

June Newsletter

Welcome to the June edition of The FSA Newsletter.



President Attending CBCE 2025

The Funeral Suppliers' Association were pleased to support the recent CBCE2025 Conference by sponsoring the lanyards worn by delegates.

Close to 200 attended the three day event organised by The Cremation Society and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities

2025 sees another year of challenge for the burial and cremation sector, as the ever increasing complexity and diversity of death care requires innovation from all involved in funerals. CBCE covers the main topics relevant to all professionals within the sector and as the only CPD accredited educational event in the calendar this is a must attend for those wishing to stay ahead in their respective field.

Keynote topics included Law Commission updates, Environmental Permitting changes, technological innovation, and educational updates to help meet your continuing professional development objectives. There is also an opportunity to grow your network and visit the exhibition to discuss the latest products and services with all the leading sector providers.

A number of FSA members were among the exhibitors: (SEE PICS)

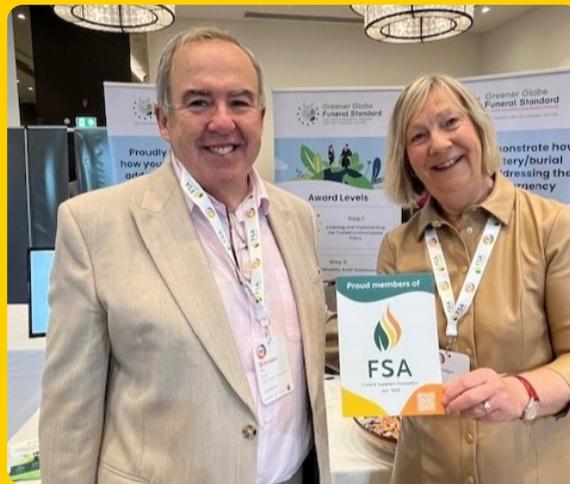
The event concluded with a celebratory banquet which FSA President was pleased to attend.

Jade reflected:

“The evening banquet was held at the stunning Utilita Bowl in Southampton, overlooking the perfectly manicured cricket pitch. A beautiful setting for a relaxed evening of good food, great company, and just the right amount of friendly mischief. (Though I must admit, watching the outfield made me wonder if I’d missed my true calling as an opening batter... or at least a tea lady at Lord’s.)”

The FSA was pleased to be the Lanyard Sponsor for CBCE2025 which was held in Southampton recently.

The following FSA members exhibited:



Member News!



Stepping Up for a Cause: Brian and Adam's Lake District Ultra Challenge

On **28th June 2025**, two of our own—**Brian Hart** and **Adam Masters**—took on the formidable **Lake District Ultra 50K Walking Challenge** in support of the **FSA President's Charity of the Year**, the **Helen & Douglas House Children's Hospice**.

Under the blazing summer sun, the duo joined hundreds of walkers from all walks of life, each driven by a personal cause. Brian and Adam's journey was not just a physical test, but a heartfelt tribute to the children and families supported by the hospice.

Brian, a seasoned endurance walker, completed the full 50K route.

Reflecting on the day, Brian shared:

"It was incredibly uplifting. On a very hot day, people of all ages were out there raising money for causes close to their hearts. The atmosphere was full of kindness and determination.

Adam was brilliant company, and despite the tough terrain, we kept each other going. It reminded me that even in challenging times, people can be truly inspiring."



Together, they covered **75 kilometres**, raising vital funds and awareness for Helen & Douglas House. Their efforts were a testament to the spirit of the FSA community—resilient, compassionate, and committed to making a difference. Brian even managed to make it back to his hotel just in time for what he described as “the best Guinness I’ve ever had”—a well-earned reward after a

long day on the trail.



Adam, who completed 25K, added with a smile:

"I didn't like the ups—and the downs weren't much better! But the camaraderie and support on the day were amazing. I underestimated the toll it would take on my feet and joints, but I'd absolutely do it again—with a bit more training next time!"

If you'd like to contribute to their fundraising total.



Helen & Douglas House provides essential care for children and young adults with life-shortening conditions.

Helen & Douglas House



much loved

Thanks to FSA member *MuchLoved*, a donation page has been created under **Jade's Presidential Year** supporting Helen and Douglas Hospice:

Donate



The life and times of 'Uncle Albert'

AKA Bob Tomes

Somehow over the last few years, I have morphed into Father Christmas, and have become known in the world of Only Fools & Horses, as a person who

attends their major events as Uncle Albert, the late great Buster Merryfield. I grew up with Only Fools & Horses, and can always remember looking forward to the Christmas specials, but didn't know how much I would then be involved 30/40 years later, and would never of thought that I would of actually owned a 3 wheeled van, and meet with Del Boy himself in his flat - But I have !!!..

