose-built premises, including a service chapel which can hold funeral services with up to 30 mourners. This allows families to take advantage of less expensive times at the crematorium, but still hold a meaningful funeral service.

In 2015, premises were opened at Topsham Road in Exeter, completing the group of three offices which are today overseen by Neil Reeves, Principal Funeral Director. In 2020, the Newton Abbot and Torquay offices were re-branded to Walter C. Parson.



At the event, John Ware, Managing Director said "Today, we have 12 offices in total across the South West Peninsula and a fleet of 38 vehicles, including the only BMW hearses and limousines in the UK. We strive to deliver professional care, competitive prices and a seamless service, none of which we could offer without the help of our 80 employees, some of whom are here this evening and all of which continue to be guided by my great-grandfather's ethos of treating each and every family who we serve as if they were one of our own family."

Bennetts
Family business since 1881
Funerals
Supporting the Community

Land Rover Defender
Hearses and
Support Vehicle



Our Land Rover Defender hearses are built on long wheel-base chassis' enabling them to accommodate coffins/caskets up to 7 ft long.
Our matching support vehicle for mourners has 7 seats.

Bennetts Funeral Directors Ltd
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www.landroverfunerals.com

The Direct Cremation Dilemma: Balancing Personal Freedom with the Future of Local Funeral Care

Victoria Wells Deputy Editor, Region C



In recent years, the landscape of end-of-life care has undergone a quiet revolution. Among the most significant shifts is the rapid rise of direct cremation—a process where the deceased is cremated shortly after death without a formal, traditional funeral service beforehand. For many families, direct cremation is not just an practical alternative; it is a thoughtful, deeply personal choice that deserves complete respect.

The reasons behind choosing direct cremation are as varied as the individuals who select it. For some, it is a matter of personal preference—a request made in life to avoid any "fuss" or solemn ceremony. For others, it separates the logistical cremation process from the act of memorialisation, allowing family and friends to organise a bespoke celebration of life at a time and place that feels genuinely meaningful.

Moreover, the sheer complexity of traditional funeral planning plays a major role. Over the decades, funeral services have expanded to include an overwhelming array of choices—coffin styles, floral arrangements, transport options, Order of Service designs, and officiants.
While options are well-intentioned, facing a mountain of decisions during acute grief can feel daunting and unnecessary. Direct cremation strips away the complexity, offering a simple, clear, and dignified alternative.

While direct cremation provides a valuable solution, the structural machine power powering its growth warrants closer examination. For years, direct cremation quietly operated in the background. Larger, heavily funded national companies began marketing the service aggressively, often fronted by friendly celebrity endorsements and polished advertising campaigns.

Behind these smooth advertisements lies a dramatic industrialisation of death care. Massive central mortuary hubs and large-scale processing facilities have sprung up across the country, including in and around small towns. These factory-style facilities operate at a scale previously unseen in the profession, centralised around high-volume, low-margin operations.
While society largely turned a blind eye during the early stages of this trend, the long-term reality of this transition is becoming impossible to ignore.

The most pressing concern is what this concentration of market power means for the future of local funeral care. Independent, family-run funeral directors—who have anchored communities for generations through personalised, hyper-local care—face an unlevel playing field. Small local businesses simply cannot compete with the aggressive pricing, massive marketing budgets, and sheer industrial scale of venture-backed direct cremation giants.

As national direct cremation conglomerates capture a dominant market share, the ripple effect extends far beyond funeral directors to local florists, catering companies, wake venues, and officiants.

Direct cremation is a valid, dignified, and often liberating choice for families seeking simplicity. Its place in modern end-of-life care is well-deserved, and no family should ever feel judged for choosing it.

However, as direct cremation continues to dominate the future of the industry, we must remain mindful of the broader ecosystem. Supporting local, independent funeral directors—many of whom now offer their own personal, locally managed direct cremation options—ensures that families retain freedom of choice without sacrificing the survival of essential community services.

DON'T FORGET!



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

Bookings are now closed. Thank you to everyone who has booked on and we look forward to seeing you there!

Meet Lucy, Founder of Everlight Tribute Films



Hi, I'm Lucy, founder of Everlight Tribute Films.

For the past six years, I've created hundreds of bespoke visual tribute films for families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Everlight was created from a genuine passion for bringing memories to life and creating something that feels personal to the individual being remembered. Over the years, I've learned that a visual tribute isn't simply about putting photographs and music together — it's about capturing the personality, character and story of someone's life.

That's what Everlight is all about: creating something that feels like them.

