



BRITISH INSTITUTE OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THE JOURNAL



ISSUE 1





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**National President's
 Chosen Charity**



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Letter from the National President

Amanda Pink

Dear Members, Associates, Students, and Supporters.

Happy New Year one and all,

Well, 2025 arrived with some very cold weather from wind, rain, flooding, freezing temperatures and snow.

I do hope you are all staying well and warm.

I haven't been doing much so far this month other than preparing and receiving paperwork for the upcoming exams in February and March for those students busy studying. I wish them all well for those exams.

Just a note to say the administration office and telephone for BIFD will not be available from 19th January to 31st March as I am taking a well-earned holiday. Urgent emails will be dealt with by another board member while I am away anything else will be dealt with on my return.

But remember to save the date for next year's conference 24th – 26th October 2025 at the Copthorne Hotel Slough- Windsor, which we hope to be an excellent weekend of education fun and food.

Best Wishes to you all,



Amanda Pink, Dip. FS, LMBIFD
National President, Region G



SAVE THE DATE
43rd Annual Conference



October | 24~26 | 2025

COPTHORNE HOTEL SLOUGH-WINDSOR



Congratulations

**To Hayley and David Owen-Barker
Region C**

On the birth of their IVF rainbow baby daughter Hermione Rose Owen-Barker who made an appearance on Monday 6th January weighing 8lb and 8oz.

Mum, Dad and baby Hermione are all doing well.



Welcome to the World Hermione!

Kayleigh Ingham

Editor, Region C

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you all managed to have a good Christmas and you managed to get a break from working at some point to enjoy it.

Christmas for myself and the boys was spent with family as it usually is along with our traditions we do every year and it's been a cold start to New Year with all the snow and ice, so I hope anyone else affected is staying safe and warm.

Has anyone made any New Year's Resolutions yet and have you already broken them or stuck to them?

I have decided that I am going to eat more healthily. I am a regular at gym classes anyway at our local Leisure Centre, but I want to build on that as well.

As a result of this, I have decided to take part in my local Race for Life with my best friend on the 22nd June. If anyone would like to sponsor me for this, I would be very grateful and it may stop me from crawling at the end as I don't do running! I have included the link if anyone will be kind enough to do so. Every little helps!



Kayleigh's Race for Life

Cancer is happening right now, which is why I'm taking part in a Race for Life 5k to raise money and save lives. 1 in 2 people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Every single pound you donate makes a...

cancerresearchuk.org

Thank you very much

KAYLEIGH

43RD ANNUAL BIFD CONFERENCE

24TH – 26TH OCTOBER 2025



The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel
Clippenham Lane, Slough, SL1 2YE

The BIFD Invites You To Conference 2025

National President, Amanda Pink, would like to invite all Members, Fellows, Students, Associates, Presidents of the Kindred Associations and all Guests to the forthcoming Conference and Gala Dinner to be held on 24th - 26th October 2025 at The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel.

The Copthorne Hotel offers comfortable and contemporary facilities, where modern comfort seamlessly blends with the historic Windsor. With 219 spacious and comfortable rooms, the 4-star hotel is the perfect base to feel relaxed and rejuvenated for our Conference Weekend.

From here, you can visit the medieval **Windsor Castle** still in use since the middle ages, see the changing of the guard and experience Windsor's rich history. The hotel is also located very close to **Legoland Windsor** perfect for our guests who would like to attend with their family.



The **Bombay Pavillion Restaurant** offers dishes inspired by the traditional clay oven 'Tandoor' and curries that stay true to their origin.

The **Motion Health Club** provides comprehensive leisure facilities and state-of-the-art gymnasium and swimming pool.

Heathrow Airport is a mere 15 minute drive and is ideally located just outside of central London, just 30 minutes away by train.

The President's Charity 2025

For her Presidential Year, Amanda is supporting The Lullaby Trust.

The charity works to educate and support new parents in the best sleep practices for their babies with the aim to prevent deaths. Their aim is to reduce the level of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) which they have helped to reduce by 81% since 1991 saving over 30,000 babies. They also support bereaved parents following the tragic and devastating loss of a baby or young child and have so far helped over 800 families. A fantastic charity that needs funds to continue its important work and any support provided to our campaign for the Lullaby Trust throughout 2025 and at Conference will be gratefully appreciated.



The itinerary so far...

Friday 24th October 2025

The Board of Directors will be meeting in the afternoon.

After checking into your rooms, Amanda invites you to join her for a 3 course dinner in the hotel function suite.

Saturday 25th October 2025

The AGM will take place in the morning followed by a buffet lunch.

In the afternoon Amanda is planning an educational session...Watch this space for further information.

The evening will start with a Drinks Reception followed by a 3 course dinner with wine, plus cheese & biscuits. We will also have our Diploma Awards Ceremony and Handover of Offices followed by music and dancing until late.

