

# News Review



We are pleased to bring you **The Cremation Society's** news review for April.

We hope our newsletter will help you to stay informed of news and developments from across the cremation sector.

You can also follow regular Cremation Society updates on [LinkedIn](#).

## THIS ISSUE'S NEWS UPDATES

- Tamar Valley Crematorium Official Opening and Dedication Service
- Cheshire East gives go ahead for crematorium at Brereton
- York Crematorium - £560k expansion for Bishopthorpe site
- New complete funeral packages launched at Bramcote Crematorium
- Thurrock crematorium gets approval
- Gloucester City Council announce plans to make significant improvements at Coney Hill Crematorium
- Decision on Malta's first crematorium deferred after council asks for more time
- Advertiser Spotlight - The Columbaria Company

# NEWS REVIEW

## CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

### Tamar Valley Crematorium Official Opening and Dedication Service

The Cremation Society's Executive Officer, Wendy Buchan, had the pleasure of attending the Official Opening and Service of Dedication of Tamar Valley Crematorium on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

The service was opened by Chris Johns, director of Tamar Valley Crematorium, who gave a warm welcome and a brief background to the development of the Crematorium. The service was then led by The Right Reverend James Grier, Bishop of Plymouth, alongside The Reverend Jo Northey (Vicar of Bickleigh and Shaugh Prior), local Civil Celebrant, Vicki Jensen - with special musical contributions from the choir of Bickleigh Down School.

The plaque marking the official opening of the Crematorium was unveiled by Dr Brian Parsons who congratulated all those involved with the development of the site.



# NEWS REVIEW

## CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

### CBCE 2026

The Cremation Society and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities look forward to delivering this year's CBCE at the Hilton Utilita Bowl, Southampton.

There are various ticket options available to suit all budgets - you can find full details at [www.cbce.org.uk/2026](http://www.cbce.org.uk/2026)

Please book your ticket as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Cheshire East gives go ahead for crematorium at Brereton**

Cheshire East has given the go-ahead for a crematorium to be built on a field in Brereton. The strategic planning board today (Wednesday) was unanimous in approving the proposal on a parcel of land at the junction of the A534 and Pitcher Lane. The building will include a ceremony room with seating for 100 people and there will be parking for 92 vehicles. Applicant Richard Evans, who has more than 30 years' experience of developing and operating crematoria, told councillors he now works independently. Mr Evans told the meeting there was a need for another crematorium, and this was a suitable location. "Your bereavement services manager comments that Macclesfield runs at near capacity for six months of the year. These pressures will only increase with a 23 per cent rise in deaths forecast by 2047," he said. Mr Evans said a high demand could lead to a 'conveyor belt' experience. Cllr Steve Edgar (Haslington, Con) said: "Having recently been to a cremation and experienced the conveyor belt and the upset people who were arriving and the upset people who were leaving sort of mingling together, it wasn't a good experience, as far as I'm concerned. So, I'm more than happy to second this. I think it's very appropriate and it's what is needed. We ain't going to stop people from dying." For the full article, head to [www.knutsfordguardian.co.uk](http://www.knutsfordguardian.co.uk)

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#### **York Crematorium - £560k expansion for Bishopthorpe site**

The planned expansion of York's crematorium at an estimated cost of £560,000 has taken a step forward. A contract for works to expand York Crematorium, in Bishopthorpe, with a new waiting area and accessible toilet, has been awarded to Chester Composites Ltd. City of York Council officials stated the crematorium was in dire need of modernisation so that it could compete with newer private venues. The awarding of the contract following a winning bid of £435,000 plus additional costs and fees comes after the council's executive approved funding for the project in February 2025. A total of £596,000 has been set aside for the project, including £36,000 on top of the estimated £560,000 cost.