I guess the OFH obsession started back in 2022, when my significant other, told me about a Convention where I could meet Sir David Jason and many of the cast, including Raquel. Cassandra and the lovely Marlene. The cost was a little eye watering, but it was a chance to meet my Idol, so tickets were purchased just for me, and I patiently waited several months before the big event, which was held at the Sharnbrook Hotel in Bedford -

It was the 40th anniversary for the OFH Appreciation Society, so it was a big deal to many fans, and considering tickets had sold out within minutes, I was extremely lucky to go. One of my prize possessions till that point, was a very nice Sheepskin coat, just like Del Boys, which my parents had bought me for my 50th Birthday, so thinking I would be one of many, I thought I would embrace the whole experience, and go dressed as Del Boy, which I did..

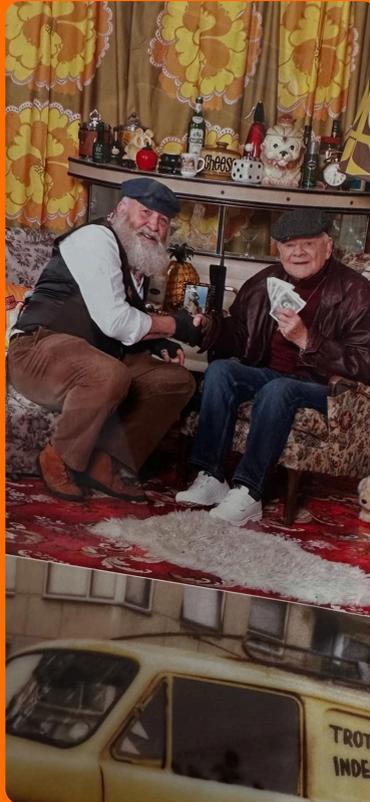
To my horror, I was actually the only person who had decided to dress up on the day, and never thought about having to wear a very heavy sheep skin coat inside all day, on a very warm day - It was hard to do, but I made many memories, and made some new and great friends, all of whom had the same passion as me. OFH. They say you should not meet your idols, but it was a privilege, and he was such a lovely guy. Then the stakes increased, and because I was asked that same year to be Father Christmas at my local cricket club, I found myself with a beard, and the chance of attending the next Convention a few months later, dressed as Uncle Albert.

To say finding the clothing was a task, would be an understatement - It took me 5 attempts of buying the right coat, and hours and hours of looking on sites like Ebay, to find the items. I even had to have the hat and scarf specially made, so I could look the part. The following Convention was a huge success, and I was lucky enough to meet SDJ for a second time - He was impressed with my outfit, and I also found myself having photos taken by many of the other fans, which continued throughout the whole day, and at one point, I felt as though I was part of the event. Since that second convention I have attended all the major events, and because I had the outfit, and was expected to go as Uncle Albert, I have continued to do so.

Over the years I have managed to collect lots of memorabilia from these events, and until now it has been thrown into cupboards - I have worked from home since Covid, and last year my significant other decided she wanted our conservatory back, so I was kicked out, but have now created a new office at the bottom of my garden. This means that I am now able to display and enjoy all the tat that I have purchased.!! In doing so, I have also created a new OFH flat, which I have tried to exactly reproduce from the shows - Again this has been somewhat tricky - How do you find carpet from the 80's? Last year I was lucky

enough to purchase a 3 wheeled van, a Reliant Supervan 3, from 1968 - It had been in a barn for 30 years, but I have now re sprayed it, and brought it back to life - I intend to drive it in the summer around our village and attend our local cricket matches, which is another passion of mine - I have been out in it a few times, and it's great to put smiles onto peoples' faces - They must think I am mad.. That brings you up to date, but more conventions, a large OFH comic Con, and local car shows all planned for 2025 - Where will it all end??

As Uncle Albert used to say - "During the War"



**Our next meeting is being held on Wednesday 9th July 2025.
Please see the agenda below.**

[9th July Meeting Agenda 2025](#)

[9th July Booking form](#)



Member Benefits

The FSA provides a number of benefits which are available all employees within the company.

[Click to find out more](#)



Remember to use the FSA logo!

We would like to remind members to ensure they are using The FSA logo on their branding and marketing materials.

[Why the logo matters](#)



Join our member only meetings!

See our upcoming meetings for 2025 by clicking below.

[View upcoming meeting dates](#)



Citation

Citation Round Up

Members Citation have kindly sent us a roundup of services, and guides for members - please do take a look!

[Click here to see the latest roundup from Citation](#)



Join us for our AGM Book your place today!

Our annual dinner will be held at Alveston Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7HP, on Friday 7th November 2025. We would love to see you there!

[AGM Dinner Booking Form](#)



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