



## **THE GOOD FUNERAL AWARDS 2018**

### **PRESS PACK**



*Short profiles and contact details for the winners*

## **PROFILES OF THE WINNERS**

The Good Funeral Awards, founded in 2012, are an annual ceremony to reward service to the bereaved. The 2018 ceremony took place at the Highcliff Hotel in Bournemouth on Saturday 15 September. The winners are given a 'deathoscar', a small statue of the Egyptian god of death, encased in a cardboard coffin created by Greenfield Coffins (<https://www.greenfieldcoffins.co.uk>)

### **Most Promising Newcomer to the Trade**

#### *Sheepdrove Natural Woodland Burials*

Owned by Juliet and Peter Kindersley, Sheepdrove offers superb facilities at a breathtaking site. The feedback from members of the public has been excellent. One customer described it as the most moving and loveliest funeral/celebration of life they had ever been to.

<http://www.sheepdrove.com>

For more information call Allison Cook on 01488 674747

### **Most Helpful Funeral Advice Website**

#### *GriefChat*

GriefChat is a live Chat bereavement advice and counselling service founded by Catherine Betley who has over 20 years' experience of managing counselling and therapy organisations including many years at Cruse Bereavement Care where she became Director of Services.

Catherine could see the benefits of connecting bereaved people directly to trained bereavement counsellors through a live chat programme, which shows much higher rates of satisfaction when compared to email or social media support.

<https://www.professionalhelp.org.uk/grief-chat/>

Call Catherine Betley on 01524 805097

## **Anatomical Pathologist Technician of the Year**

### *Barbara Peters*

Barbara Peters works for the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust. She has also helped writers and TV programmes understand the work that goes on in a mortuary. She has given lectures around the world and has addressed audiences of crime fiction lovers.

<http://www.barbarapeters.co.uk>  
Tel: 07752458526

## **Care of the Deceased Award**

### *Guy Elliot*

Guy Elliot started up his funeral repatriation company in Aberdeen in 2014.

He invests in state-of-the-art equipment including stretchers, transfer boards and a Transcool evaporative cooler to ensure the best care.

‘Guy is a very caring individual whom I’ve had the pleasure of meeting and dealing with for almost a year now. I know he puts every effort into giving the best possible service to his clients, and would not hesitate to recommend him for all your repatriation needs.’

Guy Elliott  
Tel 07770 407610

## **Coffin Supplier of the Year**

### *Earth to Heaven (Southgate International Ltd)*

‘The company is a breath of fresh air in an industry quite closed to any ‘new way’ of doing things.’

‘The coffin you provided was just perfect and so beautifully made.’

‘Thank you so much for making the most difficult purchase of my life so seamless.’

Contact: Louise Curry

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

Tel 01243 786072

### **Funeral Florist of the Year**

#### *The Biggin Hill Florist*

'I have never been scared or worried about an order, the more difficult pieces have often ended up being my most spectacular designs, including 3D drum kits and giant lipsticks. Of all the 100's of designs which I've created, my favourite has to be my handbag and shoes tribute, which are made out of leaves and grass. I've also enjoy making fishes made out of eucalyptus leaves so they look like they have scales, these are very effective. My most popular design currently is the Tottenham Hotspur cockerel logo which has been recreated three times in the last month alone; these have been transported by my clients all around the country.'

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

Contact: Lisa Gordon  
Tel 01959 574667

### **Minister of the Year**

#### *Revd Paul Doick*

'Father Paul is held in great esteem. He has undertaken many services for us in Brighton and Hove since he has been Vicar of Henfield. I particularly like Paul's calm and steady approach to the funerals he assists with. He is always been a reliable and safe pair of hands particularly on services that have a hiccup or two. Paul also can include a human element to a religious service that many other ministers are unable to achieve.' - a local funeral director.

Contact [p.doick@btinternet.com](mailto:p.doick@btinternet.com)  
Tel 01273 492017

### **Celebrant of the Year**

#### *David Miles*

Bristol-based celebrant, David, understands the world of deaf people as well as knowing some sign language. He always ensures that sign language interpreters have all they need, including a full script and notes to describe movement, for example to the coffin.

David has raised awareness of the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people at funerals among colleagues by ensuring the provision of loops and sign-language interpreters.

<http://davidmilesuk.com/>

Tel 07703 830715

### **Gravedigger of the Year**

*Chris Miles & Andy Traveller, Southdown Natural Burial Site*

Chris and Andy work at the busiest burial site in the country. They hand dig and tailor every grave. They dig into solid chalk and when they find fossils they present them to families.

