



CHRISTMAS 2016 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our second Christmas Newsletter.

Last year, we produced a newsletter to tell you about all the changes that had recently taken place – our new identity, our new Kimberley Funeral Home, and new website. This year, we realised that there was still lots to share with you, so we've decided to continue the tradition. In fact, this year's is actually twice the size of the one we produced in 2015!

We'd also like to let you know how we will be working over the Christmas and New Year period, which may help in your dealings with the recently bereaved, or if you need to contact us for any reason.



S E R V I N G F A M I L I E S F O R G E N E R A T I O N S

GILLOTT'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS - OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY

In early November we celebrated the first anniversary of our funeral homes being united under the Gillotts Funeral Directors name.

This coincided with the first anniversary of the move of our Kimberley premises. On 5th November, we held a coffee morning there which was extremely well attended by around 40 people, including Sawley the Guide Dog Puppy.



KIMBERLEY CHAPEL ON THE HILL

On the same day as our Birthday coffee morning, we also attended the open day at the newly refurbished Chapel on the Hill within Kimberley Cemetery Chapel.

This was a great opportunity to meet members of the public and answer any questions they had, and also raise awareness of the availability of this Chapel as a venue for Funeral Services.



OUR SELSTON FUNERAL HOME

Our Selston Funeral Home opened in May 2016, and has proved a popular and well-received addition to the local community. The premises were officially opened by Gloria De Piero MP at a Service of Dedication led by local clergy, and a few days later we held a Coffee Morning attended by local residents and the general public.



In the reception at Selston we have a replica of an oil painting which was done by the art group based at the Tin Hat Centre in Selston, and which highlights the industrial and architectural heritage of the Selston area.

In June, Anthony visited the Tin Hat Centre to hand over a donation as our appreciation for allowing us to display this fantastic work of art.



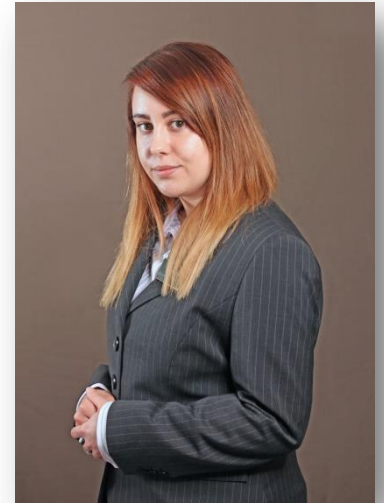
This is our first Funeral Home to feature a coffin showroom.

Families who are using any of our funeral homes can visit to see and touch a range of both traditional and alternative coffins.

NEW MEMBER OF STAFF

Danni Allen joined us in March this year. After an initial period of training at Eastwood, Danni started work at our Selston office when it opened in May.

Danni previously worked as a finance assistant at a GP's Surgery, and has followed her older sister Amanda, who works at our Heanor office, into the Funeral Profession.



BEST OF BROXTOWE AWARDS



In May, we were proud and delighted to be nominated for 'Best Family Business' at the Best of Broxtowe Awards.

We were so proud to find out that we had won the award, and delighted that work that we do and the care that we give to families was recognised in this way.



GREASLEY GATHERING

In May we helped out at the Greasley Gathering, a Community Fun Day.

We spent the day directing foot traffic, giving out programmes and putting wristbands on the children attending with their parents' mobile numbers in case they got lost.



BRINSLEY COFFIN WALK

In July, Joanne led the way on the Brinsley Coffin Walk, which recreates the journey taken by Brinsley families to Greasley Churchyard in the days before Brinsley had its own Church and Burial Ground.



This year the event was especially poignant as it was held in memory of Stan Smith, who had instigated the annual walk and who in 2015 had arranged for the walk to be carried out with a full-sized ceremonial coffin and led by Joanne. Sadly, Stan died in April 2016, and his wife Christine accompanied us on the walk.

FAIR FUNERALS PLEDGE

In August, we signed up to the Fair Funerals Pledge.



The pledge can be signed by Funeral Directors who display their prices prominently, including on their website, and who offer lower priced options for those with limited funds.



This year, we introduced our Limited Service Option Funeral which provides an alternative option for those wishing to keep funeral costs to a minimum, or who want an alternative to the traditional funeral. This option uses our Chrysler vehicle instead of the traditional hearse.

NEW VIDEO

In July we launched our new video, which was filmed at our Selston and Kimberley Funeral Homes, and also out on location in the local area. We arranged for a horse-drawn hearse to be present for the shoot.



The video features a number of staff and partners, and also two of our clients who gave touching testimonials. The video can be viewed on our website www.gillotts.co.uk.

HELEN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

To mark her 20 years of working for us, we presented Helen Ellis with a long service certificate and some flowers. Helen started work for us in 1996 as a part time receptionist and funeral arranger, and in that time has progressed to being a fully qualified funeral director.



ALAN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AS CHAPLAIN

This year, funeral director Alan Winfield celebrated 10 years as Chaplain of Derby Mountain Rescue.

Alan's duties include duties offering troubled colleagues a listening ear or calming the fears of family members worrying about a missing loved one.



JOANNE NOMINATED FOR BUSINESS AWARD

Joanne was nominated for the Nottingham Post Women in Business Award in the 'Female Executive of the Year' category.

She was delighted to be shortlisted to the final three. Friends and family joined her for the glittering awards ceremony, and although Joanne didn't win the award, she was extremely proud to have got so far and to represent women in the funeral profession.



CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE TREES

The Mayor of Eastwood Keith Longden officially launched our Christmas Remembrance Trees for this year by placing the first message on the Eastwood tree.

This year, we have chosen Nuthall and District Community First Responders to receive the proceeds, and we hope to raise enough money to kit out one of their volunteers with lifesaving equipment.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENINGS

Our Eastwood and Heanor offices stayed open for the towns' Lights Switch-on evenings this year to give people the opportunity to place their message of remembrance for a loved one onto the trees.

Both nights were extremely busy, and by the end of the night the trees were already covered with messages.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year's Service was held on Saturday 3rd December at St Mary's Church, Greasley, and was attended by around 170 people.

As part of the Service, people lit a candle in memory of a loved one, and brought with them a flower which was made into a number of remembrance tributes during the Service.



CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

Even though most businesses take a break for Christmas and the New Year, we continue to provide the same 24 hour service throughout the festive period.

Our on call team are available around the clock to give advice or assistance over the phone, to visit families who wish to discuss funeral arrangements, and to attend following a death at home or in a care home.

If you or a bereaved person you are in contact with wishes to call us when our offices are closed, please do not hesitate to do so, and we will be of assistance.

OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Friday 23 rd December	9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
From Saturday 24 th December to Tuesday 27 th December	Closed
Wednesday 28 th December and Thursday 29 th December	Normal working hours
Friday 30 th December	9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Saturday 31 st December – Monday 2 nd January	closed
Tuesday 3 rd January 2016	Normal working hours



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