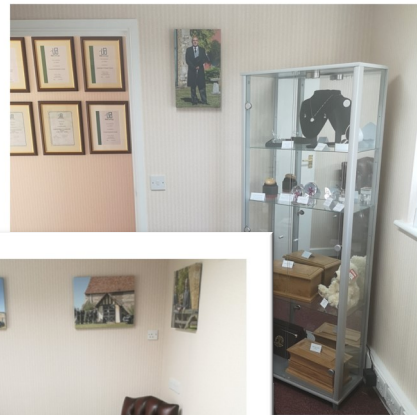


# Our Other News



## New Look for Duxford

Our Duxford Funeral home recently had a makeover, with the newly refurbished front office and reception now accessed from Moorfield Road. The previous office has been transformed into a comfortable seating area (pictured right), offering more comfort and flexibility.



Father and daughter team, David Skeates and Claire Skeates-Hall, continue to look after families from Duxford, Ickleton, Sawston, and the surrounding villages.

## Commemorating VE Day

We felt it was important to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day. With grateful thanks to the Haverhill Royal British Legion for providing some of the items for display in the window of our Haverhill funeral home, including the very thought-provoking list of names of Haverhill's servicemen and women who were listed as "Not Yet Home" in 1945.



## It's new and improved!

Our new website was launched in January and has received a lot of positive feedback. It has been particularly helpful during the lockdown, as it has enabled families to gain access to information and advice, including our coffin selection.

Do take a look!

View our  
**New**  
Website!



[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)

## Ian Maylin has retired ... well, almost!

At the end of May, we marked the official retirement of Funeral Director, Ian Maylin, who has worked for the Company for 15 years. Ian joined Peasgood & Skeates in Saffron Walden in 2005 as a Funeral Operative and has taken on a number of other roles within the Company, before returning to Shire Hill in 2014 as a qualified Funeral Director. We are pleased that Ian won't be leaving us completely just yet, as he will continue to work on a part time basis for a while. However, we felt it was fitting to recognise his final day working full time and he was presented with some garden centre vouchers plus a range of other gifts from his colleagues, some of whom joined us via Zoom to raise a glass!



**PEASGOOD  
& SKEATES**  
THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE  
EST 1847

SAFFRON WALDEN 01799 523314

DUXFORD 01223 833463

CAMBRIDGE 01223 415255

HAVERHILL 01440 840140



# Summer Newsletter 2020





The pictures on the front cover were taken in the summer of 2019, as part of a photoshoot in preparation for our new and updated website. These less formal shots didn't make the website but they show a lighter side to our staff, and were taken in local parks and gardens, something which has been denied to us so far this year.

You may recognise the couple in the middle: Les Ames is one of our casual driver/bearers and he also happens to be a professional singer. Before the lockdown, Les enjoyed entertaining residents and staff at local nursing and care homes at our regular sing-alongs. When this was no longer possible, he very kindly recorded a DVD of popular songs which we have distributed to a number of local homes. If you know anyone who would like a copy, please let us know. Les and his wife Marilyn, also a professional singer, kindly agreed to take part in the photoshoot, and we have used their images on the website and also in our pre-paid funeral literature.

This has certainly been a very different year, and one which no-one who has experienced it is likely to forget. There has been much talk about key workers and those who have been on the front line during this very challenging time. I would like to acknowledge and thank the team at Peasgood & Skeates who have worked throughout the lockdown, in order to provide much needed care for the deceased and to the bereaved. We are also grateful to the Registration Service, Coroner's Officers, doctor's surgeries, hospital staff, local clergy, funeral celebrants, florists, our suppliers and many others who have helped us to provide this service. We are acutely aware that this has been a particularly difficult time for those who have been bereaved in recent months, and we extend our sincere condolences to you. We remain here to offer help and guidance, and there is always a member of our team at the end of the phone to assist you, day and night, all year round.

