

Team News

We always have lots happening in the team, here is just a taste of what's been going on...



Left: Caroline Gunn, from our Sawbridgeworth branch, is pictured as she receives an impressive *three* certificates from the Independent Funeral Directors College!! Rob Robinson, Chairman, is shown congratulating her with David Peasgood from the IFDC making the presentation. Well done to everyone from the team who worked so hard to achieve their qualifications and who also received their certificates.

Top right: Rob Robinson presents Stephanie Butler, Assistant Funeral Manager from Waltham Abbey branch and Graham Clark, bearer/driver from Harlow branch, with their ten year service awards.

Bottom right: Congratulations - Lizzy Bollington-Kinch and family welcomed their beautiful new baby daughter, Hannah, into the world.



Get me to the church on time... following a few wedding planning hiccups, our very own Craig Knott was pleased to be able to offer to help out by chauffeuring local Harlow couple Lisa and Brian by limousine on their wedding day. Lisa and her eight bridesmaids looked fabulous and we were very happy to play a small part on their special day.



Find us on
Facebook



Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

Contact Us

Always here to help

Bishop's Stortford

01279 655477

Harlow

01279 426990

Sawbridgeworth

01279 722476

Epping

01992 560890

Loughton

020 8508 1008

Waltham Abbey

01992 711892

Great Dunmow

01371 874518

Halstead

01787 475533

Braintree

01376 320582

enquiries@drobinson.co.uk

www.drobinson.co.uk

The last word...

Every year we receive some wonderful letters from families for which we are extremely grateful, here's an extract from one of them...

I am writing to express my sincere thanks to your team, their kindness was exceptional. They made the whole process of arranging the funeral very easy and nothing was too much trouble. They are a credit to your company.

DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Independent Family

Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons

Established
1892

NEWSLETTER

126 years
of care

Summer 2018

Free bereavement counselling now available for our client families

We are pleased to be able to offer a new and unique free service as part of our commitment to the wellbeing of the families we care for.

As Members of the National Society of Allied & Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF), we have paid for a service delivered by Professional Help, a team of fully qualified counsellors, who are able to provide flexible and accessible bereavement care, a resource that bereaved people can turn to for advice, information and specialist support.

There are many ways that grief can affect people, it can cause sadness, anger, depression, guilt or feelings of relief. We all experience loss in many different ways and sometimes a little extra support can help us through this difficult time.

The service is highly accessible in that it can offer counselling over the telephone, via technology, such as Facetime, or by providing up to six one to one, face to face, counselling sessions.

Gary Neill, Managing Director of Daniel Robinson & Sons, says, 'we are always looking at ways to enhance the services that we offer to clients and their families, we try to make the time of bereavement as comfortable as possible. We know just how vital a service this will be for many people and we are delighted that it's now available'.

If you would like to find out more please contact any member of our team.



In This Issue

- Professional events...
- Debs takes a dive
- DRS Charity Golf Day
- Raising funds through In Memory donations
- Out and about in the community
- Team news





Phil Clegg presents at the Dying Matters conference in High Wych

Helping out at Dying Matters

This year we were delighted to be invited, once again, to support the Dying Matters events at Manor of Groves near Harlow and at Chelmsford Cathedral, both went very well.

Phil Clegg gave a presentation to 70 NHS delegates which included doctors, nurses, community nurses and volunteers and Louise Keeble was on-hand in Chelmsford to talk with delegates throughout their day.

What is Dying Matters? In 2009, the National Council for Palliative Care (NCP) set up the Dying Matters Coalition to promote public awareness of dying, death and bereavement.

Their members include organisations from across the NHS, voluntary and independent health and care sectors (including hospices, care homes, charities supporting old people, children and bereavement); social care and housing sectors; a wide range of faith organisations; community organisations; schools and colleges; academic bodies; trade unions; the legal profession and the funeral sector.

The Coalition's Mission is to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life. This will involve a fundamental change in society in which dying, death and bereavement will be seen and accepted as the natural part of everybody's life cycle. Changes in the way society views dying and death have impacted on the experience of people who are dying and bereaved. Our lack of openness has affected the quality and range of support and care services available to patients and families. It has also affected our ability to die where or how we would wish.

