



A.W. LYMN
The Family Funeral Service

Staff Newsletter

Geoff Abrahart 1961 - 2018

Mansfield Woodhouse facilities significantly improved after extensive refurbishment works completed at 'The Old Farm'

from **Pete Clarson**

At the start of January, the Mansfield Woodhouse staff moved out of 'The Old Farm' and the builders moved in! It is fair to say the extent of the works increased as the project got under way! To name just a few jobs, internal walls have been moved, a full programme of damp proofing completed, a new staff entrance created, the building re-wired and a new plumbing system installed.

The Mansfield Woodhouse funeral home now has an enlarged reception area and modernised family room, a bigger general office and a refurbished

kitchen / drivers area. The finishing touches of fresh paint, new carpets and updated furniture and fittings were completed ready for Monday 16th April.

Thank you to all the staff at Mansfield Woodhouse who assisted with the moving out, managed with the temporary accommodation arrangements and helped get the refurbished office up and running. The staff worked very hard to ensure that the impact on families was kept to a minimum during the works.



It is with great sadness we report that our colleague Geoff passed away on Friday 20th April.

Geoff had been waiting for a replacement heart valve for some time, and following several false starts and delays he finally had the operation, unfortunately, due to complications his heart was simply unable to manage. Geoff's children Megan and Ben were able to get to the hospital to be alongside him as he slipped away.

Geoff has worked for us since October 2009. In that time he progressed from a casual driver in Nottingham, to Funeral Director based at Long Eaton working



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alongside Louise.

Geoff had a fantastic and full CV within the funeral service, as after a short spell as a television salesman he joined Midlands Co-op in 1986 and rose through the ranks to become Funeral Director, Senior Funeral Director and then Regional Manager for Derbyshire with overall responsibility for nearly 70 staff (including the training of the likes of Kevin Hall!). Geoff left in 2007 to set up Pride Funerals, now part of G Wathall and Sons, before joining us.

Geoff touched many of us with his easy, relaxed and unhurried manner. He was always kind and considerate, even if by his own admission he was better suited to being in front of a family paging in his top hat rather than being behind a desk with his pen! While at Long Eaton Geoff and Louise have given each other moral support at, and outside of work. She will feel his loss particularly at this time.

Our thoughts are with Geoff's two children, and his mother, at what is such a sad time.



Welcome to Roger, Barry and Phil who have all been employed as driver bearers.



Roger Thole

Roger is originally from South Wales but now lives with his partner in Cotmanhay. He is a painter and decorator by trade, but is working as much as he can from our Cotmanhay office.



Barry Scott

Barry has started work at Nottingham after 41 years working for the Ministry of Defence in their fire service. He lives in Barton-in-Fabis with his wife and two of his children.



Phil Padgett

Phil has started working from Robin Hood House after 4 months of working as an independent driver bearer. Prior to this he has worked in a call centre. He is moving from Newark To Hucknall this weekend.

HM Coroner's Contract

from **Matthew Lynn Rose**

Nigel, Jackie and I are all grateful for everyone's efforts with the added work of the new Coroner's contract. We are working towards better staffing levels, and also a better system once we fully understand what we are being asked to perform.

The Coroner is pleased with how we have been working so far and we hope this continues.

Below is a photograph outside the QMC mortuary, which looks like it has been taken over by our drivers!



Congratulations to George and Sheila on 67 years of marriage



George and Sheila celebrated 67 years of marriage by recreating this photograph with their children, Jackie, Jenny and Nigel.

Barn Owl

from **Darren De-Rosa**

A client of the Ollerton office is having a green burial and wanted a barn owl on the coffin. The coffin company wanted £50.00 to engrave a small one on a coffin plate. So I asked my wife Lisa if she would be prepared to paint one for the deceased lady, she agreed although working in water colours is not her usual forte.

Brian York sent me a plaque and Lisa got to work. The family is very happy with it. So a real family effort for a family funeral service.



British Institute of Embalmers

George being presented with a 'Past National President's Jewel' from the immediate Past President Amanda Woodward, at what was his 59th (consecutive) attendance at the BIE conference.



Best Practice of the Month

chosen by **Nigel, Jackie and Matthew Lymn Rose**

Congratulations to David Powell who has won this months Best Practice award.

David was nominated by Pete Jeffery for..

‘Helping to cap a vault by getting into it when the slabs were extremely heavy.’

Also nominated this month...

Nev Carridice nominated **Iain Richardson** for a 5am start to get to the Isle of Wight for a funeral after a week off. Nev added ‘he will also do anything asked at the drop of a hat’.

Nev also nominated **David Crampton** for giving up his outside duties at home to specifically come and drive on funerals and stayed to get cars washed even though had to be somewhere else.



Sharon Baguley nominated **Matthew Lymn Rose** for all work he has done for the traveling community over the last couple of months.

Matthew appreciates the nomination but has said that he is not eligible to receive it.

Congratulations

to **Gary Cooke**



Gary has passed he NAFD Diploma in Funeral Arranging and Administration

Only Fools and Hearses

from **David Combe**



Forever Stars collect donated Easter Eggs from Nigel



Melvin Picker 1947 -2018

When Melvin left school a week before his 15 birthday, his first job was as an apprentice for Ernest Smith Stonemason (now A W Lymn The Craftsmen in Stone), after a few years he joined Greater Nottingham Co-Operative Society as a stone mason working his way up to the rank of Funeral Director. Part of his responsibility was mentoring staff one of his successes being our own Julia Carty.

In September 2000 Melvin joined our family business as a Funeral Director based, initially, at Robin Hood House. Melvin served his last few years, prior to retiring in summer of 2013, at our Carlton office of G Harrod & Son. Melvin had a wealth of knowledge and was keen to nurture new staff, he is well remembered for his meticulous attention to paperwork and neat writing always using a fountain pen.

Company history

from **Lesley Ball**

I thought you might like to see this which was brought in to me earlier this afternoon by the great-granddaughter of the deceased mentioned on the account when she came to view her father whose funeral we are arranging. I think the account may have gone up a bit since then!



Audrey's Piano

from **Jackie Lynn Rose**

About four years ago I visited a very charming lady, Audrey, to pre-plan her funeral. As a classical pianist of some renown Audrey was keen to reflect that at her funeral. I discussed with her all manner of things and she decided that a grand piano coffin would be perfect. Our coffin supplier provided her with various designs and she chose the pearlescent black finish with a white treble clef symbol on the lid, the head of the lid was hinged to 45° to authentically represent a grand piano. Sadly Audrey died in March but her wishes were perfectly reflected in the celebration of her life she even selected an exquisite black ball gown to be dressed in. Included in the service was a recording of her own recital and a wonderful message that she had written was read by her daughter during the service. The Phantom V1 fleet was supplied which beautifully displayed the coffin and her many friends, dressed in black and white, followed behind on the Routemaster bus. It was a sight to behold, a wonderful testament to a lovely lady and a real privilege to be involved.



Apprentice for The Craftsmen in Stone

from **Ben Percival**

We are currently looking to employ an apprentice within the memorial department to learn all aspects of the memorial trade.

The successful applicant will be required to gain the required City & Guilds fixing qualification, which the company will give full training for. They will also be required to drive with a trailer and help will be given to gain a licence for this if necessary.

If any current staff, friends or family are interested then please ask them to e-mail their CV by Monday 28th May to ben@lymn.co.uk