



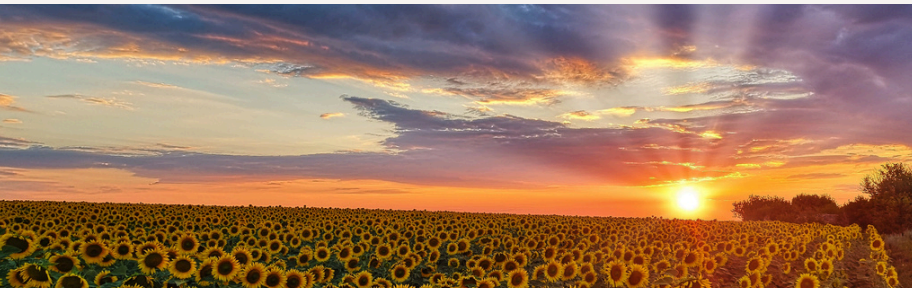
News Review

THE LATEST NEWS, INSIGHTS AND UPDATES

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

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

- The Cremation Society publishes 'state of the nation' research report
- New Funeral Sector Inspectors Recruited
- Crematorium application refused in Cookham
- Woodlands Crematorium in Scarborough to get £2.5m upgrade
- Europe's first purpose-built Hindu crematorium opens in Denham
- Plans for large mortuary at city business park
- Dedication services at two Scottish crematoria
- Wealden Crematorium News



The Cremation Society
Rooted in history: committed to the future

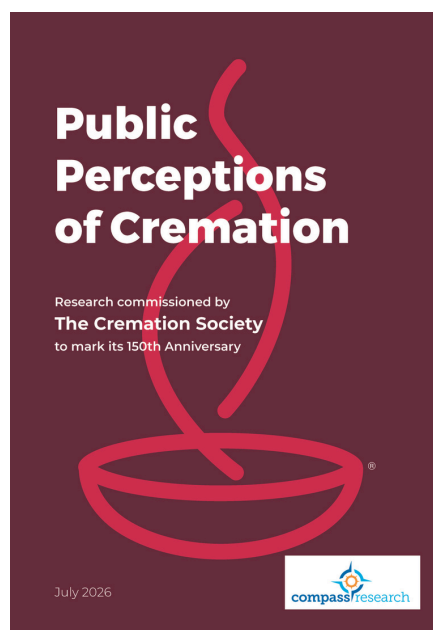
‘Public Perceptions of Cremation’ published by The Cremation Society

A new “**State of the Nation**” study commissioned by **The Cremation Society**, shows how cremation and crematoria are viewed and experienced by the public across the UK. This in-depth report explores contemporary public perceptions of cremation, drawing on first-hand accounts of nearly 1,600 people aged between 18 and 80 across the UK.

Key findings

While those involved in the study reported numerous positive experiences of cremation services and crematoria, a number of findings emerged:

- **Cremation remains a widely accepted choice, with most crematoria deemed to be fit for purpose:** However, public expectations are evolving, with families increasingly seeking services that combine emotional depth, greater personal choice, and a dignified experience.
- **Meaningful farewells matter:** Families place strong importance on having sufficient time and space to mourn and celebrate a life, but many still report a “conveyor belt” experience that can feel rushed and impersonal.
- **Certain myths around cremation remain:** For example whether coffins are cremated separately, and ashes returned are solely those of the deceased. Greater public education is required.
- **Northern Ireland faces urgent challenges:** With increasing demand for cremation and declining burial options, both legislative intervention and more facilities are required to meet societal needs.
- **Direct cremation is increasingly popular:** But limited understanding of what is involved, and the absence of a ceremony can leave some bereaved people experiencing a lack of closure.



'Public Perceptions of Cremation' published by The Cremation Society

The Cremation Society's Chair, Professor Hilary Grainger OBE, said:

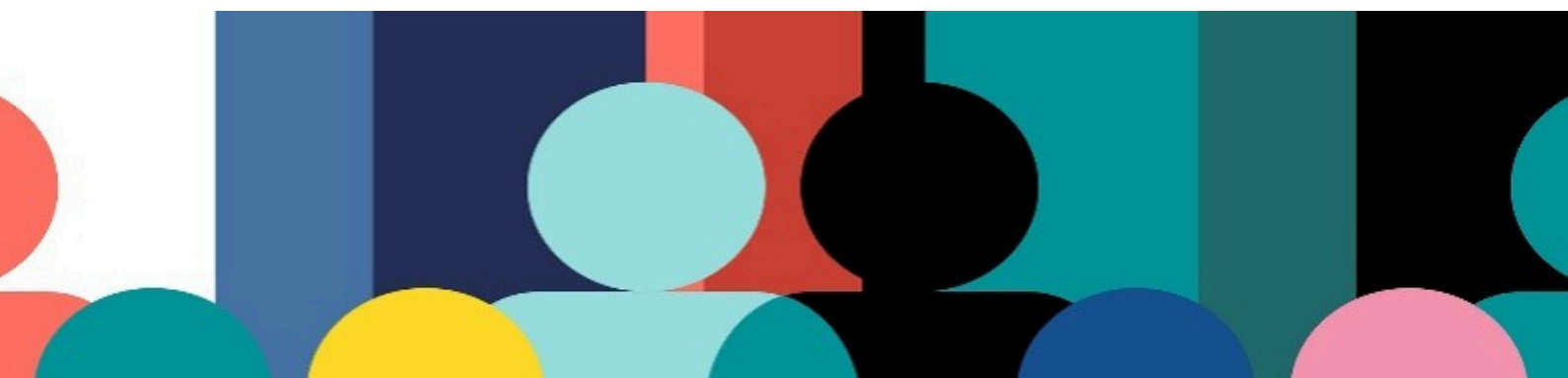
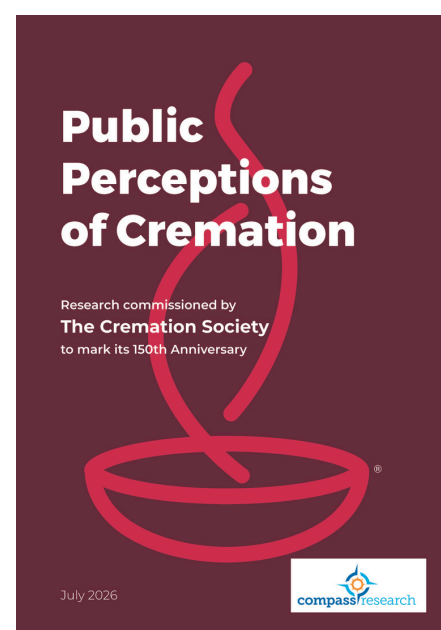
'With 80% of the UK public opting for cremation, the Society's Council was keen for this comprehensive research to capture the public's perception of cremation and crematoria, rather than what we, the sector, perceive these to be.

We are grateful to all those who participated in the research and shared their attitudes and experiences with us. In publishing this research, the Society's Council recognises the hard work and dedication of crematoria teams across the UK who strive tirelessly, on a day-to-day basis, to provide for the needs of the bereaved in exceptionally difficult circumstances. The Council offers its sincere thanks to all those who work in the cremation sector for their professionalism and commitment'.

Looking ahead

The Cremation Society's landmark research provides unique insights into public experiences of cremation and crematoria today, and points to further work that needs to be undertaken to meet the changing needs of a modern society.

To read the full research report, visit [**www.cremation.org.uk/home**](http://www.cremation.org.uk/home)



SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

New Funeral Sector Inspectors Recruited

The Scottish Ministers are pleased to announce the appointment of Robbie Beattie, Terry Dickson and Martin Jeffrey. They will join our current inspector, Robert Swanson, reinforcing Scotland's continued commitment to leading the way in funeral sector regulation. By strengthening oversight and maintaining clear standards, the Scottish Government aims to build and sustain public confidence, while safeguarding the dignity of every individual in the care of the funeral sector. All three bring a strong track record of professionalism, sector knowledge and hands-on experience within the funeral industry, supporting their ability to deliver high-quality, consistent inspections.

Legislative Framework Underpinning Change

The Burial and Cremation (Inspection) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 empower inspectors to exercise powers to inspect cremation authorities, hydrolysis authorities and burial authorities to ensure that relevant legislative requirements are being complied with. In addition, they can also inspect funeral directors for compliance with relative legislation as well as the Funeral Director Code of Practice. They may also take enforcement action where there is a failure to comply. Anyone who obstructs an inspector in the lawful exercise of their powers commits an offence and may face a fine of up to £1,000

Role and Boundaries of Inspectors

Inspectors operate independently of Scottish Ministers and are responsible for assessing compliance with the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016, related regulations and codes of practice. Inspectors carry out their functions in accordance with the powers given to them by the legislation. They cannot take on roles that belong to others, such as the courts, police, local authorities, health bodies or bereaved families. They do not resolve disputes or get involved in individual case decisions. If concerns arise, they can refer these to the appropriate authority.

Role of Civil Servants

The Burial and Cremation Team lead on policy development of legislation and on the regulations which impact the funeral sector. Queries about these areas should be directed to the Burial & Cremation Team mailbox (BurialAndCremation@gov.scot).

Inspectors cannot advise on implementation of regulations or policy interpretation.