A council report on the decision to award the contract stated it followed years of talks with funeral directors ahead of the planned expansion. It added further delays in improving the building would impact on the future operation of the site and could see cost revenues and the facility lost. To read the full story, head to [www.yorkpress.co.uk](http://www.yorkpress.co.uk)

# NEWS REVIEW

## CREMATORIA NEWS

### **New complete funeral packages launched at Bramcote Crematorium**

Bramcote Bereavement Services has launched a new, complete funeral package which gives peace of mind that loved ones are taken care of locally, with dignity and respect, at an affordable price. 'Your Cremation' provides everything that you need, all handled by one dedicated team, with no transfers between multiple facilities.

The service includes:

- Collection of the deceased from home or hospital in a private ambulance at any time of the day or night.
- Care and preparation at the state-of-the-art modern mortuary at Bramcote Crematorium
- Dressing and placement in a coffin suitable for cremation
- Liaison with family to complete all legal paperwork
- Service and eulogy delivered by Bramcote Bereavement Service's professional team
- Medical referee fees, cremation, ash box and certificate. Cremated remains and certificate to be collected by applicant or nominated representative
- Optional scattering of ashes in Bramcote Crematorium's grounds (Monday to Friday). With or without family present
- Options for Unattended cremation, an intimate service or a celebration service.

For further details, visit [www.erewash.gov.uk](http://www.erewash.gov.uk)



Credit: Erewash Borough Council



# NEWS REVIEW

## CREMATORIA NEWS

### **Borough crematorium gets approval**

Councillors have narrowly approved plans for Thurrock's first crematorium following a lengthy debate over its size and location. Thurrock Council's planning committee voted on Tuesday five to four in favour of granting permission for the development on land off Brentwood Road (A128), near Snakes Spinney and New Covert in Orsett. Speaking on behalf of the applicant, Elegy Limited, Colin Danks told councillors there was an "urgent and growing need" for a crematorium in Thurrock.

"Anyone who has suffered a bereavement knows that there is an urgent and growing need in Thurrock for a new crematorium and through a granted planning permission today, Elegy would like to be a long term service provider," he said.

The approved scheme is for a single storey crematorium with memorial gardens, parking for 74 vehicles and a new access from the A128. It is expected to host up to 1,200 services a year. Planning officers recommended approval, saying the public benefits outweighed any limited harm to the Green Belt, with around 87 per cent of the site remaining open space. For the full article, please head to: [www.thurrock.nub.news](http://www.thurrock.nub.news)

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### **Gloucester City Council announce plans to make significant improvements at Coney Hill Crematorium**

Gloucester City Council plans to make significant improvements at the crematorium at Coney Hill, focused on creating an improved, more supportive environment for families at one of the most difficult times in their lives. The proposals, which will cost £5 million over two years, include replacing ageing cremation equipment, improving building standards and investing in new and enhanced spaces for mourners. Central to the plans is the design, supply and installation of three new modern cremators, replacing equipment that has been in operation for more than 30 years and is now well beyond its recommended lifespan. Declan Wilson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the crematorium, said: "Chances to invest in crematorium facilities don't come along very often – typically only once in a generation – so it's something we're genuinely pleased to be able to do. These improvements will help us provide a better experience for bereaved families, while also ensuring the service continues to meet strict national standards now and into the future." Subject to approval, the investment will be delivered over the next two financial years as part of the council's wider capital programme. To read the full story, head to [Gloucester City Council's Facebook page](#).

# NEWS REVIEW

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS MALTA

### **Decision on Malta's first crematorium deferred after council asks for more time**

The Planning Authority has deferred a decision on an outline permit for what would be Malta's first crematorium near the Addolorata cemetery in Paola. Planning board chair Emanuel Camilleri accepted a request by the Paola local council to postpone a ruling on PA/05280/21, so it could study a presentation delivered during Thursday's hearing.