A Different Way to Discover Everlight

I wanted to do things a little differently when it came to introducing Everlight within funeral homes.

Funeral homes already have a lot of information and packs to share with families. I wanted to find a simple way to introduce Everlight without adding to the information a funeral director needs to explain during what can already be an overwhelming time.

That's where my Everlight remembrance bear comes in.

The bear can sit within the funeral home as a simple, friendly way for families to discover Everlight. If a family is interested in having a tribute film, they can simply scan the QR code, give the bear a cuddle and discover more about Everlight in their own time.

The bear does the introduction, so the funeral director doesn't need to explain everything there and then. It gives families the opportunity to explore Everlight when they're ready. Its tag says:

Everlight Tribute Films
Scan me. Cuddle me.



For me, it's another example of how Everlight tries to think differently — simple, personal and innovative, while always keeping the needs of funeral directors and families at the heart of I do.

A Keepsake That Keeps the Tribute Close

Every Everlight Tribute includes a complimentary QR memorial keepsake card.



Once the tribute has been completed, the family receives a digital copy of their finished film. Rather than relying on a USB stick, we've created a more personal way for families to keep their tribute close.

The memorial card is presented in a protective wallet, with a QR code on the reverse that takes the family directly to their tribute film. With one simple scan, they can revisit those memories whenever they wish, from a phone or other device.

It's more than simply giving a family a digital file. It's giving them something tangible to keep alongside the memories.

I felt this was important because USB sticks can easily be misplaced or forgotten, whereas a memorial card can be kept safely with other treasured keepsakes.

The tribute is hosted through a private link, giving the family a simple and convenient way to access their film for the long term.

It's another small detail, but one that I hope makes a meaningful difference — keeping the memories just one scan away.

Thank you
Lucy
Everlight Tribute
Films

Everlight
MEMORIES LIVE ON

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 you 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.



REGISTERED NUMBER: 06230309 (England and Wales)

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

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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

Date: 05/08/2026

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
		86,634	122,485
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	2,730	3,457
Net current assets		83,904	119,028
Total assets less current liabilities		83,904	119,028
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		83,904	119,028
		83,904	119,028

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

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

continued...

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
	2,730	3,457

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 (99.63% 2025 : 99.64%)		72,399		103,258
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 GRESTY (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 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 Corbbett – 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.



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Evolution Of the Coffin

By Beth Harron

Coffins and Caskets is one of the most important parts of many funeral traditions. Though they may come in different styles and be made from a wide range of materials.

What is the difference between a casket and a coffin?

The word 'Coffin' comes from the ancient Greek word 'Kóphinos', meaning a basket. Coffins are traditionally a six – sided box that is tapered to where the deceased's shoulders would lay making it the widest point of a coffin. A coffin can come in many different materials, which gives families a more personal choice.

A casket is typically rectangular in shape, and they usually have a lid that is on hinges so that you can view the deceased in the casket. Caskets are limited in the materials but vary in the colour of the metal or wood.

When were coffins invented?

The First casket to be constructed was over 5,000 years ago in ancient Egypt. At that time, people believed that the soul could only reach the afterlife if the body was preserved because of this they developed a system of mummification.

Over time, other cultures developed their own methods of preserving a deceased. In the medieval times, bodies were often placed in leech – filled pits or buried in quicklime. It wasn't until the 16th century that coffins started to resemble the ones we use today.

The first wooden coffins were simple boxes with flat lids. It wasn't until 19th century that coffins began to be decorated and personalised.

Caskets were first used in 16th century, though they did not gain widespread use until the Victorian period. Prior to that most people were buried in coffins. The Victorians felt that caskets were more refined and dignified then a basic coffin.





Stone Coffins

For thousands of years, stone has been used to create coffins. The earliest examples date back to the Neolithic period when simple stone boxes were used for funerals. Overtime, the stone coffins became more elaborate, and artists started carving designs into the lids.





The Iron Coffin

This coffin was first created in the 19th century by a stove designer, Almond Dunbar Fisk. The reason this coffin was created was because of the death of Fisk's brother William. At that time, coffins were not widely used, which meant there was no way to return the deceased back to their families for the funeral.

