BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THE JOURNAL

ISSUE 11



President's Chosen Charity

Margate RNLI lifeboat station saving lives at sea since 1860

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For over 165 years, Margate RNLI Lifeboat Station has played a vital role in protecting lives along the Kent coastline.



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The £3.5 million redevelopment will provide improved training and changing facilities, accommodation for lifeguards, a community space and environmentally sustainable features, helping to protect the future of this essential lifesaving service.

RNLI Lifeboats









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Lifeboats

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Obitus

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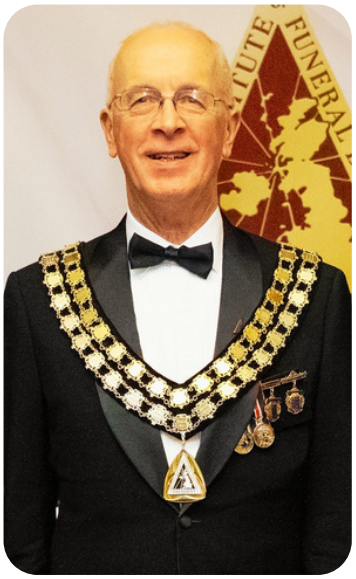
Letter from the National President

Phil Gore



Hello all, as this is my first piece as president, I'm still finding my way through the many and varied tasks of a BIFD president.

Of course the very first task of a president is to work out how to put the chain of office away in the very robust case that is supplied. However after no more than a moment's ingenuity, I had it safely stowed away, ready for my second official engagement as president, at the Funeral Suppliers Association.

This took place at Kenilworth where a mixture of familiar faces celebrated the year with their president, David Fry. It's a long trek from my native Margate for an evening of food and music, but it was well worth it to meet up with BIFD members and those connected with the manufacture of all the various articles connected with furnishing funerals.



Of course prior to Christmas there is Remembrance Sunday, when the nation gathers to recall the sacrifice of others. I have been the parade commander for more than a decade and the roles of 'being in charge' blend very well with that of very large funerals. There are plenty of people to be mindful of and a schedule to adhere to, plus the presence of (in our case) about two thousand youthful and not-so-youthful people, gathered in an atmosphere of commemoration.

Warmest regards

Phil

Philip Gore

National President

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The British Institute of Funeral Directors

45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
22 - 24 OCTOBER 2027

HYTHE IMPERIAL HOTEL
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National President, Dr. Phil Gore and his wife Liz, welcome you to Kent.
Members, fellows, students, associates & guests are invited to attend the upcoming conference and gala dinner of The British Institute of Funeral Directors



Steeped in history and Victorian elegance, the magnificent Hythe Imperial Hotel has been welcoming visitors to the Kent coastline since 1880.



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BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS CPD EVENTS

Dec 2nd

The Law Firm

Online session about planning ahead, helping families protect their future

Jan 13th

Dom Watson

Online CPD session with Dom Watson about growing your business and how to prepare to sell you business

Feb 17th

Survivors of bereavement from suicide

Online CPD session from the charity

March 24th

Dom Watson

Online CPD session, delivered from Dom the 2nd of 3 CPD sessions about business growth

April 1st

Visit to Landican Cemetery & Crematorium

The BIFD and guests are invited to attend Landican Cemetery & Crematorium

April 22nd

Asta Vision

Special guest speaker Asta, from Asta Vision, Online CPD event, World renowned disabilty rights advocate

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Enquiries & further information contact Hayley - cpd@bifd.org.uk

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



Unforgotten

The hands of time may turn, the
pages of history may flip,
But the saga of their courage
remains unforgotten
In the echo of gunfire, in the
whisper of winds,
Their tales of valor continue to
inspire

Do you feel it in the depth of your being?
The resonance of resilience, the echoes
of endurance,
Their footprints etched on the sands of
time,
Remain unforgotten, forever imprinted
on our minds.

