

# DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

## INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Est. 1892



*Summer 2019*



### A new home for **Halstead**

We have now moved in to our newly refurbished premises at 31 High Street, Halstead. It's fantastic to be based in the town centre and to have had the privilege of being able to bring this beautiful building back up to date and have the opportunity to restore many of its original features.

We are enjoying having so much room and every modern facility available, which will enable us to give the best possible service to the people of Halstead and the surrounding villages. Please see page 2 for some photographs and a little snippet of history about the building.



### **Harlow** has grown!

Our doors opened in Harlow for the first time in 1964 and over the years this funeral home has gradually grown, with two major refurbishments during that time. In June this year we were delighted to unveil the latest refurbishment of the premises, which has seen improvements in the size of all of the facilities in order that we can continue to ensure the very best for those in our care, visiting families and for our staff. At Daniel Robinson & Sons we are dedicated to continuous investment in our property, fleet and training of our team and we now have improved space available to use for both training and meetings. We are looking forward to continuing to serve the local community for many years to come. Please see the back page for some pictures of our Harlow Funeral Home and how it has evolved.





# Our new premises at 31 High Street, Halstead, opened its doors...



31 The High Street  
as it was around 1900

A 'warren of secret cellars' was unearthed during the restoration of our new premises in Halstead. This was the old Nat West bank building, however, as we delved further into the structure we started to find out that the building had originally been quite grand and had some fantastic hidden original features. At one point, whilst drilling into the floor, a cellar was discovered and it appears that the building at one time belonged to a wine merchant and the maze of tunnels in the cellar below were where they had stored the wine. Unfortunately, there was no wine left behind! We also found a huge bank vault, complete with reinforced door, this has been decommissioned, but the door has been retained for posterity. The work at 31 The High Street has been a labour of love, Gary Neill, Managing Director, who led the project said 'the town has a huge community spirit which we are very much part of and support'. Our VIP Open Evening and Open Day in March were very successful and we would like to thank everyone who took the time to come along.



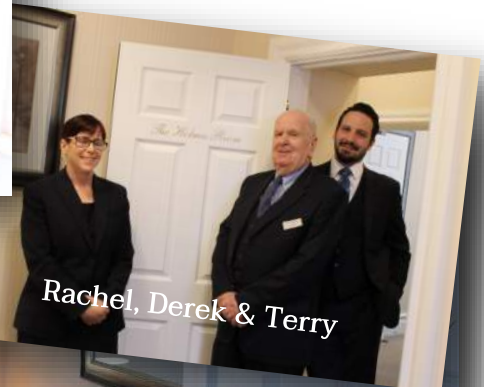
Mr Bart Robinson gives his approval at the launch evening



The Chapel Blessing



Gary Neill, M.D.



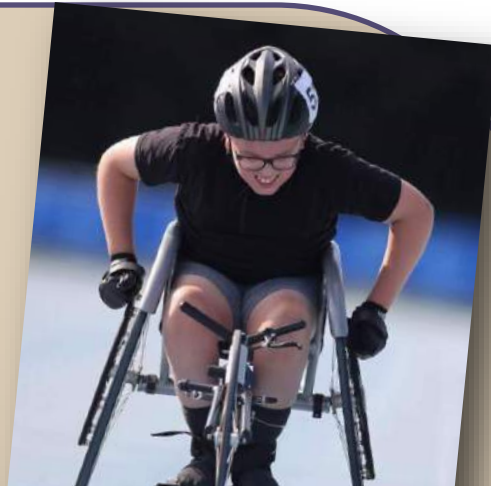
Rachel, Derek & Terry



The Holmes Room



In 2018 we worked with local businesses and generous golfers to raise a staggering £43,000 to help some local children, Lenny, Lyncoln, Aiden and Summer, all of whom have cerebral palsy in their lower limbs, to access vital specialist physio therapy, equipment and physical training programmes. This all helps them to improve their mobility in their lives, both for the present day and for the future. The children have been making fantastic progress and here are some photos of some of the things that they have been up to...



**Lyncoln** started the year by being admitted to hospital and had some surgery which left him unable to get about for quite some time. He's now getting back to fitness and is working hard to establish himself in the sport of wheelchair racing.



