



The Family Funeral Service

# Staff Newsletter - September 2017

## A (very) potted history of the 110 years since Arthur William Lymn conducted his first funeral

Arthur conducts his first funeral and the firm starts trading as undertakers in Goosegate, Nottingham

1907

Office moves to Bath Street and horses are stabled on Handel Street

1915



Harold discharged early from the air force to help with Nottingham flu outbreak

1918

Arthur dies and his widow Louisa and son Harold take control

1929



Partnership with Ernest Smith is formed

1937

Louisa dies and Harold takes sole control

1939



Harold's son Douglas joins the company

1946

Sheila Lymn marries George Rose. George is asked to join the company

1951

George and Douglas pass the first NAFD Diploma

1955

First repatriation of human remains from England to Pakistan

1957



Becomes a limited company with Harold as MD

1958

Nigel becomes the youngest person to qualify as an embalmer. George is BIE President and also becomes Managing Director

1968

Purchase of Mansfield Woodhouse office from Cyril Walsh

Sheila becomes one of the first women to pass her Dip. FD

1975

Harold dies

1976



Company headquarters moves to Robin Hood House, Robin Hood Street.

1977

Nigel joins the company full time

1979



Douglas dies

1984

First Derby office is opened

1986

Jackie joins Kenyon International Emergency Services

1990

Jackie becomes President of BIE. Nigel becomes Managing Director and George is made Life Chairman

1988

Purchase of four funeral home from Radcliffe and District

1994

Jackie joins the company full time

1992

Nigel and Jackie's nephew Ben Percival joins the company

2000



2001

Takeover of Ilkeston Consumer Co-operative Society Funeral Department

2003

Penny is President of NAMM and opens their memorial garden at the National Memorial Arboretum

2004

Nigel becomes president of the NAFD in it's Centenary year. Matthew and Chloe join the company full time

2005



Company wins Coutts 'Best Family Business'

2006

A. W. Lymn Centenary Foundation formed

2007

Ernest Smith is re-branded A. W. Lymn The Craftsmen in Stone

2014

Nigel becomes CEO and Matthew MD

2016

Company celebrates 110 years of trading

2017



"Our family serving your family since 1907"

## The 'Best Practice of the Month Award' nominations for September are:

Kerry Bishop and Jo Lee have nominated Nita Bernard for helping out the florists to wire roses and that coffin which was covered in roses



Julia Carty has nominated the whole Nottingham Office for pulling together as a team in the face of uncertainty.

And the winner is

**\*\*Jo\*\***

Kerry Bishop and Jo Lee have nominated Pete Jeffery for always helping us out at the drop of a hat to create frames like the skateboard.



Kerry Bishop has nominated Jo Lee for the wonderful job she did on the 3D post box. It looked amazing!



Ben was pleased to be able to help with the renovation of Forest Town War Memorial. The memorial was cleaned by a committee and Dick and Spud repainted the letters on site. The middle picture is before and the right is afterwards.

## Welcome to Andy Walker-Smith and Natalie Hague



Andy joined the company as a casual driver in May, but is now assisting with property maintenance. He is from a civil, military and fire service background and lives in Mapperley

Natalie has joined the company as a funeral arranger at Beeston. She previously worked as a receptionist at the Village Hotel in Chilwell. Natalie lives in Beeston Rylands with her husband and two year old daughter, Summer Marguerite. She knows Donna from school and worked with her for eight years at 'St. Tropez Tan'. She enjoys spending quality time with her family, loves to shop and going to the gym.



For those who missed out on the August trip to Newcastle, Ady is organising a revisit on 14th October.

There is a Blues Brother theme. Please can you let him know by the 14th September if you are interested in going?

Ady - 07496 275 127



A really thoughtful (and funny) floral tribute from a Bulwell family. This gnome tribute was particularly special as their mother had a great love of all things gnome!



This floral tribute was a nod to the deceased persons favourite song, 'It's Raining Men' by The Weather Girls, which the family had played on exit from the chapel at Bramcote.



We have recently introduced a keep sake for families who have released doves at a funeral. Any feedback would be gratefully received.



Congratulations to Pete Clarson on passing his practical examination for the Institute of Advanced Motorists



### Pravin Patel retires after nearly 6 years.

Prav started converting funeral vehicles for us in 1990 at various different companies including Valemoor and Coway.

He moved to Robin Hood House in November 2011 to deal with some of the trim and bodywork issues with our then current fleet and also to work on our vintage fleet.

We wish him a very happy retirement.



Kevin, Matthew, Alanna, Ben, Emma, Henry and George (junior) were pleased to help with a litter pick at Nottingham Road Cemetery for the first meeting of 'Friends of Nottingham Road Cemetery'.

The group has been organised by Derby City Council, with support from Bereavement services, the Neighbourhood teams and Cohesion teams.



Mark Chapman at the unveiling of a civilian war memorial on the ex Rolls-Royce site, and also taking a motorbike hearse around Darley Moor race track



**August 2017 marks 66 years since George Rose was invited to join the company by his father in law Harold Lymn. Here is an extract of the article he wrote six years ago to mark 60 years.**

“In 1951, when I was invited to join A. W. Lymn there were 30 Funeral Directors (although they were generally known then as Undertakers) in the Nottingham area. As the population of the City was much lower then, it follows that most of them treated funerals as a side-line to their other work. The main specialist firms were A. W. Lymn, Bamfords, Baguleys and Clowers. This latter company were Carriage Proprietors in a big way and were later taken-over by the Co-operative Society but were still known throughout the City and County as ‘Clowers’ and many clients did not know they were dealing with the Co-op.



Funerals in those days were totally different and bore no relation to the quality of service and style which is taken for granted to-day. People who died at home were almost always left there until the time of the funeral unless removed on the Coroners instructions.

