

As I write this piece for our winter 2024 newsletter, I find it hard to believe that 12 months have passed since I was preparing something last year.

People who have been bereaved often say that the winter months are the hardest. It can certainly be an isolating time, when the cold weather and shorter days encourage us to stay indoors. It can also be difficult to see other people preparing for Christmas or party season when we are not in the mood to do so.

November is traditionally a month for remembering those who have died within the church calendar and of course on Armistice Day we pay tribute to those who have lost their lives during conflict.

Each year, the Newlings of Royston team willingly give their time to attend local services of remembrance and Royston's Remembrance Day parades. We welcome this opportunity to join with our communities in reflection and remembrance and we hope that these important acts bring some comfort to those who may be feeling alone.

The funeral profession isn't an easy career choice and we have seen a few colleagues come and go in recent years. For those who stay, it is a true vocation. As this newsletter testifies, it is all about people: we are here to provide service and care to the bereaved. We also believe it is important for us to support our local communities so people get to know us and feel a little more at ease when they are in need of our professional help.

I'll let the pictures do the talking

Sean Martin
Head of Operations



This delightful painting was gifted to us by a local family as a thank you for helping them.



Andy Mcfadyen was honoured to lay our wreath at Royston's Service of Remembrance.

We are delighted to introduce Lisa Hay who joined us as a Funeral Administrator in July. Lisa has worked at a local GP practice for many years so she is well known in Royston. Do pop in to say hello if you are passing.





He hasn't stopped dancing yet!

Our singing bearer Les is keeping very busy. When he is not helping us on funerals, he has a number of bookings for his much loved sing-alongs. This lovely picture was taken at a recent visit to Melbourn Springs Care Home.



In the summer, Andy was pleased to be asked to open the fete in aid of **Royston Royal British Legion Club** who are celebrating their 100th year and 87 years of the club being open. We were pleased to be able to support this event and to help them raise much needed funds to keep the club going.

We are not quite sure what is going on with the inflatable guitar, but they appear to be having a good time!



How old?!!

Andy recently celebrated his 50th birthday and was pleased to be presented with a small gift by Ben Seward, our Operations Manager.

We are delighted to be the main sponsor of **Orwell Panto Group's production of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** which is being put on in loving memory of Les's wife, Marilyn. Like her husband, Marilyn was a talented performer so this seems like a fitting tribute to her. Marilyn was a child star, appearing in TV programmes including Lift with Aysha and Stars on Sunday. She was signed by the record label CBS, who changed her name to Jo Ann Love; such was their regard for her that The Carpenters used to send her songs. One of her most memorable shows was starring on the bill with the late Roy Orbison at The Royal Albert Hall. Most of all, Marilyn was a loving wife, mum and grandmother and a great friend.



Andy, Jacqui and Lisa were pleased to welcome some of the care staff from **St George's Court Care Home** for a talk and tour of our funeral home. Andy delivered an interesting PowerPoint presentation on what happens when we bring a families loved one into our care. Our visitors found the session very useful and here they are proudly showing off their attendance certificates and of course the obligatory goody-bag!