<http://www.sustainability-centre.org/south-downs-natural-burial-site.html>

Contact Al Blake 01730 823425

### **Best Burial Ground in the UK**

*Tithe Green Burial Ground*

In 2002 Tithe Green was approached by the Nottinghamshire NHS Bereavement Services in relation to providing an alternative to cremation for pre-term babies. This was initially for religious faiths that don't support cremation but has since been opened to all families. In conjunction with the NHS and AW Lymn Funeral Directors a burial is now held at Tithe Green each month with NHS Spiritual & Pastoral Care staff giving prayers from different faiths and from no faith and offering poems and words of support to those families who attend the service.

In each casket are a number of babies, which means the graves have to be unmarked but each year the NHS provide for the planting of a tree with a tree plaque for that year's babies, giving families a location to visit and commemorate. The tree planting normally follows the December interment and families from that year are invited to attend and take part in the planting. Again, as far as I am aware, we are the only Burial Ground in the UK to offer such a service for pre-term babies.

<https://www.woodlandburialoxton.co.uk>

Contact Steve Barnes

Tel 07800 635037

## **Best Direct Cremation Provider**

### *Simplicity Cremations*

'Fantastically priced direct cremation locally and nationally.'  
'An example of how the mainstream is changing for the better.'

<https://www.simplicitycremations.co.uk>

Contact: Stuart Cox  
Stuart.cox@dignityuk.co.uk  
T: 0121 321 5609  
M: 07919 327172

## **Best Low-Cost Funeral Provider**

### *Respect Direct Funeral Services*

'Incredibly efficient and reliable, and on top of this offered an incredibly priced service to customers.'

<https://directfuneral.co.uk>

Contact Gordon Tulley 07836 202158

## **Most Eco-Friendly Funeral Director**

### *Rosedale Funeral Home*

We have developed a range of coffins that are kinder to the environment than traditional options, including cardboard, bamboo, pine and willow and a lovely design made from wild pineapple leaf.

In May of this year, we started a national campaign to reduce the amount of plastic and non-recyclable materials which are used in funeral floral tributes whilst teaming up with one of local florists and growers Gabriel's Garden. This began after so many of our staff, whilst conducting funerals especially burials, noticed the increase of thrown away tributes. Rosedale next step is to liaise with all of our local florists and discuss what environmentally friendly alternatives such as biodegradable cardboard moss can be used instead of traditional oasis with one local florist already offering the alternatives.

Contact: Pippa Hardie 01953 601103  
[www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk](http://www.rosedalefuneralhome.co.uk)

## **Funeral Arranger of the Year**

*Ewan Reynolds*

27-year old Ewan Reynolds is based in Edinburgh where he has worked for several funeral directors. He received plaudits for his dedication and commitment to the job.

[ewanthomasreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:ewanthomasreynolds@gmail.com)

Tel 07707 206814

## **Most Promising Trainee Funeral Director**

*Steven Long*

For more than twenty years, I was a Financial Advisor. After two-decades in the financial industry, in 2017, I decided I needed a career change. While I was contemplating my next move, I saw an Operative job advertised with Coles Funeral Directors – a family-run, funeral business that serves the Cardiff community where I live. Intrigued by the opportunity to join a local award-winning business, I attended the interview in June 2017 and was delighted to accept the job, keen to learn more about the funeral industry. I quickly understood that the importance of listening to people, attention to detail, and carefully respecting their wishes were all as vital in this industry as they were in the world of financial advising. Within a few short months I was offered a fantastic opportunity to train as Funeral Director and I haven't looked back.

Tel 029 2079 7516

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

## **Funeral Director of the Year**

*David Nicholson - Go As You Please Funerals*

Prior to being a funeral director, David was the publican of a Country Inn. One of his customers worked as a funeral director and he asked him to join the business. 'Not a chance' was his first response, he thought nothing could be more depressing. But eight years ago he joined and he has now found his vocation.

'David is a very special man, and it would be fitting for him to receive recognition for what he does.'

<https://www.goasyouplease.com>

Tel 07841 539591

## **Funeral Caterer of the Year**

### *Tea and Sympathy*

Tea and Sympathy provide a bespoke funeral catering service with a personal touch, and fresh, home-made locally sourced food. They have been trading for 11 years.

Their menus include egg and cress and smoked salmon sandwiches.

Kim Clark

[www.teaandsympathy.uk.com](http://www.teaandsympathy.uk.com)

Tel 01373 832151

## **The 'What to do with the Ashes Award'**

### *Footprints and Whispers*

A small family business offering families a range of beautifully crafted keepsakes and a designed presentation box to store ash for families to use if and when they are ready.

Contact: Brian Thorogood

Tel 01908 886167

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

## **Lifetime Achievement Award**

### *Ken West MBE*

Ken West is the pioneer of Natural Burial – a campaign he began by opening a site in Carlisle 25 years ago.

Contact: [kenwest610@aol.com](mailto:kenwest610@aol.com)