

## The end of an Era as "F Man" retires

**Andrew Fuller** retired in October after a long and loyal career in the funeral profession. Andrew has always had an interest in helping a family in their time of need and whilst working as an engineer on shift work, he applied to Newlings of Royston for the position of a part time driver/bearer. It was whilst working part time, including going into the funeral home on his days off, he began to learn more and more about the profession and was soon offered a full time position as Funeral Supervisor, which he had no hesitation in accepting. He studied for his Diploma in Funeral Directing and qualified in March 2002 and he was then invited to become a Licensed Member of The British Institute of Funeral Directors. Later that year, Andrew was promoted to Funeral Director and then Funeral Manager soon after, which was the platform to him building the funeral home into the successful branch that it now is. In recent years Andrew hasn't been in the best of health but he is a proud and private man and his concern has always been for his colleagues and the bereaved families that he was so keen to take care of. It was with regret that he made the decision to retire from the profession he had been totally devoted to for over 20 years but we know he will keep in touch with the team and we hope he enjoys a long and happy retirement. We will arrange a proper send off for him as soon as we are able to have a gathering.



Andrew Fuller, who was been known affectionately as "F Man" for some years as there were once a total of 3 Andrews working for the Company!

## The Show Must Go On

When the restrictions were lifted slightly during the summer, Les was back doing the thing he loves, entertaining the residents of St Georges Nursing Home, Royston. He was not allowed to go inside the home, but he willingly entertained them from the patio. The residents and care staff were so happy to have him back in person and are looking forward to booking him again.



## Royston Golf Fundraiser

In recent years we have sponsored the putting competition at Royston Golf Club's charity day. We were unable to attend this year due to the current restrictions but we were pleased to donate some prizes towards the day. The £2,500 raised will be split between Royston Town Football Club and Cancer Research UK. Well done to everyone involved.



## Remembering Loved Ones

Although most events were restricted this year by the pandemic, thankfully it didn't prevent The Garden House Hospice putting on their annual Light of Life service. They organised a virtual service which can be viewed on their Facebook page and they also lit up the hospice garden, with a lovely area where you could hang a Christmas message to your loved ones or light a candle in their memory. Andy and Jacqui went along to remember their own relatives and friends and were very moved by the lovely setting. This event has already raised £42,000 for the hospice, which will be a very welcome addition to their funds, especially this year.



Andy was pleased to deliver some Christmas cheer to our local nursing homes. He took hampers containing Christmas crafting materials, puzzle books and tea and biscuits to give the residents a morning or afternoon's activity. They were very gratefully received by the staff and residents.



## In Memory Tree

We are pleased to be supporting Royston Parish Church again this year. On Saturday 5th December, members from the church team were in Priory Gardens inviting families to tie a ribbon on the church gate and they were then encouraged to visit our office to dedicate a bauble on the In Memory Tree. Mince pies and sherry were served and it was a nice opportunity to catch up with some of the families we have cared for, as well as making new friends ..... all socially distanced of course! The tree will remain in our office window until Christmas Eve and everyone is welcome to call in or contact us to add a message.



Andy and Jacqui at Garden House Hospice



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# Winter Newsletter 2020



As 2020 draws to a close, and we reflect on this most unusual year, our thoughts are very much with those who have suffered a bereavement. Some people who have lost a close family member or friend have faced the disappointment of not being able to hold the funeral service that they may have planned; others may have been unable to attend the service for a friend, neighbour, work colleague or acquaintance. With this in mind, we have worked closely with families and our professional colleagues to find alternative ways for people to pay their respects. In many cases, people have lined the route as the hearse passes by, and many funerals have been streamed live and recorded for those unable to attend the service.

Newlings of Royston is run by a small but dedicated team who deserve recognition for their hard work this year. As key workers, they have continued to work during both national lockdowns, finding ways to adapt to the guidelines and regulations whilst not compromising on the standard of service or care given to the bereaved and to other professionals who call on us for assistance.

I am also very grateful to our local Care Home staff, medical professionals, clergy, funeral celebrants, cemetery and crematorium staff, florists, and many others, who have worked with us during this very difficult year; together we have managed to continue our very valuable work. More than ever, this year has shown us how much we rely on each-other and I thank you all for your help, support and friendship.

It seems fitting to have photographs of our acts of remembrance on the front of this winter newsletter, as a tribute to all those who have lost their lives in conflict. As 2020 draws to a close, we also pause to reflect and remember our absent family and friends.

With my best wishes to you all,  
*Sean Martin, Head of Operations*

And finally ...



.... here's hoping for 2021!

We still intend to arrange a second talent show and will keep you posted - continue to watch this space .....