



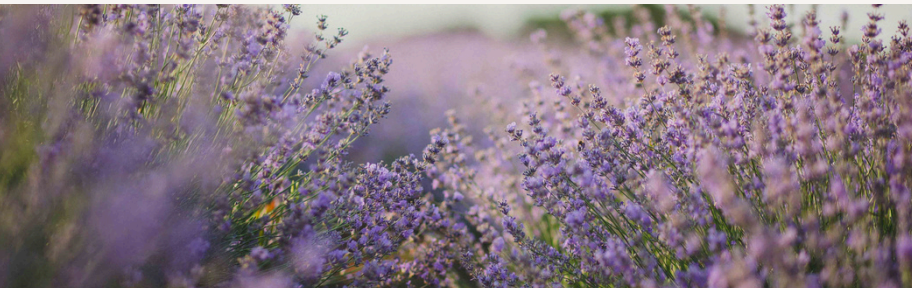
News Review

THE LATEST NEWS, INSIGHTS AND UPDATES

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

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 MONTH

- CBCE 2026 - it's a wrap!
- New plans unveiled for Hooton
- Leeds City Council to consider latest plans recommended for approval
- £24 million contract out to tender by BCP Council
- Golden Leaves Cyprus Crematorium receives planning approval for Cyprus' first crematorium
- Law Commission publishes latest report on new funerary methods
- International Cremation Federation news



CBCE 2026

The Cremation Society and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities were delighted to welcome delegates, exhibitors and sponsors to this year's CBCE which saw us return once more to the Hilton Utilita Bowl in Southampton.

We usually hope for good weather for the event and it is fair to say, this year's conference will go down in history books as the hottest to date! With record-breaking temperatures, combined with World Cup fever, it will be a year not to be forgotten.

We would like to thank all of the speakers who attended this year's conference - they provided useful and informative updates, from the practical to the policy-making. We heard updates from the Law Commission on the burial, cremation and new funerary methods project; the Ministry of Justice brought us up to date with their work; we had practical advice on communicating bereavement services to bereaved families and where we might need to improve what we do; and we heard the latest news from the International Cremation Federation on the work they will be undertaking over the coming year.

We were delighted to see many new connections being made, as well as nurturing of existing contacts - being together in person provides a unique opportunity to share thoughts and experiences that can be maintained long after the conference itself. We saw this in practice during the Women in Bereavement Business Networking Breakfast which provided an opportunity for those attending to share their ideas and aspirations for how the group can support and promote women working in the bereavement sector. We look forward to continuing to work on that.

Thank you again to all those who attended - we welcomed some new faces, and warmly greeted some familiar faces. So if you have not joined us before, please either subscribe to this free monthly e-news review via our website, or follow us on LinkedIn to keep updated on news of next year's event.

We will be glad to have you with us!



CBCE 2026



New secluded crematorium plans unveiled for Hooton

A new crematorium could be built on a secluded site at Hooton. **Elegy Ltd**, an independent family business with ties to the area, is proposing a 'sensitive, sympathetic design' on a significantly smaller scale than the one put forward by Horizon at Waterworks Lane. The company says the design will blend into its surroundings and address previous concerns raised about other plans for the area. Richard Evans, managing director of Elegy Ltd, said: "We have considered countless sites since, concentrating on brownfield and previously developed land such as our application at School Lane. Ultimately, the field on Waterworks Lane is the best of all." The proposal comes after public objections were raised about a previous crematorium application in the area. Mr Evans, who comes from the area, has spent more than 20 years searching for a suitable site to serve local families. A similar proposal for the same site was refused in 2008, but since then planning officers and a more recent appeal decision have acknowledged the need for additional cremation facilities. Residents can view the plans [online](#) and are encouraged to share their feedback. To read the full article, head to www.wirralglobe.co.uk



