

## Staff Newsletter - July 2017

### Burial at Sea

At the end of April 2017 I received a call from overseas asking if we would be prepared to organise the burial at sea for a foreign national to fulfil his dying wish. As with any request of a lawful nature my response was positive with certain conditions and determining whether it had occurred or was imminent, death had occurred. The deceased gentleman's family has requested confidentiality so I will not divulge his nationality excepting to say that his country of residence does not permit burial at sea. Negotiation for the entire proceedings was with a senior executive of their company.

I discussed the three permissible locations for burial at sea and the documentation required to make application via the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for the Licence for burial at sea. The cause of death had to be non-infectious, the body had to be unembalmed and application to Her Majesty's Coroner (HMC), in whose jurisdiction the body lies, needed to be made for Out of England Acknowledgement form 103 Part B (OOE). The first dilemma was that the body had to be shipped to us and, to comply with EU and IATA regulations, should have to be embalmed which would preclude burial at sea. The unembalmed body was therefore transported to England by private jet.



Time was of the essence, fortunately I was able to order the casket, in advance, to the specification determined by the WWO. I also received an electronic version of both the Death Certificate (which I translated) and the Free From Infection Certificate (FFI) already in English. J C Atkinson, our regular coffin supplier, constructed the casket appropriately and weighted it to 200kgs including a rigid steel structure to encase it.

On Monday 8th May we collected the body from East Midlands Airport. The handling agents were extremely efficient even permitting our ambulance, under escort, airside to await arrival of the jet which taxied to us for a swift, discreet transfer of the remains. Thereafter HMC very quickly issued the OOE. I made application, registered all documents and submitted the fee of £175:00 to the MMO. The process was very straight forward and, unlike most government departments, advice and assistance was readily available by telephone. Erring on the side of caution, in case the weather deteriorated, I applied that the Licence run from 12th May for a three months period selecting the burial by The Needles off the Isle of Wight. The deceased gentleman's family requested that the burial at sea should take place on the following Saturday (13th May) I was keen to comply with that wish. The terms of the Licence also determined that the body be dressed in natural fibres and that the funeral directors contact details and the funeral reference number marked indelibly, not the identity of the deceased person, be attached as a necklace to the body.

On Thursday 11th May I received confirmation that MMO Licence would be granted and was able to confirm to all parties. The Licence was issued to me, electronically, on that same day and I confirmed to the MMO that the ceremony would proceed at high tide (1500 hours on the 13th May) as the weather forecast was promising.

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I had already sourced a boat from [burials@sea.co.uk](mailto:burials@sea.co.uk) equipped to carry and suitably eject the casket and, tentatively, arranged for the burial ceremony to take place at the scheduled day and time. The point of embarkation of the boat was to be Lymington, Hampshire and nine family members were expected to attend.



*Stock image*

Nigel, Rex and I departed from Nottingham early morning on 13th May in a closed hearse with the sealed, laden casket and three floral tributes, prepared by City Flowers, on biodegradable basket bases. On arrival in Lymington, we met with the family representative who was tasked to ensure everything ran to the timetable that he and I had discussed. The casket was transported by wheel bier to the boat, a distance of about 100 metres. It was then secured to a platform at the back, draped with the national flag of the deceased person with a floral tribute on the top.

Relatives of the deceased gentleman were due to arrive at Bournemouth Airport, ahead of the ceremony, in two of their own private jets. I arranged two limousines, locally, to collect the family from the airport and

**Promoted to the Premier League.** David and Linda Crampton with a special Nottingham Forest Football Club scatter tube that Jackie decorated for his mum's ashes (she was a big NFFC fan).



transport to Lymington. However, 12 members representing three generations of the deceased gentleman's family arrived which exceeded the maximum weight load for the main boat. Fortunately we had also hired a RIB for us to accompany the boat so three of the younger family members travelled with us on that.

Sailing time to The Needles was about 35 minutes and the sea was quite rough with a 1.5 metre swell. Throughout the time that the casket was on board the Licence for Burial at Sea had to remain on the boat. The Harbour Master has the right to inspect the casket and the Licence, whilst he was in evidence as the family embarked, he did not intervene.

On arrival at the burial site the family members on the RIB transferred (with some difficulty) to the main boat, I joined them. A service was held inside the main cabin and included music and religious content. All present went on to the rear deck for the committal the words for which I had translated to their own language. The Skipper released the casket and it slipped gracefully into the sea quickly submerging leaving the floral tribute floating serenely on the surface. After a few moments of silence the boat returned to Lymington. Where I had arranged dinner for the gentleman's family, at a local hotel, prior to their return trip home via Bournemouth Airport.

