



A monthly review of news and events from within the bereavement sector



Funerals Market Study report published

The Competition and Markets Authority have released their interim report on the Funerals Market Study launched in June 2018.

See page 7

LOOKING BACK...LOOKING FORWARD

**Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor
Chief Executive of The Cremation Society**

And so we draw near to the end of 2018 and look ahead to a new year of progress and activity both here at The Cremation Society and across our bereavement sector.

We already have events to look forward to as well as a busy year with successful events to reflect back on.

Whatever 2019 holds, I hope the new year will be a peaceful and positive one for you all.

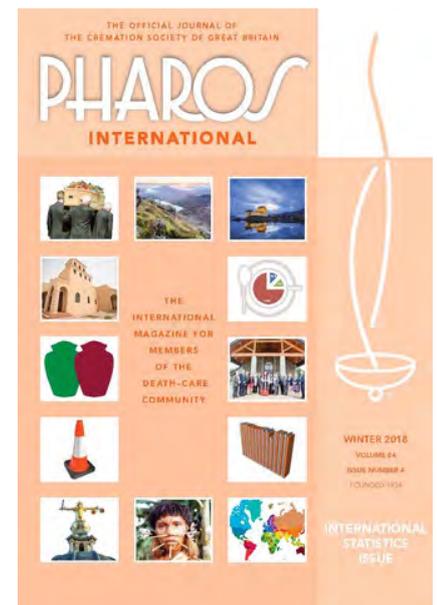
Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

The Winter issue of our quarterly journal, **Pharos International**, is now available to purchase. For those of you who have a subscription, you should have received your issue through the post recently.

The Winter issue includes the international statistics gathered from across the world, as far as possible. Inevitably there are some countries that we have difficulty in collecting data from but the information gathered allows us to follow trends in the cremation industry.

To purchase your copy of the latest issue of *Pharos International*, please **visit our website**.



NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS

Looking ahead to 2019, in January, we will be sending out to all UK crematoria the request for annual national cremation statistics, combined with the usual crematorium questionnaire.

As many of you may know, last year was the first year we took over the collection of the annual cremation statistics from the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA). The information gathered allows us to build a comprehensive picture of what is happening in the cremation sector and is helpful to the funeral and bereavement industry as well as Government departments. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.



COFFIN ACCREDITATION SCHEME

Joint guidance from The Cremation Society, the FBCA, the ICCM and the APCC on coffin accreditation schemes has been added to our website. Please visit the '**Cremation Codes of Practice, Guidance, Recommendations and Advice**' section of our website for more information.

BEREAVEMENT SERVICES SEMINAR 2019

Booking is now open for next year's joint organisations' one-day **Bereavement Services Seminar**. The seminar will be jointly hosted by The Cremation Society, the FBCA, the ICCM and the APCC. The theme of the 2019 seminar will be 'The Impact of Burial and Cremation on the Environment' which I am sure will be of interest to many of us. Booking forms are now available and can be found on our **website**.



WEDNESDAY 27th
MARCH 2019
BEREAVEMENT SERVICES SEMINAR:
'The Impact of Burial and Cremation on the Environment'
Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0PY
The four representative organisations for crematoria and cemeteries in the UK are once again holding a one-day joint Seminar for their members. Each organisation will prepare one session, and introduce a paper relating to a key aspect of bereavement services, followed by a discussion based on the themes in the paper. See over for details of each session. A visit to be crematorium will be arranged to demonstrate services in the UK.

Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries
Cremation Society of Great Britain
Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities
ICCM Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

Joint Organisations' Seminar
For Professionals, By Professionals
Excellent Learning Opportunity
4 Sessions - Papers and Discussion
Excellent Value for Money
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
APCC: 0204 502835
CSC: 0202 492929
FBCA: 0203001 0201
FNTA: 0203001 0662
Email: info@cbce.org.uk

CREMATION & BURIAL COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION 2019 'Pause, Reflect, Respond' - An informative update on burial and cremation issues

As previously announced, dates have been confirmed for **CBCE 2019** and this will be held from 1st - 3rd July 2019. If you are on Twitter, you can keep up to date with the news by following @CBCEevent. You can register your interest ahead of booking at info@cbce.org.uk and more information will follow on the **CBCE website**



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

A new crematorium proposed by **Westerleigh Group** is scheduled to begin operating in **Watermead**, near Aylesbury, within the next few weeks. The Secretary of State has confirmed he would not be calling in the planning application, enabling Westerleigh to open its doors in the near future. For full details, please read the **Bucks Herald article**.

