



The Cremation Society

Rooted in history: committed to the future



CBCE 2024

The programme for this year's CBCE joint conference is now available. If you have not already booked on, please do book your place to avoid disappointment. You can find full details of the conference on the [CBCE website](#).



News in this issue includes updates on:

- Crematoria news
- CBCE speaker announcement
- National Medical Examiner delay
- Baby Loss Certificates
- Faith in Funerals research

150 
1874-2024



CBCE 2024



The programme for this year's CBCE is now available to view on the **CBCE website**. We are delighted to welcome some excellent speakers who will be covering some of the significant developments facing the cremation and burial sector:

- Regional Medical Examiner, Huw Twamley
- Funeral Practices and Challenges – Belgium - Tom Wustenberghs
- Ashes Register - Richard Martin
- Law Commission - Professor Nick Hopkins
- Effective communication with parents and carers following the death of a baby or child - Dr Sarah Turner, BA(Hons), MA, PhD, Assistant Professor of Cognitive Linguistics, Centre for Arts, Memory and Communities, Coventry University
- UK Commission on Bereavement - Dr Emily Harrop
- Cremation – yesterday, today, tomorrow - Thies Heinrich, Managing Director, CremTec GmbH
- Catholics and Cremation - Monsignor Kevin McGinnell
- Energy and Utilities Alliance - Mike Foster
- US and Canada Cremation Trends and Consumer Attitudes Toward Cremation - Barbara Kemmis, CANA
- Humanists UK - Madeleine Goodall

This year's event will be held at **Winter Gardens, Blackpool** from Monday 24th June to Wednesday 26th June 2024. To register please visit the **CBCE website** and book online. For any queries please contact that CBCE Administration team at info@cbce.org.uk or call on 01543 439 714. Follow CBCE on Twitter for further up-dates on speakers, exhibitors and more.



CREMATORIA NEWS

A campaigner has claimed a Court of Session victory against **Angus Council** in the battle to stop a new crematorium near Dundee. Paul Dixon took the council to Scotland's highest civil court over the go-ahead for the **Duntrune** development. Council officials initially rejected the plans, but this decision was overturned by the development standards committee last year. Mr Dixon has now seen the council concede the Court of Session case in what he branded a "huge victory". It means the crematorium application will now go back before the appeal committee and a different group of councillors must consider the application. In 2020, Friockheim farmer Guthrie Batchelor lodged an application for the site overlooking Dundee, but the proposal was rejected under delegated powers by Angus planning officials in early 2022. It followed a campaign which saw around 700 local objections. Officials said the plan breached local, regional and national planning policies. However, in March 2023 Mr Batchelor's appeal to the council's development management review committee (DMRC) was successful. Mr Dixon said: "Myself and the 700 local residents who objected to this planning application are delighted with the result. I can only hope the new group of DMRC members give their full and proper consideration to all of the very serious issues raised by myself and other local residents, and by Angus Council's own roads service when they come to re-consider it. To read the full article, please go to: **[The Courier Evening Telegraph website.](#)**

Work has begun on the new crematorium in **Bierley**, which will replace the ageing facility at **Scholemoor**. The new crematorium, off Shetcliffe Lane, will have new service halls, a small hall for intimate services of around 25-30 people, a large hall for services up to 250-300 people, car parking, new cremators, office space and a waiting room. Plans for the crematorium were approved in 2021 and site preparation is now underway. The Bierley development is part of Bradford Council's Bereavement Services Strategy, which aims to modernise and upgrade the district's cemeteries and crematoria. Robertson Construction has been appointed as the main contractor for the Bierley project. This is the third crematoria project after Shay Grange and the refurbishment of Oakworth Crematorium. Work on the Bierley site is expected to finish in 2025. Once work is complete, Scholemoor Crematorium will close, but the cemetery will remain open. To read more, please head to the: **[Telegraph and Argus website.](#)**

CREMATORIA NEWS

An old outbuilding at a crematorium is set to be converted into a cafe and florist. Plans have been unveiled to improve the facilities at Vinters Park in **Bearsted Road, Maidstone**. The five hectare site is opposite **Newnham Court Shopping Village**. The plans are for the construction of an open walkway extension, as well as the conversion of an existing agricultural building. The application is currently awaiting a decision. Maidstone council has published more information in their Borough Insight magazine. It said: “Adding to the already stunning landscape the council is now planning to re-purpose a disused gardener's storage building which lies within woodland at the crematorium to house a new cafe and florist. The current building is constructed of local ragstone under a slate roof with timber doors and cladding where the proposed new facilities are set to be located providing visitors somewhere to sit a little longer and remember.” Additional landscaping and refurbishment to the existing crematorium pond – which is prone to flooding – along with new seating in the formal memorial garden has been proposed. An official opening date for the cafe and florist is yet to be revealed. The council confirmed it would be “later this year”. To read the full article, please go to the: **[Kent Online website](#)**.