Crematorium plan refused due to local impact

Plans for a large crematorium facility next to a village have been thrown out because of concerns it would disrupt local residents and destroy green space. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) wanted to build the Wantage Park facility next to a new secondary school near Moulton and a new housing development. The council plans proposed an on-site wake facility and chapel, to help address the growing demand for cremation services across the local authority area. But the idea was thrown out by its own planning committee, which saw 300 letters of objection raising concerns about noise from the school disrupting funerals, worse traffic congestion and the removal of an important local green space. Plans were unveiled for the site in September in response to what the council described as an urgent need for cremation facilities. Adam Muspratt, a planning agent on behalf of WNC, told the meeting the "physical and visual separation between Moulton and Northampton will be maintained". However, the planning committee said the development would contravene planning policy which stated designated green wedges, which helped maintain the separation between the countryside and built-up areas, should be protected to prevent coalescence. The committee voted against the crematorium plans, with five voting for it to be refused, three voting against and two abstentions. To read the full article, head to www.bbc.co.uk



Credit: West Northamptonshire Council

Leeds crematorium plans recommended for approval - one of two competing applications

One of two competing proposals for a new crematorium in Leeds is recommended for approval when it goes before councillors later this week (25 June 2026). Crematoria Management Ltd, part of the **Westerleigh Group**, submitted an application to Leeds City Council last year for a site off Wakefield Road in Oulton. Planning permission is sought for the change of use of a vacant agricultural field to provide a purpose-built crematorium and natural burial ground. The plans include a new single-storey crematorium building with associated memorial gardens and up to 4,500 burial plots. The application will go before the council Plans Panel (East) on 25 June and is recommended for approval, subject to conditions and the signing of a legal agreement, in an officer's report prepared for the meeting. An officer's report prepared for the meeting said: "Having regard to the development plan and all other material considerations, officers conclude that the proposal would deliver a crematorium and natural burial facility for which a demonstrable need has been identified and which, subject to the completion of a Section 106 agreement and the imposition of the recommended conditions, is considered acceptable in respect of Green Belt policy, design, landscape, ecology, residential amenity, highways and drainage." An earlier, near identical scheme, was refused planning permission in October 2025. Following this refusal, the local planning authority has undertaken its own independent needs assessment for a new crematorium, while the applicant has slightly amended the layout of the scheme. The application is one of two competing crematorium schemes under consideration for Oulton. Specialist crematorium provider Horizon [submitted plans to Leeds City Council last year](#) for its own facility in a site off Methley Lane. To read the full article, head to www.insidermedia.com

£24million contract to find new operator for crematorium

A £24million contract to find new operators for a crematorium six years after the facility stopped operations due to equipment failure. **BCP Council** has put out a tender to find a new operator for **Poole Crematorium** under a 20-year agreement. BCP Council stopped operations at the crematorium on Gravel Hill in 2020 because of equipment failure. Since then, families have been able to hold ceremonial services at Halo Hall, but the actual cremations have taken place in Bournemouth. In November 2025, BCP Council's Cabinet unanimously approved finding a new operator for the facility to run services.

The contract includes a commitment to invest in improved facilities, with cremations currently being carried out in Bournemouth while services continue at Poole's Halo Hall. Councillor Sandra Moore, portfolio holder for communities and partnerships at BCP Council, said: "We know our residents want to see Poole Crematorium fully operational again and, following consultation with stakeholders, we have now launched an opportunity to the market to procure a concession contract that we hope will make this possible. This is seeking options from the industry to secure new investment in the continued operation and maintenance of cremation facilities in the town for years to come and improve the service we can offer bereaved families across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and wider communities."

The contract is scheduled to begin on February 1, 2027, and will run until January 31, 2047. The council has consulted with stakeholders as part of the decision-making process. Interested companies have until July 17, 2026, to submit their bids for the contract. A decision on who will be awarded the 20-year contract is estimated to be made by February 1, 2027. To read more, visit www.bournemouthcho.co.uk

LAW COMMISSION NEWS

New funerary methods get legal framework for the first time

A new report has been published giving the Law Commission's final recommendations to enable the regulation of new funerary methods

Currently, only burial, cremation, and burial at sea are regulated in England & Wales. New funerary methods — such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting — are not covered by any specific legal framework, and it is unclear whether their use would be lawful. The Law Commission's report sets out recommendations which would allow methods such as this, and new methods which may be developed in the future, to be regulated in England and Wales.

