



Daniel Robinson & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors

Winter Newsletter

2021/22

It is hard to believe that for the best part of two years, we have been dealing with the reality of living with a pandemic. Every single one of us has been affected, by lockdowns, restrictions, and a raft of repercussions; sometimes it seems as if we go one step forward and two steps back! However, these testing times say a lot about our resilience as a nation, and from the point of view of a Managing Director of an Independent Funeral Directors, it says a lot about my team, who have worked through these testing times with tenacity and dedication. Our family business has continued to offer our full range of services to our client families, in a safe environment, by ensuring that we maintain our strict hygiene regimes, mask wearing and vaccination programme for all staff.

As you will see, inside this Newsletter, even though we have been in the most difficult of times, we have been able to be involved in an enormous variety and number of community events. These have included our most successful Charity Golf Day ever, raising over £44k to help six local children with Cerebral Palsy to lead more independent lives. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible, through donations, participating on the day or helping with the event.

We have a variety of team news, we are very lucky to have a huge 'family' of employees, casuals and consultants. Age has no boundaries here; experience is hugely valued, and this year consultant Ivan Brown has celebrated his 90th birthday; Ivan still takes an active interest in the families that we serve. Former Gt Dunmow Funeral Manager, Pam Allen has just taken her second retirement, however, she will continue to be a valued part of our team, such is the nature of our company. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to all those team members who have achieved qualifications and Long Service Awards, with a special mention to Seamus Setterfield, who has now joined our 25 Year Club. This is a real milestone, and our Chairman, Rob Robinson and I were very pleased to be able to present Seamus with a gold watch for his loyal service and dedication to the profession.

Remembrance Day is always a key part of our calendar year. I am proud to say that we always ensure that we attend every British Legion Service of Remembrance in our trading area, and work hard to assist with poppy sales. This year has been no exception and we are featuring photographs of just some of the very moving services that took place this year.

This Newsletter is written when we leave one year and move into the next, a time for thoughtful reflection and a time for new hope, with hopes and plans for a brighter future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, members of the Clergy, Celebrants, health care professionals and key suppliers, you are all doing an amazing job in the most challenging of times, very well done to you all.

Gary Neill, Managing Director

In this issue...



Annual Staff Awards



Out in the community



Remembrance



Memorial Services



Annual Charity Golf Day



Out & about in Bishop's Stortford

Congratulations to Peter Scarlett MBE, winner of the 'Outstanding Achievement' Award, which we sponsored at the Indies Awards. The Awards are organised by the Bishop's Stortford Independent Newspaper, to give recognition to local people who are making a real difference to their community.



Gary Neill, M.D. (left) presented Peter Scarlett with his Award

Out & about in Old Harlow



Fundraising for
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

In October, Phil Barrow from our Station Road Funeral Home (Masterson Funeral Home), combined the funds raised from the MacMillan Coffee Morning he had organised, with the funds raised from The Annie Bull Memorial Shield bowls match, which had recently been held at Old Harlow Bowls Club. An incredible £1,020.00 was raised for the charity in total and donated in the name of the late Annie Bull, a former, well respected, Club Member.

Pictured L-R: Denis Larkin (Club Captain), John Bromfield (Annie's Partner) and our very own Phil Barrow.

Out & about in Loughton



Jubilee day took place in August and was attended by many of the members of Loughton Bowls Club. The weather was bright and sunny. The winning teams are pictured above being presented with their prizes of wine and food hampers, which were gratefully received. It was a fantastic day and included the opportunity for all the Members to enjoy a tasty fish and chip supper!

Out & about in Braintree

In November we went along to the AGM and Presentation Evening of the Braintree Bowls Club, where Louise and Penny from our Braintree Funeral Home were on hand to present the winners and runners up of the Daniel Robinson & Sons Cup with their prizes. The ladies took the opportunity to model the DRS bowls visors - which they did very well!



Out & about in Harlow

Daniel Robinson & Sons, in conjunction with "FIRST® LEGO® League delivered by the IET", donated a large quantity of LEGO Educational sets to The Children's Ward at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow.

Pictured are Derek Oakley (Funeral Manager), Angela Maynard (Senior Sister), Lisa Piper (Play team lead), April Plume (Play leader) and Liz Chapman (Funeral Director). Derek said "We are so pleased to be able to donate these sets to such a worthy cause and knowing they will give some pleasure to the children on Dolphin Ward".

Our huge thanks to "FIRST® LEGO® League delivered by the IET."



Out & about in High Wych

In September, our Sawbridgeworth Funeral Home sponsored the High Wych Scarecrow Festival. What a fantastic event, the people of High Wych are clearly very creative.

Which one is your favourite?





MEMORIAL SERVICES

Late in the year we hold Memorial Services in every location where we have a Funeral Home. Sadly, it wasn't possible to hold them in 2020 due to the pandemic. The services offer families the opportunity to light a candle in memory of their loved ones and leave a message on the Christmas tree. Derek Oakley is pictured (*top left*), participating in the service that was held with the Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church in late November. The Harlow team are pictured (*top right*) at St Paul's in the Town Centre on 2nd December.

Liz Chapman and Tom Riches (*above centre*), attended the switching on of the Old Harlow Christmas Lights and Carol Service. We were very pleased to be able to sponsor the Christmas Tree and are enjoying being Members of the Old Harlow Traders Association, who organise the event.

Our Charity Golf Day raised a record breaking £44,272.00!!