The presentation was given by Rodrigo Grimaldi, a representative of the Spanish company Etick, which has been contracted to build the crematorium by applicant Johann Camilleri. According to the plans, the crematorium's control systems would be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and control components, such as oxygen, temperature and CO2 probes, pressure sensors and alarms. Real-time data would be transmitted to the site's technical team as well as the Environment and Resources Authority for continuous monitoring. Paola Mayor Jason Silvio asked the board to defer its decision so the council could review everything presented. Camilleri agreed, adding that since the application was the first of its kind in Malta, the PA was "navigating uncharted waters". To read the full article, head to [www.timesofmalta.com](http://www.timesofmalta.com)



# ADVERTISER SPOTLIGHT



## A Natural Evolution in Memorial Landscapes Peter Roper - The Columbaria Company

At The Columbaria Company, our purpose has always been clear: to transform memorial spaces and how the public perceives them. As expectations continue to evolve, crematoria and memorial gardens are increasingly required to balance dignity and tranquility with durability, sustainability, and contemporary design. It is within this context that our recent collaboration with Pinseeker represents a natural and exciting progression for our sector.

Pinseeker has long set benchmarks within the golf market, an environment where presentation, constant public use, and longevity are non-negotiable. Their Luxewood™ wood-effect recycled plastic furniture has become widely adopted across premium courses, valued for combining the warmth and authenticity of timber with genuinely maintenance-free performance.

We see strong parallels between golf estates, crematoria, cemetery and burial grounds. All are carefully landscaped environments where visitors spend meaningful time, where visual harmony matters, and where long-term upkeep must be responsibly managed. Luxewood benches offer the familiar appearance of traditional timber seating, without the challenges of rot, splintering, repainting, or replacement. They sit quietly within the landscape, enhancing spaces of reflection rather than competing with them.

Equally important is their sustainability story. Manufactured from clean recycled plastic, Luxewood products align naturally with local authority environmental policies and carbon reduction targets. Their long service life also supports whole-life cost efficiencies—an increasingly important consideration for both public and private operators.

What excites us most is the opportunity to take a more holistic approach to memorial environments. Seating can be complemented with matching planters, discreet litter bins, recycling stations, and coordinated estate signage, allowing crematoria to present cohesive, modern grounds rather than collections of unrelated elements. This mirrors the evolution we have seen in the golf sector, where integrated, low-maintenance materials have elevated estates while quietly reducing maintenance burdens. Our Luxewood range of memorials will be innovative and will compliment our granite and UK manufactured memorials.

