



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



We were delighted to welcome so many of you to the recent joint organisations' seminar where speakers tackled various environmental topics and issues facing the funeral sector. We are now looking ahead to CBCE 2022 in Southampton from 20 – 22 June 2022. Many of you have already booked on but if you have not yet booked, please do not leave it too long. You can find more details on this year's speakers on page 2 and you can book your place via the [CBCE website](#).



Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

SECTOR NEWS



CBCE 2022 - 'Return and Reset. Exploring post-COVID changes in the cremation and burial sector'

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 a wide range of topical issues focusing on the significant changes now impacting the cremation and burial sector:

- Dr Alan Fletcher - National Medical Examiner
- Philip Peacock - Town Clerk, Huntingdon Town Council
- Jamieson Hodgson - Deputy CEO - Memoria Ltd
- Simon Holbrook - Manager - Local Authority Review - Environment Agency
- Chris Edge - Edge IT Systems Ltd
- Professor Douglas Davies - Director of The Centre for Death and Life Studies, Durham University
- Dr Emily Harrop - Marie Curie Research Centre, Cardiff University - UK Commission on Bereavement
- Kevin Smith - Director - Marchini Curran Associates
- Ministry of Justice
- Professor Lucy Easthope - Universities of Bath and Durham
- Dr Kate Woodthorpe - Senior Lecturer - Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath
- Julian Atkinson - Company Director - JC Atkinson
- Simon Holden - Managing Director - Faunus Group
- Heidi Bignell - Technical Advisor - Environment Agency

This year's event will be held at **Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton** from **Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd June 2022**. To register please visit the [CBCE website](#) and book online. For any queries please contact the CBCE Administration Team at info@cbce.org.uk or call on **01543 439714**. Follow CBCE on [Twitter](#) for further updates.



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

The new environmentally friendly **Waseley Hills Crematorium** has opened near **Bosgrove**. Developed by the **Westerleigh Group**, the UK's largest independent owner and operator of crematoria and cemeteries, the facility includes a purpose-built chapel building featuring a living green wildflower roof. Site manager **Joy Edgington** said: "My team and I are looking forward to providing vital support to the community so that our very uniquely-designed facility will soon become the crematorium of choice for families near and further afield." For more information on this story, please visit: [Bromsgrove Advertiser's website](#).

Bolsover District Council and **Shirebrook Town Council** have secured approval for a new £9 million facility, with land adjacent to **Shirebrook cemetery** earmarked for its location. **Bolsover District Council Leader, Councillor Steve Fritchley** said, "We have received approval for the crematorium to go ahead and already spoken to local funeral directors who have shown their support for the project. Ideas for the crematorium include a tranquillity garden, lobby of light, flower courtyard and gardens of remembrance." The facility will form part of the Shirebrook Growth Corridor, which aims to provide new housing, new businesses and new developments, along with modern and robust infrastructure. For more on this story, please visit the [Derbyshire Times website](#).

The first crematorium for Central Bedfordshire residents is set to be built after being approved by councillors. It will be constructed on green belt land, off Fordfield Road, Steppingley, close to **Flitwick**. The project will include "serene" gardens open for local residents, meadows, a lake and a tree-lined approach, and building work is expected to take between 12 and 18 months. **Conservative councillor Eugene Ghent, executive member for assets and housing delivery**, said: "The crematorium is a necessary addition to our community and will allow us to provide the right location and services for families to say goodbye to their loved ones in a peaceful setting." To read more on this story, please visit the [BBC News website](#).

