

News Review



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

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

- Cremation Society Earns GGFS Silver Award
- CBCE 2026 - Registration Open
- Crematorium plans refused by Stroud District Council
- £5 Million Investment Set to Transform Preston Cemetery and Crematorium
- New crematorium to be built in Cardiff
- International News - Malta
- Law Commission Publishes Burial & Cremation Law Reform Report
- European Cremation Network conference

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

Cremation Society Earns Prestigious Silver Award

The Cremation Society is delighted to have earned the Greener Globe Funeral Standards Silver Award following its recent audit. The Silver Award recognises and reflects the Society's ongoing commitment to improving its environmental footprint.

The Society's Executive Officer, Wendy Buchan, said: 'The Cremation Society has always been recognised as striving for high standards and this Silver Award reflects our strapline of being 'committed to the future' in both our working practices and our environmental responsibilities. After 150 years of promoting cremation, this demonstrates that the Society is keen to continue to develop where environmental practices evolve.'

In presenting the award, Greener Globe Funeral Standards director Brendan Day said: 'Congratulations to The Cremation Society on achieving the GGFS Trusted Supplier Silver Award. This reflects their genuine commitment to environment, high standards, transparency, and service to the bereavement sector.'



Greener Globe Funeral Standards co-founder Brendan Day presents the Trusted Suppliers Silver Award to Cremation Society Chair Professor Hilary J Grainger OBE

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS



CBCE 2026

Registration is now open for CBCE 2026

This year's joint conference will be held on 23rd - 25th June 2026 at the Hilton Utilita Bowl, Southampton

As well as a first-class programme, CBCE provides an excellent showcase of market-leading exhibitors covering a wide range of products and services of interest to the funeral profession. There will be time to meet with exhibitors and to explore opportunities to discuss the latest offerings.

CBCE is recognised as being a welcoming, professional and essential event in the funeral sector calendar, as well as being CPD-accredited which is essential for professional development. Whether you are a regular visitor or if you are planning to join us for the first time, we will be pleased to have you with us and hope you enjoy the opportunity to learn, network and take away new skills for the future.

You can book your place and find more information on this year's event at www.cbce.org.uk/2026



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Leeds community sports club could be heated by crematorium under new plan

A community sports club in **Leeds** could see its long-term heating bills slashed through a new eco-led partnership with a proposed crematorium that would recycle excess heat to warm its facilities. The initiative from **Horizon Cremation** and **Oulton Community Sports Club** would pump surplus heat from a planned crematorium off Methley Lane to the club's changing rooms, bar, and function spaces. Announcing the partnership, Horizon Cremation said it could potentially save the club thousands of pounds in energy costs over the long term. Subject to planning approval, the proposed heat transfer system would capture excess heat generated at the crematorium and repurpose it to heat the club. Heat would be pumped around 300 metres underground between the sites and has the capacity to “significantly” reduce energy consumption and running costs for the club, the company claimed. To read the full article, head to www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk

New crematorium to be built in Cardiff

A new green crematorium is coming to Cardiff after the council cabinet gave it the go-ahead. It has been decided the council will develop a new crematorium at junction 30 of the M4, known as the Dutch Garden Centre, on land already owned by the council. This would be a “new, modern, purpose-built cremation facility and employ green methods around construction and long-term operation”. It would include the introduction of electric cremators as opposed to traditional gas-fuelled machines, which can reduce carbon emissions by up to 80%. All maintenance and ancillary equipment will be electric/battery-operated and charged using solar power. Cllr Norma Mackie, cabinet member for waste, street scene, and environmental services, said it provided a “viable alternative” for those wanting a “green burial” and the development will remain “as green as possible throughout”. To read the full article, head to www.walesonline.co.uk

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

£5 Million Investment Set to Transform Preston Cemetery and Crematorium

Preston City Council has announced a major £5 million investment to upgrade and expand Preston Cemetery and Crematorium, securing the future of bereavement services for the city and ensuring modern, dignified facilities for residents, for decades to come.