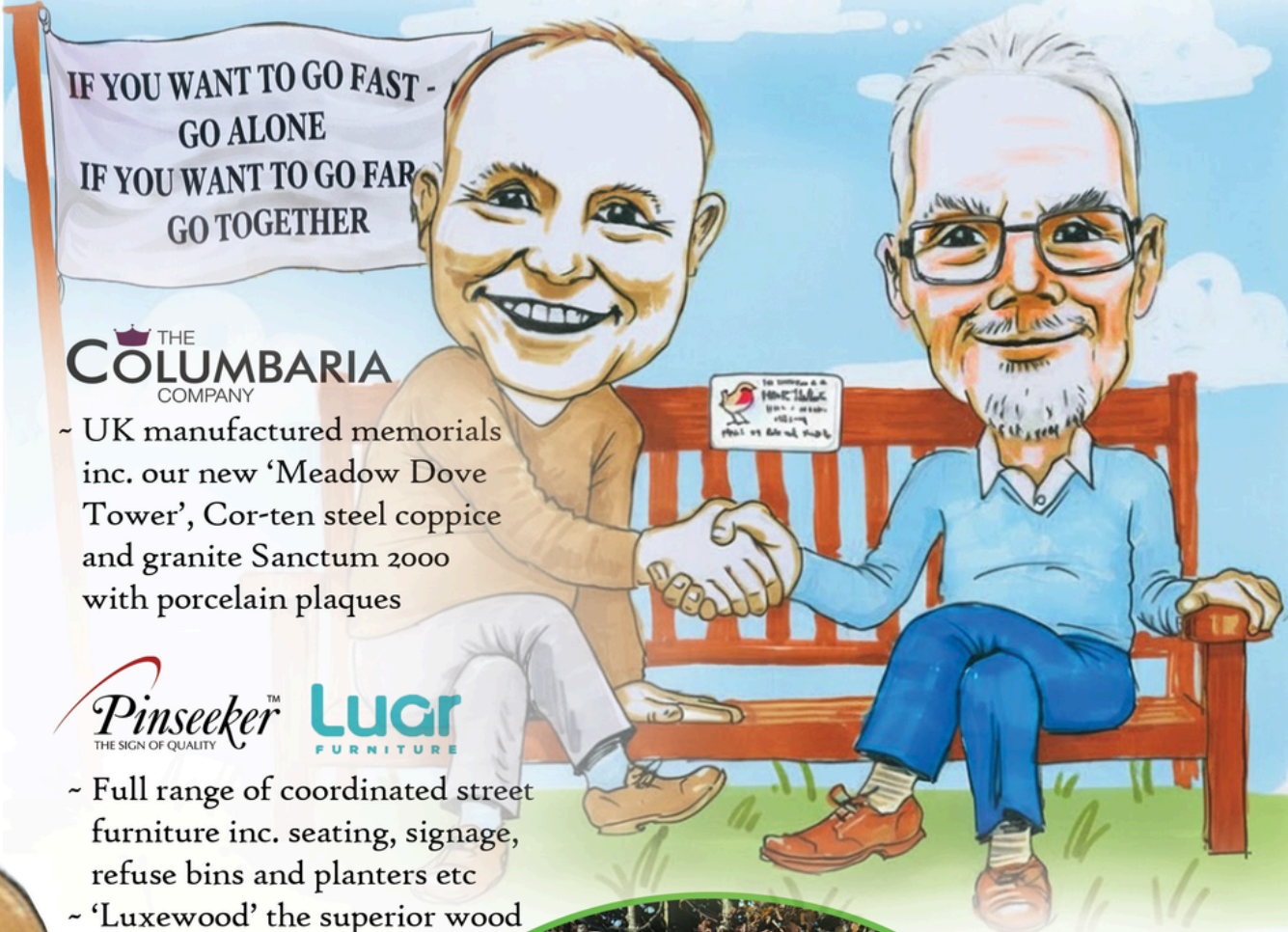
From our Hull-based facility, we continue to design, create, and deliver memorial solutions tailored to each site's character. By partnering with Pinseeker, we are extending that philosophy beyond memorials alone—helping crematoria modernise their outdoor spaces in a way that is respectful, practical, and future-facing.

This collaboration is not about change for its own sake. It is about thoughtful evolution, honouring remembrance with materials and designs that will stand the test of time, both aesthetically and environmentally.



## ADVERTISER SPOTLIGHT

### A **POWERFUL** NEW COLLABORATION FOR 2026



IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST -  
GO ALONE  
IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR  
GO TOGETHER

THE  
**COLUMBARIA**  
COMPANY

- ~ UK manufactured memorials inc. our new 'Meadow Dove Tower', Cor-ten steel coppice and granite Sanctum 2000 with porcelain plaques

*Pinseeker*<sup>TM</sup> **Lugar**  
THE SIGN OF QUALITY FURNITURE

- ~ Full range of coordinated street furniture inc. seating, signage, refuse bins and planters etc
- ~ 'Luxewood' the superior wood alternative



Our new catalogue showing the full range of Luxewood outdoor furniture is due out Spring 2026 so please email for a brochure [columbaria@odlings.co.uk](mailto:columbaria@odlings.co.uk) [www.columbaria.co.uk](http://www.columbaria.co.uk)

## NEWS REVIEW

### EUROPEAN CREMATION NETWORK NEWS

The **European Cremation Network** (ECN) will host its upcoming ECN Meeting from 3 to 6 June in **Düsseldorf**.

This exclusive networking event brings together professionals from across Europe to exchange insights, strengthen connections, and discuss current developments within the cremation sector.

