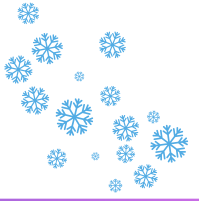


WINTER 2023/24

DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Your local INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTOR Est. 1892

NEWSLETTER



It's a goal! Celebrating six months of fantastic community events

As we look back over the last six months, we realise just how incredibly rewarding it has been to see so many local community and team events fully back on track. Whilst we have been able to continue to support those events that we have contributed to for many years, we have also been able to spread our wings a little and work with new groups on a wide range of engagement across our trading area, which is something that we really enjoy.

In the summer, Ben Evans, from our Funeral Operative team, suggested that we might be able to organise a Charity Football Match, playing against staff from Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, to raise funds for St Clare Hospice. It was a brilliant idea and the team here all rallied to make it happen, the match was extremely well attended with over £1,600.00 being raised for the Hospice! A big thank you and well done to Team PAH, who won the match, although the overall winners were of course the Hospice.

The photograph shows Ben (left) with Sydney, from St Clare Hospice and Ian from Princess Alexandra Hospital.

In this Newsletter you will also find an article about our biggest fundraising success ever, the Daniel Robinson & Sons Charity Golf Day 2023, as well as many of the other activities that our intrepid team have been contributing to. We hope that you enjoy browsing through and catching up.



A message from Managing Director, Gary Neill BCA

We are extremely proud of being truly independent family funeral directors. We realise the importance of investing in our premises, fleet and most importantly, our team. We celebrate training achievements and long service at our Annual Staff Meeting, updates about which are in this Newsletter.

It is also important to us to be forward-thinking and considerate of the needs of families, particularly in the current economic climate. In our Summer Newsletter, we wrote about our new, free service, My Funeral Wishes, which offers you the opportunity to make a record of your funeral wishes, without the cost of taking out a Funeral Plan. If you would like to find out more about this, please ask any of our team for more information.

We don't have call-centres, the bereaved are assisted by a dedicated, fully trained, caring staff, every step of the way. Loved ones remain with us, in our local Chapels of Rest, we feel that is reassuring in a world where service levels are diminishing. Please be assured, providing the highest quality service for the dignity and care of your loved ones and the comfort and reassurance of families, is, and will always remain, our highest priority.

Gary Neill



Team DRS



Out & about in the community

On 13th September 2023 we held our Annual Charity Golf Day at Colne Valley Golf Club, we are delighted to report that thanks to our sponsors, players and supporters, together we raised a record breaking...

£56,000.00

We really couldn't believe that this was yet another record breaking Charity Golf Day! The funds raised will be used to provide specialist physiotherapy and equipment to eight local, and absolutely amazing youngsters, all of whom live with cerebral palsy; Lincoln, Lenny, Aiden, Sid, Nat, Summer, Lewis and little baby Willow. These funds make a massive difference to their mobility both for today and also for the future.

We will also be assisting Harlow Wheelchair Racing Squad with funds to enable them to buy, build and modify racing chairs for children with disabilities, allowing them to benefit from the freedom, motivation and confidence that the sport can offer them. The Club is run by Paralympian, Richard Chiassario, and attracts children from all over Essex (including beneficiary Lincoln), Hertfordshire, and the surrounding area. Some of the youngsters benefiting from this funding may even be inspired to follow their dreams to go to the Paralympics too - we'll just have to wait and see!



Beneficiary Nat, with his wheelchair purchased with Golf Day funds.

Beneficiary Sid



Beneficiary Willow



Beneficiary Lenny with golfer Glenn



Some of our Golf Day Crew on the day



Beneficiaries Summer, Lewis, Lenny, Nat and Aiden, with the winning team Bradnams.

Harlow Wheelchair Racing Squad

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to meet, and raise funds for, the Harlow Wheelchair Racing Squad.

The group is run by GB Paralympian Richard Chiassaro, and provides sporting opportunities at all levels, for both children and adults, as mentioned on page 2.

Richard has already used the £10,000 donation from the Charity Golf Day to purchase new racing chairs and repair some of the existing racing chairs, which will not only be beneficial for existing squad members, but will also open up opportunities for further children to try out the sport.

The photograph shows Golf Day beneficiary Lincoln, as you can see Daniel Robinson & Sons have sponsored his kit. Lincoln is training hard with the squad as he wants to build his technique and speed as he hopes to become a Paralympic contender in the future.



Above: photo of Richard with a squad member. Middle - some of the new equipment purchased with Golf Day Funds. Bottom: Richard Chiassaro

Out & about in the community

Great Dunmow bakes

Jaz and Jo were out in Great Dunmow in September, supporting the local MacMillan Coffee Morning.

Much to our delight, dedicated organiser of the event in Gt Dunmow since 2001, Claire Reeve, chose Jo's husband, Duncan, as Star Baker for his delicious Lotus Biscoff Cake – shown here in his new apron! (we're sure he's waving that spatula with joy!).

A huge Well done to Claire for raising a staggering £2303.30 this year, it seems that you are certainly a star too, and Gt Dunmow must be very proud of you.