Fisk changed this by creating an airtight coffin that could preserve the body even in the hottest weather and transport the deceased for long distances

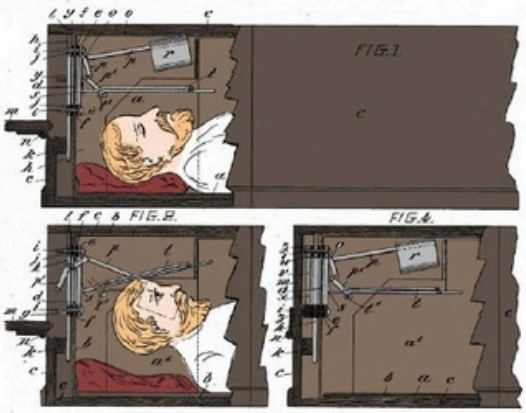






The Safety Coffin

In 1868, coffin makers began to make various designs that would allow people to escape the coffin as they had a fear of being buried alive. This trend was short-lived, fading away once medicine advanced enough to determine if a person had died.



Accredited cpd

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS B.I.F.D

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

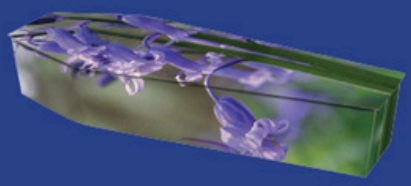
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Directly to you anywhere in the UK or collect from our crematorium.

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- Ashes returned in a casket of your choice
- Ashes returned directly to you anywhere in the UK by secure tracked delivery or collect from our crematorium
- A secure, sensitive and confidential service throughout
- One clear, inclusive price – no hidden extras



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WHAT FAMILIES SAY
ABOUT OUR SERVICE

"We cannot recommend Special Care Cremations highly enough. From the very first conversation, John gave us a genuine sense of comfort during the most heartbreaking time of our lives following the loss and cremation of our son.

John was incredibly kind, patient, compassionate, and professional throughout the entire process. He took the time to answer all of our questions, never rushed us, and treated both our son and our family with the utmost dignity and respect. It was clear that he truly cared and shared in the sadness of our loss, which brought us immense comfort when we needed it most.

The care, empathy, and support we received made an unimaginably difficult time just a little easier to bear. We will always be grateful to John for the exceptional service he provided. We wholeheartedly recommend them to anyone looking for compassionate, respectful, and professional care."

— *Emma Green*

"Hi John, I just wanted to write to you as I didn't get the chance to say goodbye properly yesterday.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for everything you did for us. I was so sorry to hear that you too have experienced the same heartbreak, and I think it's wonderful that you have turned your own grief into a service that brings comfort to so many other families.

Thank you for giving us a peaceful space to say goodbye to our baby and to help our youngest understand, in the best way we could, that we had to let them go. That precious time together is something we will remember for the rest of our lives.

Afterwards, being able to spend time together in such a beautiful, peaceful setting meant so much to us after such a traumatic week.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you."

— *Katie & Joe*

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Advertorial

New Funeral Home Opens in Newton Abbot to Support Local Families



Shirlie Pritchard Funeral Arranger, Kathryn Clark Senior Funeral Director and David Thirkill Area Development Manager outside the new Devon & District Funeral Services funeral home

A new community-focused funeral home backed by one of the UK's largest funeral groups is opening in Newton Abbot this October, providing local families with a new place to turn for care and support when someone passes away.

Devon & District Funeral Services will open its doors on Thursday 1 October at Jean House, Unit 3, Scott Close, Newton Abbot, TQ12 1GJ.

The new funeral home, which is part of the Funeral Partners Group, will be led by Senior Funeral Director Kathryn Clark and will provide funeral arranging services for families across Newton Abbot and the surrounding area.

The premises includes both a dedicated service chapel as well as a chapel of rest. This means they can offer families in the local community a comfortable, welcoming space to hold a celebration of life or funeral service, as well as a private environment to spend time together and say goodbye to their loved ones.

Kathryn, who is local to the area, said: "I'm incredibly proud and excited to be opening Devon & District Funeral Services here in Newton Abbot. Being local myself, it means a great deal to me to be able to support families in my own community and to provide a service that people can turn to when they need it most.

"For me, being a funeral director is about much more than arranging a funeral. It's about listening to families, understanding what matters to them and being there to guide and support them throughout the process. Having a dedicated funeral home with its own service chapel in Newton Abbot means we can offer that personal, local support in a place where families feel comfortable and cared for. I'm really looking forward to meeting local families, building relationships within the community and making Devon & District a funeral home that people know they can rely on."

Supporting Kathryn will be Area Development Manager David Thirkill, who joined Funeral Partners in May 2026 following 12 years working as an area manager within the charity and retail sectors.