The first stage of improvement works at **Distington Hall Crematorium** will get underway from Friday 29th March and are expected to take around two weeks to complete. The works, undertaken by Roland Hill Ltd on Cumberland Council's behalf, will include: complete refurbishment of the foyer, chapel and cloisters, a new family room, update of the Wesley music system, plus refurbishment of the toilets. To allow the work to be carried out quickly and efficiently there will be a full closure of the building and the site will also be unable to accommodate the strewing of ashes in the crematorium grounds. All services will remain operational in the site's cemeteries and the Chapel of Remembrance will also remain open. The crematorium refurbishment is scheduled to take place between 29th March and 14th April, with the last service at 12 noon on Thursday 28th March and reopening at 12 noon on Monday 15th April. Carlisle Crematorium, also managed by Cumberland Council, is fully open and can be used as an alternative during the temporary closure of the Distington site. To read the article, please go to: **www.cumberland.gov.uk**

NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER UPDATE

The latest update by National Medical Examiner, Dr Alan Fletcher, has been published and can be read on the [NHS England website](#).

Topics covered in the update include:

- Good Practice Series – Palliative and End of Life Care
- Employing General Practitioners (GPs) as medical examiners
- Podcast
- Independent Healthcare Providers Network
- Section 251 support for sharing patient records
- Implementation in Wales
- Funding letters and quarterly reporting – England
- Training and events



BABY LOSS CERTIFICATES



Parents who have experienced the devastation of losing a baby before 24 weeks of pregnancy can apply for a certificate to have their grief recognised. From February 22nd the government launched a voluntary scheme to allow parents to record and receive a certificate to provide recognition of their loss. Parents can access this free service, but the certificates will not be compulsory - it remains the choice of all parents to manage the difficult time of a loss, however they see fit. Delivering on baby loss certificates was part of the government's response to the independent **Pregnancy Loss Review**. The review was commissioned in 2018 to consider the registration and certification of pregnancy loss occurring before 24 weeks gestation and on the quality of care. The review concluded that while it currently may not be possible to prevent many pre 24 week pregnancy losses from occurring, much more can be done to ensure each grieving parent receives excellent care and compassionate support. To read more, please go to the: [gov.uk website](#).



RESEARCH NEWS

The 'Faith in Funerals' research project conducted by Goldsmiths University and led by Dr Naomi Thompson, Professor Chris Baker, and Steve Cheal, launched its final report in February 2024.

The research explored the use of religious and non-religious content in funeral ceremonies led by independent celebrants in England and Wales. The study found that most everyday funerals led by independent celebrants include some religious content with 76% including at least one of a hymn, prayer or reading. 80% included popular poems with reference to broader spiritual themes. The use of hymns in funerals is in decline (potentially accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic) but the incorporation of The Lord's Prayer (the most popular religious resource) appears to remain stable. Overall, most everyday funerals are a fusion of religious, non-religious and spiritual resources, balancing ritual with personalisation, and do not fall into the binaries of either a traditional religious service or an entirely secular 'celebration of life'.

The reasons people gave for incorporating religious content in funerals included a sense of obligation or that it was the 'right thing to do', a sense that it brought comfort or facilitated collective emotion, and a desire to honour the wishes of the deceased or other (particularly older) family members. For some, it also appeared to reflect a desire to believe their loved one was living on. Incorporation of a range of popular songs and poems that reference the person living on in some way, in the here and now, also appears to support this.

The implications of the study include that people could be presented with a more nuanced range of initial choices for funerals beyond simply religious or non-religious, church leader or celebrant.

The report and (developing) toolkit can be found at www.faithinfunerals.org



Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



Benchmark Architects is an innovative architecture and design studio, we are a passionate and personable team who enjoy working on projects to create, challenge and innovate.



The CDS Group offer our 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 - specialists in the production of personalised memorial artwork and after cremation memorials.



F G Marshall supplied the very first Book of Remembrance to Woking Crematorium in 1938. To this day technology still hasn't replaced the precision, skill and touch of the human hand.

If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please [click here](#) for a media pack. Attractive discounted rates for 4 issues available upon request for new advertisers. Agency.

Discount 10%

No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers or for the sustainability or standard of goods so advertised

Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



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



Fordingbridge - designers, manufacturers and installers of innovative canopies and walkways.



Greenbridge Designs - from individual memorials to complete garden schemes, Greenbridge produce a range of memorials that will seamlessly fit into existing schemes as well as some that will create a stunning alternative.



IFZW is an established manufacturer of cremator and emission filter systems.



Obitus - provider of bereavement technology services, delivering music, webcast and tributes for families, funeral directors and leading funeral venues throughout the UK.

If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please [click here](#) for a media pack. Attractive discounted rates for 4 issues available upon request for new advertisers. Agency

Discount 10%

No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers or for the sustainability or standard of goods so advertised

Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



OrthoMetals - a family owned and operated business, recycling metals remaining after cremation.



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.



If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please [click here](#) for a media pack. Attractive discounted rates for 4 issues available upon request for new advertisers. Agency.

Discount 10%

No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers or for the sustainability or standard of goods so advertised

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



You can contact us at:

The Cremation Society
Brecon House (1st Floor)
16 Albion Place
Maidstone
Kent ME14 5DZ

01622 688292/3
info@cremation.org.uk
www.cremation.org.uk



If you do not wish to receive future newsletters from us, please email us at info@cremation.org.uk and simply type 'STOP' in the heading

The views expressed in the Editorial comments are those of the Editor and unless specifically stated otherwise, are not the official views of the Cremation Society. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of articles reproduced in this newsletter.