On my return to Nottingham I emailed the MMO the exact coordinates and time of committal. The whole process was very straightforward, everyone assisting was most helpful and I hope that we will be called upon in a similar capacity in the near future.

*Jackie Lynn Rose*



Congratulations to Ellie and Leigh on their engagement.



Congratulations to  
**Angela Knight**  
who has passed her Institute of  
Advanced Motorists examination.



## Lovely Funeral Zone Review

DON'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE!!! Excellent from start to finish. Karen at your Sutton branch was brilliant, no pressure, no 'salesman' tactics, extremely helpful, nothing was too much trouble. Karen should be promoted! If she is already at the highest rank you should invent a higher one just so she can be promoted to that! :-)  
Thanks a million!! xx



**Hearse and eight cars at Wilford Village church**

## The 'Best Practice of the Month Award' for July:

**Jane Keetley** - 'I would like to nominate **Lara Cabourn**, I have been off on holiday for quite a few days this month and when I have returned to the office Lara has had everything under control. I have families singing her praises, she is so kind and compassionate with all of our clients. I'm very proud of her.'

**Chloe Lynn Rose** - 'Can I nominate **Lara Cabourn** for her efforts in attempting to take supplies down to the victims of the flat fire in London. Not necessarily work related but certainly community spirited.'



**Ben Percival** - 'Please can I nominate **Luke Rogers** for changing the wheel on the new hearse with limited tools, following an 800 mile road trip from Italy.'



**Julia Carty** - 'I would like to nominate **Pete**

**Clarson** and **Art** for their help when the kitchen decided to spring a leak at Nottingham'

**Pete Clarson** - 'Please can I nominate **Tracey Sweeting-Rowe** she has been very tolerant and patient dealing with a disruptive and rude tenant in the flat above her office. It has taken several months dealing with the authorities to finally get the situation resolved at the end of May. Throughout this period Tracey regularly made special arrangements to make sure the best possible service was delivered to her families.'

**Pete Jeffery** - 'I would like to nominate **Tracey Sweeting Rowe** for carrying on with her job while the tenant upstairs is being very rude and awkward even while customers are there.'

And the winner is  
**\*\*Tracey\*\***



# Staff Movements

Maggie Makar (right) retired on Friday 16th June, after nearly 10 years in the Bingham office. Following talks with various member of staff, it was decided that Dominic Lister is the best placed person to take over the running of the branch. Dominic lives above the office, and has been conducting a majority of Bingham funerals for some time. The new opening hours will not officially move to 9-5 immediately, but Dominic will be based in the Bingham office for the entire working day and will have the flexibility to use the two hours after 3pm for other duties.

Dominic's move from Radcliffe created a vacancy there, and Lesley Ball has expressed an interest in moving to an office with more staff, while remaining in the South Area. We are pleased that we can accommodate Lesley's wish, but this will not happen immediately as it has created a vacancy in Clifton.

Emily Milner will be move to Clifton from 1st September, but from Monday 19th June will be working from the Radcliffe office. This will give her a chance to get to know Brian and the team a little better, before her 'swap' with Lesley in September.

Adrienne Coulter will be leaving her position as Funeral Arranger at Beeston. Adrienne has relocated to Leicester, and the travelling is now a little too much with her young family. We wish her every success in her new role closer to home.

We will therefore be looking to recruit two new members of staff immediately, one for Beeston, and one for Nottingham. If any existing staff are interested in relocating to either branch they should speak with Matthew Lymn Rose directly, and equally if anyone knows of a suitable applicant, he would be pleased to be put in touch with them.



Ben has been working closely with Louise, daughter of Imogen Skirving "Imo" to create this unique memorial. Imo was the Proprietor of Langar Hall, a boutique hotel in the village of Langar in the Vale of Belvoir.

Imogen inherited Langar, the family home, in 1983 on the death of her father and was keen to sell it but needed to raise money to renovate before marketing it so she advertised it as a dinner, bed and breakfast venue aiming at American tourists. Langar Hall, eventually, became known nationwide and very eminent guests enjoyed the fruits of Imogen's labour and her quirky, somewhat eccentric ways. The Lymn Roses have celebrated significant birthdays and special occasions at Langar Hall over the past 30 years. Imogen was tragically killed aged 79yrs in a road traffic incident in Menorca. Imogen is buried in Langar Churchyard which is actually attached to Langar Hall which is now run by Imogen's granddaughter Lila.



Maggie (pictured with her leaving gift from Brian and Dominic) has asked for the following message to be printed.

*'I would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards, gifts and best wishes upon my retirement. Will think of you as I'm enjoying the sun (no tights) and being outdoors with a chilled glass'.*