



Welcome to your newsletter

Welcome to the final Eric F Box News of the year.

It's been an eventful 2011. Across the world we have seen uprisings that have shaken regions to their foundations. While here at home we are in the thick of the worst recession in living memory.

Difficult times for many, we're sure you will agree.

In this issue of the newsletter we have chosen to focus on two of the uplifting events of the year, both of which have left lasting impressions on everyone at the company.

And you can read about our new fleet of vehicles (see opposite) – look out for them in and around Dewsbury.

Unfortunately, the new crematorium planned for the town will not now be built due to spending cutbacks. However, we are pleased that the council is investing in improvements and renovations to the existing crematorium and we look forward to seeing these next year.

From all at Eric F Box, a very merry Christmas. We hope you have a happy and peaceful time.

In the event of a death at any time of the day or night, contact us at:

Eric F. Box Funeral Directors Ltd,
Bradford Road, 7 Kingsway,
Dewsbury, Ossett,
WF13 2EW, WF5 8AB
Tel: (01924) 465402 Tel: (01924) 271612
E: funerals@efbox.co.uk W: www.efbox.co.uk



The finest fleet has arrived

New limousines will be transporting Eric F Box funeral families in the utmost luxury.

The company has invested in three new cars to offer families the best service available.

Each gleaming black Jaguar – there are two cars and a hearse – is based on the sleek XJ model, bristling with the latest technology.

Coachbuilders who specialise in supplying the funeral industry have customised the 3-Litre vehicles.

Edward Box said the decision to replace the existing fleet after five

years showed the commitment of the company to maintaining the highest standards.

He added: "We want to stay at the forefront of the funeral industry and we think an investment like this reflects our intention to

keep on improving.

"We have always had Jaguars and these latest models are everything we would expect; lovely to drive and luxurious inside. We hope that our families will appreciate our efforts to get the best."



Clockwise from above:
Interior of the new vehicles, one of the cars with the hearse, the new hearse



Precious memories at Christmas



The hugely popular Tree of Memories will once again light up the lives of people who have lost loved ones.

The Christmas trees – where people can leave messages of remembrance – have become a regular fixture during the festive season at our chapels of rest at Bradford Road, Dewsbury and at Kingsway, Ossett.

The trees, now in their sixth year, have been visited by thousands of people who attach a small token as a symbol of comfort and remembrance.

Anyone wishing to take part this year is asked to phone first to request a message label.

Iconic Funerals: Michael Jackson (1958-2009)

Stars from the world of entertainment attended a public memorial service for the self-styled King of Pop, Michael Jackson, in 2009.

The singer's closed, solid-bronze casket was placed in front of the stage and photographs, music and video montages traced his showbusiness life.

Jackson's brothers sat in the front row to hear Michael's songs performed by the likes of Stevie Wonder, Lionel Richie and Mariah Carey, while Berry Gordy, Brooke Shields and Smokey Robinson gave eulogies that were broadcast around the world.

Gordy said: "I feel the King of Pop is not big enough for him. I think he is simply the greatest entertainer that ever lived."

His children Prince Michael I, Paris Michael and Prince Michael II led the 200 mourners.

Up to a million fans were expected to congregate outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles, but due to a city budget crisis, police urged followers to stay at home.

An estimated 31 million Americans watched the service live on television and it was broadcast around the world to approximately 2.5 billion viewers.

In contrast to the star-studded memorial concert, Jackson was buried after a private family service at the Forest Lawn Memorial Park. The funeral, estimated to have cost more than \$1m dollars, was attended by Jackson's close friend Dame Elizabeth Taylor.

A motorcade of 22 black vehicles carried the extended family to the cemetery. His brothers carried Jackson's coffin from the hearse to the marble crypt, where his body was laid to rest surrounded by the stars of Hollywood's golden era.

The ushers were dancers from what would have been Jackson's London comeback tour.



During the 45-minute service soul singer Gladys Knight sang a gospel hymn and family and close friends spoke to celebrate his life. After the service, mourners attended a wake at a nearby Italian restaurant.

The interment came more than two months after Jackson died, aged 50, at his rented LA apartment.

Jackson was laid to rest at a mausoleum with replicas of the work of Renaissance greats, including Michelangelo's David and Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper recreated in stained glass.

Other stars buried at Glendale include Hollywood actors Humphrey Bogart, Errol Flynn and Clark Gable.

Michael Jackson's casket is available in the Eric F Box American Range

Burials Through Time... ROMANS

Roman burials were grand, public affairs and designed to be a visible way of preserving the heritage of a family.

The achievements of ancestors were celebrated alongside those of the deceased. Professional mourners, including actors who wore the portrait masks of the dead person's notable ancestors, led funeral processions.

A eulogy, instrumental music and songs of mourning accompanied the corpse, which was traditionally cremated. There was also concern for future well-being which was expressed in the provision of food, drink, light, money and boots for walking!

Roman cemeteries were visited regularly with offerings of food and wine and special observances during religious festivals in honour of the dead. A sarcophagus could be elaborately crafted with a scene from mythology or everyday life and funeral monuments throughout the Roman Empire are an important source of information on the time.

However, while many of us think of the Romans as bringing civilisation to a 'barbarian' world, the excavation of cemeteries in Roman Britain suggests otherwise. They point to ritual killings, infanticide, punishment burials and mutilation of bodies after death.

There is evidence of human sacrifice in the Roman era, with victims chosen from every age, social class and sex. Archaeologists have also discovered cases of rough burials with bodies that are dismembered, mutilated, bound and buried face down.

In some instances bodies were weighted down with large stones. One possible explanation for this is to stop the ghosts of the dead walking among the living.



This year the business was involved in the unusual celebrations of two lives that will be long remembered.

Norse Code

Otley was brought to a standstill when a funeral procession of 200 dressed in Viking costume marched through the town.

The procession was to celebrate the life of a woman descended from Norway who was given a Viking burial. She was placed in a wicker coffin with a dragon's head attached to one end. The woman was dressed in Viking chainmail regalia and laid alongside her were a sword, helmet and shield.

The service was conducted in Norse and Richard Box, Managing Director at Eric F Box, said: "The occasion will be remembered for many a day, it was quite an experience.

"It must have seemed odd to the people who saw it, but to those taking part it was not unusual.

"A funeral should reflect a person's life – and that is exactly what this did. The ceremony took place at Otley Cemetery, which stands next to a cricket field. When we arrived all the players stopped and came over to take photos!"

Colourful send off

Last summer marked a first for the business when it was asked to help organise a firework display for a family!

The spectacular show was requested, as the deceased loved fireworks. Andrew Box explains: "The family thought that a seven-minute firework display was a more meaningful way for the use of cremated remains."

Eric F Box worked with Heaven Above Fireworks to arrange for the deceased's ashes to be placed in fireworks for the display in Wakefield.

DUG BROTHERS - FUNERAL DIRECTORS