Waltham Abbey Loyal service recognised

In November Major Sharon King, Salvation Army Officer in Waltham Abbey, retired after 40-years of service. Sharon was awarded the 40-year service badge, and certificate. The service was standing room only with friends travelling the length of the country, and some even from Ireland, to come and celebrate and congratulate her. Sharon has worked alongside Daniel Robinson & Sons on many occasions, and it was lovely for her to mention us in her acceptance speech.

We wish Sharon all the best for the future and look forward to meeting her replacement sometime next summer. After 40-years Sharon is due a very long rest, but if we know Sharon we are sure that she'll find a little something to keep her busy!



Bishop's Stortford Careering ahead

Inspired by our HR & Training Manager, Dianne Haddon, a former teacher, we decided to spread the word about how incredibly rewarding a career in the funeral profession is. We arranged to go along to the Careers Fayre at The Bishop's Stortford High School in October. The event was for students from years 10-13 and was very well attended. Dianne was ably assisted by members of our team from all different aspects of our family business, Sophie - Receptionist/Administrator, Rourai - Funeral Operative and Christina - Embalmer.



Halstead Not a drop of rain in sight!

Derek from our Halstead funeral home, visited all the lovely ladies at Halstead Courtaulds Halstead Bowls Club when they held their Gala Day. It was also his great pleasure to deliver this rather lovely raffle prize. Lovely to see you all having a great time.

Loughton Prizes all round

Loughton Bowls Club Jubilee Day took place in August, it was a very popular event and was attended by many members of the Club.

The weather was bright and sunny and all members enjoyed a salad lunch and afternoon tea, followed by prize giving by Seamus and Jo Setterfield, from our Loughton office.



Old Harlow Magical memories

Working in partnership with Old Harlow Traders we were once again able to provide a Memory Tree for local people to place baubles on, with special messages inside in memory of loved ones.

All donations received for baubles are donated to St Clare Hospice. The launch of the tree coincided with the Association's switching on of the Christmas Tree lights.

Santa even managed to make an appearance, despite what is an extremely busy time of year for him!





Braintree A good turn

It was a sad day when a beautiful old tree which had become unsafe had to be felled at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Braintree.

Penny from our Manor Street, Braintree office had an idea and asked her partner, Steve Dutch, to create something special from the tree for Father David, secretly securing a part of the tree and taking it away for Steve to work on.

He created this beautiful bowl, which Penny was delighted to be able to present to Father David - what a lovely thing to do, well done Penny & Steve.

Harlow Halloween fun

Liz, from our Harlow office, was invited along to join the fun at the Tye Green Lodge Halloween Party.

What a great party it was too, with lots of spooky food and great activities for everyone to get involved in!



Sawbridgeworth Enjoying the moment

In September, we sponsored the Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club Gala Day. Derek (left) went along to meet the teams, try his hand at some bowls and present the prizes. A great day was enjoyed by all who attended.



In September, David, from our Bishop's Stortford funeral home, went along to the Ware Bowls Club as part of our sponsorship of the final of the local Ladies League. The winners of the League were Ware, with Elsenham being runners up.



Remembrance and supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal is of the highest priority on our community calendar. The photos in the montage are from just a few of the events we attended, including, Seamus assisting with the parade with one of our limousines in Loughton; the dressed window in our Epping funeral home - with photographs of local forces personnel; Derek from our Wych Elm, Harlow, funeral home, laying a poppy wreath at the memorial in the town park; and Donna from our Halstead funeral home, taking great care with hand-painting the window display.

By the end of the weekend our team had attended every Service in our trading area!



Loughton



Epping



Harlow



Halstead



Above: Scott received a 5 Year Service Award, Trevor a 10 Year Service Award and was presented with his IFD Certificate in Funeral Practice. Hayley received a 20 year Service Award.

Team News

Simon,
5 Year Service
Award



Penny,
5 Year Service
Award



Derrick,
10 Year Service
Award



Tom was
presented with his
IFD Administration
Certificate



Above: Tina receives her Five Year Long Service Award from Director, Will Robinson.



Below: Wayne, Hannah, Donna & Karen, were presented with their IFD Health & Safety and Foundation Certificates.



Left: Gary was presented with his 10 Year Service Certificate by Director, Alan Akers.

Congratulations also to Jane Manning, 15 Year Service, Paul Davey, 10 Year Service and Bob Mearns, 5 Year Service.



Congratulations to all our team members who received Long Service Awards, or were presented with their training certificates from the Independent Funeral Directors College, at our recent Annual Staff Meeting.

We are a truly independent family business; committed to training, developing and rewarding our team, who all work extremely hard to maintain the highest standards of service to the community, at all times.

Left: John Parkin, Company Secretary, presented Nigel Appleby, Finance Director, with a gift to mark his 30 Years of Service with our family business.

Right: the lovely Sue Townshend from our Harlow funeral home retired (for the second time!!) Her colleagues Chris, Liz, Chloe & Tom, are shown presenting her with a bouquet of flowers.

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