

NEWLINGS OF ROYSTON 
THE FAMILY FUNERAL SERVICE



THE ROLE OF
CASUAL DRIVER/BEARER

A typical day in the life of a Casual Driver/Bearer

- 10.00am** Arrive at the office for briefing on the day's funerals.
- 10.15am** Help to load the coffin onto the hearse followed by the floral tributes.
- 10.45am** Drive the limousine to collect the family from their home and then chauffeur them to the church.
Carry the coffin into church and then help to unload the flowers and display them at the graveside while the service is taking place.
At the end of the service, carry the coffin to the graveside and then wait with the other bearers until the Conductor advises that the family is ready to leave.
Drive the family to the reception/wake venue and then return to the funeral home to clean the limousine ready for the afternoon funeral.
- 2.30pm** Travel in the hearse to the crematorium where we will meet the family.
- 3.00pm** Carry the coffin into the crematorium.
Help to display the flowers in the cloisters outside for the family to view after the service and then return to the funeral home.
(I am not required to stay on this occasion as the Conductor will take care of the family after the service).
- 4.00pm** Report to the office to ensure there is nothing further for me to do and collect details of tomorrow's funerals to ensure I know where I need to be in the morning.

*We asked a few of our Casual Driver/Bearers about their role,
and here is a selection of their responses:*

What was your main career before you became a Casual Driver/Bearer?

- ◆ Police Officer
- ◆ Fireman
- ◆ Business owner
- ◆ Factory worker

What do you like most about your job?

- ◆ The flexibility
- ◆ Helping people
- ◆ Doing something worthwhile
- ◆ Working for a local Company with a good reputation

Is there anything you don't like about your job?

- ◆ Sometimes there is a lot of waiting around (between funerals)
- ◆ Wearing a black suit in the heat of summer
- ◆ The unpredictability - I may be required on 5 days one week and only 2 the next

What would you consider to be the main skills required to be a Casual Driver/Bearer?

- ◆ Competent driver
- ◆ Physically fit
- ◆ It helps to know the local area
- ◆ Ability to follow instructions
- ◆ Good team player
- ◆ The ability to remain calm in all situations
- ◆ Patience - sometimes we have to wait a while at the crematorium, churchyard or cemetery (in all weathers!)