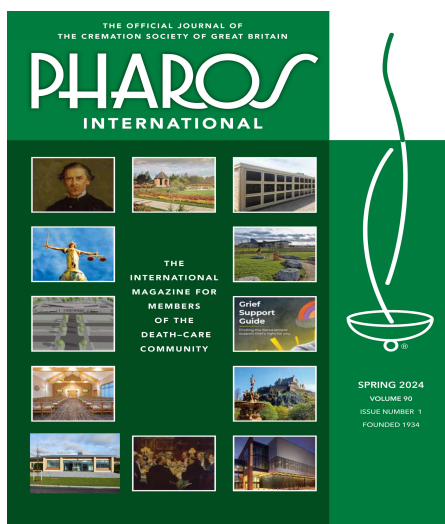


The spring issue of *Pharos International* will soon be available to purchase either as part of an annual subscription or as a one-off issue. You can order your copy online at www.cremation.org.uk/publications



Welcome to the first news review of 2024 - a year that sees The Cremation Society reach its 150th anniversary since its formation on 13 January 1874. As has been tradition with previous milestones, we will be marking the anniversary throughout the year and particularly with the joint CBCE conference to be held in June, with our colleagues from the FBCA, who will also be marking their 100th anniversary. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of both organisations and to look ahead to how we can face the changing cremation sector, together. Registration for CBCE will be open shortly and we do hope you will join us for this particularly significant event.

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans to develop a crematorium in **Tramore** are continuing, following successful receipt of planning permission for the proposed development in **Riverstown**. The project, which has been 10 years in the pipeline, has much of the paperwork completed, including drawings and surveys. However, while the development has been approved, funding remains a significant obstacle to the commencement and delivery of the crematorium. Erich Falconer, General Manager of James Falconers Undertakers in Tramore said: "At the moment we are waiting on Quantity Surveyor costs coming in, we already got it done three years ago, it was coming in around the 2 million euro mark." However, since that costing was undertaken, building material costs have risen significantly and it is estimated that the final figure will be closer to the €3,000,000 mark. Erich says his motivating factor in developing a crematorium is to stop families making a difficult day even more difficult in being forced to make the trip to Cork to cremate loved ones. To read the article, please head to: www.wlrfm.com.

A controversial plan for a huge crematorium in **North Cornwall** has finally been refused by Cornwall Council three months after the High Court quashed an original decision by the local authority to approve it. What would have been one of the largest crematoria in the UK on a 5.8-hectare rural site was approved by Cornwall Council in November 2022 despite hundreds of objections from local residents. Following a judicial review at the High Court in London in October last year, judge Sir Duncan Ouseley found in their favour and quashed the permission. Subsequently, the applicant submitted revised plans which were not accepted by Cornwall Council's planning department on the basis that they would generate a requirement for re-consultation with the public and consultees. The council has now refused the application on the grounds it "has not been demonstrated to a satisfactory extent that there is an overriding locational and business need for the proposed crematorium to be sited in that location, which is not accessible to a range of sustainable modes of transport and fails to prioritise walking and cycling over the use of private fossil fuel vehicles. Furthermore, the proposed development will result in a significant change and an intensification of land use on what is currently a green field site, introducing new built form in undeveloped countryside." To read the full story, please go to the: [Cornish & Devon Post website](#).

New crematorium plans for a site on the outskirts of **Cramlington** have been submitted to Northumberland County Council for approval. **Crematoria Management**, part of UK cremation and cemetery company Westerleigh Group, entered a planning application to build a new facility off Arcot Lane, near Arcot Hall Golf Club. As well as the crematorium building, the plans include parking, landscaping, and memorial gardens. The building itself will include a waiting area, a chapel, a vestry, an office, a floral tribute area, and the cremator itself. According to planning documents, the facility is needed due to “existing and future population and death rate increases” and the company has received support for the project from local funeral directors during pre-application consultations. Ian McArdle, chief property officer at Westerleigh Group, said: “Research showed there is a need for additional crematoria capacity in the area. As with all Westerleigh Group’s facilities, the new crematorium will be sympathetically designed to blend into its surroundings and will be one of the most environmentally-friendly crematoria in the UK. Featuring the latest advanced filtration and abatement technology, including NOx abatement, it will make a significant contribution towards the offsetting of our carbon footprint.” Westerleigh Group currently oversees more than 70,000 funerals a year at its existing facilities. For the full article, please visit the: **[Northumberland Gazette website.](#)**

Proposals to amend previously granted planning permission for a crematorium at **Woodham Mortimer** have been submitted to **Maldon District Council**. The District Council’s northern western area planning committee approved initial plans in February 2023. These proposals consisted of a two-storey crematorium building with a ceremonial hall, memorial garden and access from the A414, according to a Maldon District Council report. In addition, Cooper’s Monument, which is located in Maldon Road near the site, was proposed to be restored as part of the plans. A letter from estate agents White and Sons, on behalf of Maldon Fields Ltd, said the new application proposes to substitute the approved site layout and landscaping plans, but also that “the development would remain consistent with the description of development previously approved and in line with the conditions associated with the development.” For the full article, please head to the: **[Maldon Standard’s website.](#)**

Construction work is set to begin on Cyprus' first crematorium within the first half of the year, according to the director of the company undertaking the project, MW Crematorium Cyprus', **Neofytos Christodoulides**. The crematorium is set to be built in the industrial area adjacent to the Paphos village of Ayia Varvara, on a plot which is over 455,000 square metres in area and will cost around €2.2 million.

The building itself is set to be 11,000 square metres in area and will be built from reinforced concrete and bricks. It will be built over two floors – a basement and a ground floor. On the ground floor, there will be a main entrance and a waiting area for visitors, three offices for crematorium staff, a kitchen, a ceremony area with seating for 70 funeralgoers, as well as sanitary facilities. In the basement, there will be facilities for receiving and preparing the bodies, an incinerator, an ash delivery office, refrigerators for the temporary storage of the body, as well as three parking spaces for cars.

Speaking to the Cyprus News Agency (CNA), Neofytos Christodoulides said there had been some minor details which had created delays to the project, but that work is expected to begin on the project within the year. He also spoke about the cost of the project, saying that incinerators are “expensive machines”, which can cost up to €1 million. He went on to explain the planned location of the crematorium, saying that there had been a “great interest” in the construction of a crematorium from third country nationals in the Paphos district. Between 70 and 80 per cent of third country nationals residing in the Paphos district prefer cremation as their form of after-death care, as opposed to other options, such as burial.

In addition, he said, a number of Greek Cypriots had also expressed interest in the possibility of being cremated after death, but that at present, funeral homes offering cremation services were having to send bodies abroad for cremation, incurring increased costs for their families. With the construction of a crematorium on the island, he said the cost per body is expected to range between €800 and €900. For the full article, please go the: **Cyprus Mail website**.

This page has been updated with the correct flag depicted - we apologise for any upset caused by the original version of the newsletter

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Facultatieve Technologies - over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.



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



Treske - one of the UK's leading makers and suppliers of bespoke crematorium furniture and soft furnishings.



Welters - interment and memorial specialists.

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