



THE TOMORROW PROJECT

A.W. LYMN
The Family Funeral Service

Staff Newsletter

Joanna with The Lord Mayor, Councillor Liaqat Ali

In this issue

World Suicide Prevention Day 2018

from **Joanna Widdowson**

I was privileged to be invited to the private viewing of a photography project coinciding with World Suicide Prevention Day 2018, presented by The Tomorrow Project, a suicide prevention, intervention and postvention service that was set up in 2012 in response to a cluster of suicides by young people in the village of East Leake, where I live.

Under the umbrella of the Harmless Charity, an established mental health provider offering support, information, training and consultancy, the Tomorrow Project showcased a series of portraits of people who had been touched by suicide either through their own experience, supporting someone with their own battle or who had lost someone to suicide.

Portraits of people were hung around the room at Rough Trade in Nottingham, each with their own story alongside. Some portraits were of the survivors – like Jason who said:

“I am a man who was weak and enclosed. I now have the strength to be open. The Tomorrow Project not only saved my life but helped me create one” and others from family members who had lost someone through suicide and had been left behind to pick up the pieces and deal with the shock of their loss. These family members had been in receipt of support from The Tomorrow Project to help them process their complex feelings and grief.

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Liaqat Ali, gave an opening speech and there were also some storytellers who came on stage to talk about their own experiences. Hannah first attempted suicide aged just nine years old. When she was 20 years old, she made another attempt on her life and ended up on life support, gradually recovering in hospital for a further four months where she had to learn to walk, use cutlery and care of herself again. She received help, guidance and support from The Tomorrow Project and has come a long way in her recovery. I couldn't



Frank Le Villio is finally laid to rest in Jersey, Jackie documents his story on page 2 and 3.

Congratulations to head driver Neville Carridice and Trisha on their recent engagement. Nev 'popped the question' whilst on holiday in Jamaica and chose the Dunns River Falls as the back drop.



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help but feel proud of her as she stood on the stage and told us her story.

All the stories were personal, touching and courageous and it was not only an enjoyable evening but enlightening, regarding the vital work of the charities. I have recommended The Tomorrow Project to clients during my time at A W Lynn and speaking with people at the event really helped me to see just how valuable their work is to people affected by suicide.

Francois Rene Le Villio “Frank”

1925 – 1946

by Jackie Lynn Rose

Frank was born in Jersey in 1925, aged two his mother died and he and his twin sisters were placed in an orphanage, ultimately he and his extended family were housed together but lacked parental love and guidance.

During the Occupation of Jersey, much like his teenage contemporaries, he was quite a rebel and committed the “sin” in June 1944 of “borrowing” a military motorbike in retaliation for his own bike having been taken by a German soldier. For this he was convicted of serious military larceny and was imprisoned locally, for a few days, before being deported to France and ultimately to a German Concentration Camp, it has been suggested that was Belsen but may have been Sandbostel as records for both conflicted. In May 1945 he was released and travelled to his aunt’s home in Nottingham. The harsh treatment he had endured during incarceration had a dramatic effect on his health and on 26th September 1946, aged 21 years, died of Tuberculosis and was buried in Nottingham but details of the grave were not recorded by his family



Roll forward to spring of 2017 when I received a call from Father Derek Hailes the incumbent at St Cyprians Church, Nottingham seeking Frank’s grave having been contacted by Stan Keiller, a historian from Salcombe, who came across Frank’s story whilst researching local history. Coincidentally Stan Keiller’s late father had himself been incumbent at St Cyprian some 80+ years earlier before relocating en-famille to Jersey.

From our records we were able to determine that the grave was located in Nottingham Southern Cemetery, that my late grandfather had conducted the funeral and that the total

cost of the funeral had been £11:10: 00. From the cemetery records we easily established the grave section and number and Stan Keiller was able to convey that information to Frank’s cousin, Stan Hockley, the only member of Frank’s family surviving that remembered him.

In June 2017 a graveside memorial service was conducted by Father Derek Hailes at Nottingham Southern Cemetery attended by Stan Hockley, Stan Keiller, The Lord Mayor of Nottingham and various other interested parties including two from our company. The grave was a Public Grave or, in its day, (prior to 1948 Public Health Act) a Paupers Grave. Talk of exhumation and repatriation of Frank’s remains, to Jersey, began in earnest. Stan Hockley spoke to his local funeral director at Pitcher and Le Quesne (Dignity) in St Helier and an email dialogue began. As we are local to the cemetery it was prudent for us to deal with all the requirements in Nottingham and then, if successful, consign to Pitcher & Le Quesne. However, within 14 months of Frank’s burial there had been six further, unrelated, interments in the grave, which I realised would be an obstacle for any plans to exhume.



