



# CHRISTMAS 2017 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our annual Christmas Newsletter.

It's been another busy year packed full of events, and we're very grateful to everyone who's been part of them, including all of our fantastic staff and the people we work with on a regular basis.

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.



# CHRISTMAS APPEAL

For our 2016 Christmas Remembrance Trees Appeal we chose Nuthall and District First Responders to receive the proceeds. In January, Joanne and Anthony were delighted to present Derek Burnett, the volunteer who organises the group, with a cheque for £2,000.

This amount was enough to equip one of their volunteers with all of the life-saving equipment they need to carry with them on calls.



On his visit to our Selston office with fellow volunteer Emma, Derek was kind enough to explain some of the equipment carried and how it was used.

# BEST OF BROXTOWE AWARDS



Last year we won Family Business of the Year award at the Best of Broxtowe awards, so this year we decided to give someone else a chance and sponsor an award instead!

We sponsored the Local Hero award, and were delighted that our good friend Derek Burnett, who runs the Nuthall and District First Responders Group, was nominated in this category and won the award. Joanne and Anthony were delighted to present Derek with this well-deserved accolade.



# GREASLEY GATHERING

For the second year we helped out at the Greasley Gathering, a Community Fun Day held on the Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday.

We spent the day making ourselves useful with a range of jobs, including putting wristbands on young children with their parents' phone number, and supervising the magician's show.



# BRINSLEY COFFIN WALK

In July, Joanne and Paul participated in 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 we injected a splash of colour into the event with lilac ribbons and flowers, to reflect one of the many ways that today's families can personalise their loved one's final journey.



We were met at Greasley Church by an enthusiastic group, led by the much-missed Doreen Lockett, who has led the Service at Greasley for many years, and who sadly passed away recently. Next year we will miss Doreen's friendly welcome and her passion for this event.

# EASTWOOD CFC SPONSORS

This year we've been proud to sponsor the home match kit for Eastwood Community Football Club Under 12's.

We're confident there's at least one future premiership footballer amongst them!





# BRAMCOTE CREMATORIUM MEMORIAL SERVICE

Joanne read out names at Bramcote Crematorium's Spring Remembrance Service this year.

After the Service, those present at the event released environmentally friendly balloons in memory of their loved ones.



## ALAN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

To mark 20 years of working for Gillotts, we presented Funeral Director Alan Winfield with a long service certificate and some flowers for his wife, Sue, who supports Alan with his out-of-hours duties.

Alan started work for us in 1997, and during almost 40 years in the Funeral Profession has helped countless families prepare for their loved one's final journey.



## BRAMCOTE CREMATORIUM OPEN DAY

In September, Bramcote Crematorium held an Open Day for members of the public to view the facilities. We were there with a display of remembrance items and jewellery and one of our Jaguar Limousines.

The public were given a behind the scenes tour and the chance to ask the crematorium staff any questions they had.

It was a great opportunity for us to talk to people about what we do and what options are available to them when they are either planning or arranging a funeral.



# SELSTON TIN HAT CENTRE

Anthony and Helen attended the opening of the Community Café in the Selston Tin Hat Centre, which was partly funded by the National Lottery.



A week later held our first 'Dying to Ask...' drop-in session, where members of the public can come and ask us about anything from end of life planning to funeral options, or just pick up some literature.



Paulette from the Tin Hat Centre and Gloria De Piero MP

## OUR 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In 1867, William Leivers established Star Livery Stables in Victoria Street in Eastwood, hiring out a range of horse-drawn vehicles for a variety of purposes, including Hearses to local Undertakers. William also provide a wide range of services for the people of Eastwood, including supplying them with paraffin for their lamps, and allowing them to charge the batteries which powered their radios.



Over the following 150 years, the business been passed down through many generations, and has adapted to the changing needs of the local community. Whilst William Leivers would probably not recognise the business he founded were he here today, we hope that he would be proud of its standing within the local communities it serves, and the way that it adapts to the changing needs of its clients.



In November we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> birthday by inviting the Mayor of Eastwood, local clergy and many of our friends within the funeral profession to share in our history and heritage. We had a number of items on display, including old photographs and the original ledger from the early days of the business. We also held a Coffee and Cake afternoon for members of the public.

# A NEW LOOK AT EASTWOOD

Over the Easter bank holiday we began a programme of refurbishment of the public areas at our Eastwood premises, continuing the colour schemes and décor that we have developed during the creation of our Kimberley and Selston funeral homes, and refurbishments at Stapleford and Heanor in previous years.

The result is a more contemporary style and a spacious atmosphere and we have had many complimentary comments from visitors.



## ALISON GOT MARRIED!

For most of this year the Hutsby family have been planning a rather different type of ceremony – Barry and Elaine’s younger daughter Alison’s wedding, which took place in November.



The wedding, at East Lodge in the Peak District, was a fantastic day.

As they say, though, you don’t have a dog and bark

yourself, so we did bring a couple of Gillotts touches to the occasion, such as the use of one of our donations boxes for people to place their cards in, and doing our own printing.



Thanks to Tracy from Options Florist in Eastwood, who do all of our funeral flowers, for the fantastic floral pumpkin displays.



# CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCE TREES 2017



Our Remembrance Trees in our Funeral Homes are now in their 12<sup>th</sup> year, and every year we seem to get more and more messages – already this year we have had dozens of people coming in for additional cards so that the whole family can place a message on the tree.

This year our chosen charity is Treetops Hospice Care. When we talk to families about who has helped them through their loved one's end of life journey, Treetops comes up again and

again as an organisation that supports not only the person who is ill but the whole family, and we wanted to recognise and help with the work they do in our local area.



# CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL SERVICE

We will be holding our Christmas Memorial Service at St Mary's Church, Greasley on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 p.m., and everyone is welcome to join us.

During the service, everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle in memory of someone they are there to remember, and we ask people to bring a single flower, which is made into floral tributes which are placed next to the candles during the Service.



After the Service we'll be going outside and releasing Doves to symbolise hope and peace, and then there will be refreshments served in the Church Hall.

# 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 22nd December	Normal working hours
Saturday 23th December	Eastwood Office open 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Normal working hours
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Eastwood Office open 9.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December and Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	Closed
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2017	Normal working hours



154 Nottingham Rd, Eastwood NG16 3GG, Tel: (01773) 713484

The Old Church, Main Street, Kimberley NG16 2LL, Tel: (0115) 938 6720

1a Abbott Street, Heanor DE75 7QD, Tel: 01773) 713921

136 Derby Road, Stapleford NG9 7AY, Tel: (0115) 949 1534

133 Nottingham Road, Selston NG16 6BT, Tel: (01773) 306909

[www.gillotts.co.uk](http://www.gillotts.co.uk)