The significant investment will deliver a comprehensive programme of improvements, including new office accommodation, the refurbishment and increase in seating capacity of the chapel, upgraded pathways across the grounds, a new cemetery to address capacity issues, and the full replacement of the site's cremation facilities by 2032.

Councillor Amber Afzal, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regulation at Preston City Council, said: "This investment represents a long-term commitment to ensuring Preston residents continue to receive high-quality, compassionate bereavement services. As the city grows, it's essential our facilities grow with it. These upgrades will create a more welcoming environment for families and ensure a sustainable crematorium service well into the future." To read the full article, head to: www.preston.gov.uk

Crematorium plans refused by Stroud District Council

The decision, regarding proposals at a facility near **Eastington**, was taken last week, 15 months after they were first lodged with **Stroud District Council**. The facility was proposed to be built on land on the east side of Claypits and would have included a memorial garden, natural burial ground plus 126 parking spaces with the site accessed via the A38/Bristol Road. The applicant Crematoria Management Limited (part of the Westerleigh Group) said the proposals would allow a significant amount of Stroud district residents to have a crematorium within a 30 to 45 minute drive time, adding that funeral directors had told them that there was a 'compelling need' for the plans. But Stroud District Council officers have this week refused the plans due to traffic concerns and road safety fears. Stroud District councillor Robert Brown, whose Severn ward covers Eastington, said: "This is an important application which could be of real benefit for the community. That said, the case officer has refused the application with good reason: namely that of unsafe access to the A38. I encourage the developer to not give up, but rather to work with GCC Highways on alternative solutions, such as a right-turn lane into the site." To read the full article, head to: www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Lake View build reaches halfway mark

A multi-million pound crematorium in Cambridgeshire has reached its halfway mark. The build of **Lake View Bereavement Centre** near **Mepal**, in East Cambridgeshire, will offer a crematorium and natural burials. It is expected to open this summer and will be operated by East Cambridgeshire District Council. Nearly £13 million was approved to building the crematorium. Cllr Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, which will run the site, said: “Seeing the new steels of the building emerging from the ground is exciting. You can really start to see the potential and – just like its butterfly-shaped structure – see how it will grow into something beautiful and inspiring.” Cllr Bailey continued: “When complete, we want Lake View Bereavement Centre to be a place people visit time and time again. Whether that is by wandering around the beautiful grounds overlooking the lake, attending an organised coffee morning to meet others on their bereavement journey, or simply appreciating the wildlife in our memorial gardens. You can read the full article at www.cambridge-news.co.uk

Politicians approve updates to “extremely outdated” cremation law

Politicians have voted to update **Jersey’s** “extremely outdated” cremation law which put medical professionals at an “unacceptable risk of prosecution” and “caused unnecessary distress and costs for some bereaved families”. States Members yesterday voted 40 to three to approve sweeping reforms to the Cremation (Jersey) Regulations 1961 – legislation the Health Minister said had “not been updated for a considerable period”. Deputy Tom Binet’s proposition repeals a controversial rule that makes it unlawful to cremate someone who has ever left written instructions against cremation – even if, years later, they told loved ones they had changed their mind. The changes also make it clear which “near” relatives can apply for a cremation, update and modernise the application form to reflect the changes and include new questions about medical implants, and allow a wider range of Jersey residents to countersign cremation applications. Cremation reached a record level in Jersey last year, with 84% of all deaths registered in 2025 resulting in cremations. By contrast, burials have fallen to just 16% of all deaths – down from 25% in 2018. To read the full article, head to: www.bailiwickexpress.com

NEWS REVIEW

LAW COMMISSION NEWS

Law Commission publishes final report of its review of burial and cremation law

The Law Commission has published its **final report** on burial and cremation, with recommendations to the Government following a 2024/25 public consultation. In addressing cremation reforms, the report recommends that it should be lawful for funeral directors to return ashes to crematoria provided the person who organised the cremation is given an opportunity to collect them.