The Dying Matters Coalition is working to address this by encouraging people to talk about their wishes towards the end of their lives, including where they want to die and their funeral plans, with friends, family and loved ones. Their website is designed to help people to start those conversations. For more information please see www.dyingmatters.org/

Debs takes a dive for charity

Debs Barton, a Funeral Administrator at our Harlow branch, conquered her fears to raise funds for a local charity that is close to her heart - Grove Cottage.

On Sunday 25th March she completed a tandem skydive from 13,000 feet falling at about 120 mph descending to 5000 feet in 40 seconds!!!

Debs says, 'I feel incredibly passionate about Grove Cottage (I would not jump out of a plane for just anyone!) Grove Cottage provides social and educational activities for people of all ages with learning disabilities: to develop their potential, avoid social isolation by supporting lifelong friendships and to provide respite for their families. It costs over £250,000 per year to run Grove Cottage. They do not receive any funding from Mencap and could not exist without the support of the local community'.

Total raised £1,131. Well done Debs x



Debs as she takes the plunge!



Gary Neill, Managing Director of Daniel Robinson & Sons, accepts the Certificate from Grant Maton of the Essex Wildlife Trust.



Recognition for ten years of support...

This year we were presented with a framed certificate for ten years corporate sponsorship of the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Essex Wildlife Trust is the county's leading conservation charity. It has more than 34,000 members, manages and protects over 8,200 acres of land on 87 nature reserves, 2 nature parks and runs 11 visitor centres. The aim of Essex Wildlife Trust is to Protect Wildlife for the future and for the people of Essex.

It is supported financially by members, local businesses and grant making organisations. It is one of the largest of the 47 county wildlife trusts that work together throughout the British Isles as The Wildlife Trusts.

Established in 1959, the organisation has grown from strength to strength working hard to ensure that there is suitable habitat to encourage wildlife to flourish, something which both residents and visitors to the area can enjoy.



Youngsters have a 'hole' lot of fun!

Mighty Masters Golf Day, an annual event for junior beginners from the age of 3 to 16 years old to give them opportunity to play golf.

Staged at the Epping Golf Course, this is the sixteenth year we have sponsored the event.

Fifty juniors from across Essex took part, with a host of volunteers to help out. Two local golf professionals, Marc Brenner from Epping Golf Club and Bradley Preston from North Weald Golf Range, were on hand to give help and advice to the young golfers. The overall winner on the day was Ali Haji, well done :)



Louise Keeble from our Braintree branch was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for our support of the Braintree & Bocking Public Gardens.



Loving where we live...

Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens were established in 1888 and are still a significant visitor attraction in the centre of the town, used by all age groups. Braintree & Bocking Public Gardens Trust is a registered charity which is not generally appreciated and they do not receive any local authority or government funding whatsoever.

During 2017 the expense of maintaining and developing the gardens was £38,200. The cost of this was covered by revenue generated from fund raising events such as outside theatre shows, Classic car shows, family fun days, Easter egg hunts & Bocking Concert Brass. Unfortunately despite the events of the fund raising team they fell short of this target. In an attempt to regularise the Trust's funding the trustees developed the concept of a 'Corporate Sponsor Scheme' and in 2017 the appeal was launched. It was supported by 29 local companies who donated an average of £460 per company. No company donated less than £300.

Each company has a commemorative brick which is displayed in the sponsor's board on the entrance to the gardens. We are delighted that we have been able to take part in this scheme and have made a small contribution towards making these beautiful gardens available for people young and old in Braintree to enjoy today and tomorrow.



Helping out with Royalty

Thank you to our very own Adrian Chinnery who volunteered to chauffeur the Braintree Carnival Queen & Princesses by limousine before they took their seats in the Carnival float, and very pleased they look too!



Pitch perfect

Seamus & Jo Setterfield from the Loughton Office arranged an afternoon of entertainment for residents at a care home in Loughton with singer Johnny Lawrence, who performed a range of songs.