Earlier than 24th or later than 25th October 2025

If you would like to enjoy a longer break, we have secured good rates either side of the Conference, so that you can enjoy Windsor for an extended stay.

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24th – 26th October 2025

The Copthorne Slough-Windsor Hotel
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The 43rd BIFD Conference 2025 Rates

1. Friday Evening To Sunday Morning – THE COMPLETE PACKAGE

Friday DinnerDouble Room (per couple) £675
Friday & Saturday Bed & BreakfastSingle Room (per person) £425
Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea & Coffee
Saturday Lunch Included
Saturday Evening Drinks Reception
Saturday Gala Dinner – Includes 4 Course Meal

2. Friday Evening To Saturday Morning - ONLY

Friday DinnerDouble Room (per couple) £295
Friday Bed & BreakfastSingle Room (per person) £200
Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

3. Saturday To Sunday Morning - ONLY

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & BiscuitsDouble Room (per couple) £395
Saturday Evening Drinks ReceptionSingle Room (per person) £235
Saturday Gala Dinner – 4 Course Meal Followed by Tea & Coffee
Saturday Bed & Breakfast
Saturday Lunch Is Available At £30 PP

4. The Gala Banquet Dinner Only£85 Per Person

Saturday Evening Drinks Reception
Saturday Gala Dinner – 4 Course Meal Followed by Tea & Coffee

5. AGM ATTENDANCE ONLYFree To All Members & Students

Saturday AGM: On Arrival Tea, Coffee & Biscuits

Saturday Lunch Is Available On The Day At £30 PP

The 43rd BIFD CONFERENCE - 24th – 26th October 2025

The Copthorne Slough-Windsor

BOOKING FORM

Members Name: Membership Number:

Address:

Post Code: Contact Telephone Number:

Email Address: Number of Rooms Required:

Special Dietary Requirements: Yes/No Details of Diet

Arrival Date:/...../..... Departure Date:/...../.....

Attending Partners Name:

Attending Guests Names:

See Rates Page To Complete Form & Payment

Tariff (1) – Full Package

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Please return, or email, your completed booking form for the appropriate amount to the Conference Co-ordinator and make payment either by Bacs or by Cheque made out to “The BIFD”:

Tariff (2) – Fri to Sat

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Bacs Payments To:

Sort Code: 60-83-01 - Account Number: 20336550

Tariff (3) – Sat to Sun

Double Rate: £.....

Single Rate: £.....

Mr. David Gresty
C/O The British Institute of Funeral Directors

National Office,
2 Heather Ridge Arcade,

Heatherside,
Camberley, Surrey,

GU15 1AX
07354 847 702

Tariff (4) – Gala Dinner Only

Total Attendees £.....

Tariff (5) – AGM Only

£ No Charge

Email: treasurer@bifd.org.uk

Total Amount Due £.....

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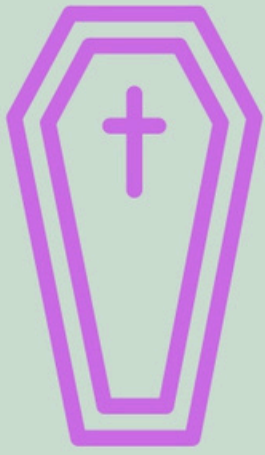
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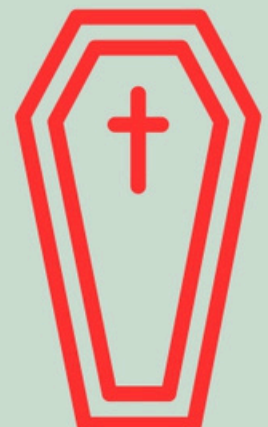
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Grief, Stress and Hypothermia, some anecdotes

Philip Gore MBIFD, Ph.D.

Those who have read the initial article highlighting the issues of stress may well expect some sort of helpful conclusion. Of course there may be members who find this whole topic a complete mystery; stress doesn't apparently happen to them, they might say. Well perhaps if members have the responsibilities of a distant shepherd or hermit, then possibly the rigors of contemporary living do not weigh too heavily upon their shoulders. But for most of us, this is not the case. Not acknowledging that stress exists does not mean that the individual does not, in fact, suffer from the effects of stress, caused by constant exposure to managing the grief of other people.



But I'm working with the assumption that BIFD members agree with me... if they can follow the preceding rather convoluted sentence. So I'm going to assume that all those hardy souls who think this article so fatuous that they haven't bothered to get past the initial feeble paragraph have now passed over this second part that deals with this topic and are now immersed instead in reading the high quality adverts that permeate our publication. For the remnant, wise or otherwise, I hope that this is a helpful and interesting read.

So perhaps the first step in coping with stress is to recognise that stress caused by exposure to the day-to-day issues of managing other peoples' grief does exist and is a bit of a burden. Recognising that it might exist is a first step; dealing with the emotional issues concerning this is a completely different issue.