**Aiden** has been working out to build his strength, he has also, together with his brother, won a competition at school for writing a short spooky story and has been published in a book called 'Spooky Sagas'.

**Summer** came in to our Braintree branch to collect two pieces of equipment that were purchased from the funds raised at our Charity Golf Day, a physio bench and tripods. Louise Griffiths from Braintree and Terry Wright from Halstead, helped her try them out!



Radio Star! Phil Barrow accompanied **Lenny** when he was interviewed by Ben and Sonia from BBC Radio Essex's BenSon Show.

The couple had previously attended the opening of the DRS 2018 Charity Golf Day and were keen to get an update on how the children were progressing.

Lenny was the perfect guest and was very happy to chat with the presenters.



## Another very busy six months in the local community...



Louise and Sandy attended a special evening to celebrate the **100 years anniversary of Braintree Bowls Club**. 'Three years in the Making' is a commemorative book which has been written about the history, celebrations and the changes at the Club. An evening of cheese and wine was enjoyed after the centenary flag was raised. The greens are looking in fantastic condition so we wish everyone a successful season at Braintree Bowls Club.

Anyone for tea? Craig Knott is pictured below presenting the **Mayor and Mayoress of Great Dunmow**, Mr & Mrs Easter, with a hamper to help raise funds at the final charity event of their mayoral year. They were hosting a 'Tea at The Ritz' themed afternoon tea at the Great Dunmow Day Centre.



Through sponsorship for the **Great Dunmow Soap Box Race** we raised £135 for the CVS Uttlesford Gardening Project.

This money was presented to Richard from the charity, by Bart Robinson.

Richard told us that the funds will be used to help an 83 year old lady who has a 120 foot long overgrown garden hedge that she can no longer manage.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored us - lovely to know exactly how the funds will be spent.







In April our **Waltham Abbey** funeral home hosted a Coffee and Chat event to help raise funds for the St Elizabeth's fund; a charity that provides positive living and learning for people of all ages with severe epilepsy, learning disabilities and other complex needs, such as severe autism and other neurological conditions. Easter Eggs were donated to the Children's Easter Fun Morning and tulips and floral arrangement to the afternoon Chums & Chat Group Easter event, held at the Salvation Army Hall, Waltham Abbey. All gifts were greatly received with thanks by Major, Sharon King.

The photograph shows the DRS team, Stephanie and Seamus, together with some of the lovely ladies from St. Elizabeths.

We were once again very proud to sponsor the **Mighty Masters Golf Day**, an annual event for junior beginners from the age of 3 to 16 years old, which gives the children an opportunity to play golf. Hosted by Epping Golf Course. This is the seventeenth year the event has been running. The weather was warm and sunny and 80 juniors from across Essex enjoyed the day, with the assistance of some fantastic volunteers. Local golf professional, Bradley Preston, was on hand to give help and advice to the young golfers. Overall winner on the day was Matthew Whittaker aged 8 - well done Matthew!



Following on from nearly 500 people attending the Carols & Candlelight Services at **St Paul's Church, Harlow**, we noticed that the church roof was in desperate need of repair and whilst they had already raised a fantastic £17,000 for the works, they were still £3000 short of the total amount needed. We were delighted to be able to donate the remaining £3000 using funds that were remaining from our 125th Anniversary Year celebrations. The picture shows Gary Neill (Managing Director) with Kehinde Ajayi (Church Warden), Peter Smith (Church Reader) Rev'd Martin Harris and Phil Clegg, Manager at our Harlow Funeral Home.

Joanne and Scott attended a 'Time to Remember' Service at **St Mary's Church, Henham**.

The service, which was led by Reverend Gary Townsend, was an opportunity for members of the local community to attend and pay their respects to family members and friends that had passed in recent years. Candles were lit in their memory, and members of the congregation were offered a pot plant, provided by ourselves, should anyone wish to plant a flower in their garden as a permanent mark of remembrance to their loved ones. During the event, loved ones names were read out in memory, with a talk being given in relation to SAIF Care and various other sources of information and support for the bereaved.