The residents had a great afternoon and a good old fashioned sing song.

Golf Day 2018 fund raising is launched

12th September 2018

Just after we started preparations for this year's Charity Golf Day, Gary Neill, Managing Director was on his holidays and bumped into the Australian Football team on their way to the 2018 World Cup in Russia!

Bert Van Marwijk, team manager, very kindly organized for a team shirt to be signed and we are pleased to be able to add this piece of memorabilia to our list of auction items.

Are you able to donate an auction or tombola item?

Would you like to donate or perhaps you have a business and would like to provide sponsorship?

For more information please contact Sally Payne on 01279 655477 or donations may be made at ...

www.drobinson.co.uk/drs-fundraising



Unexpected help from down-under - Gary Neill M.D. with Bert Van Marwijk

Children are making fantastic progress...

Over the last two years we have attracted amazing support for our Charity Golf Days and, due to the generosity of local people and businesses, have been able to raise funds to help four local children who have cerebral palsy in their lower limbs to be able to access life changing private, specialist physiotherapy. This physiotherapy is not available through the NHS, but it can offer the children far greater opportunity to change their lives and make them more mobile and independent than they could ever have hoped to be without it.

Lyncoln, Lenny, Aiden and Summer, are all working hard to walk and we are seeking to provide further funds from the proceeds of this year's golf day, to help them to continue with their progress. We think they are all incredible and we can't wait to see them and their families again in September.



Lyncoln



Lenny



Aiden



Summer

Over the last three years we have invested in the development of new computer software which enables us to collect online donations via our website, this compliments our continued collection of cash and cheque donations.

Each year the number of donations grows, the online donation option helps because it's quick and easy to do.

Unlike national online donation sites, we don't charge donors for using this service and there is only a minimal charge by the external card processing agency.

There are huge benefits to collecting the donations online, where the beneficiary organisation is a Registered Charity our software automatically produces a Declaration for Gift Aid for the donor to complete, as long as they are UK taxpayers.

Gift Aid adds a further 25% of the value of your donation to the amount that the Charity receives, and that grows every £1 to £1.25, every £100 to £125, quite a substantial amount.

In total over the last year we have collected donations for a staggering 299 different Charities and organisations, processed 9,864 donations in total and collected and forwarded a huge £428,883.89 on behalf of families. Overall £31,601 was raised in Gift Aid, £29,816 of this was collected via the software.

The ten charities for whom we collected the highest number of donations are shown here...

St Clare Hospice  **£58,695**

£32,119


British Heart Foundation

 **CANCER RESEARCH UK** **£28,143**

 **The Princess Alexandra Hospitals Charity** **£10,802**

£17,242


Alzheimer's Research UK

£7,633

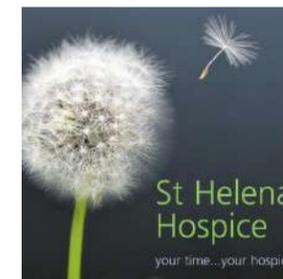

Farleigh Hospice

 **Isabel Hospice**
Together we care **£16,839**

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US. **£7,465**

£14,460  **Essex & Herts Air Ambulance**
Your local life-saving charity

£6,227


St Helena Hospice
your time...your hospice

Making it easier to donate Making every penny count Making legacies



Nicki Tyler processing donations at our Harlow branch

St Clare Hospice's Chief Executive, Sarah Thompson, said:

"Daniel Robinson's continued dedication to St Clare makes such a difference to St Clare and hundreds of families in the local community. Last year over £58,000 was gifted to St Clare in donations given in memory of a loved one. That is enough to fund our Patient and Family Support team for more than 15 weeks, who in 2017 supported more than 200 patients and families going through one of life's most difficult journeys. Giving in memory of a loved one is a special way of honouring them, and at the same time, helping other families in your local community to access our care when they most need it – a gift which is priceless."

"At Daniel Robinson & Sons we continue to work on behalf of families to ensure that they receive the best possible service. Investing in the software and by improving our systems means that we can collect donations on behalf of families in a much more efficient way and maximise their value."

Gary Neill, Managing Director