It seems apposite that as I write this, it is twenty years to the day that I was deployed with Kenyon to Thailand following the Boxing day Tsunami of 2004. The image shows a Thai coastguard vessel washed inland one and a quarter miles with a much younger me standing close by, after a long day at work. As the largest natural disaster in living memory, with tens of thousands killed, I think that most people would consider the sudden death of thousands of victims an unusual occasion and into that cauldron of challenge we were thrust, under the benevolent authority of our own Mr Alan Puxley. I had thought myself at the time, in my mid 'forties, to be experienced in the rigors of mass disaster, which up until that point had been catastrophes caused by aviation failures with victims numbered in the hundreds.

To create a mortuary centre from scratch in the middle of nowhere in the oppressive heat and challenging conditions of a country in crisis should not be underestimated and the working days were long and tough.

Going on holiday to hot counties is one thing, but working in them is an entirely different issue. Added to this was a certain personal mental challenge that I found daunting, in addition to the sheer nature of catastrophe.

I had seen in Phuket during our evenings off, a selection of images that were captured the day after the inundation, when thousands of dead tourists were recovered from the beaches, ranged in long lines in typical pugilistic pose

Marooned coastguard vessel 2½ kilometres away from the sea at Nang Thong



For those 'office based' members of BIFD, this is a posture produced when the recently dead are subject (in this particular case) to the significant heat of the sun for some time, and stronger biceps muscles overcome the balancing effect of the triceps muscles and limbs are contorted into 'fighting pose' [hence 'pugilistic']. I make this distinction because there are many individuals who seem to distance themselves from the cutting edge of mortuary contact, as if caring for the dead was not a part of their day-to-day activities, or perhaps part of the day that is subcontracted to others.

I found these beach images particularly difficult but I couldn't figure out why, apart from the fact there were just so many victims. But I didn't think the sheer volume of fatalities was an adequate explanation. I eventually discerned that, as a child, I had spent seemingly endless days at the beach with my family at Foreness bay, Margate, one of the eleven bays on the Isle of Thanet and just around the corner from Walpole bay, where my encounters with pool-based near hypothermia now occur. I often point out to my wife Liz that I had had a whole lifetime of beach experience by the time I was eleven, so I felt I was excused for the next forty or so years from returning to our coastline with our children, when they were young. Early on in our marriage, Liz would often comment, when apparently random strangers would strike up conversation with me in the street 'Don't tell me, you had a beach hut near to them in the 1960s', underlining just how compact a community Margate was in times gone by.

For me, my childhood beach experiences were times of fun and safety, but here was graphic evidence that the beach could be the scene of shocking mass trauma. Once I had worked this out and come to terms with the issue, I felt easier in myself. But it took some time for me to recognise the background issues and even longer to realise why. Perhaps there were team members with me who drowned their sorrows on a daily basis as a way of coping with the rigors of the deployment. This will probably cure the symptoms, but not the underlying cause. This remedy can, however, reap dividends in terms of hangovers.

Just for the record, at the end our four week deployment we had to attend a compulsory 'mental health debrief' before we left. Given that this was twenty years ago, this was a novel experience but one I found really helpful. There were members of my team who thought this was a pointless hurdle to navigate and resisted the actions of the professionals involved. I hope today that this sort of defensive attitude might be a little less prevalent. I thought it really important to be able to unload myself from the burden that I didn't really realise I had been carrying. This extreme experience had been a huge exposure to the graphic and traumatic and had been a learning curve for everyone there.

As I am a veteran of working in hot and humid conditions, I was well prepared for the climate. I take with me on these excursions an umbrella, as this is a useful sun shade. Naturally the Americans amongst us thought it highly comical that 'the Brit' on the team should use an umbrella [apparently it rains a lot in the UK.. does this sound familiar?], but conversely the Australians working there thought it a useful habit. 'D'ya mind if I borrow your shade?', I heard occasionally, as they stepped into the portable shadow generated by my 'sunshade'. I would also offer this to the increasing number of people who made their way to our facility, looking for family members.

I often chat to my staff about the concept of my 'emotional rucksack' which I carry around, which has a finite capacity and needs to be emptied at opportune times. I think we all have a certain capacity and perhaps some can cope with more than others. Sometimes the seemingly innocuous can trigger a reaction. I remember as a fresh-faced eighteen year old, a few weeks after I started work [yes, I appear to have a pretty good long-term memory] being involved in moving what was for me the first in a long long line of road traffic incident fatalities. The thing that particularly caught my eye was that the various limbs of this young, but dead, driver bent in directions very different from that of normal anatomy, when he was moved. I found this rather upsetting at the time, but the experiences of decades have inured this to me... but I find I drive in a very defensive manner, based upon these early experiences. I am, however, very careful in exposing our younger embalmers to the anatomic evidence of physical trauma when they are engaged in autopsy embalming of the violently killed.