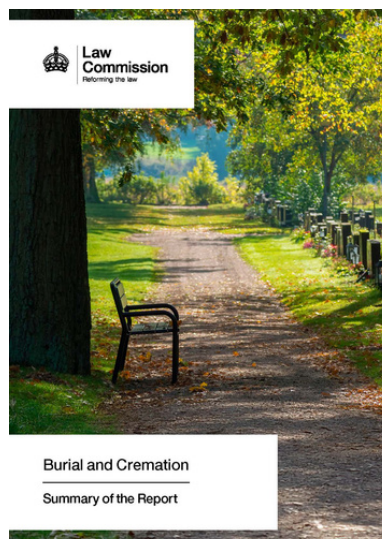
The Commission's recommendations would also:

- Ensure transparency in relation to the rise of direct cremation.
- Prohibit unidentified remains from being cremated.
- Impose new requirements for identity checks to ensure the correct body is cremated.
- Restrict joint cremation to circumstances where both applicants give their written consent.

The Government will now consider the recommendations and decide whether to change the law.

A second report on new funerary methods will follow shortly.

You can find the full report on the Law Commission's website [here](#) or a summary of the report [here](#).



NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL NEWS MALTA

Malta crematorium proposed for Siggiewi

An application has been filed to build a crematorium in a field next to a cemetery on the outskirts of Siggiewi. The applicant is Mario Tonna. Colin Zammit is architect for the project. The application is the latest proposal to build a crematorium in Malta, following earlier designs on sites in Paola and Gudja. An application has also been filed to build a resomation centre in Zabbar. The newest plans show a cremation room, viewing room, cold room, “technical facilities”, mortuary, chapel, waiting area, boardroom, offices, bathrooms, staff areas and loading and storage facilities. The proposal is currently being screened. While Malta legalised cremation in 2019, allowing for cremation services to be added to existing cemeteries, with the Cremation Act three years later legalising standalone crematoria, the country is yet to see such a facility open for use. To read the full article, please visit www.timesofmalta.com

Paola crematorium set to cater for 30% of all funerals in Malta

The Planning Authority board is expected to decide on 26 March whether to grant an outline permit for what could become Malta’s first crematorium, following a case officer’s recommendation to approve the project in principle. However, the recommendation by the case officer, concerns an outline development permit only. This means the board would be deciding on the principle of the development, rather than granting final approval for construction. The proposal, submitted by Johann Camilleri’s Active Group foresees the development of a standalone crematorium on a 7,800-square-metre agricultural field in the Tal-Ħorr area of Paola, just outside the development zone in close vicinity to the Addolorata cemetery. In 2024, 145 Maltese chose to be cremated overseas, representing about 3.5% of all deaths that year. In the same year, Planning Minister Clint Camilleri stated that estimated demand for cremation facilities could be between 500 and 1,000 requests annually — roughly 10–20% of the approximately 5,000 deaths per year. To read the full article, please head to www.maltatoday.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.

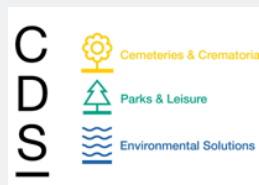
The Cremation Society is pleased to share this opportunity with its network.



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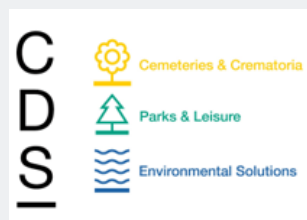
ADVERTISERS



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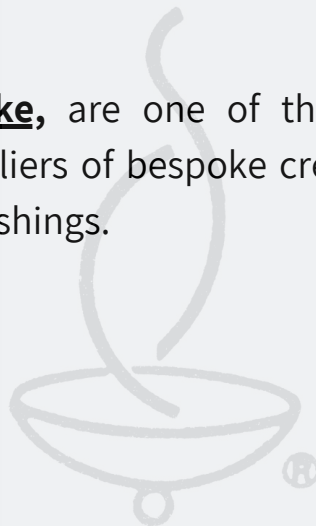
PlotBox, is an international death care management solution. They facilitate cemeteries and crematoria in operating to world-class standards through integrated software and georectified mapping modules.



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

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Our contact details



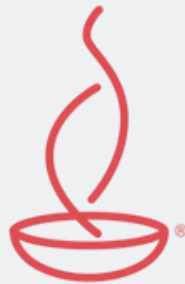
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