



"It is good people who make good places"

I believe this to be a quote from English novelist, Anna Sewell. I am not sure of the context in which it was written, but I believe the statement to be true of Peasgood & Skeates.

We receive many letters of thanks during the course of the year which are testament to the hard work and dedication of every member of our team and the desire they have to help others.

This newsletter gives a little insight into our community work as well as some of the things we have been doing "behind the scenes".

Sean Martin, Head of Operations

175 years of Service and Care

This year marks the 175th anniversary of our family-owned business which began in Saffron Walden in 1847. In recent years, the Company has expanded and we now also have funeral homes in Duxford, Haverhill, Sawston and Cambridge.

The horsedrawn funeral pictured took place in Wimbish, a village just outside Saffron Walden, in March 1914.

Whilst motor hearses are used more frequently nowadays, we are still able to provide horses and a carriage for those who request something traditional and we can also work with more unusual vehicles, like this vintage turntable ladder which was recently sourced by the family of a former Chief Fire Officer.

The 3rd photo shows our modern hearse with a cortege of limousines, each with a feathered plume.

Whilst there is over 100 years between the top photo and the other two, it is interesting to note that the funeral procession is largely unchanged.

The difference with funerals now is that there are so many more options and it is our job to ensure that each family is able to arrange the funeral of their choice, whether it is a direct cremation with no-one in attendance or a very elaborate ceremony.

Whatever the request, we will do our very best to facilitate it and will do so with kindness and care.



photo credit: Celia Bartlett Photography



Our Summer Photo Album



**Haverhill
Show
Winners**

Spotlight on Haverhill

Above far left: Funeral Manager, Lee Wilkins, Funeral Arranger Sara Eastham and Casual Bearer, Bob Eastham looking after visitors at The Haverhill Show. Above left: Funeral Operative Josh Woods and Receptionist, Roz Manning.

It has been lovely to be able to re-engage with our local communities and we have taken every opportunity to do so since the pandemic restrictions were lifted.

This year, we attended the **Haverhill Show** for the first time and were delighted to receive such a warm and friendly welcome. Visitors to our stand were invited to guess the number of balloons in our limousine and sweets in a jar and at one stage there was a queue of people waiting to give it a go! The top prize was a £100 voucher which was won by Lewis Fletcher of Haverhill.

We were also pleased to sponsor the putting competition at this year's Golf Day, in support of **Haverhill Rovers Football Club**. Lee is pictured with the organiser, Barbara Jones.

Emma at our Haverhill funeral home has also been very creative with her window displays. She was pleased to be able to hand over a cheque for £250.00 to the Haverhill Salvation Army, which had been raised from our popular Christmas Raffle which was a tradition started by Funeral Administrator, Nicki Hickford.





In June, our Duxford ladies, Jenna and Claire, set themselves a gruelling challenge when they decided to climb Mount Snowdon at night. The group set off at half past midnight and steadily made the climb to the summit, only to be greeted by 30 mph winds and a rather chilly temperature of minus 3 degrees! They were determined to complete the challenge and in doing so, have raised £1,000 for Maggie's in Cambridge. This particular cause is close to both their hearts and we applaud this marvellous achievement. Jenna (left) and Claire are pictured with their partners, Scott and Jeff, who accompanied them on their climb.

Our Saffron Walden team has supported a number of events in the town this year, including the printing of the commemorative Jubilee programmes and sponsorship of the carnival putting competition.

We have also been busy in Sawston, where we have sponsored the Photography and Art Competition and also supported the race night, both of which were organised by the village Jubilee Committee.

Below right: Local golfers trying their luck at the Saffron Walden Carnival Putting Competition
Below left: the proud prize-winners.



Funeral Managers Ben Seward and Andy Mcfadyen visited the National Funeral Exhibition at Stoneleigh Park this year. It was a great opportunity for us to catch up with some of our suppliers and to keep up to date with new products and services.

Watch this space ...!



We enjoyed decorating our office windows to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Emma Skeates (the Corgi) was particularly pleased to have her photo taken for the occasion.



In July, Sonja from our Cambridge branch took our newly-acquired ice-cream cycle on its' maiden voyage. It was very popular with young and not-so-young visitors to the Cherry Hinton Care Home's 'Big Weekend'.

Our People

In Memory of Derek Bayford

Earlier this year, we were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden passing of our friend and colleague, Derek Bayford. Derek had worked for the Company as a casual Driver/Bearer for over 20 years, mostly working alongside our Saffron Walden Team. Prior to working with us, he was Station Officer at Stansted Fire Station for many years.



We feel very privileged to have known Derek; he was a kind and hardworking colleague and a good friend to many. His funeral took place at Cam Valley Crematorium in May and the picture above shows his colleagues, past and present, lining the route to the crematorium, where his ashes have been scattered.

Exam Success for Stephen

Well done to our Company Embalmer, Stephen Glasson, who has recently gained his Diploma from the British Institute of Embalmers of which he is now a fully qualified member. Stephen worked very hard to gain this qualification within 18 months, which really is a remarkable achievement, and we are delighted to see him succeed.



Arthur and Linda's Retirement



Arthur King was one of our longest-serving Casual Driver/Bearers, having worked for the Company for 30 years. Arthur's wife, Linda, was also an important member of the team, as she cleaned our Shire Hill funeral home for the past 20 years. Both Arthur and Linda take a great pride in their work and we were sorry to see them go. We wish them both every happiness in their retirement.

And Finally ...

Ben was happy to show his moves on the dance floor at one of our popular Sing-Alongs. His dance partner was delighted!



We have been busy recruiting in recent months and are delighted to introduce the newest members of our team:



Sonja Lafferty
Funeral Director



Kerry Edwards
Funeral Administrator



Samantha Burke
Trainee Funeral Director



Sara Eastham
Funeral Arranger



Roz Manning
Receptionist



Alex Brown
Funeral Operative



Josh Woods
Funeral Operative

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