David said: "*We at Funeral Partners are incredibly pleased to be bringing Devon & District Funeral Services to Newton Abbot and to become part of the local community. Opening a new funeral home here gives us the opportunity to provide families across Newton Abbot and the surrounding area with a welcoming, modern place where they can receive the care, support and guidance they need at one of life's most difficult times. While the surroundings may be new, our approach remains the same — putting families first, taking the time to listen and making sure every funeral is arranged with care, dignity and attention to detail. We're looking forward to building strong relationships within the community and being here for local families for many years to come.*"

Kathryn and David will welcome visitors to the new funeral home from Oct 1, with an introductory special event to be scheduled later in the month.

Devon & District Funeral Services can be contacted on 01626 240777 or by emailing devonanddistrict.newtonabbot@funeralpartners.co.uk.

Funeral Partners

Four Local Good Causes Share £2,000 From Adair & Neely Community Fund

Four local organisations supporting people across Derry/Londonderry and the surrounding area have received a combined £2,000 boost from the Adair & Neely Funeral Directors Community Fund.

Representatives from Northlands, Sollus School of Dance, Stars Support Group and Youthlife were recently presented with grants of £500 each to support projects ranging from addiction recovery and bereavement support to inclusive play and affordable dance tuition.



The recipients are:

Northlands — the addiction treatment charity will use its award to help refurbish the communal living area at its residential treatment centre on the Dungiven Road. Northlands supports more than 1,000 local people and their families each year through its care services.



Sollus School of Dance – the grant will fund 20 hours of Highland dance tuition for an outreach class at Irish Street Community Centre in the Waterside area. The project aims to make dance tuition more affordable for local families, create opportunities for young tutors and help dancers work towards examinations and competitions.



Stars Support Group – the parent-led Newbuildings group will use its award to buy specialist sensory and motor-skills equipment for its Stay & Play sessions at St Columba's Primary School for children with additional needs, autism and disabilities.



Youthlife – the charity's award will go towards a pilot programme of group Art Therapy for children and young people affected by bereavement. The trauma-informed sessions will give young people a safe space to explore grief, develop coping skills and connect with others who have experienced loss.

The grants were presented by Funeral Manager Wayne Glenn of Adair & Neely Funeral Directors.

Wayne commented: "We are delighted to support four very different organisations which are all doing important work for people in our local community. What really stood out to us was the practical difference these grants can make. Whether it is creating a welcoming environment for people recovering from addiction, giving children an inclusive place to play, helping young people cope with bereavement or making dance classes more accessible, each project is responding to a genuine local need. We are very proud that the Adair & Neely Community Fund can play a small part in helping these organisations continue the fantastic work they are doing.

The Adair & Neely Community Fund was established to provide financial support for community projects making a positive difference to people living close to the funeral home. Applicants are required to demonstrate an identified community need, with funded projects taking place within a five-mile radius of Adair & Neely Funeral Directors.

Funeral Partners

A career path that makes a difference



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funeralpartners.co.uk/story

A recent visit by the British Institute of Funeral Directors (BIFD) to Halliday Funeral Supplies offered an eye-opening look at how modern manufacturing can seamlessly blend high-volume production with cutting-edge environmental responsibility.

As a trusted name in the sector, Hallidays demonstrate that honouring traditional craftsmanship doesn't mean standing still, especially when it comes to green innovation and technological precision.





What immediately strikes any visitor to the facility is its robust commitment to sustainability. Halliday's are a proud Sedex member (Supplier Ethical Data Exchange), reflecting a transparent, ethical approach to global supply chains. Their operational footprint is remarkably lean:

State-of-the-art solar panels harness clean energy, completely powering the factory's operational needs for 5 months of the year.

Wood waste doesn't go to landfills. Instead, an efficient biomass heating system channels offcuts back into thermal energy to heat the facility, achieving a true zero-waste production cycle.

As a FFMA (Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers Association) certified and rigorously audited operation, they ensure that environmental compliance matches structural integrity, their wrapped coffins utilise 30% recycled materials, marrying eco-conscious material sourcing with everyday durability.

Precision Engineering and Scale

Behind the eco-friendly initiatives lies a remarkably high-tech manufacturing floor designed for speed and exactness.

A sophisticated CNC router handles the complex cutting of coffin lids, bottoms, sides, and personalised writing. This computer-guided precision ensures absolute uniformity while easily accommodating bespoke custom requests.

To prevent bottlenecks and maintain flawless output, all major factory machinery is meticulously serviced every six months.

To ensure funeral directors are never left wanting—even during peak seasonal demands—the facility routinely stocks an impressive 32,000 coffins, balancing rapid turnaround times with uncompromising quality control.

