



News Review

THE LATEST NEWS, INSIGHTS AND UPDATES

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

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 2027 - SAVE THE DATE!
- Pharos International - Statistics Issue now available!
- Council defends new Chingford crematorium
- Birches Crematorium and Remembrance Park changes hands
- Proposal for new Chelmsford crematorium and cemetery enters public consultation
- Work set to begin on Staffordshire's first council-run pet crematorium
- Donegal to unveil first-ever crematorium
- Human Tissue Authority releases new guidance



The Cremation Society
Rooted in history: committed to the future

The Cremation Society is delighted to be partnering again with our colleagues at the FBCA to bring CBCE to a new venue in 2027.

CBCE 2027 will be held from Tuesday 22nd to Thursday 24th June 2027 at the **Hilton at St George's Park, Burton Upon Trent.**

Please save the date in your diaries and look out for booking news very soon!



The poster features a background image of a conference with a speaker at a podium and an audience. Overlaid on this is a large circular graphic divided into four segments: a blue sky with clouds, a green field with bubbles, a red and orange flame, and a grey cracked earth. The text 'CBCE' is written across the center of this circle. To the right of the circle, the text 'SAVE THE DATE' is displayed in white on a dark blue rectangular background. Below the circle, on the left, is a grey rounded rectangle containing a calendar icon, the dates '22 - 24 June 2027', a location pin icon, and the venue 'St George's Park, National Football Centre'. On the right, a blue rounded rectangle contains the heading 'WHAT TO EXPECT' followed by a list of seven items, each preceded by a checkmark icon.

CREMATION & BURIAL COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION 2027

SAVE THE DATE

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ Industry-leading speakers
- ✓ Actionable takeaways
- ✓ Meaningful networking
- ✓ Cutting-edge insights
- ✓ Real-world case studies
- ✓ Trusted suppliers & partners
- ✓ Friendly, inclusive environment

22 - 24 June 2027
**St George's Park,
National Football Centre**

Hosted by:

Pharos International 2026 Statistics Issue - available to order

The annual statistics issue of Pharos International will be published next week and is now available to order.

The statistics issue includes full cremation statistics for **2025** for all crematoria in the British Isles. The issue includes international cremation statistics as well as:

- Annual survey of crematoria
- Cremations per crematorium
- Cremation fee table
- Facts and figures (from 1990 to date)
- Progress of cremation 1885-2025
- Growth of crematoria in the British Islands 1885-2025
- Disposition of cremated remains in the British Isles

Available to purchase as part of an annual subscription to Pharos International, the official journal of The Cremation Society and the International Cremation Federation, this publication is available in digital or hard copy format.

For more details and to order online,
please visit www.cremation.org.uk/publications#pharos



Human Tissue Authority News

Updated guidance on the dignity and care of deceased people

The **Human Tissue Authority (HTA)** has published an updated version of its guidance for those responsible for the dignity and care of deceased people, following a review of feedback from organisations and professionals across a range of sectors.

The guidance is a voluntary, principles-based resource to help organisations that care for deceased people, but which fall outside the HTA's regulatory remit. It does not introduce new regulatory requirements.

Feedback on the previous version was positive overall, with respondents particularly valuing its clarity and principles-based approach. Respondents also identified areas for improvement, and this has informed updates to strengthen understanding of the guidance's purpose, intended audience and application across different settings.

The review also generated feedback on broader themes, including regulation, minimum standards and sector-specific requirements. While these fall outside the scope of the guidance and the HTA's regulatory remit, the feedback has been shared with relevant colleagues and bodies where appropriate.

The updated guidance is being published at a time of increased public and sector interest in how deceased people are cared for across different settings. It reinforces the importance of protecting dignity by setting out principles that support accountability, effective oversight and respectful care wherever deceased people are care for.

The HTA has developed this guidance as a resource to help organisations across a range of settings in reviewing and strengthening their own practices.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to review the guidance and share their feedback with us.

Read the updated guidance here: **[Guidance for those responsible for the dignity and care of the deceased | Human Tissue Authority](#)**

Council defends new Chingford crematorium amid claims it is ‘unnecessary’

Waltham Forest Council has defended its new crematorium in **Chingford** after critics said it is inappropriate and unnecessary. A leading crematorium expert, Dr Brian Parsons, has challenged the credentials of the £11million facility in Chingford Mount Cemetery. He said he objected to the high cost of the new unit, and that its placement in a cemetery was “unorthodox in the modern day”.

The facility was given planning permission in April last year, after proposals were agreed by the cabinet in 2023, despite concern from some local campaigners. The council maintains it is necessary to meet demand, based on predictions it will run out of burial space by 2033, and that the borough needs its own crematorium. However, Dr Parsons argues that existing crematoria in North and East London such as Enfield, City of London, Manor Park and Forest Park are all operating below capacity. A report published by the expert calculates that these facilities handled around 7,000 cremations in 2024 despite having capacity for around 16,000, based on data from the Cremation Society of Great Britain. He has also criticised the financial viability of the scheme, questioning whether families will actually switch from long-established crematoria they already use once the facility is open. The crematorium is set to be up and running later this year. To read the entire article, head to www.walthamforestecho.co.uk

Birches Crematorium and Remembrance Park changes hands

An award-winning crematorium is now under new ownership according to activity on Companies House. **Birches Crematorium and Remembrance Park**'s new owner is direct cremation company **Pure Cremation**. Pure Cremation's Chief Executive Dean Lamble said: "Birches is an excellent crematorium and we are excited about its future as a part of Pure. There is a great team at Birches who are going to fit in well."

