

# Winter Newsletter 2020

As 2020 draws to a close, and we reflect on this most unusual year, our thoughts are very much with those who have suffered a bereavement. Some people who have lost a close family member or friend have faced the disappointment of not being able to hold the funeral service that they may have planned; others may have been unable to attend the service for a friend, neighbour, work colleague or acquaintance. With this in mind, we have worked closely with families and our professional colleagues to find alternative ways for people to pay their respects. In many cases, people have lined the route as the hearse passes by, and many funerals have been streamed live and recorded for those unable to attend the service.

At this point, I would like to thank the Peasgood & Skeates team for their hard work this year. As key workers, they have continued to work during both national lockdowns, finding ways to adapt to the guidelines and regulations whilst not compromising on the standard of service or care given to the bereaved and to other professionals who call on us for assistance.

I would like to give a special mention those pictured below, who recently received their certificates for qualifications obtained through the Independent Funeral Director's College. It is important to us that our staff are trained to the same high standard and each member of our team is therefore encouraged to study for relevant qualifications.

Finally, I would like to express our grateful thanks to other key workers, including our local care home staff, medical professionals, clergy, funeral celebrants, cemetery and crematorium staff, florists, as well as many others, who have worked with us during this most difficult year; together we have managed to continue our very valuable work. More than ever, this year has shown us how much we rely on each-other and I thank you all for your help, support and friendship.

With my very best wishes to you all,  
*Sean Martin, Head of Operations*



**Claire Skeates-Hall**  
Funeral Arranger, Duxford



**Tom Warden**  
Funeral Operative, Cambridge



**Ben Seward**  
Funeral Director, Cambridge

You can meet other members of our team on our website:  
[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk) and we have also been running a series of posts on our Facebook page,  
so you can see what we look like behind our face masks!

## GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

We have been finding ways to support our local community during the lockdown and Lee Wilkins from our Duxford branch came up with the idea of providing hampers of art and craft materials and refreshments for residents of local care homes. He was pleased to make a delivery of two hampers to the Cambridgeshire Care Home, who were delighted to receive them.



Martin and Nicki from our Haverhill office and Phil Warner, General Manager, were pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the Haverhill Rovers Football Club Under 14 Boys Team before their first training session of the season. They all looked great in their new kit, sponsored by Peasgood & Skeates (but, as it had been a particularly wet day, we don't suppose they will have looked quite as pristine afterwards!). We wish them luck and hope they have a successful season.

Anyone  
for  
ice  
cream?



Residents of Eastcotts Nursing Home in Haverhill couldn't enjoy a day at the coast this year so they decided to have a beach party and celebrations at the home.

We were pleased to take along our recently purchased ice cream cart to provide free ice cream and treats for the residents. We hear it was a very enjoyable day for the residents and staff ... and the sun shone too!

The refrigerated cart can also be used for confectionary and other treats, and is available for loan to local care homes and other groups and organisations. If you would like us to pay you a visit please contact your local branch of Peasgood & Skeates, or email us: [enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@peasgoodandskeates.co.uk) and we will see what we can do.

## A Heartfelt Thank You

It is probably fair to say that this year has been tough for everyone in some way and we know that it has been a particularly difficult year for those who have been bereaved; the restrictions have also been challenging for the teams of professionals who look after them, as they would not wish to compromise their level of care in any way. At Peasgood & Skeates, we have worked very closely with the Arthur Rank Hospice and Maggie's in Cambridge and, in recent years, members of our team have experienced their exceptional care first hand. With this in mind, we were pleased to donate £5,000 to each charity - we know that the funds will be put to good use, in order to benefit those who have need of their services in the future.

*~ In loving memory of Paul Challinor  
and Madeleine Heal ~*

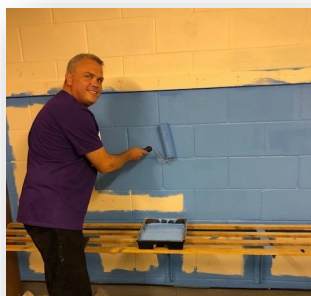


*Left: Sean Martin  
presenting our cheque  
to Donna Talbot,  
Director of Fundraising  
and Communications at  
Arthur Rank Hospice.*

*Right: Phil Warner and  
Nigel Appleby of Peasgood &  
Skeates are pictured with  
Cancer Support Specialist,  
Aneesh Shrivastava, from  
Maggie's. Nigel was  
introduced to Maggie's with  
his partner Madeleine and  
has continued to be  
supported by the team since her  
passing earlier this year.*



## Haverhill Rugby



As a proud Welshman, it is no surprise that Martin Griffiths, Funeral Manager at Saffron Walden and Haverhill, is keen on rugby. He was pleased to go along to the Haverhill Rugby Force weekend in September with other volunteers, to help get the club ready for the new season.

