

# Gratte Brothers 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speech

**Delivered by David Gratte | Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Good evening everyone. For those of you who I've not met, I'm David Gratte, the Group Managing Director, and I'm delighted to welcome you all on behalf of my fellow Group Board Directors to our 80th anniversary celebration at this fantastic venue.

I'd like to start by simply saying thank you. Firstly, thank you for being here tonight and for making the effort to show your support for Gratte Brothers.

We greatly appreciate it and it's wonderful to have you all with us. However, the thanks that I extend to you on behalf of Gratte Brothers really goes beyond your attendance tonight. For some of you, it may even go back numerous decades. It's a thank you for the contribution that you've made to our success, and the part that you have played in our 80-year story.

Whether you're here as a representative of Gratte Brothers, a trusted supplier, a valued client, or a long-standing friend of the business, you are all part of the story. For that, we owe you our deepest gratitude.

As we reflect on our history this evening, it would be wrong not to take a moment to acknowledge my Uncle Martin, our Group Chairman, who sadly passed away earlier this year after more than 50 years' service to the business alongside my father, Ian Gratte, and Ian Bass. Martin played an instrumental role in building Gratte Brothers into the company that we all know today. His commitment, leadership and dedication helped shape the business over many decades, and I know many people in this room would have worked with him and will remember him fondly.

Whilst he is sadly not here to celebrate this milestone with us tonight, his contribution forms an important part of the story that we are celebrating.

Reaching an 80th anniversary is no small feat for any business, but to reach this milestone whilst remaining a family-owned and operated business makes it something that we are particularly proud of.

Whilst hopefully you can all tell that I wasn't old enough to be here at the beginning of Gratte Brothers, the story has been brought to life through many conversations I had with my father, Ian, and my grandfather Derek over the years. Derek co-founded this business with his brother Andre in 1946.

What I can tell you is that reaching this milestone, and certainly growing to the scale that we have today, was never the plan. Not because the potential wasn't there, but because Gratte Brothers started from very humble beginnings in the post-war era, with rationing still in place. Gratte Brothers were simply two electricians offering a high-quality service at a decent price.

Back then, making it through the first year and making a profit was probably more important than worrying about what the business might look like 80 years later. But that humility remains intrinsic to the business today.

However, I don't think it can be doubted just how far we have come since 1946. We've grown from one service to five specialist companies, from two employees to over 550, from one Nissen hut in the garden to eight offices located throughout the UK.

From what started as relatively simple electrical upgrade jobs for local businesses has developed into a group that provides comprehensive building services to some of the biggest names in banking, hospitality, retail and data centres.

These numbers are important, but what is more important is the how. And the answer is quite simple. It's because of people. Many of those people are here in this room tonight.

It's often remarked at Gratte Brothers that you don't do business with companies. You do business with people. And it couldn't be more true, because ultimately that is what a business is: a collection of individuals who collectively drive it forward.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have been shown the loyalty, commitment and dedication that we've had from our employees, our clients and our suppliers. Some of those relationships have lasted for decades, and that is something that we will never take for granted.

Reaching our 80-year milestone is unique, but maintaining the success of a business over 80 years certainly comes with its challenges. In those eight decades, we've certainly faced a few of those.

We've seen enormous changes in technology, the economy, the way we work and the industries that we operate in. But each of those challenges has only served to make us stronger. They've reminded us of our resilience, our determination and, perhaps most importantly, our commitment to keep doing business the way that Gratte Brothers has always done business: offering a quality service at a fair price, treating people properly, and building long-term partnerships rather than simply looking for the next business transaction.

Those principles have served us well for 80 years and, whilst we will certainly face challenges ahead, I see no reason why these same principles shouldn't serve us well for the next 80.

We can't predict what the next 80 years will bring. I certainly hope that I'm not standing here giving a speech for the 160th anniversary, but what I can say is that, whatever the future holds, we will continue to build on the foundations that were laid by Derek and Andre back in 1946.

Hopefully, 80 years from now, whoever is standing here will be able to look back on the next chapter of Gratte Brothers' story with the same sense of pride that we feel today.

Tonight, though, isn't really about looking 80 years into the future. It's about celebrating everything that's happened over the last 80 years and, most importantly, celebrating the people that made that possible.

So to our employees, past and present, thank you for your hard work and your commitment. To our suppliers and partners, thank you for your loyalty and for the relationships that we have built together. And to our clients, thank you for putting your trust in us and for giving us the opportunity to work for you.

We wouldn't be celebrating 80 years without every one of you.

So, I'd like to finish with a toast.

Not just to 80 years of Gratte Brothers, but to the people, the relationships, the memories and the achievements that have made those 80 years possible. And, of course, to the next chapter.

To Gratte Brothers. And to all of you.

Cheers.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening.