

The Changing Face of Funerals during Lockdown

Although we have been continuing to offer funeral services throughout the lockdown, some of the government and local restrictions have limited the options available to families. We have been looking at ways that we can support people to ensure that each funeral is dignified, respectful and meaningful.

Our ongoing support

Where possible, we have been in touch with families who have been bereaved during the lockdown, to offer our continued support. Some families are planning memorial services at a later date, others have taken comfort from purchasing a special urn or a piece of jewellery to hold cremated remains, or choosing a headstone as a lasting memorial to their loved one. We know that the grief journey continues long after the funeral, and are pleased to offer help and support in any way we can.



The images pictured right are taken from a series of posts on our Facebook page which were intended to help families to find different ways to mark the passing of their loved ones. Do take a look or ask us for copies of the full set if you would like to read them in full.

ON HOLD FOR NOW ...

We had been looking forward to running our talent show for the second year and had provisionally planned it for November. It seems unlikely that it will go ahead this year now, but we will keep you posted via our Facebook page and local advertising, so please keep practising your acts and we hope to see you on the stage in the not too distant future.



... BUT WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO RE-ARRANGE SOMETIME SOON ...

Les' lockdown DVD

When Les Ames applied to Newlings of Royston for a driver/bearer position, it soon became apparent that his real passion is singing. He put his talent to good use and has led a number of our popular Sing-Along events at local Care Homes and Nursing Homes as well as compering last year's Royston's Got Talent event. Les recorded a DVD during the lockdown so he can spread a little happiness to those who are in isolation and we have distributed it to a number of local homes. Just before going to print, we have confirmed a booking for an outdoor 'patio' Sing-Along. Please call Andy on 01763 242375 if you would like a complimentary copy of the DVD, or if you have a suitable outdoor space at your facility and would like to book Les for some good old fashioned entertainment.



Limousines - keeping you safe

In view of recent developments, we are pleased to be able to offer limousines again from early July. All our vehicles have been fitted with partitions for the protection of passengers and, in addition to keeping them looking pristine, they will be meticulously cleansed inside and out before and after each use.



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Summer Newsletter 2020



The Coronavirus lockdown has posed a number of challenges for everyone, across the globe. On a local level, it has been a particularly difficult time for the bereaved, as many people have been self-isolating and funeral options have been restricted. Although our funeral home has remained open, many families have opted to make arrangements over the telephone or by email, and we have been able to contact some families remotely via Zoom.

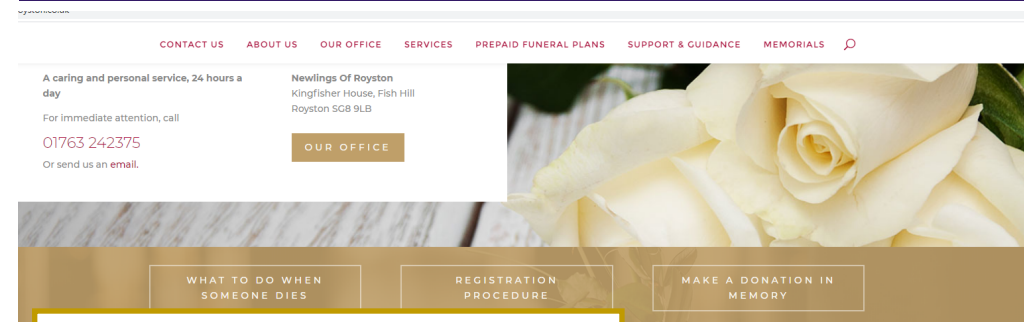
Behind the scenes, we have worked tirelessly with our local churches, cemeteries and crematoria and have kept in touch with the clergy and funeral celebrants to ensure that we are able to offer the very best service possible within the guidelines. Many families have made use of the webcast option at the crematorium, which enables family and friends to view the service live via the internet. Although this is not the same as being there in person, we know that it has been a comfort to know that loved ones are sharing the service.

There have also been some very individual send-offs; with friends and neighbours respectfully lining the route; some have shown their support by clapping, others have simply bowed their heads. Some families have decorated their driveways and porches with flowers, to make the final journey a little more special and others have selected an alternative funeral hearse or requested a special route to the church, crematorium or cemetery.

Throughout this time we have been keeping a close eye on the government guidelines and have adapted our offering accordingly. As the restrictions are starting to lift, we hope to be able to edge a little further towards 'normal' although we know that we are a little way from that at the moment. In the meantime, we will continue to do the very best we can to help those who turn to us at their time of bereavement.

Sean Martin, Head of Operations

"The care and respect demonstrated by you and your team helped to navigate my family through a difficult time and I would like you to know that your efforts and professionalism are truly appreciated"



Our new website was launched in January and has received a lot of positive feedback. It has been particularly helpful during the lockdown, as it has enabled families to gain access to information and advice, including our coffin selection. Do take a look at:

www.newlingsofroyston.co.uk



Our Summer Newsletter would usually be filled with photographs of our community engagements which, of course, have not been possible this year. The organisations and local groups we sponsor and support are very much in our thoughts and we hope they will be able to resume their activities soon.