Martin returned to the club in October to support their Inter-Club Tournament. A fun afternoon of tag rugby was played by 3 mixed teams of 10, and supporters were able to enjoy the games which were carefully managed within the Covid guidelines.



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE OFFICES



As the number of mourners attending funerals has been restricted for most of the year, many families have lined the route to the service. This picture was taken at a funeral arranged by our Duxford branch, for a local war veteran who had been awarded the Burma Star. It was very humbling to see so many Standard Bearers outside Cam Valley Crematorium in honour of this gentleman and for the flags to gently lower as the cortège passed by.

## CAMBRIDGE

Our funeral home on Newmarket Road is looking a bit sad during the current refurbishment but please be assured that it is business as usual and the work should be completed very soon.



The team at Peasgood & Skeates are proudly sponsoring The Arthur Rank Hospice Charity Light up a Life Appeal for another year. This year's Light up a Life event will take place online and the film will premiere at 5pm on Sunday 6 December 2020. It will feature music, readings and the switch-on of the tree lights. The 30 minute film can be viewed via the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity website [arhc.org.uk/LUALfilm](http://arhc.org.uk/LUALfilm) or on their YouTube channel. If you would like to read about the appeal we are sponsoring please visit their [website](#) and if you wish, make a donation.



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

## SAFFRON WALDEN



It was a huge privilege for members of our team to attend this year's All Souls services in Saffron Walden, Thaxted and Haverhill. The services were an opportunity for the bereaved to come together, either at the church or online to reflect and remember their loved ones. The service from Saffron Walden is available to view on the church's YouTube page (go to [www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org](http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org) and click on the link) and the Haverhill service can be viewed on the St Mary's Haverhill Facebook page.

We are also pleased to be sponsoring the magnificent Christmas Memory Tree in Saffron Walden's Market Square for the third year. Perhaps this year it will be more poignant than ever, when it is adorned with baubles bearing the names of those who are being remembered.

## HAVERHILL

*From us .....*

*..... to you!*

Nicki Hickford from our Haverhill branch took along some contributions to local community hub, Memories are Golden, for their Christmas hampers.

The group, which brings together individuals with Dementia and those over 65 who are at risk of social isolation, will also receive the profits of the Haverhill Christmas Raffle, which has become quite a tradition in the town.

Nicki is pictured left, and Kelly from Golden Memories is on the right ... *how very 2020!*



We have always encouraged families to make their own individual choices and we have tried even harder during this unusual year to focus on what can be done rather than what is not possible. Funeral themes and alternative vehicles can bring comfort or a special focus to the day. One family provided their own tractor and trailer and we have hired this Landrover hearse a couple of times at the request of local families.





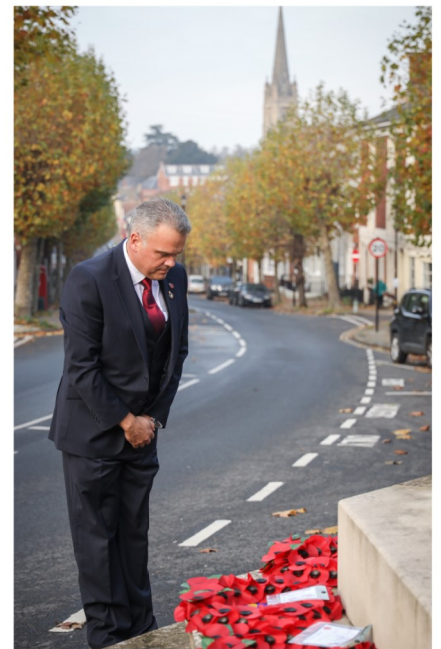
# REMEMBRANCE

On Sunday 13th September the Saffron Walden branch of the Royal British Legion held a service at Saffron Walden cemetery to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Martin Griffiths (right) attended the service at the War Graves and laid a wreath in memory of one of the airmen who died in the battle

*Photos of Martin courtesy of Celia Bartlett Photography.*

Members of our team were pleased to be able to lay wreaths on Remembrance Sunday, thanks to careful planning and organisation from The Royal British Legion and local councils.



## A few final words from Sean Martin:

A certificate and gift vouchers were recently presented to Nicki Hickford of our Haverhill office and Nick Reader, Casual Driver/Bearer, in recognition of 5 years' service to the Company.

I would also like to mention members of our team who obtained a Health & Safety at Work qualification this year: Neil Rogerson, Martin Griffiths, Jeff Skeates-Hall and Richard Spooner (*although we hope not to be putting their newly acquired skills to the test!*)

These presentations would usually have been made at our Annual Staff Meeting, which is the one time in the year that we all get together as a company. This won't be possible this year but, none-the-less, it is important that commitment is recognised and I would like to personally thank each and every one of the Peasgood & Skeates team for their contribution during this most extraordinary year.



*Nicki Hickford  
and  
Nick Reader*