Something else to gain from this long and dawdling narrative is the issue of self care. If you can keep warm in the cold and seek the shade in the hottest part of the summer in the UK, then you are helping your homeostatic responses to cope with the rigors of temperature. If anyone from foreign climes reads this account, they might be surprised to read that it is hot at times in the UK. But it's true... honest.

So to return to Thailand, where this tale was leading, I found that the support of my fellow team members to be very helpful and comfortable and this perhaps is a useful message to take away from this second article, which I promise will be concluded in a last part of this trilogy, along with some helpful personal hints about coping with stress.

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Funeral Directors from Funeral Partners Northern Ireland support charities with winter collections

Funeral Directors proudly at the heart of their communities have amassed considerable collections to help vulnerable people and animals throughout the winter.

John Gray & Co Funeral Directors, based in Bangor, Shields of Donaghadee and Mulhollands Funeral Directors, in Carrickfergus, collected sleepwear and socks which have been donated to their local branch of Women's Aid. The organisation provides a range of support services to women and children who have been impacted by domestic abuse.



Claire Quinn from Women's Aid and Kerry Kennedy from Mulhollands Funeral Directors

Kerry Kennedy, Funeral Arranger at Mulhollands said: "To have had this many donations is fantastic – this time of the year is difficult for people financially with lots of other things to think about, so we are very pleased."

Meanwhile, Bairds of Antrim asked its team and clients to donate items to be given to the Mid Antrim Animal Sanctuary and handed over dozens of tins of food, treats, bowls, blankets, toys and leads.

The shelter focuses on re-homing animals – mainly cats and dogs – and relieving the stress they may suffer from. Some animals who can't find a forever home can live happily at the sanctuary indefinitely.



William O'Neill and Linda Nugent from Bairds donate the collection to the Mid Antrim Animal Sanctuary

Jon Baird is the fourth generation of his family to work in the business.

He said: "We all agreed pets who don't have a permanent home deserve to be recognised and supported, at this time of the year.

"We've had a good relationship with Mid Antrim Animal Sanctuary for a little while and were so happy to support them."



Thinking of selling your business in 2025? We can help you realise your dreams



Secure your legacy and plan for a prosperous New Year

The Autumn Budget brought about some key changes to capital gains tax for business owners. The current rate of 10% on the first £1m of gains (subject to eligibility) will now only apply to businesses sold up to 5th April 2025. After this date, it will increase to 14%, rising further to 18% in April 2026. As cash would be included in a sale, this can also be extracted at a more favourable rate than via dividends, and we encourage all owners to discuss this with their accountants.

Should you be thinking of selling your business, now is therefore the perfect time to consider options if you are to

take advantage of this short window of opportunity. We have welcomed over 1,000 years of heritage and experience into our business over the last 12 months and would be happy to provide you with a no-obligation business valuation to help you move swiftly, should you also decide to protect your legacy and secure the best outcome for your future.

Please visit www.funeralpartners.co.uk/story to hear more from our team and partners and to start the conversation.

For an informal, confidential conversation about how we can help secure your future, speak to one of our team:

Sam Kershaw
Chief Executive Officer
07834 531822
sam.kershaw@funeralpartners.co.uk

Steve Wilkinson
Mergers & Acquisitions Director
07528 970531
steve.wilkinson@funeralpartners.co.uk



funeralpartners.co.uk/story

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New Funeral Director becomes first person to complete Funeral Partners apprenticeship



Keith Clegg and Jyden Weatherburn-Asher

A newly qualified Funeral Director has shown age is no barrier for progression after becoming the first person in his company to pass an exciting career development scheme.

Jyden Asher, 24, who works with families at Huddersfield Funeral Home, in West Yorkshire, is the first person to pass Funeral Partners' Funeral Director apprenticeship.

After initially joining as a casual bearer and driver in 2021, Jyden worked his way up to a full-time Funeral Service Operative position and then onto a Trainee Funeral Director.

He was offered the chance to join the apprenticeship which marries on-the-job training with classroom-based learning about the industry.

Jyden said he was happy to be working within his local community, making a difference to the bereaved families during their time of need.

“Sometimes I get a mixed reaction, but usually people end up understanding the positives of having someone younger assisting with a funeral,” he said.

“When I am doing arrangements, people often openly ask me how old I am. Generally, people are pleased to see a young person taking on a big responsibility in such a sensitive role. They understand how it can help young adults who are grieving to speak with someone their own age.”

“I am of Caribbean descent, and we conduct a lot of funerals for the local Caribbean community. I have found that clients, families and local businesses appreciate having someone they can connect and relate to whilst arranging and directing a funeral for their loved ones.”

“It can be a real comfort.”

