



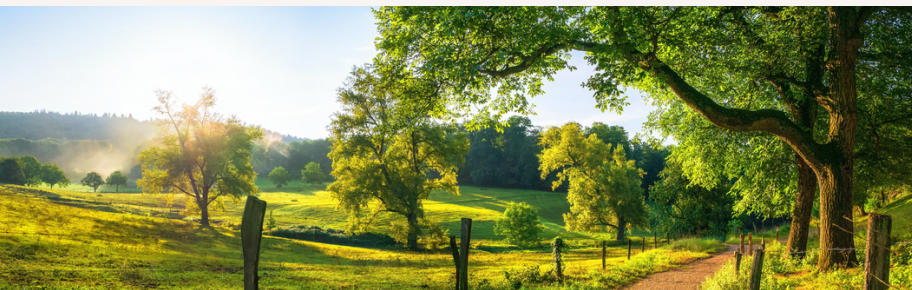
News Review

THE LATEST NEWS, INSIGHTS AND UPDATES

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

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**.



INCLUDED THIS MONTH

- CBCE 2027 - SAVE THE DATE!
- Lake View Bereavement Centre officially opens its doors
- Derby City Council unveil designs for new crematorium
- Thorncliffe Crematorium set to reopen
- Scottish Government publish Senior Inspector of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors' report
- Govt announce new bereavement rules
- Plan's for Malta's first crematorium agreed in principle



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. A large circular logo in the center contains the text 'CBCE' in bold orange letters, surrounded by four segments: a blue sky with clouds, a green field with bubbles, a red and orange flame, and a grey cracked earth. To the right of the logo, the text 'CREMATION & BURIAL COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION 2027' is written in large white capital letters. Below this, a blue banner reads 'SAVE THE DATE'. In the bottom left, a grey box contains a calendar icon, the dates '22 - 24 June 2027', a location pin icon, and the venue 'St George's Park, National Football Centre'. In the bottom right, a blue rounded rectangle titled 'WHAT TO EXPECT' lists seven bullet points, each with 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:

Lake View Bereavement Centre officially opens its doors

Lake View Bereavement Centre has been officially opened by Mrs Julie Spence, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and Cllr Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, marking the beginning of a new chapter in bereavement care for East Cambridgeshire and the surrounding area.

Set within a 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.

Councillor Anna Bailey, Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "Today is a proud and emotional moment for everyone who has been involved in bringing Lake View Bereavement Centre to life. From the very beginning, our ambition was to create something more than a crematorium. We wanted to create a place where families could take the time they need to say goodbye, where people could return to remember those they love, and where the beauty of nature could offer comfort during life's most difficult moments."

A key feature of the development is its commitment to the environment. The site has been carefully designed around existing natural features and includes habitat enhancements, a wildflower meadow and the reintroduction of native plant species. It also has one of the country's few electric cremators, helping to minimise carbon emissions while supporting local biodiversity. The centre will also provide ongoing support for bereaved families through community events, remembrance activities and bereavement cafés, recognising that support does not end after a funeral service. This reflects the centre's broader aim of being a welcoming place that people can return to time and again.

For more information, visit the [**Lake View Bereavement Centre website**](#).



Design unveiled for new crematorium

The proposed design for a new crematorium in **Derby** has been published.

Derby City Council has detailed its plans to rebuild the **Markeaton Crematorium** on land next to its current site, before demolishing the existing building. The current building dates back to 1956, but the council said the building layout and facilities are "becoming dated following decades of use".

The authority is now asking resident and businesses to comment on the designs, including how the new crematorium will "look and feel". According to the council, the current proposals would see a new crematorium built on council-owned land next to the current facility. They said the new space will include accessible facilities, spaces for reflection and consideration for different faiths and cultural practices. The memorial-stained glass windows in the existing crematorium, which were funded through donations from members of the public, would also be removed and incorporated into the new development.

The current crematorium was first opened in 1956. The existing crematorium building will be demolished as part of the proposals, but the memorials, gardens and ash scattering areas on the original land will be maintained as part of the new site.

In October 2025, Derby City Council's cabinet approved proposals to allocate £889,501 for the design of the new building.

Ndukwe Onuoha, Cabinet member for streetpride, parks and leisure, said: "Markeaton Crematorium has served Derby for almost 70 years, supporting countless families through some of the most difficult times in their lives. We now have an opportunity to create a new facility that will continue the important work for generations to come. We want residents to take a look at the proposals and tell us what they think to ensure that the new crematorium is a place that reflects the needs of our city."

The consultation is open for 12 weeks and will close at midnight on 18 November. You can find this news story and a link to the consultation at www.bbc.co.uk/news

Hope crematorium work will stop funeral disruption

Work costing £1m is needed at a crematorium to avoid disruption to funerals in the future, a council report said. **Teesside Crematorium** in Middlesbrough currently operates three cremators through a single abatement plant - the system needed to clean gases before they are released.