I hope this newsletter is of interest to you. As always, if you have any comments or suggestions, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Sean Martin, Head of Operations

These pages would usually be filled with photographs of our spring and summer community engagements, which of course have not been possible this year. Below are some of the clubs and organisations we currently support, as well as many local churches and groups - they remain very much in our thoughts and we hope they will be able to resume their activities soon.



If you know of a local club or organisation that would benefit

from our support or sponsorship, we would be pleased to discuss ways in which we may be able to help you. Please speak to the Manager of your local office, or contact Hayley Doe, PA to the Senior Management Team: tel 01799 523314.email:hayley@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk

## Limousines - keeping you safe



We have done our utmost to offer a continued service to the bereaved, whilst adhering to the restrictions. In view of recent developments, we are pleased to be able to offer limousines again from early July. All our vehicles have been fitted with partitions for the protection of passengers and, in addition to keeping them looking pristine, they will be meticulously cleansed inside and out before and after each use.



## Our ongoing support

Where possible, we have been in touch with families who have been bereaved during the lockdown, to offer our continued support. Some families are planning memorial services at a later date, others have taken comfort from purchasing a special urn or a piece of jewellery to hold cremated remains, or choosing a headstone as a lasting memorial to their loved one. We know that the grief journey continues long after the funeral, and are pleased to offer help and support in any way we can.

# The changing face of funerals during the 2020 lockdown

The Coronavirus lockdown has posed a number of challenges for everyone, across the globe. On a local level, it has been a particularly difficult time for the bereaved, as many people have been self-isolating and funeral options have been restricted. Although our funeral homes have remained open, many families have opted to make arrangements over the telephone or by email, and we have been able to contact some families remotely via Zoom.

Behind the scenes, we have worked tirelessly with our local churches, cemeteries and crematoria and have kept in touch with the clergy and funeral celebrants to ensure that we are able to offer the very best service possible within the guidelines. Many families have made use of the webcast option at the crematorium, which enables family and friends to view the service live via the internet. Although this is not the same as being there in person, we know that it has been a comfort to know that loved ones are sharing the service.

There have also been some very individual send-offs; with friends and neighbours respectfully lining the route; some have shown their support by clapping, others have simply bowed their heads. Some families have decorated their driveways and porches with flowers, to make the final journey a little more special and others have selected an alternative funeral hearse or requested a special route to the church, crematorium or cemetery.

Throughout this time we have been keeping a close eye on the government guidelines and have adapted our offering accordingly. As the restrictions are starting to lift, we hope to be able to edge a little further towards 'normal' although we know that we are a little way from that at the moment. In the meantime, we will continue to do the very best we can to help those who turn to us at their time of bereavement.



The funeral cortege for the late Bart Robinson, our Company Director and former Chairman, took place on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning in May. Sean Martin, David Peasgood and David Skeates joined a number of our funeral conductors to follow the hearse, which was led by Managing Director, Gary Neill. Other members of the team stood with the few hundred members of the public who had lined the streets of Stansted to pay their respects, and a gentle ripple of applause was heard as the cortege moved slowly through the streets.

Rest in Peace Bart, you will be missed.

The following message, received from a funeral celebrant during the lockdown, was much appreciated by the team:

Thanks to the team at Peasgood & Skeates for doing your invaluable, vital, essential and I fear, unrecognised, job. You are all heroes at this time. My respect to you.



Around 200 people turned out to line the streets in Saffron Walden for a well known and much loved gentleman.

Photo courtesy of Celia Bartlett Photography.



The late David Picking took his final journey in this vintage Morris Truck. The truck had been a gift to his son, Adam, which they both lovingly restored.

## Bereavement Support



Clients of Peasgood & Skeates can access free Bereavement Support, via SAIFCare: Tel 0800 917 7224

Email: [help@saifcare.org](mailto:help@saifcare.org)

Please contact SAIFCare directly, or ask your Funeral Arranger for further details.