Work has begun on the building of the new **Lea Fields Crematorium** in Gainsborough. The new facility, being developed by West Lindsey District Council at a cost of more than £6m, is expected to be completed by 2020.

Further details can be found on the **Business Link article**.

Plans for a 'much needed' crematorium in **Thurlby** have been submitted by **South Lincolnshire Crematorium and Lincolnshire Co-operative**. The proposed site would include an 85-space car park, gardens and landscaping. The applicants said in their plans that it is 'widely accepted' that the service is needed in the region. For more details, please read **The Lincolnite article**.

Esther McVey, MP for Tatton, has called for a full hearing to be held over plans for **Lach Dennis crematorium** and remembrance gardens. Two retrospective applications have been rejected by Cheshire West and Chester Council. For more details, please visit the **Northwich Guardian website**.

CREMATORIA NEWS

Councillors at **Huntingdon District Council** will argue that the development of a new crematorium at Wyton, proposed by **Dignity**, “...by virtue of its countryside location away from a main settlement and the lack of alternatives to access the site other than by private car is not considered to constitute a sustainable form of development”. The inquiry by the Planning Inspectorate is expected to begin on 5 December 2018. For more details, please see the **Hunts Post article**.

Westerleigh Group have unveiled plans for a new crematorium at **Blackwood, Pontllanfraith**. The chosen site at Pontllanfraith will include a modestly sized single storey building housing a 98-seat chapel, a waiting room, accessible public toilets, administrative offices and a crematory. Please find full details on the **Wales Online website**.

Objections have been received following the submission of plans by **Westerleigh Group** to build a crematorium in a village between **Shrewsbury and Oswestry**. Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council have objected, stating: "It is not in a sustainable location and not well placed to serve relevant populations. New development is being concentrated in Shrewsbury and Telford - less towards Oswestry." For more details, please see the **Shropshire Star article**.

Blackpool Council has chosen Leeds-based company **Facultatieve Technologies Limited** to supply new cremators for the town's **Carleton Crematorium** as part of the development plan for the site, which will also include the addition of more than 2,000 new burial plots. For more details on the improvements, please read the article on the **Blackpool gazette website**.

CREMATORIA NEWS

Planning permission has been granted by the Planning Inspectorate, on appeal, for the development of a crematorium at **Weaveley Arboretum Natural Burial Ground**. The appeal was made by David Wilson (Simpla Ltd) against the decision of West Oxfordshire District Council. You can read the full appeal decision notice on the **Planning Inspectorate webpage**.

BEREAVEMENT SECTOR NEWS

The National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) and the National Counselling Society (NCS) have announced a new partnership aimed at thousands of newly bereaved people each year who would otherwise have to wait months for support either from the NHS or third sector providers.

Terry Tennens, Chief Executive of SAIF, said the new partnership with the NCS offered an exciting opportunity to make a difference to a significant number of people.

“The partnership with the NCS is a logical next step for us following the establishment of SAIF Care in March this year. There’s a definite need to widen counselling support and one way to do this is to ensure funeral directors are able to sign-post bereaved people to appropriate counselling services.”

For more details, please visit the article on the **National Counselling Society website**.



GOVERNMENT NEWS

Following the initial consultation on the **Competition and Markets Authority's** (CMA) '**Funerals market study**', the CMA have released their first report. The Cremation Society was asked by the CMA to contribute towards the consultation by providing both current and historic cremation statistics over a number of years.

The CMA comment in their report: 'The CMA consider that this interim report identifies significant concerns about the effectiveness of competition in relation to the supply of services by funeral directors at the point of need and the supply of crematoria services in the UK'. The CMA are now consulting on their proposal to make a Market Investigation Reference to carry out an in-depth investigation. The deadline for responding to this consultation is 5pm on 4 January 2019. The full report can be found on the **Gov.uk website**.