A report by the Council's director of environment, Geoff Field, said if that failed it "could severely restrict the Council's ability to undertake cremations on site. In the event of a major plant failure, cremation services could be severely restricted or temporarily suspended, potentially resulting in funeral delays and significant distress for bereaved families." While the report does not specify if any temporary closures would be required for the work to take place, it said "delivery of the project will be planned to minimise disruption".

The executive committee at the Labour-led council has been recommended to approve the work at a meeting on Wednesday. To read the full story, head to www.bbc.co.uk/news

A crematorium damaged in a fire is expected to reopen at the end of September after months of closure

Thorncliffe Crematorium in Barrow, Cumbria, closed at the end of June for its roof and chimneys to be replaced following an accidental blaze in March.

Westmorland and Furness Council, which operates the facility, initially said the works would take six to eight weeks but later said this had been delayed. It has now said it expects the site to reopen on 30 September. The council said it was grateful for the "patience and understanding" shown by funeral directors, bereaved families and the community during the disruption caused by the "complex project".

Following the March fire, ceremonies were moved for about three weeks during emergency repair work. Chapel-based services were carried out at the venue until the roof repair works started in June, but cremations have not been happening there since the fire.

The council said structural and electrical surveys, roof and chimney replacement works and an upgrade to the site's cremation equipment had been carried out following the fire.

To read the full story, head to www.bbc.co.uk/news

Bristol plans £8.6m electric overhaul for Canford Crematorium

Bristol City Council's public health and communities committee will consider plans to replace four 40-year-old gas-fired cremators with two modern electric units at the Westbury on Trym site, a project which is estimated to cost over £8.6m.

According to the committee's report, the crematorium is the highest carbon-emitting building in the Council's corporate estate. It accounts for approximately 15% of the Council estate's gas carbon emissions, producing between 270 and 317 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually between 2023 and 2024.

Under the proposals, contractors will construct a ground-floor extension, alter the basement to improve staff welfare facilities, modify the catafalque and install a new electricity substation. The scheme also includes installing an air source heat pump, a waste-heat recovery system to warm the building and reconfiguring the adjacent Peace Garden. To read the full story, head to www.funeralservicetimes.co.uk

Crematorium set for £2m overhaul with eco-friendly hybrid cremators

Torridge and North Devon councils have agreed funding to finish a £2 million upgrade to the only public crematorium in the district. At full council meetings this week Torridge members approved a contribution of £262,000 (40%) and the larger North Devon Council £393,000 (60%) towards the two requirements.

The **North Devon Crematorium** on Old Torrington Road, Barnstaple has been jointly owned by the councils since 1974. Councillors heard that the current cremators which had been in place since 2012, including one purchased as refurbished, kept breaking down and fixes were only temporary and costly.

Cllr Helen Walker (Lib Dem, Bickington), chair of the crematorium joint committee, told North Devon Council that income from the facility pays a "substantial amount" into the councils' revenue budget each year whilst still remaining "extremely competitive with other facilities in the area". The new "hybrid" equipment would be more economical to run, more efficient, require less maintenance and produce far less emissions.

To read the full story, head to www.devonlive.com

Pharos International 2026 Statistics Issue - now available

The annual statistics issue of Pharos International is now available to purchase.

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 (2026)
- 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

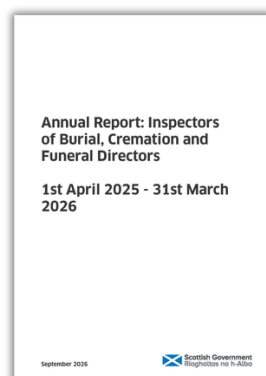


Inspector of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors: annual report 2025 to 2026

The annual report by Robert Swanson QPM, Senior Inspector of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors has been published by the Scottish Government. The report provides a resume of duties undertaken by from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and highlights a number of areas:

- Notable legislative changes including the introduction of the Hydrolysis (Scotland) Regulations 2026
- With crematoria inspections there continues to be 100% recovery of ashes from all crematoria with all crematoria found to be performing to a good standard, adequately staffed, and operating to below maximum capacities as regards numbers of cremations. Whilst there were a number of mechanical breakdowns to cremators during this period, swift implementation of contingency plans ensured that there were no undue delays to funerals
- Following implementation of the Funeral Director Code of Practice on 1st March 2025, and in particular the requirement for a funeral director to inform inspectors of any complaint relating to an alleged breach of the Code within 48 hours of it being made, the Senior Inspector noted a marked increase in matters reported to him. The majority of these notifications related to matters considered by the funeral director to be at the lower end of the scale, and which prior to legislative requirement were dealt with internally by the funeral director and the family.
- The Senior Inspector's report concludes the funeral industry in Scotland to be performing to a good standard and well placed to continue to service the needs of the general public. The Senior Inspector comments that, as the report shows, there is clearly room for improvement, particularly from what the Senior Inspector considers to be a small minority within the sector.