The BIFD visit underscored a vital takeaway, the funeral supply sector can successfully evolve to meet modern ecological standards without sacrificing reliability. Through smart automation, strict maintenance routines, and a closed-loop approach to energy and waste, Halliday Funeral Supplies provides a benchmark for sustainable manufacturing in the modern era.

Many Thanks to Phil and family for their warm hospitality and continued support of the institute.

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Clive, Yorks experienced ghost hunter will guide us to the spooky parts of the city

The evening will conclude in a haunted pub

Boo!

For further information please contact Hayley

Hayleyowenfd@gmail.com

MuchLoved Grants Fund Grief Education Projects

Death and bereavement are part of every community, yet many people still feel ill-equipped to talk about them. A fear of saying the wrong thing, causing upset or simply not knowing how to begin, can make conversations about grief difficult to navigate. The result can be greater isolation for bereaved people at a time when understanding and human connection matter most.

This is why death education matters. It can give adults and children the language and confidence to ask questions, talk about difficult feelings, and support someone who is grieving.

Two projects supported by grants from MuchLoved Charitable Trust are helping to do just that, in very different community settings.

Dead Curious has received funding to develop its Dead Curious mini-podcast project for junior schools. The workshops give children the opportunity to take an active role in age-appropriate conversations about death, grief and loss. Each session includes a Q&A where children can ask questions in a safe and comfortable environment, with nothing considered off-limits. The sessions are recorded and edited into a podcast, allowing children to hear their own voices and continue the conversation in class.

Let's Discuss Death CIC is using its grant to deliver bereavement support sessions in libraries. Libraries are trusted and accessible spaces at the heart of local communities, providing a welcoming place for people to connect and find support. The sessions will offer people who are bereaved an opportunity to talk about their experiences, feel less alone and access support in a safe and informal setting. MuchLoved is also planning to develop a national blueprint to enable more libraries to offer sessions with practitioner support.

Catherine Betley, Head of Charity at MuchLoved, said: "Grief education and literacy matters because death and bereavement are part of all our lives, yet many people can feel unsure about what to say, how to respond or where to find support. Building knowledge and confidence around grief helps create communities where people feel more able to have honest conversations and support one another."

The grants scheme is part of MuchLoved's wider commitment to improving bereavement support and encouraging more open conversations about death and grief. For more information, visit https://www.muchloved.com/gateway/muchloved-grants/

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A Masterclass in Craftsmanship: British Institute of Funeral Directors Visits Fearghas Quinn Funeral Cars

The British Institute of Funeral Directors recently enjoyed an insightful, behind-the-scenes visit to Fearghas Quinn Funeral Cars, offering members a rare look into the meticulous artistry and engineering excellence that goes into crafting world-class funeral vehicles.



Known for their unwavering dedication to quality, the Quinn family opened their doors to showcase a manufacturing process that seamlessly blends luxury automotive engineering with bespoke funeral coachbuilding.

Engineering Excellence and Safety

At the heart of Fearghas Quinn Funeral Cars is an official partnership agreement with Mercedes-Benz. Every vehicle begins its journey coming directly from the factory in Germany, ensuring a world-renowned foundation of reliability and luxury.

Safety and structural integrity remain paramount throughout the customisation process.

All designs are completed in house, thoughtfully retaining the standard post A, B, and C pillars. This preserves the original safety cell engineered by Mercedes-Benz.

Vehicle weights are meticulously kept below standard Mercedes thresholds to ensure all manufacturer warranties remain fully intact.

Every single vehicle undergoes independent IVA testing before completion.

The Precision Build Process





Witnessing the transformation from a standard Mercedes vehicle into a bespoke funeral car left members of the Institute in awe of the precision involved:
Each car is stripped entirely down to its shell. Every single part is carefully stored and numbered in designated cages. Thanks to modern automotive programming, parts dismantled from a specific vehicle must return precisely to that same car during reassembly.
The chassis is fitted to specialist jigs, allowing the car to be cut in half and extended. The structure can be moved backwards and forwards while keeping every part completely level to prevent any twisting. If the alignment is out by even a single millimeter, it is rejected.
High-grade fiberglass is utilised to help maintain exceptional structural rigidity.
The car body is built up from fiberglass with doors fitted over a two-week period. It is then primed, baked, painted, baked again, and finally subjected to a meticulous cycle of painting, polishing, and flattening.
By the Numbers

The scale of dedication poured into every build is truly staggering:
1,400 hours of expert craftsmanship per vehicle.
Over 1,600 individual components meticulously fitted per vehicle.
A massive and heartfelt thank you to the Quinn family for their exceptional hospitality, transparency, and time during our visit. Your dedication to raising the standard of funeral vehicles is second to none.

