

# Calne's First Female Funeral Director Celebrates 25 Years

March 3, 2025, marks a significant milestone for Odette Drummond as she celebrates 25 years as a funeral director—making history as the first woman to hold the role in Calne. Her journey began at a local funeral home before she took the bold step of opening her own family-run business.

Odette's first role in the profession involved collecting loved ones into care and arranging funerals. Determined to establish herself, she earned a Diploma in Funeral Directing, which led to her managing a branch and fulfilling a dream she

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had held since she was just 14 years old.

Her passion for the role is undeniable, and she takes her responsibilities seriously. She explains, *"In this business, trust is everything. Families place their most precious loved ones in our care, and they need to know they are looked after—both the deceased and those they leave behind."*

However, the path to success was not without its challenges. After 14 years in the industry, Odette faced a difficult period in 2014. *"I had back surgery to remove a disc and insert a cage, my mum lost her battle with cancer, a close family member suffered a heart attack, and even my cat passed away. It was an incredibly low point. Then, I learned that the branch I was managing was being sold to a corporate company. That's when I knew*

*it was time to take control of my own future."*

Determined to continue serving families on her own terms, Odette founded *Odette Funeral Director* on June 2, 2015. This year, she not only marks 25 years in the profession but also celebrates a decade of running her own company.

Today, her business remains a true family affair, with her daughter, Sara, and son, Tom, working alongside her. Looking to the future, Odette hopes that one of her granddaughters will one day carry on the family legacy.

*"My six-year-old granddaughter insists she wants to be a hairstylist," Odette shares with a smile. "I've told her she could do some hair styling here too! I'm confident we'll have a third-generation funeral director in the family—it's*



*only a matter of time."*

With a career built on dedication, resilience, and a deep sense of care, Odette Drummond's impact on Calne's funeral profession is

undeniable. As she reaches this milestone, she remains committed to supporting families with the compassion and trust that have defined her journey.