

# Shipyard to service: Devon couple mark 30 years for A D Williams

Devon funeral directors David and Jenny Williams are celebrating 30 years of serving their local communities, having opened multiple locations since David left his job at Appledore shipyard.

Launching in Appledore at Chanters House, Hubbastone Road in 1991, an additional premises was opened on The Pill, Bideford, followed in 2000 by premises in Ilfracombe, an office in Northam in 2015 and another in Bideford in 2018.

The company's iconic yellow logo was designed by local artist Emma Haines in 2000 and is at the centre of the firm's ethos. The butterfly has long been recognised as a metaphor for the soul's spiritual journey, teaching us to enjoy the present and make the most of our time here on Earth. They also remind us that death is just another transformation.

David said that growing up in Appledore, working at the shipyard there and being a main contributor to the community is very important to him.

"I started my work life as an apprentice electrician before going to sea and then starting work at the shipyard. It was in its heyday with the yard building 16 ships a year, but by the time I left they were taking a year to build one, so I took voluntary redundancy.

"Previous to that two shipyard colleagues had died and I attended their funerals. Watching the proceedings told me that I could do the job, so I moved into the business and here we are 30

years later. Providing this service enables you to meet all sorts of people. It is a very satisfying job and I love it. I only wish I'd discovered it as a school leaver."

He added, "As a company we are



dedicated to serve our families at their time of need when they trust us to give their loved one the service they deserve. Being a family-run independent funeral directors means we can adapt our services to the needs of the family.

"We are lucky to have such a wonderful team helping our company to grow. With myself as the main funeral director, the company is supported in the Ilfracombe area by Jack Gallagher, who grew up and is well known and respected in the area.

"Lynsey Wheatley works for us from the Northam office, where she grew up, and is well known for her warmth, compassion and knowledge. Abigail Williams and Terri Doodson work alongside the team to ease the pressures of organising a funeral.

"We've been here for 30 years and look forward to another 30 years of serving the wonderful people of North Devon. I have no plans to retire."