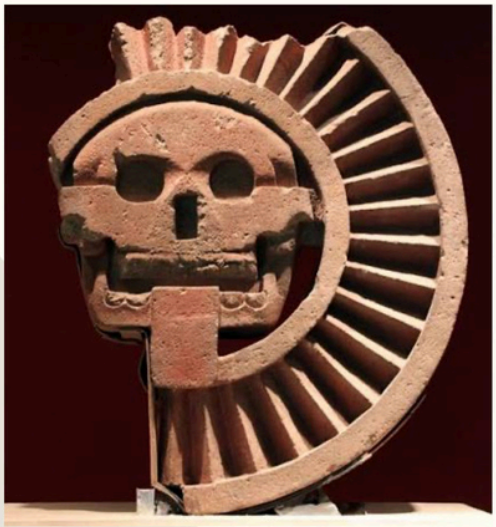
DAY OF THE DEAD

31ST OCTOBER - 2ND NOVEMBER

BY BETH HARRON

Traditionally Día de los Muertos is celebrated over 1st and 2nd of November. This holiday involved family and friends gathering to pay respect and to remember their loved ones who have died. It is also about making peace with the eventuality of death by treating it without fear and dread.

ORIGINS



The day of the dead was derived from ancient mesoamerican (Aztec and Maya) rituals that viewed death as a continuation of life. These civilisations believed that the spirits of the dead remain connected to the living and can return periodically to share in the earthly world.

Among the Aztecs, there was a common belief that after death the soul embarks on a long journey through 'Chicunamictián' (Land of the Dead), before reaching their final resting place. The underworld realm is governed by the Lord and Lady of the Dead. It is believed that the passage takes several years.



When Spanish Colonizers arrived in 16th Century, they brought with them Roman Catholic observances. (all saints day and all souls day).

The resulting syncretic tradition honoured both Christian and Pre-Hispanic understandings of life and death. Today Día de los Muertos embodies the blending of beliefs and stands as both a remembrance of the dead and a testament to resilience of Indigenous traditions.

CUSTOMS



People will build home altars ‘Ofrendas’ using photos, candles, flowers, incense, salt and food.

This is usually built on 31st October and normally taken own before the end of the holiday on 2nd November.

These will typically incorporates offerings that represents the four elements of nature.

Fire is represented by candles that light the spirits’ path.

Water is for purification

Earth is shown by food that is prepared to nurish them.

Wind is reflected in the delicate paper banners known as ‘Papeles Picados’. It is believed they allow the soul to pass through



FOOD



Food plays an important part in the rituals in the day of the dead as they believe it helps nourish their loved ones to make the journey back to the living world.

The most popular food offered is sugar cookies in the shape of a skull ‘Calaveras’, sometimes inscribed with the name of the pearson who has died.

‘Calabaza en tacha’, candied pumpkin with numerous regional variations sybolizes the sweet bounty of life in many places.

REGIONAL TRADITIONS

In Oaxaca, Mexico it is renowned for hosting some of the most elaborate and deeply rooted. The day of the dead is time of a reunion between generations, marked by art, music and communial devotion. The most distinctive feauture is the creation of 'Tapetes de arena', which are carpets created with sand, often crafted in homes, churches, streets and public squares.

Mexico City is the most popular for tourists to visit during this holiday. The celebration was introduced in 2016 as a part to promote tourism and help bring income into the city. The celebration features elaborate costumes, floats and artistic performances that been traditional imagery with contemporary spectical.



The festival de Barriletes Gigantes 'Giant Kite Festival' in Guatemala is held each yearon 1st November for the day of the dead. Made primarily of coloured tissue paper posted onto bamboo frames. Many of the largest kites are displayed upright as messages to the spirits of the dead and keep evil spirits at bay.





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For further information please contact Hayley

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Advertorial

James Brown & Sons Celebrates £100,000 Community Funding Milestone



Belfast funeral directors James Brown & Sons, part of the Funeral Partners family of businesses, has reached a £100,000 milestone through its Community Fund.

Established in 2021, the fund supports local organisations delivering projects that benefit communities across Belfast.

Grants have helped make everyday food more affordable, supported activities for older people and provided new experiences for children and families.

James Brown, grandson of the business's founders, said: "James Brown & Sons has been part of Belfast for more than 120 years. The Community Fund gives us another way to support the communities we serve, by helping local organisations respond to the needs they see every day.

"Reaching £100,000 is an opportunity to recognise the staff and volunteers whose commitment turns these grants into practical support for local people."