The Commission recommends new primary legislation giving the UK Government (in relation to England) and the Welsh Government (in relation to Wales) the power to regulate individual new funerary methods through secondary legislation. Rather than trying to specify rules for each method now, the report proposes a flexible approach to ensure that future developments can be taken into account.

The recommended framework includes safeguards and using a non-regulated method would be a criminal offence. Regulations for each new funerary method would be subject to enhanced parliamentary scrutiny the first time each method is regulated.

Other recommendations include:

- Ensuring that regulations would make provision for the registration of each use of a new funerary method. This would keep the system consistent with how burials and cremations are currently recorded, and ensure there is sufficient oversight.
- Ensuring that compliance with regulations could be monitored and enforced. Regulations would need to include provision about inspection of facilities. The UK Government and the Welsh Government would also have the power to create criminal offences (or civil financial penalties) in secondary legislation for breaches of specific regulations, with maximum penalties set out in primary legislation.
- Allowing regulations to be made enabling controlled trials of new methods before they are fully regulated, provided the person whose body is involved gave their prior consent.
- Prohibiting the use of new funerary methods, other than those that have been regulated or are being used as part of an approved trial. Breach of this prohibition would be a criminal offence.

Two draft Bills — one for England and one for Wales — accompany the report. These give practical legal effect to the recommendations and are intended to provide a modern, consistent and future-proof framework for the regulation of new funerary methods

Further details and the final report are available on the [project page](#).

INTERNATIONAL CREMATION FEDERATION NEWS



The International Cremation Federation held its General Council Meeting in Düsseldorf on Friday 5 June 2026. At this meeting, Barbara Kemmis of the Cremation Association of North America (CANA) handed over the presidency of the ICF to Professor Hilary J. Grainger OBE, Chair of the The Cremation Society. Tom Wustenberghs, CEO of Pontes, Belgium, was appointed as the new Secretary-General.

The ICF Board warmly thanked Barbara for her many years of commitment, leadership and dedication to the Federation. Her contribution has been of great value to the international cremation community. At the same time, the ICF Board wishes Hilary every success in her new role. Under her presidency, the ICF will continue its important work to become a strong, effective and future-oriented organisation — and a recognised point of reference for the cremation industry worldwide.

An orientation Paper was presented to members, outlining a vision and proposed activities for the next three years. At the heart of this vision is a simple goal: to strengthen collaboration, encourage the exchange of knowledge, and support the continued development of cremation services worldwide. More news on this will follow.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS - CYPRUS

Golden Leaves Cyprus Crematorium receives planning approval for Cyprus' first crematorium

Golden Leaves Cyprus Crematorium Limited is pleased to announce it has received official planning approval for the construction of the first crematorium in Cyprus. This milestone represents a historic step in the modernisation of funeral care services in Cyprus, ten years after cremation legislation was first introduced in the Republic.

Following the granting of planning permission, the company will now proceed to the next stages of the development, with construction works expected to commence in September 2026 and completion anticipated within approximately 18 months. The crematorium will be located in the area of Agia Varvara, Paphos, and will become the first fully licensed cremation facility in the Republic of Cyprus.

The new crematorium will feature modern ceremony halls, landscaped memorial areas, and state-of-the-art cremation systems incorporating advanced filtration and low-emission technology. The facility will utilise Best Available Techniques (BAT) compliant systems and will operate in full accordance with European environmental regulations and emissions standards.

Golden Leaves Cyprus Crematorium Limited remains committed to delivering a facility that combines compassion, professionalism, environmental responsibility, and long-term value for the communities it will serve. To read more, visit www.cbn.com.cy.



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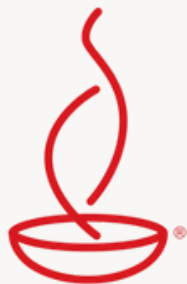
SK Environmental Ltd, is a UK manufacturer of instrumentation for measurement and control of combustion plants, specialising in environmental monitoring and control products.



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

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For any news you would like us to consider, please contact us at info@cremation.org.uk

Our Contact Details



01622 688292/3



Info@cremation.org.uk



www.cremation.org.uk



The Cremation Society,
Brecon House (1st Floor),
16 Albion Place,
Maidstone,
Kent, ME14 5DZ.

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