Thank you to Catherine Betley from SAIFCare, who kindly made a presentation at our Management Away Day in May. SAIFCare is a fantastic service which enables us to offer all of our client families free bereavement counselling. If you are a client who has used our services and feel that you would like to find out more about this service, please contact us.



## MEET THE team



### 75th Anniversary of D Day

Andrew MacGregor, bearer/driver based at Great Dunmow, piped to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of D Day at Great Notley County Park, to honour those that gave their lives and showed courage to fight for the freedoms we enjoy today.



### A 95th birthday treat at West Ham

Company Director, Bart Robinson, recently celebrated his 95th birthday. A lifelong fan of West Ham United FC, we asked the Club if Bart was their oldest season ticket holder. It appears that he hasn't made the record books just yet, but they did arrange for him to have a VIP trip to the Club where he met, and had a long chat with, Brian Dear, former professional footballer and striker for West Ham.





**Long Service** - not just 'long service', but 'really long service'!!

At our Annual Staff Meeting Robert Robinson presented Pam Allen with a bouquet and Ralph Riches with a planter to mark their 30 years of being part of our Company.



**Congratulations to** Nigel Appleby our Head of Finance & Operations, who achieved his 25 Years of Service Award.

Nigel was presented with a gold watch, gift vouchers and a certificate by Gary Neill, Managing Director and Robert Robinson, Chairman.



**Well done!** We had quite a few training certificates to present at the recent Annual Staff liP Meeting. Ben Evans is shown being presented with his Certificates for IFD Health & Safety & IFD Foundation Funeral Practitioner courses. Nigel Appleby and David Peasgood made the presentation.



Derek Oakley, Funeral Manager at Harlow, is congratulated by his colleague and fellow Mason, Phil Clegg on being installed as the Master of the Lodge of Borrowed Light 9054.

This is the culmination of eight years work, with many hours of study and rehearsal. Following the Ceremony Derek gave a speech to his fellow Masons thanking them for their continued support. Derek is looking forward to his time in the role and having the opportunity to nominate a charity which will benefit from their fundraising activities.

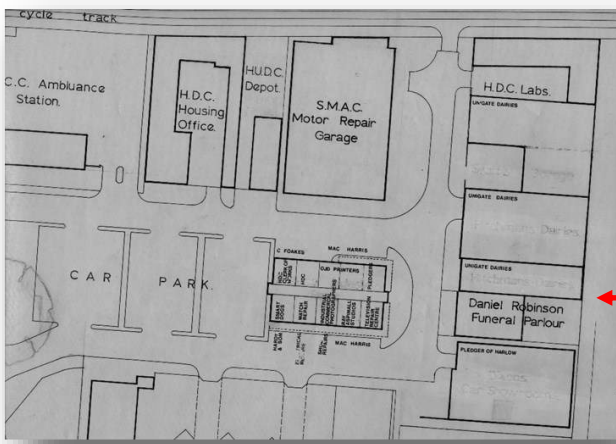


**'Well done'** to Liz Chapman and Joyce Bedu who have become Compassionate Neighbours with St Clare Hospice.

Adrian Chinnery was presented with a spoof award for his contribution to d.i.y!!



Our  
Harlow  
Funeral  
Home  
1964  
to  
2019



Before



After

When we opened our Funeral Home in Wych Elm in 1964, Harlow was very much the 'New Town', and Princess Alexandra Hospital had only just opened. In those days the M11 didn't exist and building work in many residential areas was still in the planning stages and the building of areas such as Staple Tye Neighbourhood Shopping Centre was only just beginning. The last areas to be constructed at that time were Sumners and Katherines in 1974 and the town centre was finally finished in 1980 with the completion of the Harvey Centre. Some of the buildings which we have now extended into were originally home to Dairy Crest, however, as we had always owned the property, we were able to grow and develop with the town and the families for whom we have always worked hard to give excellent service. *Investing in Harlow—yesterday—today and tomorrow.*



**Daniel Robinson & Sons**  
*caring for families in and around*  
Bishop's Stortford - Sawbridgeworth - Harlow - Epping  
Loughton - Waltham Abbey - Great Dunmow - Halstead & Braintree  
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