Birches Crematorium and Remembrance Park is its third site after its Barnby Moor Crematorium site near Retford in Nottinghamshire and its Charlton Park Crematorium site near Andover in Hampshire. To read the full article, head to www.northwichguardian.co.uk

Proposal for new Chelmsford crematorium and cemetery enters public consultation

People are being invited to have their say on draft proposals for a new crematorium and cemetery to serve the **Chelmsford** area ahead of a potential planning application.

The proposed bereavement services facility would be located on land east of Stock Road, West Hanningfield (CM2 8LF), providing additional burial space and cremation capacity for future generations. **Chelmsford City Council** is exploring options for a new crematorium and cemetery as existing facilities at the Writtle Road site face increasing pressure. Burial space is forecast to run out by 2028/29, while the crematorium's ageing equipment requires significant ongoing investment to remain operational. Before submitting a planning application, the council is seeking feedback from residents living closest to the proposed site, funeral directors, bereavement professionals and other stakeholders. The feedback received will help inform the final proposals and any future planning application.

Meeting Chelmsford's future needs

The new site would provide around 120 years of burial capacity alongside a modern crematorium, memorial facilities, substantial tree planting and landscaped grounds designed to meet the needs of Chelmsford's growing and diverse communities. Independent assessments have indicated that a modern facility will be required to meet future demand for burial and cremation services across the Chelmsford area.

A key feature of the proposed development is the inclusion of two electric cremators, helping to reduce carbon emissions and support the city council's commitment to achieving net zero carbon operations. The new facility would be designed to incorporate modern energy-efficient technologies and be adaptable to future developments in bereavement services, ensuring it remains fit for purpose for decades to come. To read more on the proposal, visit www.citylife.chelmsford.gov.uk



Credit: Chelmsford City Council

Lake View Bereavement Centre set to open

Finishing touches are being made to **Lake View Bereavement Centre** which is set to officially open to the public in September marking the beginning of a new chapter in bereavement care for East Cambridgeshire and the surrounding area. Set within a tranquil lakeside landscape near Mepal, Lake View Bereavement Centre has been designed to provide families with time, space and support to say farewell to loved ones in a way that feels personal, meaningful and dignified.

The new facility includes a multi-faith chapel overlooking the lake, a natural burial meadow, memorial gardens, Snowdrop Lodge for gatherings and wakes, and a range of spaces designed to help families reflect and remember in peaceful natural surroundings.

The public opening will mark the culmination of several years of planning and construction, transforming the former sand and gravel quarry into a unique bereavement facility that places nature, sustainability and community at its heart. Councillor Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "The opening will be a proud and emotional moment for everyone who has been involved in bringing Lake View Bereavement Centre to life."

Marisa Rogers-Jones, Bereavement Centre Manager, said: "It is a privilege to lead the team at Lake View Bereavement Centre and see this vision become a reality. Created with compassion at its heart, Lake View offers families a peaceful place to remember, reflect and feel supported, both now and for years to come. I am incredibly proud of everyone who has contributed to creating this very special place, and we look forward to welcoming and supporting our communities for many years to come."

For more information, visit [**www.eastcambs.gov.uk**](http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk)



Credit: East Cambridgeshire District Council

Work set to begin on Staffordshire's first council-run pet crematorium

Loved and Loyal Pet Crematorium – operated by Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council – will provide a local, appointment-only service for residents within the grounds of Bradwell Crematorium, giving families a dignified and affordable way to say goodbye to much-loved pets.

The dedicated facility will offer guaranteed individual cremations for animals ranging from small birds and rabbits to extra-large dogs, using specialist equipment completely separate from the main crematorium. A private farewell room will also give owners the opportunity to spend some final time with their pet in a peaceful and personal setting before cremation. The new facility will operate from a detached, single-storey building accessed from the main car park and is expected to open by the end of the year. A regulatory licence from Defra will be required before the pet crematorium can begin operating.

Cllr. Ben Simpson, Cabinet member for Waste, Recycling and Green Spaces, said: “We are a nation of animal lovers and, for millions of people, pets are part of the family. Losing one can be incredibly difficult, so we want residents to have somewhere local where they know their pet will be treated with care, dignity and respect. This is about giving local people more choice and providing a good quality service right on their doorstep.” To read more, visit www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Donegal to unveil first-ever crematorium

The first-ever crematorium in Donegal is to be publicly unveiled within days, it was confirmed this evening (26 August 2026). Letterkenny funeral business owner Michael Morning received planning permission from Donegal County Council last year to build the county’s first crematorium. The purpose-built facility is designed to accommodate around 500 cremations a year, which will greatly reduce the impact on families that, until now had to leave the county for cremations. The Donegal crematorium will make it the first in the North West region, the third in Ulster, and only the eighth in the entire country. Local undertaker Paschal Blake told the Donegal News: “It is very much needed in the county. We offer our congratulations to Michael and his family. Until now Donegal undertakers had to leave the county to go places like Belfast, Cavan, and Dublin, so it is great to have this service in Donegal.” To read the full article, head to www.donegalnews.com

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.

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

ADVERTISERS



Auden Funeral Supplies Ltd - we have the largest collection of UK manufactured trolleys, stretchers and biers. We also make mortuary equipment and bespoke products all of which are backed by an unrivalled level of support, spare parts and warranties.



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.

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.

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

ADVERTISERS



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



DFW Europe has earned a trusted international reputation for developing and building high-quality cremation systems and related equipment. As a full-service partner, DFW Europe designs and manufactures cremation furnaces powered by gas, electricity, or bio-oil.



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.

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.

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

ADVERTISERS



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



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.

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.

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



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

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.

Find us on social media



If you do not wish to receive future newsletters from us, please email us at info@cremation.org.uk and simply type 'STOP' in the heading

The views expressed in the Editorial comments are those of the Editor and unless specifically stated otherwise, are not the official views of the Cremation Society. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of articles reproduced in this newsletter.