“Initially, my family were shocked when I told them it was something I wanted to pursue but they’ve given me their full backing.”

“They have seen me when I am working and understand my passion and dedication that I bring to my job, and are really proud of me, especially with how quickly I’ve progressed.”

Jyden said he would recommend the funeral industry to other young people, and especially working at Funeral Partners.

“I love the job, and you never know who is going to walk through the door, every client and their needs are different,” he said.

“I know my career choice isn’t for everybody, some days are difficult, and you come across a lot of things which can be challenging, mentally and emotionally.

But if you’ve got the mindset of wanting to help and support people and want to be able to work in a close-knit community, I would definitely recommend it.

“Funeral Partners and the team at Huddersfield have been brilliant with me. From coming in with such little experience to now being able to be at the forefront for our families, shows how much faith they have in me.”

“My manager, Keith Clegg, has been a huge source of support and I have learnt a lot from him with his professional experience.”

Keith, who is Area Development Manager for Funeral Partners, said: “When I first interviewed Jyden, I could see his potential and had no doubts about giving him the position.

“He is extremely likeable and receives lots of praise and admiration from our clients and colleagues alike.

He always goes the extra mile to support his clients and is more than willing to step in where needed to ensure a first-class client service.

I see Jyden’s career path as being very similar to mine; we both started in the industry early, and my manager became my mentor, much the way I want to support him now through his journey with Funeral Partners.”

For more information about careers at Funeral Partners visit

<https://corporate.funeralpartners.co.uk/>



Fabulous five achieve the NOCN Level 4 Diploma in Advanced Practice Funeral Celebrancy.

We are absolutely delighted to announce that a further five funeral celebrants have achieved the NOCN Level 4 Diploma in Advanced Practice Funeral Celebrancy.

From left to right congratulations to: Rebecca Boothroyd from West Yorkshire, Sue Homer from Northamptonshire, Ashleigh Morginn Sendin from Suffolk, Ruth Jewell from Warwickshire and Rachel Bown from Wiltshire.

These celebrants worked hard to achieve their diploma and are pictured here at their assessment day at the Cranfield Management Development Centre, Cranfield University. Everyone has said how much they have got out of the additional study and what a massive impact it has had on their funerals. A huge well done to you all – we are so proud of your achievement.



Feedback from these successful celebrants included:

Rebecca commented: 'The course materials were well-structured and logically sequenced and provided a clear overview of the content and expectations. The learning platform was user-friendly and reliable, and support was excellent when needed. The distance learning workbook was very extensive and concise. Each section provided in depth examples that could be used, not only to answer the relevant questions but also apply to current funeral services. One of the standout features of Civil Ceremonies training is its extensive and comprehensive nature. Not only does it cover a wide range of topics, some of which you would never think of, but tutors also provide invaluable feedback. This feedback is incredibly detailed, demonstrating the assessors' commitment to quality and their knowledge of the industry. The feedback was very specific, pointing out exactly what was needed to improve by asking thought-provoking questions, and the feedback pushed you to delve deeper into the subject matter. It also included actionable suggestions on how to make those improvements. The feedback was constructive and supportive, focusing on strengths and areas for growth. It helped me feel motivated to continue learning and keep improving, exploring and being diverse in thoughts and actions for the future.'

Rachel said it was 'Really useful as a base for further online research. It meant I knew what I was trying to find or learn more about, particularly in the poetry section. It was easy to navigate through the sections. ... we had everything at once. I could dip in and out of sections and answer the sections in the order that suited me.'

Ruth said: 'I felt that this was a really important course to undertake to advance my professional training and knowledge. It wasn't easy and fitting it in among my daily role as a celebrant could be hard, but it challenged me where I needed to be challenged and cemented, for me, the things that I am doing well already. The feedback was always supportive and constructive. For me, the voice coaching session was really helpful, and I also think that every Celebrant should take the opportunity to visit Obitus, if they can.'

I certainly wouldn't have been ready for this level of training until I had had a few years as a celebrant under my belt, as my experience helped enormously, but for anyone who undertook their Level 3 a few years ago, I would highly recommend that they do this course. Thank you to everyone who helped to put this together – it has certainly taken my work to the next level.'

Sue commented that it was 'A very refreshing and enlightening course especially for those who have been working as a celebrant for a few years. The great thing by doing this higher level qualification is that it will give you a clear identity within the funeral industry of someone who is prepared to embark on a continued professional development pathway. All chapters were of great benefit and now feature in all of my work. Would thoroughly recommend to anyone who is serious about becoming better at what they do.'

The course is available to all practicing celebrants. For further information contact Civil Ceremonies Ltd: 01480 276080, info@civilceremonies.co.uk, www.civilceremonies.co.uk/level-4-diploma-funeral-celebrancy



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To offer a Dignified Final Ride, visit us at: www.motorcyclefunerals.com
or call: 01530 274 888



Happy New Year to All Our Customers!