Three organisations supported by the fund illustrate the range of projects benefiting from the initiative.



In This Together, which runs a social supermarket serving 1,339 registered households in East and South Belfast, has used funding for its Fill A Fridge campaign, helping families access affordable essentials such as milk, cheese, butter and eggs.



Engage With Age has received support for activities helping older people remain active and connected, including its Active Ageing Together project and Dementia Friendly East Belfast What's On Guide. Funding for materials, venues and transport has helped remove barriers to participation, with the organisation reporting that its work has reached more than 120 older people locally.

Walkway Community Association has used grants to support its summer scheme, involving more than 100 children over two consecutive years. Funding has helped provide educational outings, healthy meals and creative activities, while additional support for its Christmas Hamper Appeal enabled the organisation to provide 60 family hampers and help older residents.



James added: “These are just three examples of the many projects supported over the past five years. We’ve seen how relatively small grants can help groups reach more people and keep valuable local services going. We’re proud to play a part in that work.”

For more information, visit: www.jamesbrownfuneraldirectors.com/james-brown-sons-community-fund/.

Funeral Partners is the UK’s third largest funeral business, with more than 300 funeral homes staffed by over 1,300 dedicated funeral professionals serving communities across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, as well as a regulated funeral plan provider of Choice Funeral Plans.

Chief Executive Sam Kershaw has over 45 years’ experience in the funeral profession, joining the business back in 2016 as Chief Operating Officer. Funeral Partners has been established for over 18 years and has grown rapidly, building a strong reputation as a trusted, well-run, high-quality funeral services business and funeral plan provider, with exemplary standards of care for the deceased and their clients, overseeing more than 30,000 funerals nationally each year.

It now includes more than 150 family businesses, which have entrusted their reputation and heritage to Funeral Partners.

Funeral Partners Limited (FPL) is an appointed representative of Alternative Planning Company Limited (APCL) which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority with firm reference number 965282. Choice Funeral Plans are provided by APCL. Both FPL and APCL are part of the Funeral Partners Group.

Contact: For more information about Funeral Partners visit www.funeralpartners.co.uk or https://corporate.funeralpartners.co.uk/ For more information about Choice Funeral Plans visit www.choiceplan.co.uk For all media enquiries please contact pressenquiries@funeralpartners.co.uk

Goals 4 GOSH Surpasses £275,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity



Goals 4 GOSH, a star-studded charity football match, led by Jamie Groves, Divisional Performance Director at Funeral Partners, has raised more than £275,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity (GOSH Charity) since 2021.

The impressive total of £275,423 has been raised through the annual Goals 4 GOSH football match and a series of additional fundraising events, bringing together colleagues, businesses, sponsors, volunteers and supporters in aid of GOSH Charity.

Organised with his co-founder Charlotte Styles and a team of dedicated volunteers, the event has grown organically year-on-year, attracting high-profile names from across sport, entertainment and social media and has become a much wider community fundraising initiative.

Supported by sponsors Funeral Partners and Choice Funeral Plans, it has brought together colleagues, businesses, volunteers and supporters all in the name of raising as much money as possible to support seriously ill children.

Jamie was recently invited to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) to mark his latest fundraising milestone, where he was surprised by members of the GOSH Charity team with a special celebration to thank him for his continued support and dedication over the years.

Speaking about supporting GOSH Charity, Jamie said:

"Having the opportunity to volunteer and support GOSH Charity on a continuous basis throughout the years has shown me first-hand the incredible work that takes place there every day. Seeing the difference that the charity makes for children and families provides all the motivation we need to keep pushing Goals 4 GOSH forward. To have raised more than £275,000 since 2021 is something everyone involved should be enormously proud of. Charlotte and I are incredibly grateful to all of the sponsors, players, volunteers, supporters and donors who have helped make this possible. This achievement belongs to every single person who has supported Goals 4 GOSH along the way.
I was genuinely touched by the surprise thank-you from the team at GOSH Charity. It was a wonderful reminder of why we continue to do what we do."