In September, we held our most successful Charity Golf Day to date. Every penny of the funds raised will once again be used to help six local children, Summer, Aiden, Lenny, Lyncoln, Sid and Nat, in their shared goal - greater mobility. All the children have Cerebral Palsy in their lower limbs and the funds will be used to pay for specialist equipment and intensive physiotherapy, which is not available through the NHS. They have already been making fantastic progress and this money will make a lasting difference, enabling them to achieve to the very best of their ability and continue with higher levels of mobility, confidence and independence.



Our six super heroes



To see how they have been getting on during the pandemic see www.drobinson.co.uk/about-us/ and choose the Charity Golf Day video tab.



Epping Funeral Home



Jo & James in Elsenham



Louise in Braintree



Remembrance

Daniel Robinson & Sons always support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and attend local Remembrance Services.

This year was no exception and we attended as many locations as possible. Our photo montage reflects our commitment to helping to collect funds, support veterans and showing our respect to the fallen.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them



Seamus in Loughton



Scott in Stansted



Team News

Long Service Awards 2021



Gary Neill, M.D. introduced and congratulated the Awardees at our Annual Staff Dinner

Each year we celebrate the training achievements and long service of our team members. This year we have some members of staff who have reached some particularly big milestones, including twenty years and twenty five years of service...

Seamus Setterfield reaches his Twenty Five Year Service Award

Congratulations to Seamus who is the Manager for our Loughton and Epping Funeral Homes. Seamus works alongside his wife Jo, who also received an Award this year. He is a Funeral Director with an absolute wealth of knowledge and experience, he is very active in the community and is a Member of the Rotary Club of Epping. Seamus attends many of the events that we support and sponsor in the local area, including bowls and golf. Seamus has a striking resemblance to Woody from Toy Story, hence the hat!!



We are committed to training

Congratulations to Nicole Tyler (right), Funeral Administrator, who has passed her Funeral Administrator Certificate and Sonia Hassan, Receptionist Administrator, who has passed the Funeral Practitioner and Health & Safety qualifications. Both Nicole and Sonia are located at our Harlow Funeral Home. The qualifications were gained from the Independent Funeral Directors College.



Promotions



We are delighted that Liz Chapman has been promoted to Assistant Funeral Manager at our Harlow Funeral Home, and Scott Goody at our Bishop's Stortford Funeral Home, has been promoted to Assistant Operations Manager.



Special thanks



During the Awards there was a special thank you to Derek Holmes who has worked with us as a Funeral Consultant at our Halstead Funeral home for fifteen years.

A very big birthday!



Happy 90th Birthday to Ivan Brown.

Ivan remains a Funeral Consultant with Daniel Robinson & Sons, Braintree, since our two family businesses amalgamated in 2000.

20 Years



Congratulations and Well done to our Twenty Year Long Service Awardees, Derek Oakley and Jo Setterfield.

Derek is Funeral Manager at our Wych Elm, Harlow, Funeral Home and Jo is Assistant Funeral Manager at our Loughton Funeral Home.

They are highly experienced and very much appreciated members of our family business, who have helped a great many families with great empathy and commitment.

Well done & congratulations to our Long Service Awardees 2021



10 Years

Louise Griffiths received her Ten Year Long Service Award from Jamie Lister, Operations Manager.

Louise looks after our funeral Home in Braintree and is very active with community events, including the RBL.



10 Years

Sandy Maloy received her Ten Year Long Service Award from Jamie Lister. Sandy is a highly experienced Funeral Administrator and a key member of our team in the Halstead Funeral Home.



5 Years

Rob Robinson, Chairman, presented Five Year Long Service Awards to (left to right) Adrian Chinnery, Funeral Conductor, Adrian has also recently been promoted to the role of Foreman. Ben Evans, Funeral Operative, Phil Clegg, Funeral Manager and Terry Wright, Assistant Funeral Manager.



Graham



Tom

Two of our team of casual Driver/Bearers, Graham Jackson and Tom Monro, were presented with their Five Year Service Awards.



Another Retirement!?

Pam Allen, who has been helping out at our offices since her retirement, has now decided to fully retire!! We love you Pam!

Cremated Remains, the next steps...

Making a decision about finding a final resting place for your loved one is not always straightforward or easy. Often, it can take time to find the right option, or to even consider taking those first steps to making some arrangements.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you now feel that you would like to talk through the options that are available, we will be very happy to help to find the right one for you and your family.

Thank you for the fabulous feedback...

It's a real boost for our team when we receive letters of thanks or feedback through our client questionnaires, here are some of the fantastic comments that we have received recently...

I would just like to say how much Jane helped me at this time. She guided me, made things so much easier, and was extremely kind.

An excellent, all round service, could not fault it in any way. Similar comments from other members of the family.

Just to say thank you for making a very sad day easier. Your constant attention to detail was really helpful.

The men were so polite and empathetic, your receptionist was very professional when we visited the Chapel of Rest. The amazing personal service.



Did you know that we have an open access Facebook page where you can follow our events and activities, without a Facebook account? Find us at www.facebook.com/



Bereavement support for our client families...
E: help@saifcare.org.uk
T: 0800 917 7224

24 hour care & attention

Bishop's Stortford	01279 655477
Sawbridgeworth	01279 722476
Harlow	01279 426990
Epping	01992 560890
Old Harlow	01279 626238
Loughton	020 8508 1008
Waltham Abbey	01992 711892
Great Dunmow	01371 874518
Braintree	01376 320582
Halstead	01787 475533



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