And, of course, a very special thank you for the wonderful teddy bears—a thoughtful touch that was deeply appreciated by everyone at the British Institute of Funeral Directors!





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hayleyowenfd@gmail.com





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THE LAW FIRM GROUP

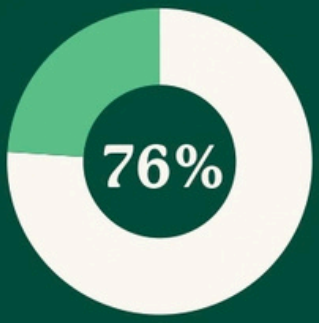
Funeral personalisation research 2026

What would they have wanted?

It's the question every family comes back to.



say what the person wanted guides the decisions about their service



remember personalised music, photos and video as some of the most meaningful moments of a funeral

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Source: The Desire for Funeral Personalisation, HYFI and Curious Edge for Obitus. Online survey of 602 UK adults aged 40+, 21–27 May 2026. 76% base: 402 who arranged or attended a funeral in the past 3 years.

Obitus

What Would They Have Wanted?

New research commissioned by Obitus finds that when families arrange a funeral, the person they are saying goodbye to shapes their choices more than cost or tradition. Today we share what we have learnt, and why Funeral Directors are best placed to act on it.

Funeral Directors will recognise this moment far better than we can. Partway through an arrangement meeting, someone pauses and asks the question beneath every decision: what would they have wanted?

We commissioned research from a third-party research company to understand how much that question shapes a service. Of 602 UK adults aged 40 and over, 89% said what the person wanted would guide their decisions, ahead of keeping costs manageable (72%), the views of other family members (59%) and religious or cultural tradition (49%).

None of this will surprise anyone who sits with families every week, but it's a helpful reminder, that personalisation is less about extras and more about staying true to who someone was. It's also where families find it the hardest to make decisions. When our research group was asked what they wished they had known before arranging a friend or relative's funeral, the most common answer was the wants of the person they were arranging a service for. People planning ahead expect the same consideration: honouring their wishes was their most common concern (30%), followed by family disagreement (24%).

Part of the answer is facilitating these conversations to happen sooner. 95% of participants agreed that discussing funeral wishes in advance takes a huge weight off the family later, yet 45% have not shared their own.

Funeral Directors are often there when that conversation becomes real, and for many families the arrangement meeting is the first time they hear what is possible. Encouraging people to talk about what they would want and helping those arranging a service bring the deceased's wishes to fruition, means more families can leave knowing they did right by the person they love.

Our part is a supporting one. A favourite song at the right moment, a photo tribute that captures a laugh, a live stream that enables those unable to attend to share the day: we try to make these simple to offer and reliable on the day, so Funeral Directors can give their full attention to the family in front of them.

We would welcome your thoughts on how we can support those conversations together. To share your experience or learn more about the research, please email insights@obitus.com

Obitus

REGION C

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at

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6.30pm

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Three courses for £36

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STARTERS

Roast Parsnip & Apple Soup parsnip crisp, crusty bread (V GF *)

Homemade Chicken Liver Paté festive red onion and port chutney, toast, leaf

Skagen Toast prawn, red onion, crème fraîche, dill, toasted sourdough (GF*)

Salt & Pepper Calamari aioli Deep Fried Brie (V) mulled winter chutney

MAIN COURSE

Traditional Roast Turkey Crown (GF*), dripping roast potatoes, creamed mash potato,

sage & onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, glazed roots, wintergreens

Chestnut & Cranberry Roast (VE) served with olive oil roast potatoes, sage & onion stuffing, maple glazed roots, vegan pups in blankets, wintergreens

Christmas Game Burger beef and venison, smoked bacon, deep fried camembert,

cranberry sauce, rocket salad, pig in blanket, chips

Slow Braised Beef Featherblade creamed mash, pearl onions, glazed roots, red wine jus

Chicken, Leek & Pancetta Pie creamy mash, red cabbage, gravy

Roast Cod Loin smoked haddock & chive potato cake, buttered leeks, shellfish & prosecco velouté

Roast Mushroom & Spinach Pithivier (V) buttered winter greens, glazed roots,madeira sauce

Slow Roasted Stuffed Belly Pork black pudding & sage stuffing, fondant potato,

caramelised apple, red cabbage, cider jus

Sirloin Steak +£6 served with chips and peppercorn, rocket winter salad (GF*)