I obtained a copy of the original death certificate from the General Register Office as that was fundamental to the process. I made application to the Ministry of Justice supported by press cuttings, permission from Frank’s cousin for me to petition on behalf of the family, permission from the authorities in Jersey to accept the remains, if the petition was successful; a letter from Nottingham City Council listing the interment dates and names of the six subsequent burials in the grave. As the grave was unpurchased

ownership remained with Nottingham City Council who had no details of the kin of the other six burials. As the intended destination included the services of a carrier, the ferry company had to give their permission, in principal, to carry exhumed remains which caused me to obtain a Free From Infection Certificate from Public Health England. I had to apply to HMC for Nottingham for Form 103B to acknowledge, in the event, that the exhumed remains were to be moved "Out of England". To summarise all documents required to repatriate a body overseas were obtained in anticipation of success in obtaining a Licence to Exhume.

The petition was submitted mid- October. The Ministry of Justice was not obstructive at all and gave due consideration to all the facts, their only reservation was the disturbance and immediate reburial of the subsequent six remains all newly coffined. By mid- November 2017 the Licence to Exhume was issued with the proviso that notices were placed at strategic places by the grave and the cemetery in general advising of the intention to exhume from said grave and that anyone with interest or objection must advise the cemetery authority within 42 days of notices being posted. The normal period for objection being 84 days. There was absolutely no objection and the right to exercise the terms of the Licence was extended until 18th December 2018.

To this point we had given time and knowledge freely but needed to consider our costs and disbursements. In calculating costs we had to factor in the excavation of the grave, necessary screening of the surrounding area, new coffins for up to six other remains and those of Frank and complying with the terms of the Licence. Ultimately the invoice would be paid jointly by the two Parishes directly involved in Jersey.

We could only guess the depth to Frank's grave to be about 11 feet and initially the cemetery authority agreed to excavate but quoted, what we deemed to be, an excessive amount. By negotiating with the cemetery Manager and producing a Method Statement and Risk Assessment he agreed that their input would be to excavate to the final interment and leave the remainder for us to deal with which, ultimately, reduced their costs by 80%.

All staff involved were to be experienced in the process and were equipped with PPE for any eventuality. Ultimately the full scale of charges was agreed with the proviso that Pitcher & Le Quesne Funeral Directors would collect the exhumed remains of Frank in a new coffin, appropriate, for the burial in Jersey directly from the cemetery and transport to Jersey. It was decided to wait until the spring/summer of 2018 to take advantage of better weather and more hours of daylight before scheduling the exhumation.

Ultimately the date was set for Wednesday 8th August commencing at 6:00 am which was convenient to all parties

and to the local Environment Health Officer who wished to be present. On the previous day the area adjacent to the grave was screened off and the grave was excavated to the last interment whereupon we were advised of the likelihood that the six burials after Frank were all infants.

Because of the passage of time the infant's coffins were barely discernible and thus the process of extracting bone matter was carefully and precisely executed by hand, bagged, recoffined and retained in the screened area. At a depth of about 7' we reached the debris of Frank's coffin and his skeletal remains which were painstakingly removed, bagged and coffined. It was not necessary to apply any disinfectant to the area as it was completely dry. As before the coffined remains were retained in a screened area. The depth of the grave after Frank's exhumation was 8'4".

On conclusion of Frank's exhumation and, in compliance with the Licence to Exhume, the babies coffined remains were, immediately, reinterred and I conducted a short service of committal attended by our staff members present, the cemetery staff present and the EHO. It was a poignant moment.

We then transferred Frank's coffin to the hearse consigning him to the care of Pitcher & Le Quesne for his journey home to Jersey.

On Wednesday 5th September a memorial service was held in St Saviour's Church in Jersey, the parish in which he was born. The service was attended by Frank's cousin and family, by the Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, the BBC, ITV, the Jersey Evening Post and many others of distinction. Stan Keiller who instigated the search for the grave gave a very moving address and the service was concluded by a rendition of The National Anthem which, apparently, was permitted after every church service during the German Occupation of Jersey.

On Thursday 6th September Frank was laid to rest in a grave at Surville Cemetery, where his parents are both buried. Bringing a happy conclusion to a sad story.



Welcome

to **Harry, Courtney and Matt**



Welcome to Harry Breatnall who is a Derby casual. Harry lives in Alvaston with his wife Lilian. They have three children their youngest being 46! Harry spent 45 years as a self employed milkman and found retirement a struggle after working for 7 days a week. He is really happy to join the company and thinks the Derby team are a nice happy family.



Matthew Kavanagh started work at Robin Hood House at the beginning of September.