This year's event, held at Bromley Football Club's CopperJax Community Stadium, raised a record £61,403. The celebrity match player line-up included: former Premier League footballer Wayne Routledge, ex-England international Lianne Sanderson, YouTube stars Danny Aarons and Sharky, Paul Gorton and winner Jake Brown from the hit BBC reality show 'The Traitors', ex-
Premier League player Adrian Mariappa, Sky Sports Presenter Olivia Buzaglo and finally former Chelsea and lioness stars Katie Chapman and Gemma Davison.

The funds raised will support GOSH Charity's 'Build it. Beat it.' appeal — the biggest fundraising appeal in the Charity's history to help build a world-leading new Children's Cancer Centre at GOSH. Currently under construction, the Children's Cancer Centre will be a state-of-the-art facility that will serve as a new home for breakthrough treatments and pioneering research, helping to beat cancer for more children. It will be more than just a building; it will drive transformation in children's cancer care and help save more lives.

Reflecting on the milestone, Jamie added:
"While it's important to celebrate what has been achieved, we're already looking ahead to the future. There is a fantastic community behind Goals 4 GOSH and we're excited to continue building on this success and supporting the incredible work of GOSH Charity for years to come."

The latest fundraising total is a testament to the dedication of everyone who has supported Goals 4 GOSH since 2021 and highlights the powerful impact that community fundraising can have when people come together behind a shared cause.

Gabi Field, Deputy Director of Public Fundraising at GOSH Charity, said: *"Every year we are incredibly grateful to Jamie and Charlotte for their commitment to fundraising for GOSH Charity through Goals 4 GOSH. To have raised more than £275,000 since 2021 is an incredible achievement, and we are truly blown away by the generosity, commitment and dedication behind this remarkable milestone. The continued support shown year after year is hugely inspiring, and raising such an incredible amount is a testament to the hard work from everyone involved."*



"At GOSH Charity, we are committed to giving seriously ill children the best chance, and the best childhood possible — something we simply couldn't do without the support of people like Jamie and Charlotte."

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Paul & Anghus Weightman
Godalming Funeral Service

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Grief and Stress: Coping and Conclusions

Philip Gore MBIFD, Ph. D.

A number of unexpected reasons have delayed this concluding paper on grief and stress. I hope that the membership can bear with me. It may well be that there are those who might wonder how things have changed for us in our daily world, which might contribute to coping with stress. When I spoke to my father's generation between 1989 and 1992, the largest majority of them had 'undertaken' funerals as a distraction to their major occupation of builders, timber merchants and carpenters. Their working days were only infrequently interrupted by funerals, to which only a passing fraction of their time was devoted. They had plenty of other concerns to distract them. I got the impression that for all of them, their major occupation was periodically interrupted by the occasional funeral.

We need to recognise the significance of this. The internal world within funeral service today has changed out of all recognition to that of the fairly recent past, although to the general public nothing much appears to have evolved. There is still a hearse and conductor at the local crematorium, but all personnel involved rarely do anything else now except attend funerals.

I'm not decrying the focus of staff of the past, but if they were pulled off a building site to turn up at a cemetery, they were soon back laying bricks or engaged in carpentry tasks. There has been a tremendous concentration within the funeral world and we need to recognise this and, as the leading agents within the funeral profession, be aware of and be mindful of possible issues connected to constant exposure to mortality. There are useful techniques to relax and distract oneself from the demands of work. Having a hobby away from work is useful; you can distract yourself from the rigors of the day and do something you enjoy, whilst relaxing.

Having a boundary between work and leisure is very helpful too. A useful boundary is the physical distance between work and home. I am in the fortunate position of living a mile away from our office, so I regularly walk to and fro, which keeps the muscles working and allows a certain amount of decompressing after a busy day. Our family home when I was a child was a mere four doors away from the office. My dad didn't have the option of a long walk home, but there again he had fought through the second world war, so perhaps funerals were far more relaxing, compared to being shot at by Germans.

There are other ways to cope with stress. Being organised, with sufficient helpful staff can reduce the burden on you can be very helpful. You don't have to do it all yourself, although you must have confidence in the right people to help you. This can spread the load. Of course you need some managerial skills for this. 'Having a dog and barking too' (to use an old saying) is not really very helpful. Of course there is the issue of habituation. This is when one becomes used to a certain situations, so that familiarity enables coping to be more easily attained.