DESSERTS

Traditional Christmas Pudding served with brandy sauce (VE* GF*)

Mulled Apple & Pear Crumble with custard

Amaretto Crème Brulée

Yorkshire Cheese Selection +£2.50 (GF*) Harrogate blue, cheddar, Wensleydale, festive chutney, celery, grapes, biscuits

Chocolate Orange Cheesecake

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How Direct Cremation Is Changing the Funeral Sector

By Richard Martin, Scattering Ashes

A Fault Line Is Forming
The Funeral Sector Is Changing, and Things Are Starting to Crack

The Old Equilibrium

The plates are shifting in the funeral sector, and I don't think they are shifting back.
Ask me ten years ago whether a crematorium would stock my memorial items and the answer would almost always have been a polite: "No thanks." Likewise, even a couple of years ago, when I spoke to funeral directors about the Ashes Register, the response was often the same

Not necessarily because they disliked the idea, or thought families would not benefit from the service, and not even because there was no commercial logic to it. They simply did not need to, and they certainly did not want to upset the apple cart.
There was an equilibrium. Funeral directors looked after the family, crematoria provided the facility, suppliers supplied, and everyone knew their place in the chain.

Direct cremation changed the price architecture

The plates are now shifting after the first seismic event in years: direct cremation.
Let us be blunt: direct cremation has changed the price architecture of funerals. Where a traditional funeral might easily come in at £4,000-plus, the public has now been shown that the actual cremation and disposal of a body can be done for well under £2,000.

Pure Cremation, and others like them, did not just create a new service. They set a reference price in the public's mind. They showed people there was another way. Whether you like that or not, it has moved the market.
At the same time, crematoria have been operating for years under a fairly simple market mantra: can we charge more? If yes, then we probably will.

This is not necessarily greed. It is just market forces. If demand is there, if competitors are charging similar amounts, and if families continue to pay, then prices rise. And when crematoria ask themselves whether that is competitive, they naturally look sideways. They look at what Crematorium X is charging. They look at what Crematorium Y is charging. They say: "Well, we are broadly in line with the market."
This is where the pressure starts to build.

Why funeral directors are in a bind

The funeral director is the one presenting the final bill to the family. The crematorium fee might be a disbursement. It might be passed on transparently — or not — but largely this is outside the funeral director's control.

Like most customers, families look at the figure in the bottom right-hand corner: the total. They do not necessarily separate out who gets what. They do not always think: "Ah yes, £1,500 of that is the crematorium." They think: "This funeral is expensive."

This has put the funeral director in a bind. On one side, they are losing market share to direct cremation providers. On the other, a big chunk of the bill they present to the family is the crematorium fee, over which they have little or no control. That puts pressure on the funeral director to respond.

The astute funeral director starts thinking: "Right, I need to compete. I need to offer a better service at a more competitive price. I need to show better value for money, because if I do not, some families will go down the direct route."

Now, I do not believe the average bereaved family would necessarily choose direct cremation, as I suspect most would prefer to gather in some way, if all things were equal.

But all things are not equal. Money tips the scales.

Money tips the scales

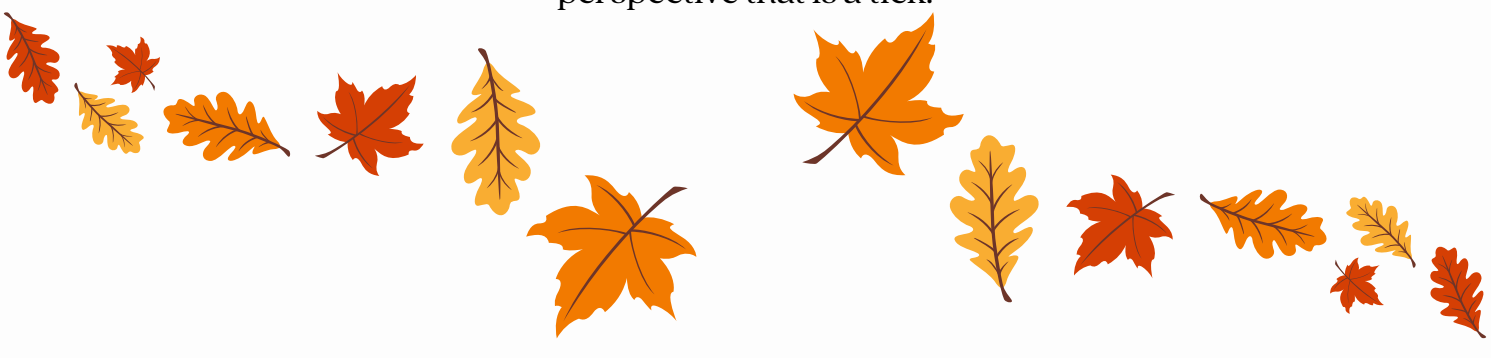
So the funeral director looks again at the structure of the funeral and thinks: "Hang on a minute. Could I save the family £600, £700, maybe more, by changing the way the service is delivered?"