The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock MP, confirmed during a speech to Parliament, that the introduction of **medical examiners** will take place from April 2019. This confirmation has been welcomed by the Royal College of Pathologists. You can read their reaction on the **Royal College of Pathologists website**.



NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Caledonia Cremation, the country's only not-for-profit funeral director, was named 'One to Watch' at the recent UK Social Enterprise Awards. The same accolade had already been given at the Social Enterprise Awards Scotland, last month. The newly-founded, charity-owned company, sets out to provide a flexible, affordable option for bereaved families across Scotland. For more details, please visit the **Funeral Service Times website**.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

A fresh planning application has been submitted by Classic Lodges Limited for the proposed crematorium in **Kanturk**. The initial application was declared invalid as it did not comply with planning and development regulations but the appropriate notices have now been placed and fresh objections will now need to be submitted. For more details, please read **The Corkman article**.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The **Malta Humanist Association** has stated that cremation should be introduced to Malta in as 'energy efficient' way as possible with the 'least emissions possible'. The MHA confirmed that they are co-operating with the government in Malta which has recently announced that it will be considering a Cremation Bill put forward by MP Rosianne Cutajar. At present there is no way to provide for human cremation on the island. For more details, please see the **Malta Today article**.

Greece may soon be able to open its first secular crematorium following the Greek Prime Minister's announcement of the intention to disestablish the Church of Greece. A law to legalise cremation was passed in 2006 but was opposed by the Church of Greece. The Prime Minister announced that he intends to amend the Constitution of Greece to re-define Greece as 'religiously neutral'. For more details, please read the article on the **Humanists UK website**.

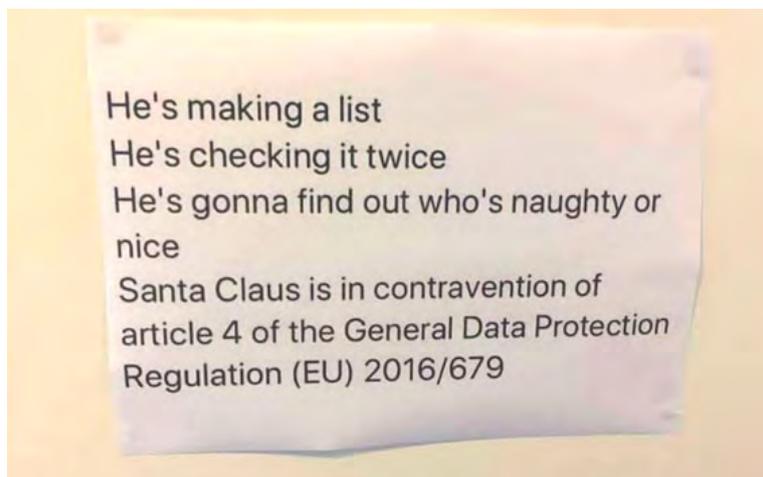
HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT THE...?

There are so many ways to keep up to date with news from around our sector but also to learn a little more about what the public feel about death and bereavement. Among many different podcasts available, is **Griefcast**, which has recently been featured in an article on **The Irish News** website. It aims to normalise conversations around death and this year it has won in three major categories at the British Podcast Awards. If you've got a quiet afternoon, have a listen!

FINAL WORD

If you're planning a quiz for Christmas Day over the remnants of the turkey, you might like to impress your family with this little fact. There is still only one man buried on the moon. To date, the late scientist, **Eugene Shoemaker**, is the only man whose ashes were transported to the moon via NASA's Lunar Prospector in 1998. It remains to be seen whether he will be joined by others in the near future as the prospect of space burial becomes more likely. For full details on the work of Eugene Shoemaker and his final journey, please visit the **Atlas Obscura** article.

AND ONE FINAL FESTIVE NOTE...AS SEEN ON TWITTER!



If you have any news you would like us to consider for future newsletters, please do contact us at info@cremation.org.uk



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