Each area had a “Laying-out Woman” who was usually the first to be called in by the family to wash and dress the deceased. They usually tied-up the jaw and put pennies on the eyes and - in one case - a saucer of salt on the stomach - apparently for spurious disinfectant purposes. If you upset one of these ladies you would be sure that in future you would have very few funerals in her “District”. One made it quite clear that only white shrouds were permitted and she promised that the penalty for colour meant banishment from her area! The expected salutation for these ladies was a ten shilling note (50p) whilst the removal staff received five shillings (25p) per removal and usually made the basic arrangements at that time.

The main Coroner’s Mortuary was at Leenside (Canal Street) without refrigeration consisting of a series of slate-slabs. Remains were released in a dreadful state. Even worse was the one at Arnold situated at the top of the main drive of the Cemetery.

When death occurred in Hospital it was usual to go there late in the afternoon on the day prior to the funeral with the necessary coffins and then we would deliver the loaded coffin to the person’s home - very few being taken to our Chapel (occasionally there were as many as five coffins in the one chapel). Visitors were admitted at any time and in the evening Mrs. Mason (Sheila’s Aunt) had to lock-up the office in Bath Street and unlock the premises in Robin Hood Street.”

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## **New classic car showroom, formerly the ‘Billy Boiler’ garage**

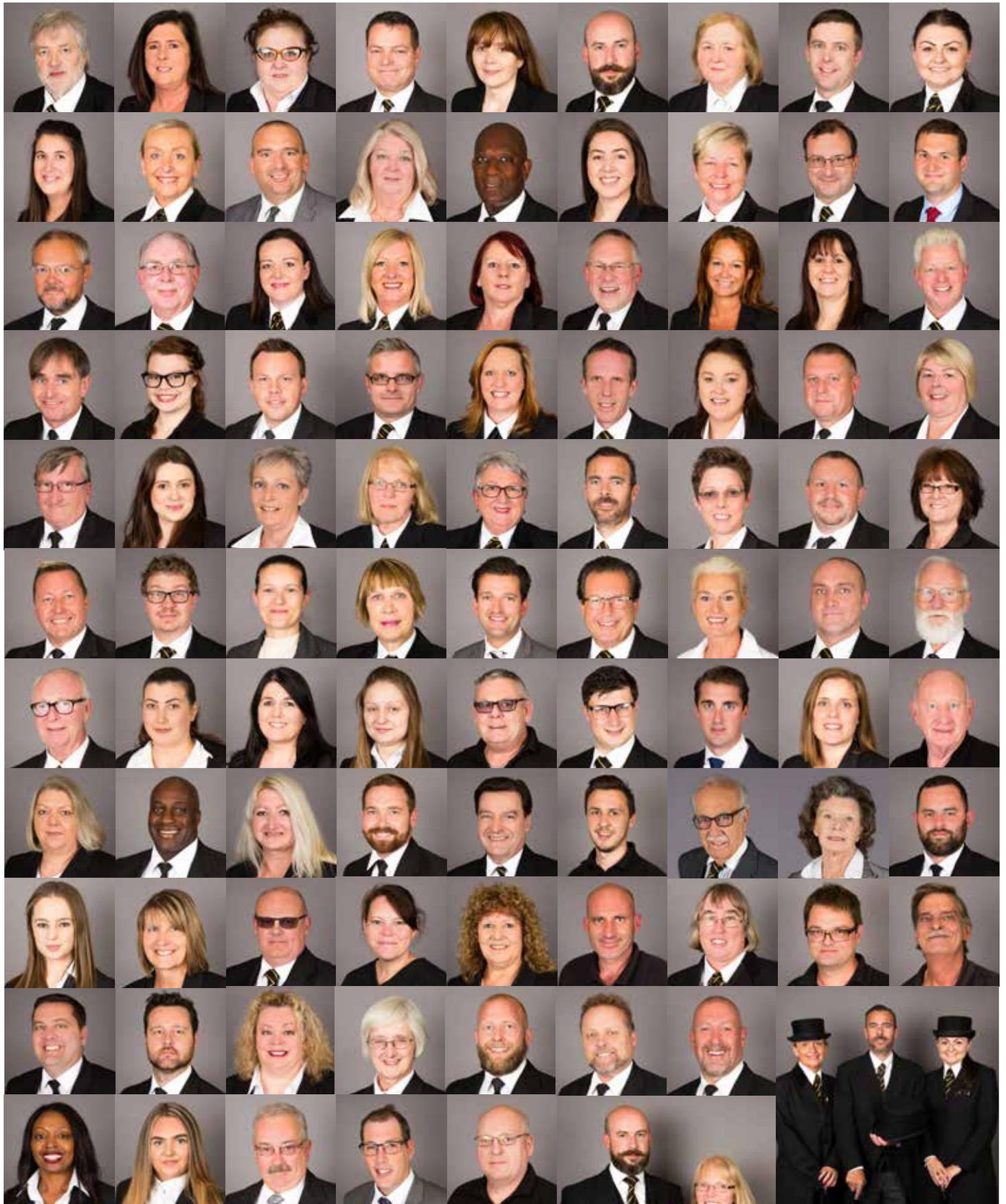


The vintage fleet now have their own showroom at Robin Hood House.

The storage area next to the stone store has been converted to a garage with glass sliding doors.

It is hoped that this will make them more accessible to people wishing to view them.

# Staff Photographs 2017



Many thanks to everyone who took part in the staff photographs in July.

Grace at Saul Issac was really pleased with the finished images, and has asked if they can use some of the photographs to publicise their corporate service.

The images (where appropriate) have already been loaded onto the website.