Maintaining Clear Boundaries

These distinctions ensure independence, consistency, and public confidence across the funeral sector.

More information about inspectors, their role and how to contact them can be found here

[Inspectors of burial, cremation, hydrolysis and funeral directors – gov.scot](#)

Crematorium application refused in Cookham

Plans for a proposed crematorium in **Cookham** were unanimously refused this week. **Elegy Crematorium Services**, the company behind the plans, is seeking to convert a field in Long Lane into a crematorium. The funeral company lodged an initial application in 2024, which was withdrawn in September last year. A revised proposal was submitted again in December 2025. At a Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead development management committee meeting on Tuesday 21st July, the plans came before councillors, with planning officers recommending them for refusal.

Julian Sharp, the applicant's agent, said: "Anyone who has suffered a bereavement knows that there is an urgent and growing need in the area for a new crematorium." Mr Sharp urged councillors to defer their decision and allow the applicant to explain why other areas are unsuitable for the crematorium. But the proposals raised a string of objections from residents and community groups and ultimately, councillors voted against the plans unanimously. You can read the full article by visiting www.sloughexpress.co.uk

Europe's first purpose-built Hindu crematorium opens in Denham

A formal inauguration of Europe's first purpose-built '**Om Crematorium**', constructed according to Hindu, Jain, and Sikh traditions by the **Anupam Mission**, took place on Saturday 18th July, in the sacred presence of Sant Bhagwant Sahebji Jashbhai. The event opened with a warm welcome to all guests, led by Satishbhai Chatwani, who delivered the welcome address, expressing gratitude to the donors, professionals, and well-wishers who helped realise the project. He extended special thanks to Ian McArdle of the **Westerleigh Group**, which has managed crematorium operations in the UK for over 40 years and has been awarded the contract to operate the Om Crematorium. Recalling the political and community journey behind the initiative, Lord Popat reflected on the long movement to establish a purpose-built Hindu crematorium in the UK. Former Leicester East MP Keith Vaz described the day as unforgettable, praising Satish Chatwani for his tireless work, the donors for their immense generosity, and MPs Barry Gardiner and Bob Blackman for their support. The event concluded with the spiritual leaders presenting mementos to honour the donors, social leaders, organisations, and professional partners who contributed to the realisation of the Om Crematorium. To read the full article, head to www.easterneye.biz

Woodlands Crematorium in Scarborough to get £2.5m upgrade

A £2.5 million investment to upgrade the cremators at **Woodlands Crematorium** in **Scarborough** is set to be approved by council bosses. The two current gas cremators, which last for around 20-years, were installed in 2004 and need replacing. Research has estimated that upgraded cremators can reduce gas consumption by 25% compared to the older facilities which are currently used at Woodlands Crematorium, North Yorkshire Council (NYC) said. The new cremators would be able to accommodate larger coffins, and more cremations could be carried out.

NYC's executive member for managing the environment, Cllr Richard Foster, said: "Woodlands Crematorium in Scarborough has provided a valued service for coastal communities over the last 65 years, and we must make sure that it continues to do so. "The decision to choose like-for-like replacement cremators, rather than electric or hybrid alternatives, would ensure the crematorium stays operational while they are installed and is the most cost-effective option."

Cllr Foster said: "The reduction in gas consumption would cut carbon emissions and improve air quality, both of which support our net zero target of 2030 and would contribute to a more environmentally friendly cremation process."

More than 3,000 cremations have taken place at Woodlands Crematorium over the past three years.

Bosses at North Yorkshire Council are set to approve the £2.5 million investment at a meeting on Tuesday, August 4, with the replacement due to take place next summer. To read the full article, head to www.yorkpress.co.uk

Plans for large mortuary at city business park

Plans have been submitted to build a mortuary for up to 700 bodies on a **York** industrial estate. **Pure Cremation** hopes to convert a unit at York Business Park in Nether Poppleton, saying it would become the firm's main mortuary for the North East. The company said in its application to City of York Council the full-time facility would "meet the needs of those who need their loved ones' remains collecting immediately".

Up to 35 staff would be employed at the site, according to the application, which said the centre would also support jobs in the wider regional funeral sector. According to the plans, remains would arrive at the facility by private ambulance where they would be checked and taken to coffins in cooling areas before cremation. The private ambulances can carry up to four bodies at a time with about 10 journeys into the mortuary across 24 hours. The facility would not be open to the public and would be equipped with security measures including CCTV, the firm said.

The company said its operations would be "dignified, quiet and discreet" and in a low-key corner of the business park. "The building is tucked away on the rear edge of the business park close to the railway line and its use will not be obvious to other users or occupants," the application said.