I recall when our children were very young, that infant deaths were very difficult for me. Each baby looked like one of ours. As cot deaths were mercifully rare, this was a persistent issue, until the local hospital funeral contract exposed us to large numbers of tiny individuals and their associated tiny funerals. I realised after about forty of these events that they had become far more routine and were consequently easier to manage. This doesn't mean that I had become hardened to the trauma of infant funerals. I have often commented that at infant funerals 'there's not much happening but there's a lot going on'. There is a balance between coping and not caring. I hope that I don't have to explain this. Being now older and wiser I make sure that our new staff are able to manage problematic funerals by gradually exposing them to these difficult situations. I have often commented that being upset by these difficult occasions is not a sign of weakness but is a normal reaction. Sometimes you just need to get through some moments. You can do this by anticipating difficult parts of the funeral, or by devising elements to help you manage.

At a particularly difficult baby funeral, more than thirty five years ago, I was singing in my head the song 'I am H.A.P.P.Y.' in an effort to get through the service. It was a bit of an act of desperation, but it helped. If one of our team has a child the same age as one of our infant funerals I spend time with them, to make sure that they are coping. I don't mean to diminish the funerals of the very elderly, since they are a large part of any funeral director's day, but life expectancy means death is not unfamiliar with the extremely old.

Conversely, as a funeral director, I often describe my occupation as being more than just a job, it's a way of life. However whilst we all have busy and dynamic days, it would be difficult to keep this level of activity up all the time. Perhaps its just me, but I find that activity comes in peaks and troughs and for the forward looking, using the troughs to prepare your team or to enhance 'on the job' training is a useful way to manage future challenges. Investing in your team is a time consuming but useful activity.

I think it sensible to comment that we all might be overwhelmed by different occasions. I had the dubious privilege recently of a trio of difficult funerals of young mums in their 'forties. Being the most experienced member of staff, this is my role & responsibility and I have no problem with that; but it was demanding and draining. However I was ready for this. There is a lot of input in such events and the biggest part of this was that each event followed another in quick succession. Having a calm head on your shoulders and being well prepared is vital. So to summarise, I think it helpful to recognise that there are times when more is happening that you can comfortably deal with. Preparing and planning for these events is vital. Organising is a vital key. I often comment that I have concerns about some matters, but I try not to worry. This is counterproductive. Being a little concerned and nervous is normal.

So what sort of coping strategies could you employ? Perhaps the first step is to recognise that there is an issue in the first place. Forewarned is forearmed. Being ready for a 'moment' that might ambush you is better than fielding it whilst wondering what is going on. After being debriefed in Thailand, after the southeast Asia tsunami, we were able to work through what had been, in hindsight, some truly traumatic experiences. Other members of my team were very resistant to what the psychologist was working at. No one can impose help upon you, you'll need to choose to avail yourselves of it. I found the debrief really helpful and a way of 'unburdening'.