He lives in Gedling and is married to Nichola. Before joining the driving team he worked at the Queens Medical Centre in the Sterile Production Unit.



Courtney Kelham-Giddy is the new member of the admin office. She has recently graduated from university with a degree in forensic science. Whilst at university she did a three day work experience with us in the mortuary and liked it so much she knew that Lymns is where she wanted to be! A thespian at heart, Courtney has been involved in theatre and musical theatre from the age of ten, and has been in numerous shows around Nottingham. She is currently in the rehearsal process for two shows, The Picture of Dorian Gray in November and Calamity Jane in February.

Royalty at recent funeral

from **Jackie Lynn Rose**

One of our funeral directors received a shock when they turned up at house to conduct a funeral and met a member of a royal family. The royal in question also helped to carry the coffin.

Thank you

from **David Powell**

I would like to thank the AWL team for all their help in what was an emotional week.

Tony Knowles was brilliant conducting my uncle's funeral, and was helped by Derek Leggit, Jim Cullen, Derek Twigg, Chris Haynes and Carolyn Wright.

I would also like to thank Matthew Kavanagh, Harry Breatnall and Dean Spencer (Spud) for driving on my brother's wedding on Saturday.

Both teams were brilliant, and I can not fault anything they did.

Trade Hire

from **Matthew Lynn Rose**



It was a long drive to Linnes and Banister in Ascot! However the Southern Co-op made me very welcome and the funeral director was trained by Nigel and Jackie's cousin, Graham Lynn.

For sale

from **Chloe Lynn Rose**



My husband, Glenn, is selling his 2007 Vauxhall Vectra for £1700.

It is a manual transmission and has 68,000 km on the clock.

Please contact me for more information.

Sarah conducts her first funerals

from **Matthew Lymn Rose**



Sarah passed her diploma in funeral directing last year and was pleased this month to be given the responsibility of conducting funerals. As with all new conductors, an experience funeral director will be on hand driving the hearse until Sarah is confident to 'go it alone'.

I was really pleased to have already received the following feedback:

From start to finish, Lymns were very supportive. Nothing was too much trouble, and everything was carried out in a most professional way. Thanks

Littleover 100 Gala Day

from **Angela Bembridge**



Our presence at the Littleover Gala along with donation was well received. The thoughts relayed from the community were very enthusiastic and the countless positive comments surrounding our Route Master bus, which made a huge impression are resonating around the village still!

Chasewood Baptist Church St Ann's

from **Nigel Dolman**



Nigel Lymn Rose presented trestles to Chasewood Baptist Church, following a funeral.

They were enthusiastically received by all at the church.

Bramcote open day

from **Richard Marshall**



2018 Women's Work Gala

from **Diane Whitehead (Womens work)**

This photograph is of Eamonn Fee, one of the guests at the Women's Work 15th Anniversary gala, with your Rolls Royce (and Simon Cowell!). The Gala was a great success raising in the region of £5,000 for Women's Work. A moving video at the start of the evening increased understanding about the work of the charity and the incredible difference it can make to the lives of the ladies who use the service.



Best Practice of the Month for August and September

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

Congratulations to Donna Conroy and Anne Cooke who have won the Best Practice awards for August and September.

Donna was nominated by Pete Jeffery...

‘Can I nominate Donna from Beeston for taking Artur to hospital after he cut the end of his finger off’.

Anne was nominated by Shaun Caine...

‘I would like to nominate Anne Cooke for best practice of the month. Anne agreed to cover the uniform orders and temporarily take back the stationery work whilst a new member of staff was appointed. She did a great job keeping things ticking over and worked the extra hours required to make sure everything got done. Her help was hugely appreciated’.

Also nominated this month are...

Nigel Lynn Rose asked for a joint nomination for David Powell, Eugene Coyle and

Keith Oakland

‘These three all grabbed shovels and wheelbarrows to aid with bringing soil from a distance to ensure the family backfill at Carlton Cemetery went smoothly and the family commented upon it’.

Sarah Derbyshire nominated Emma Percival

‘I want to nominate her for all the help with the preparation for Macmillan coffee morning and for giving up her Saturday morning to work at West Bridgford on the Tour of Britain.

Making everything run smoothly and not interfering with the running of the West Bridgford office’.

Louise Cook also nominated Donna

‘I would like to nominate Donna this month she is such a hard worker and a team player she is a true credit to the West area’

Ben Percival nominated Sharon Allen

‘Sharon took work home whilst I was away simply to catch up. Her efforts were much appreciated’



Donna Conroy



Anne Cooke

Tour of Britain

from **Sarah Derbyshire**

The tandem hearse proved a popular attraction at the start of the Tour of Britain. We also served tea, coffee and cake to kick start our Macmillan fundraising.

