

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH 2018

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES SEMINAR

Hillscourt, Rose Hill, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8RS

The four representative organisations for cemeteries and crematoria in the UK are holding a one-day Joint Seminar for their members. Each organisation will chair one session, and introduce a paper relating to a key aspect of bereavement services, followed by a discussion based on the themes in the paper. A not-to-be-missed event for all involved in bereavement services in the UK.



Association of Private Cemeteries and Crematoria



Cremation Society of Great Britain



Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities



Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

**Joint
Organisations'
Seminar**

**For Professionals,
By Professionals**

**Excellent
Learning
Opportunity**

**4 Sessions –
Papers and
Discussion**

**Excellent Value
for Money**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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CSBG - 01622 688292

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Joint Organisations' Bereavement Services Seminar

Seminar Programme

09:30 Registration

09.50 Welcome and Introduction to the Seminar

10:00 Session 1: Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries

Chaired By: Alan José, Westerleigh Group Ambassador

Paper Title: Reform of Burial and Cremation Law – What do we want from it?

Speaker: Richard Barradell, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association Private Crematoria and Cemeteries.

Paper Description: The Law Commission has confirmed that it is including the reform of Burial and Cremation Law within its 13th Programme of Law Reform, and the project is entitled 'A Modern Framework For Disposing of the Dead'. The APCC session will be used to suggest priority areas and issues that would seemingly benefit from reform and to try and establish how representatives from the sector would like their views on the key matters to be conveyed to the Law Commission before they finalise their programme.

11:00 – 11:30 Refreshment Break

11:30 Session 2: Cremation Society of Great Britain

Chaired By: Alan José, Westerleigh Group Ambassador

Paper Title: Contested Funeral, Contested Ashes and Some Other Legal Quirks

Speaker: Dr Heather Conway, LLB, PhD, Senior Lecturer, School of Law, Queens University Belfast

Paper Description: This paper begins by looking at who has the legal right to decide funeral arrangements when the deceased's family cannot agree on the fundamentals – for example burial or cremation, the type of ceremony, the proposed gravesite etc. It then asks who has the best claim to post-cremation ashes: who the crematorium has a statutory duty to release these to; who has the ultimate entitlement once ashes have been released; and the complex question of who 'owns' retained ashes following that person's death (what we might call second-generation disputes). The paper concludes with a few examples of funeral directors and crematoria being sued for their handling of a funeral (or ashes), and the extent of any liability.

Speaker Biog: Dr Heather Conway is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Queen's University Belfast. Her research focuses on the substantive laws surrounding the fate of the dead and who has decision-making powers at various stages. Particular areas of expertise include family disputes surrounding funeral arrangements, their underlying reasons and how courts resolve them; who 'owns' post-cremation ashes; the legal status of funeral instructions; and family conflicts around exhumation and commemoration of the dead. Heather has written and presented extensively in these areas, and is the author of the Law and the Dead (Routledge, 2016).

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 Session 3: Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities

Chaired By: Alan José, Westerleigh Group Ambassador

Paper Title: Working Together through The Primary Authority Scheme

Speaker: The presentation will be made by members of Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS). WRS is a shared service acting on behalf of Worcestershire County Council, Redditch Borough Council, Bromsgrove Council, Wyre Forest Council, Worcester City Council, Malvern Hills Council and Wychavon District Council. The primary aim of WRS is to ensure compliance with the legislative framework within which they operate so that consumers, businesses, employees and individuals and the environment are protected.

Paper Description: The Cremation Process Guidance notes require each crematorium to hold an operating permit, requirements tend to vary with each authority. The introduction of a Primary Authority Scheme will provide the opportunity for a single consistent process across all those crematoria which adopt the scheme. Bringing together crematoria and the Primary Authority, Worcestershire Regulatory Services will also provide the opportunity to shape both the existing and future Process Guidance notes.

14:30 – 15:00 Refreshment Break

15:00 Session 4: Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

Chaired By: Alan José, Westerleigh Group Ambassador

Paper Title: The Real Effects of Funeral Poverty

Paper Description: Funeral poverty is a real issue that is causing problems for many families faced with making funeral arrangements. Claire will highlight the issue through discussion of real cases that they have dealt with at Quaker Social Action.

Speaker: Claire Brandon, Quaker Social Action

Paper Title: Burial and Cremation Authority responses to Funeral Poverty

Paper Description: Tim will outline sector responses to funeral poverty and highlight initiatives that some authorities have introduced that are having a positive impact.

Speaker: Tim Morris

Discussion: Following the two short papers there will be an opportunity for delegates to discuss the cost of funerals and the impact that this is having on services, and what can be done to ensure funerals remain appropriate and affordable for families.

16.00 Close of Seminar – Alan José, Westerleigh Group Ambassador