The ECN Meeting will take place alongside Forum BEFA, one of the leading international trade fairs for funeral services and related industries. By aligning these events, participants have the opportunity to combine valuable networking with a visit to this major industry exhibition, the entrance fee is included in the ECN Program.

Registration is now open via the **ECN website**. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://cremation-network.com/>

**We look forward to meeting you there.**

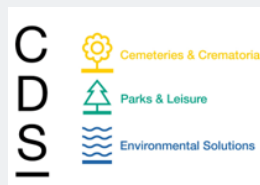
The Cremation Society is pleased to share this opportunity with its network.



# PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

## ADVERTISERS

We are proud to introduce our **Pharos International Journal** advertisers.



If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please [click here](#) for a media pack. We offer attractive discounted rates for 5 issues - available upon request for new advertisers. 10% Agency Discount. Continue reading to learn more about our advertisers.

No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers or for the sustainability or standard of goods so advertised.

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# PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

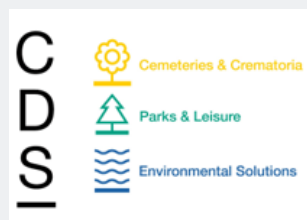
## ADVERTISERS



**Benchmark Architects**, are an innovative architecture and design studio, with a passionate and personable team who enjoy working on creative, challenging, and innovative projects.



**DRM Technic**, is one of the UK's leading suppliers of gas analysis and conditioning equipment and services. They are also a renowned manufacturer of Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS).



**The CDS Group**, offer their clients a complete solution of in-house environmental, design, and planning services covering cemeteries and crematoria, parks and leisure, and environmental solutions.



**The Columbaria Company**, are specialists in the production of personalised memorial artwork and after cremation memorials.

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# PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

## ADVERTISERS



**DFW Europe** has earned a trusted international reputation for developing and building high-quality cremation systems and related equipment. Customers value our advanced ICT solutions, our commitment to quality, ergonomics, and our drive for continuous innovation. As a full-service partner, DFW Europe designs and manufactures cremation furnaces powered by gas, electricity, or bio-oil. Every installation is engineered with a strong focus on energy-efficient performance, helping our clients operate sustainably.



**Facultatieve Technologies**, have over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.



**IFZW**, is an established manufacturer of cremator and emission filter systems.



**Obitus**, provide bereavement technology services, delivering music, webcast and tributes for families, funeral directors and leading funeral venues throughout the UK.

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## ADVERTISERS



**OrthoMetals**, is a family owned and operated business, recycling metals remaining after cremation.



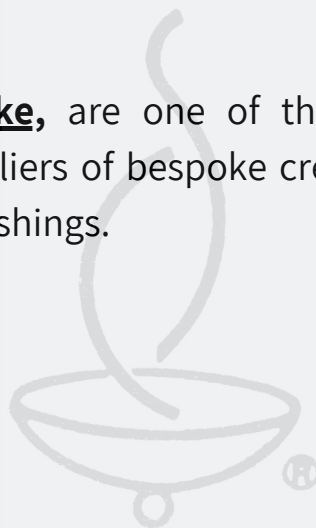
**PlotBox**, is an international death care management solution. They facilitate cemeteries and crematoria in operating to world-class standards through integrated software and georectified mapping modules.



**SK Environmental Ltd**, is a UK manufacturer of instrumentation for measurement and control of combustion plants, specialising in environmental monitoring and control products.



**Treske**, are one of the UK's leading makers and suppliers of bespoke crematorium furniture and soft furnishings.



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# The Cremation Society

Rooted in history: committed to the future

## Contribute to our newsletter

We love to receive news/press suggestions from our readers to include in future newsletters.

For any news you would like us to consider, please contact us at [info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)

## Our contact details



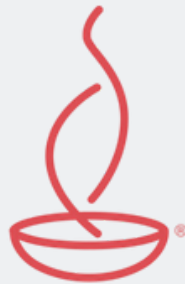
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