As we step into 2025, we want to extend our warmest wishes to all our loyal customers. Reflecting on the past year, it feels as though it didn't stop raining. But with the new year comes new hope—let's cross our fingers for more sunshine and brighter days ahead!

Winter might not seem like the ideal time to think about gardening, but it's actually a great season to plant roses. Many people believe roses should only be planted in warmer months, yet winter and early spring are perfect, as long as the soil isn't frozen. Take advantage of this season to prepare for a blooming garden.

Over the years, we've shared countless tips with our customers about achieving the best results with roses. While soil conditions are essential, where you plant your rose is just as crucial. If you notice your rose bush isn't thriving in its first year, don't worry. A gentle relocation can work wonders—you'll be amazed at the difference a small move can make.

One unique feature of our rose offerings is that each rose is individually named. For those who want to add a personal touch, we offer a custom label service. Simply upload your photo, and we'll print it onto waterproof and frost proof labels using our special printers. These labels make an excellent addition to any garden, ensuring your roses stand out with a meaningful touch.

Why not make 2025 the year to create a special memorial garden? Planting a rose in memory of loved ones who are no longer with us is a beautiful way to celebrate their lives. A rose bush, with its enduring beauty and strength, serves as a lasting tribute.

Here's to a year filled with growth, sunshine, and vibrant gardens. Thank you for being part of our community, and we look forward to helping you bring your gardening dreams to life in 2025.

Save THE Date



We are pleased to be working with our FBCA colleagues in delivering next year's joint conference which will be held at:

**Hilton Southampton
Utilita Bowl**

JUNE | 23-25 | 2025

Our conference programme will provide essential updates and topical papers to ensure delegates are fully updated and ready to address the many changes facing the sector.

Please do follow CBCE on LinkedIn or X to receive further updates and announcements.



The Cremation Society
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Funeral Industry

News

Regulations For Burial and Inspection Approved by The Scottish Parliament

The Burial (Management) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 and the Burial and Cremation (Inspection) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 were approved by the Scottish Parliament on 8 January 2025.

These regulations will come into force on 1 March 2025, at the same time as:

- Funeral Director Code of Practice
- The Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement no. 6) Regulations 2024 (“the Commencement Regulations”)
- The Burial (Applications and Register) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (“the Applications and Register Regulations”)

Applications for burial

The Scottish Government will implement new burial application forms, which must be used for all applications submitted from the start of business on 1st March 2025 and from then on. The forms, along with the guidance notes, will be distributed as soon as possible and can be completed either electronically or by hand.

The Scottish Government requests your support in raising awareness of the upcoming forms by sharing and displaying the below information posters.

Posters for the Funeral Director Code of Practice have also been created, which can be found below, and it would be appreciated if those could also be displayed and circulated.



New burial application forms must be used from 1st March 2025

The Scottish Government is introducing new burial application forms which must be used for every application submitted on or after 1 March 2025.

These new application forms can be completed either electronically or by hand and will be distributed in advance of this date.



Funeral Director Code of Practice coming into force on 1st March 2025

The Funeral Director Code of Practice (‘the Code’) was introduced under the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016, and comes into force on 1st March 2025.

The code applies to all funeral directors carrying out the functions of a funeral director in Scotland and requires them to adhere to minimum standards in their care of the deceased.

The intention of the Code is that every person in Scotland will have a dignified and respectful funeral and bereaved families can be reassured that good standards of care will be provided.

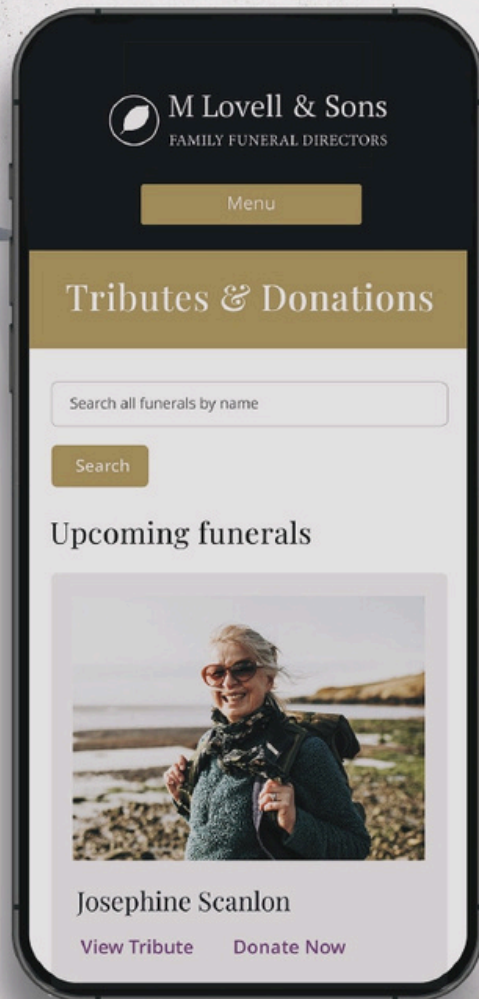
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Your place to remember