Instead of booking a full crematorium service slot, perhaps they use a direct cremation after the committal and hold the main ceremony elsewhere. Say a hotel. A church. A village hall. Or a community space, such as a favourite pub. Somewhere meaningful and, importantly, flexible. And cheaper.

The committal can happen at the end of the service. People can stay. The wake can happen in the same place. There is no dreaded 40-minute conveyor belt.

As someone senior in the industry said to me recently: "People can't justify an extra £600 for 40 minutes."

If a funeral director can offer a more personal service at a cheaper price, then from the family's perspective that is a tick.



The James Bond mentality

Now this is another thing Pure and others have done: they have broken what I shall call the James Bond mentality.

"What is this nonsensical term you have just invented, Richard?" I hear the vast majority of you say.

Well, after years of chatting with friends outside the industry, I asked one of them: "What do you think happens when they draw the curtains at the crematorium?"

After a pause for thought, one replied: "Err, like in that James Bond film where he is trapped in the coffin and ends up straight in the furnace?"

There was general agreement that this was probably what happened. The body was cremated at the end of the service. No waiting. No storage. Just curtains, music, furnace.

That link has now been broken.

People seem to accept that bodies may be moved around the country to increase efficiency and reduce cost. So, if that is accepted, why not have the service away from the crematorium as well? For many families, that part does not seem to matter in the way it once might have done.

By the way, I have not finished with this point, because it does come back into play later.

Why crematoria have to respond

So everyone is happy now, right?

Nope.

This new funeral utopia has its impact, because the crematoria start to feel the ground move beneath them. From their perspective, if a crematorium loses £3,000 a day in premium service slots, that does not leave a pothole in the annual accounts; it leaves a chasm, because fixed costs are, by their nature, fixed.

Then, if the income from attended services starts to fall, crematoria have to respond. And this is where the rift begins to appear.

Crematoria start looking at the market and thinking: "If funeral directors are using direct cremation to offer an alternative, should we be offering our own version? We have the facility and the space. All we need is a private ambulance and a punchy website and we have got ourselves a funeral business."

Or, put another way: "We can offer a more personal version of what Pure are offering, but on a local level."

So we will see it: direct cremation, direct cremation plus, premium direct, premium plus extra. Call it what you will.

The crematorium, which once saw itself largely as a facility serving funeral directors, begins marketing more directly to the public.

And crematoria do have advantages. Not just the actual cremators and the chapel, but the seating capacity, the parking, the grounds and the fact that people know what they are and where their loved ones have previously gone.

The Final Journey Advantage

They also have what I am going to call the Final Journey Advantage.

Yes, I grant you, coining two terms in one blog is stretching it a bit, but hear me out.

I attended the very sad funeral of a friend recently. It was conducted off site, and the family had clearly been persuaded by the argument above: more time, more flexibility, a more personal venue. However, when the committal was carried out, the widow and children then accompanied the coffin on its final journey. They did not want Dad doing that bit on his own.
That matters.

More choice, but more cracks

So how does the public fare from all this?

Actually, without wishing to incur the ire of my fellow funeral professionals, I think the public may fare fairly well.

They are getting more choice. They are getting different price points. They are being offered services that may better reflect what they actually want, rather than what the structure of the industry has traditionally provided. In many ways, this is a market operating as a market should.

But — and there is always a but — tectonic activity causes earthquakes.

Yes, I am carrying on with the geological metaphor. Sorry.

When plates shift, pressure is released. New landscapes can form. But things also crack, and sometimes they fall apart, and sadly we know what that looks like: Legacy, Elkin and Bell, and others.

So whilst we usher in this new age, we need to be vigilant about the wider impact and consequences. More choice is good. Better value is good. More flexible funerals are good. But if the sector gets this wrong, fragile businesses will collapse, families will become more confused, and trust will take another hit.

The plates are shifting. The question is whether we build something better on the new ground, or simply watch things fall into the cracks.



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