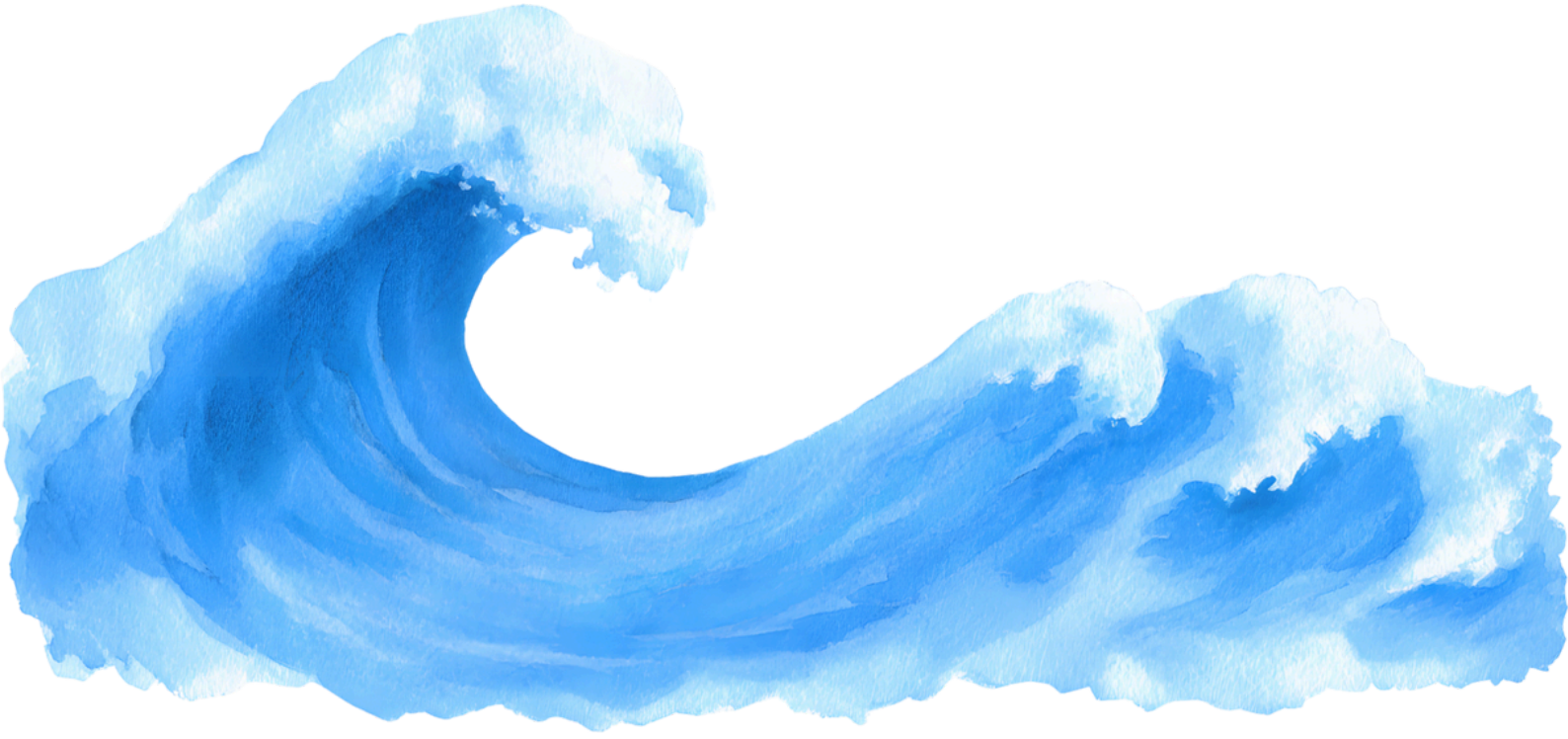
As I have mentioned some time ago, having a hobby away from work means that you have other things to distract you when you are not at work. I often mention to some of my team at home that families come to us for help, not necessarily our tears. You can show you care by doing your job. I decided to join the local lifeboat crew when I was fifty, as I felt that I needed to be somewhere else at times. Being part of a team that saves lives was a very valuable experience for me.





I have already mentioned the concept of being able to insulate yourself from some rigors by the sheer volume of the funerals of the young that become part of your day, when your career is measured in decades. At some point there needs to be a balance between the concept of a funeral being 'just another event' and that of it being a huge emotional ordeal. You will always find a particularly traumatic event that is more than just routine, but if you are ready, you will manage better. By way of an example, we were involved with the funeral of a naval aviator from the second Gulf conflict. It was a huge event and to make sure I had as much support as possible on the day, I had a step-by-step list of details, in chronological order that covered three pages. The action of generating this document was extremely helpful. It also meant that I didn't have to remember everything in chronological order, so I had more mental energy for anything else that might have happened. I also had my most dependable man as my hearse driver, a man of great experience and insight, who was a great help on the day, who is now one of my business partners.

So as funeral directors in the funeral world, we need to take a lead in managing our grieving families and personnel before, during and after the funeral. No one else in our world is qualified to manage this and our qualification and experience means that it will be us who step into the breach day by day to demonstrate our competency with the bereaved. There may be many who are still rising to the peak of their professional life, but I would like to think that they have our institute behind them as they navigate the trials of the day.