In loving memory of
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1957 - 2025

Lambeth Crematorium
Friday 28th February 2025 at 11am
Service taken by Rev Marion Lewis



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For more information: 01494 722818 • support@muchloved.com

muchloved.com

Making Goodbyes Accessible: The Benefits of Funeral Streaming

Modern funeral services are evolving to meet the needs of families in an increasingly connected world. Life doesn't always unfold as planned, and when a bereavement occurs, it can be challenging for everyone to gather in one place.

While many loved ones may wish to attend the service, unforeseen circumstances can sometimes prevent their presence on the day. For many, Obitus' Live and On-Demand funeral streaming offers a practical solution to give people a way to say goodbye.

This option provides a supportive service, and while the popularity of funeral streaming has grown significantly since the pandemic, it continues to resonate with families today. Whether allowing distant relatives to participate in real-time or providing a way to revisit the service later, streaming services can make a difficult time a little easier.

Obitus

Why Funeral Streaming Matters To Families

1. Ensures Inclusion, Wherever People Are

Not everyone can attend a funeral in person due to geographical, health, or other constraints. Live streaming allows families to include loved ones who might otherwise miss the opportunity to say goodbye.

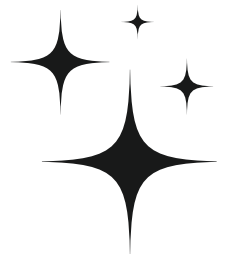
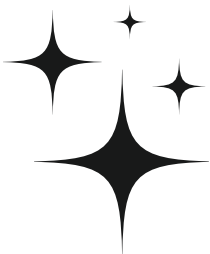
With Obitus, all streams are hosted on a secure platform, watch.obitus.com and accessed only via unique credentials shared by the crematorium or funeral director. Families retain full control over who can view the service, ensuring privacy and comfort.

This option provides reassurance to families that everyone who wants to participate, even remotely, can do so securely and without risk of scams or unauthorised access.

2. Offers Flexibility To Revisit The Service

The grieving process doesn't follow a schedule, and families may find comfort in revisiting the service later. Our On-Demand feature, included as standard, allows families to watch the service for up to 28 days after the event.

This flexibility also helps those who were unable to watch the live stream due to time zone differences or other commitments. High-quality recordings, processed within 2-3 working days, ensure the entire service is available, including moments that may have run over or started early.



3. Preserves Memories For The Future

In some cases, families decide after the service that they'd like a recording for posterity. Whether it's to preserve a special moment or share with others who couldn't attend, funeral arrangers can offer this option as part of their service.

Even if the Live and On-Demand option wasn't arranged beforehand, Obitus can retrieve recordings for up to 90 days after the event. Families can choose a temporary 28-day online link or a Keepsake package to hold onto the recording permanently.

Why let families know about Streaming

Funeral streaming isn't just a convenience - it's a meaningful way to connect families during difficult times. By informing families about Live and On-Demand options, funeral arrangers can offer a more inclusive and compassionate service.

With secure platforms, flexible viewing options, and the ability to revisit or preserve recordings, streaming provides families with peace of mind and a sense of connection. It's a small addition to your service offerings but one that can have a significant impact on the families you serve. To learn more about providing Live and On-Demand funeral streaming, visit [Obitus.com/streaming](https://obitus.com/streaming).





TRIBUTES **30** YEARS
COFFINS | URNS | KEEPSAKES | ENGRAVING

Our company was founded in 1994 with the fundamental principles of providing quality products with excellent customer care and a splash of creativity.

Today, we continue to stay true to those principles.
And we will for the next 30 years.

ADVERTORIAL

The FSA moves into 2025 with a great deal of excitement as we continue to grow our membership.

With the following members elected as Officers and Executive members for the year ahead we highlight this is an association that truly covers all areas of supply and service to the funeral sector.

- Jade Wilcox – President & Managing Director, Wilcox Limousines Ltd
- David Fry – Vice President & National Sales Manager, Clarke & Strong Ltd
- Brian Hart – Second Vice President & Managing Director, Unicorn IB Ltd t/a SAIFINSURE
- Anthony Hill – Immediate President & Managing Director, Somerset Willow England
- Julian Atkinson – Managing Director, Kindly Earth Ltd
- Carl Beswick – Sales Director, Trident Marketing Anglia Ltd
- Catherine Betley – Managing Director, Professional Help Ltd
- Brendan Day – Founder & Director Greener Globe Funeral Standard
- Christopher Doggett – Managing Director, The Natural Burial Company
- Philip Halliday – Director, Halliday Funeral Supplies & P and L Manufacturing
- Alan Jose – Group Ambassador, Westerleigh Group
- Adam Masters – Managing Director, Tributes Ltd

The general meeting season will open on Wednesday 5th February where members will receive presentations on AI & the Westerleigh/Obitus experiential project at Gedling Crematorium.