"There is no outward manifestation of the use from the street. The use is a low-key, discreet operation, with occasional light traffic coming and going to the site throughout the course of the day, apart from peak times when even then the traffic flows are still modest."

To read the full article, head to www.bbc.co.uk

19 August 2026: 10.30am – 3pm
Wealden Crematorium Open Day:

Beyond the Farewell – demystifying death and celebrating life



A Community Open Day featuring expert speakers exploring death, funerals, bereavement and legacy

Beyond the Farewell is a unique community open day bringing together leading experts from across the bereavement, funeral and cremation sectors to share knowledge, challenge misconceptions and encourage open conversations about death, dying and remembrance.

Schedule of Talks

Time	Talk / Activity	Speaker / Host
10:45–10:55	Welcome and Introduction	Lisa Fiddimore, crematorium manager
11:00–11:20	Why independence matters in a changing funeral landscape - from community involvement, personalisation and continuity of care, to how regulation may shape the profession and the environmental opportunities ahead	Oliver Towner , Chair of SAIF Environmental Group
11:25–11:40	Crematory guided tours x 2	Cremation technicians
11:45–12:05	‘Sadmin’: the bureaucracy of death – navigating the paperwork, processes and practical realities following a bereavement	Joy Jones , Service Manager for Bereavement & Medical Examiner Services
12:10–12:25	Crematory guided tours x 2	Cremation technicians
12:30–12:50	Celebrating a life, not just marking a death - how technology and creativity can transform a funeral into a meaningful celebration of life.	Janeen from Obitus , specialists in funeral audio-visual media
12:55–13:10	Crematory guided tours x 2	Cremation technicians
13:15–13:35	From Cremation to Compassion - how metal recycling after the cremation process supports bereavement charities while protecting the environment	Julie Dunk , Orthometals, global leader in metal recycling for crematoria
13:40–13:55	Crematory guided tours x 2	Cremation technicians

14:00–14:20	Who takes care of your funeral if there's no family or money? – exploring the realities of public health funerals and what they can teach us about death preparedness and life.	Christina Martin , Wealden District Council
14:25-14:40	Crematory guided tours x 2	Cremation technicians
14:45-15:05	Cremator technology – the future of cremation, carbon savings and the benefits of the latest technology – our brand-new hybrid cremator explained	Facultatieve Technologies , cremator design, manufacture and maintenance
15:10-15:25	Crematory guided tours x 2	Cremation technicians
Approx 15:30	Closing Remarks	Lisa Fiddimore, crematorium manager

Visitor Information: 19 August 10.30am to 3pm

- Please arrive a few minutes before each talk begins.
- Some topics may be sensitive; visitors are welcome to step out at any time.
- Questions can be asked during the Q&A session or privately with a member of staff.
- Guided tours may be limited to small groups for comfort and safety.
- Refreshments and information leaflets will be available throughout the open day.

[Book your free ticket here](#)

**For more information and to book your ticket,
please head to www.eventbrite.co.uk**

Dedication services at two Scottish crematoria

Two special services have taken place to formally dedicate Westerleigh Group's new crematoria to the communities they serve. **Bishopbriggs Crematorium**, near Glasgow, opened in December 2024 and **East Lothian Crematorium & Memorial Gardens**, near Edinburgh, opened last autumn.

Westerleigh Group's tradition is to dedicate a new crematorium to its community in the presence of funeral directors, celebrants, members of the clergy and senior representatives from many organisations within the bereavement sector.

The services took place on July 8, and were attended by a number of distinguished guests, including Professor Hilary Grainger OBE – Chair of The Cremation Society, Adrian Saville – President London Association NAFD, Gary Staker – SAIF National President, Ross Anderson – SAIF Scotland President, Karen Caney – 2nd Vice President British Institute of Embalmers, Andrew Judd – CEO NAFD, Lisa Parkes – Deputy President ICCM, and Robert Swanson – Scottish Government Inspector of Crematoria, Cemeteries and Funeral Directors. Also in attendance was Westerleigh Group Ambassador Alan Jose, who recently became President of the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities. Alan said: “The dedication services are part of our way of establishing our crematoria and ensuring that each of them provides a positive presence within its surrounding communities.

“In the relatively short period of time that they have been operating, both Bishopbriggs and East Lothian crematoria have been supporting local families, with the exceptional care that Westerleigh Group has built its reputation on for more than three decades. “Our two new Scottish crematoria are proud to play a vital role in their local communities and provide a place of reflection, remembrance and celebration of life in many years to come.”

For more information, visit www.bishopbriggscrematorium.co.uk or www.eastlothiancrematorium.co.uk



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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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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.



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

Our Contact Details



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