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Session starts at 6.30pm

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- **Future planning so funeral professionals can better support families beyond bereavement.**

THE LAW FIRM GROUP

What thousands of tributes tell us about how people remember

With more families choosing unattended cremations, smaller gatherings or more personalised ways to say goodbye, funeral choices are changing. However, regardless of the form a funeral takes, people's emotional needs remain unchanged. Families want to remember, share stories, connect with others and do something meaningful in their loved one's name.

MuchLoved's experience of hosting hundreds of thousands of online tributes offers a window into how remembrance continues long after the funeral, and what this means for funeral directors adapting to families' changing wishes.



Remembrance doesn't end when the funeral does

MuchLoved page visits peak on special days such as birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas, when lighting a candle or leaving a message are thoughtful ways to remember. In fact, 20% of tribute pages created two years ago are still in regular use, showing that they form a meaningful part of the grieving process, long after the funeral. Pictures are the most popular way to contribute after donation. On average, nine pictures are added to a tribute, so it's clear they are fundamental to how we remember someone. Sharing photos helps keep treasured memories safe.

Remembering through giving

Some 93% of tributes created by funeral directors go on to raise charitable donations. Most donations are made within the first six weeks, but fundraising can continue long after the funeral and 8% of family-created tributes go on to organise fundraising activities.

For some bereaved individuals, collecting donations, and going on to continue fundraising for the same charity can be a meaningful way to feel connected to the person who died, by doing so in support of a charity that meant a lot to their loved one. This can be understood as an expression of 'continuing bonds,' or in other words, an ongoing feeling of connection to the person who has died, which is a feeling that may offer some comfort. Research with people who have chosen to fundraise in memory suggests it can also bring a new sense of purpose and social connection. However, what feels right will differ from person to person, and fundraising can be something they can choose to return to in their own time.

Adapting to changing wishes

As the funeral profession adapts to families' changing wishes, it is important to look beyond the day and consider how people can be supported as they navigate grief.

Catherine Betley, Head of Charity at MuchLoved, says: "The way we say goodbye may change, but our need to remember and remain connected with the people we love does not. That's why creating opportunities for people to share memories, support one another and celebrate a life can make such a difference long after the funeral has taken place."

Families often express gratitude for the tribute page their funeral director has set up - a free, personal keepsake they may not have known was available. Although it is difficult to predict who will get comfort from a page, giving families and friends access means they can come together and support one another in their own time.

MuchLoved pages can also be a gateway to additional support for people who are struggling to cope with their grief. GriefChat is a free online service connecting them with a qualified grief counsellor, and accessible via their MuchLoved tribute page.




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The Association of Independent Celebrants Annual Conference

16th & 17th October 2026

I was delighted and honoured to be invited to attend the Association of Independent Celebrants (AOIC) Annual Conference, held in Reading on 16th and 17th October 2026, where I was asked to deliver two educational talks on behalf of the British Institute of Funeral Directors.

The conference was held during the presidency of Brian Bull, with Rebecca Boothroyd preparing to take over as the incoming AOIC President. The event brought together celebrants from across the country for two days of education, networking, professional development and celebration.

The event partner was Obitus, with Westerleigh Group supporting the conference as the event sponsor.

I attended the conference with my husband, Diddy, and our daughter, Hermione. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet celebrants, share my knowledge and experience of the funeral profession, and gain a greater understanding of the important role celebrants play in supporting bereaved families.

Friday - Direct Cremations and the changing funeral profession

My first educational talk took place on Friday and focused on the growing demand for direct cremations and how funeral directors and celebrants can respond to these changes. I discussed how the funeral profession has evolved over the years, looking at some of the history of funeral directing and comparing traditional funeral practices with the choices available to families today. Direct cremation has become an increasingly popular option, and I explored the challenges and opportunities this presents for both funeral directors and celebrants. An important part of my presentation was considering how we can continue to provide families with meaningful opportunities to remember and celebrate the lives of their loved ones, even when they choose not to have a traditional funeral service. I believe that funeral directors and celebrants have an important role in working together, ensuring that families are fully informed about their options and receive the care, guidance and support they deserve.