For your diary, General Meeting dates for 2025 are as follows:

All Wednesdays

5th February

30th April

9th July

10th September

All meetings will be held at the Limes Country Lodge Hotel, Forshaw Heath Road, Earlswood, Solihull, B94 5JZ

Membership of the Funeral Suppliers' association is available to all manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to the funeral sector.

Further details are available from Chief Executive, Alun Tucker, by email chiefexec@funeralsuppliers.uk



FSA

Funeral Suppliers' Association

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The benefits

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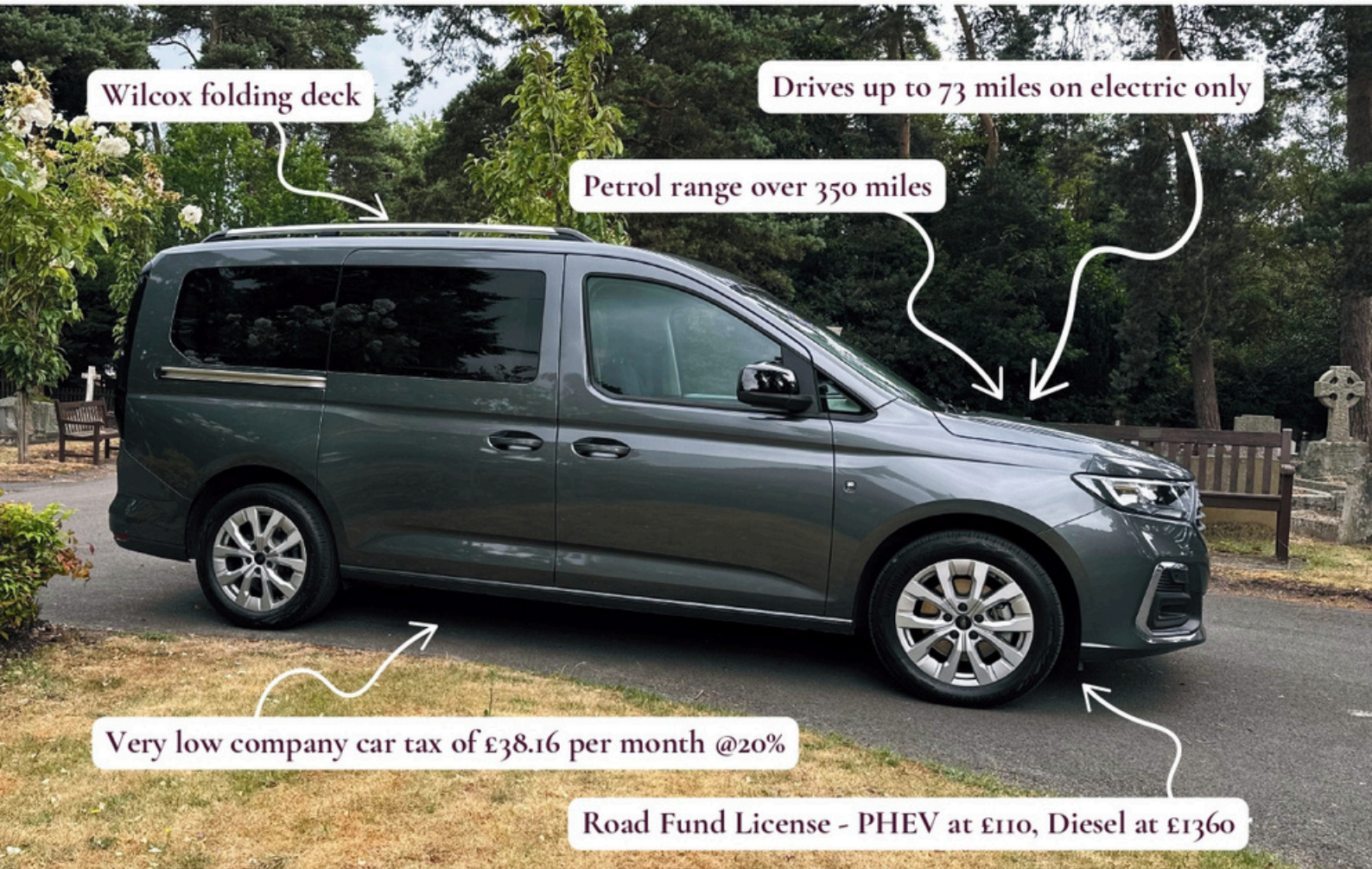
For more information visit the FFMA website: www.ffma.co.uk

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