To read the full report, head to [**www.scot.gov.uk**](http://www.scot.gov.uk)



“No one should have to fight for time to grieve” - New rights for family bereavement and pregnancy loss

People who lose a loved one or experience the heartbreak of pregnancy loss, will gain new rights to take time off work under major changes confirmed by the Government.

Ministers will introduce a new right to bereavement leave, from April 2027, for employees who lose a spouse or partner, parent, adult child or sibling. This will bring the UK's laws into the 21st century as it will also include step, half, adoptive, kinship care and foster relationships who currently have no legal right to bereavement leave.

Also announced, is that women and their partners who experience a pregnancy loss before 24 weeks – including miscarriage, terminations and unsuccessful IVF embryo transfers - will be entitled to up to two weeks of unpaid leave. This gives people the necessary time and security to grieve during one of the hardest moments in their lives.

Currently, in these circumstances, there is no legal right to bereavement leave despite it being estimated that one in five women in the UK experience a miscarriage throughout their lifetime.

Minister for the Future of Work, Kate Dearden, said: “No one should have to fight for time to grieve. These changes back people going through some of the hardest moments of life, whoever they are and wherever they work. I want to thank the campaigners, whose courage and testimonies, have made this change happen.”

For pregnancy loss, this new right will also apply to partners, the other biological parent, or intended parents in a surrogacy arrangement. This recognises in law that pregnancy loss affects the whole family and that all families across Great Britain have their grief acknowledged and are treated fairly at one of the hardest times in life.

To read the full Press Release, head to [**www.gov.uk**](https://www.gov.uk)

ICG Infra agrees to acquire Westerleigh Group from Ontario Teachers' and USS

Westerleigh Group is being acquired by global alternative asset manager ICG for an undisclosed sum. ICG's European Infrastructure team will buy the business, based at Westerleigh, near Bristol, from Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and Universities Superannuation Scheme, which have jointly owned it since 2016.

The Company operates 42 crematoria and has built a strong reputation for high-quality care. Under Ontario Teachers' and USS's ownership, Westerleigh has expanded its network significantly in recent years and is the UK's largest developer of new crematoria, opening 21 since 2016, with additional sites under development.

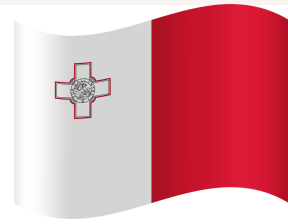
Debbie Smith, chief executive of Westerleigh Group, said the firm's priority had always been to provide exceptional care to the families and communities it served. "ICG Infra shares our commitment to investing in our people, facilities and services, and brings a long-term perspective that aligns closely with our ambitions," she added.

"We are grateful to Ontario Teachers' and USS for their partnership and support since 2016, which has helped strengthen and grow the business. We look forward to working with ICG Infra as we continue investing in our network and developing new locations, in response to the resilient demand for our services across the UK."

To read the full article, head to [**www.thebusinessdesk.com**](http://www.thebusinessdesk.com)



Debbie Smith - CEO Westerleigh Group



Plans for Malta's first crematorium approved in principle

The Planning Authority has approved an outline permit for **Malta's** first crematorium near the Addolorata cemetery in Paola.

Malta currently has no operational local crematorium. Those wishing to cremate their loved ones would normally have to make arrangements through funeral providers to transport the body abroad. This permit (PA/5280/21) will pave the way for the first cremation option on the island. The application was approved 9-1 by the Planning Board.

The applicant is Johann Camilleri on behalf of Active Group Limited. The architect is Robert Musumeci. During the hearing, Musumeci presented the case in favour for the project. He emphasised that the PA was deciding on an outline development permit, which establishes principle acceptance for a project before a full design is submitted.

Much of the debate centred on whether detailed environmental and technical impacts should be assessed at outline stage. Musumeci and several Board members argued that the application was concerned primarily with the principle of the land use, and that matters such as final design, emissions controls and other technical details could be dealt with later through reserved matters and the eventual full application. The Board Chair and other members broadly took the view that many of the technical concerns raised were matters for a later stage, since the application before them was for outline development permission. The Chair noted that the Board had already gone beyond the usual procedure by requesting a report on the filtration system. To read the full article, head to www.timesofmalta.com



Credit: Camilleri Funeral Services

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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.

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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.

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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

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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

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