Saturday - Care of the deceased



On Saturday, I delivered my second educational talk, which focused on the care of the deceased, an area of the funeral profession that I am particularly passionate about. As a qualified funeral director, embalmer and tutor for The British Institute of Funeral Directors, I discussed the importance of maintaining the highest professional standards when caring for someone who has died. The session generated considerable interest, with AOIC members asking many questions about the practical aspects of caring for the deceased.

It was encouraging to see how interested the celebrants were in understanding what happens behind the scenes within a funeral home. I particularly enjoyed this session because it provided an opportunity to share knowledge that celebrants may not ordinarily encounter in their day-to-day work. I believe that a greater understanding of the care provided by funeral professionals can help celebrants when supporting families and answering their questions.

A special guest speaker

One of the highlights of the AOIC Conference was the attendance of the well-known Welsh singer and television presenter Aled Jones, who has undertaken training to become a celebrant. Aled also delivered a talk to AOIC members during the conference, which was a wonderful addition to the weekend.

His attendance certainly created a great deal of excitement, particularly amongst many of the female celebrants, who were delighted to have the opportunity to meet him and have their photographs taken with him. It was lovely to see such enthusiasm and to have a familiar face from the world of music and television involved in the conference.



Saturday evening

On Saturday evening, Diddy, Hermione and I attended the conference dinner and awards ceremony. It was a lovely occasion and an opportunity to spend time with AOIC members in a more relaxed setting. The awards ceremony provided an opportunity to recognise the dedication, achievements and contributions of individuals working within the celebrant profession. These included, Outstanding Funeral Celebrant, Outstanding Couple/Family Celebrant, The Debbie Brooke Award & the AOIC Member Recognition Award.

It was lovely to see members of the profession being recognised for their hard work, commitment and the difference they make to the families they support. The evening was also an opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of President Brian Bull and look ahead to the incoming presidency of Rebecca Boothroyd.



















Working within the funeral profession requires knowledge, compassion, professionalism and an understanding of the many legal, practical and emotional responsibilities involved. Equally, embalming is a highly skilled profession where appropriate qualifications and practical competence are particularly important to ensure the deceased are treated with dignity and respect. Celebrants also have an important responsibility, and I believe that formal training and professional development help equip them with the knowledge and confidence to support families through some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

As a dedicated tutor for the British Institute of Funeral Directors. I am committed to educating and supporting the next generation of funeral professionals and take great pride in delivering the Certificate and Diploma in Funeral Service and believe that maintaining and developing this qualification is essential to securing the future of the Institute and upholding professional standards within funeral directing.

I am proud to represent The British Institute of Funeral Directors as a tutor and CPD coordinator and teaching the Certificate & Diploma course in funeral service to encourage future generations to become qualified funeral professionals and to secure the long-term future of the Institute. Above all, I believe that qualifications should represent genuine knowledge, practical competence and a commitment to providing the very highest standards of care.

The Legacy Lives On



Each year as November comes
to call.
We remember, one and all,
The legacy they left behind
Courageous hearts, the
strongest kind,
Their echo felt in every hall.

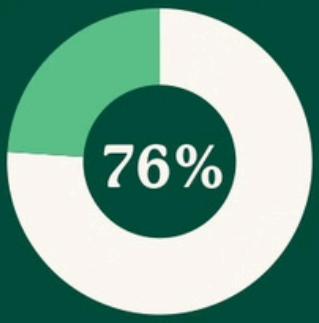
Funeral personalisation research 2026

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

You help them find the answer. We help you deliver it.
Visit **www.obitus.com** to find out more.



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

REGION C

CHRISTMAS DINNER

at

Stansfield Arms

Apperley Lane, Apperley Bridge,
Bradford, BD10 0NP

Thursday 3rd December

6.30pm

Two courses for £32

Three courses for £36

please send your menu choice to Hayley & any dietery requirments by Thursday 26th November

RSVP cpd@bifd.org.uk

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

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

SPRING EDUCATION DAY

Saturday 6th March



Venue: Gedling super Venue, Nottingham Crematorium, NOTTINGHAM

Join us for a day of informative sessions, industry speakers, and networking.

For Bookings and Registration:
email admin@bifd.org.uk

EVENT SPONSORS

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