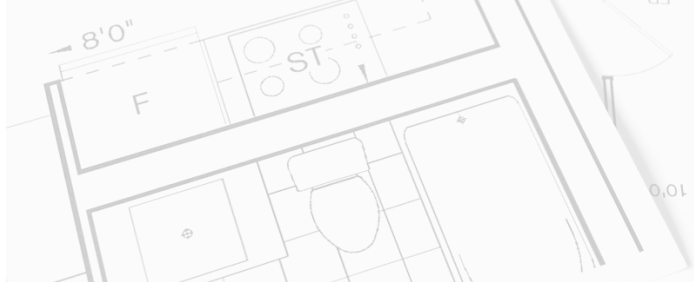
CREMATORIA NEWS

Work has begun to build a new £11.9 million crematorium at **Heaton**. **Robertson Construction** has been appointed as the main contractor and once complete it will be a replacement for Nab Wood crematorium. The work forms part of a major shake-up of Bradford's bereavement services, which will also see a new £14.8m crematorium in Bierley, Oakworth Crematorium being refurbished, and the already completed enlargement of the Muslim burial ground at Scholemoor Cemetery. The new crematoria will all include the installation of mercury filtering technology. The district's existing six cremators, three at Scholemoor, two at Nab Wood and one at Oakworth, are over 20 years old and operating well beyond their stated working life, whilst the crematoria buildings are all over 100 years old with Scholemoor built in 1905 as the only purpose-built crematorium. All the existing sites have limited facilities and capacity, particularly within the chapels. **Councillor Sarah Ferriby**, executive member for healthy people and places, said: "We want to provide practical, sympathetic, convenient and pleasant surroundings for people when they pay their last respects to their loved ones." The new building is due to open in early 2023. For more on this story, please visit: [The Telegraph and Argus website](#)

Construction has begun on the first crematorium in the borough of **Welwyn Hatfield**, in order to tackle the escalated waiting times and distances needed to travel to existing local crematoriums. The new crematorium will offer a new larger chapel for burial and cremation funeral services and merge the facilities required for both services. The current buildings in the entry way of the cemetery will be substituted with new landscaping and space for burials, whilst the chapel will accommodate space for remembrance services throughout the year. The bereavement services team will be placed in the new complex so that staff can have easier access and better facilities for visitors. **Council leader Cllr Tony Kingsbury** stated, "When visitors enter the site and reach the top of the ridge, rather than finding themselves amongst a group of buildings as they currently do, they will be in an open area, landscaped with new planting and trees. This newly revealed vista provides long views across the cemetery and the valley beyond." This new facility at **Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium** will be open by spring 2023. For more details please visit the [Welwyn Hatfield Times website](#).

CREMATORIA NEWS

An **East Riding crematorium** seriously damaged by a blaze two years ago has resumed funeral services after an extensive restoration programme. The fire at **Haltemprice Crematorium, Willerby**, in October 2020, severely damaged the roof, but a complex and extensive programme of work has since taken place to restore the grade-listed building. The owners of Haltemprice Crematorium, **the Crematorium & Memorial Group (CMG)**, have protected the heritage and distinctive look of the building while improving the experience for the bereaved by providing state-of-the-art facilities. **Jonathan Spalding**, manager of Haltemprice Crematorium, said: "We have worked tirelessly to restore and transform Haltemprice Crematorium so that it now rivals our flagship, purpose-built facilities in other parts of the country." The programme of work also provided an opportunity to install the latest cremation equipment to minimise any disruption to services in future. For more details on this story, please visit [Hull Live's website](#).



Interior of the chapel at Haltemprice Crematorium (Image: Crematorium & Memorial Group)



Cremation facilities in **Hartlepool** are to be upgraded after councillors approved a funding plan. **Hartlepool Borough Council** said it would spend £255,000 upgrading **Stranton Cemetery**, which will include the installation of a new air conditioning unit, and the relining of cremators. The authority said it had to complete the upgrade in order to comply with emissions standards, and went on to state that a wider programme of investment in the cemetery is also planned, that will ensure the "longer term sustainability of the site and support improved service delivery". For more on this story, please visit the [BBC News website](#).



CREMATORIA NEWS

Work has begun on £5m **Antrim and Newtownabbey Crematorium project**, which will be only the second crematorium in Northern Ireland once completed. **The Roselawn Crematorium** is currently Northern Ireland's only crematorium, with only six in total on the island of Ireland. It was originally designed to handle 700 cremations each year, but over 3,500 cremations are now taking place annually. The new crematorium will be built on Doagh Road in **Newtownabbey**, with a £5m investment that will provide a state-of-the-art facility for mourners. The building itself will nestle in a parkland setting, with walking paths within a landscaped area and wildflower meadows. **Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Billy Webb** stated: "This much-needed facility will serve our residents and people across the whole of Northern Ireland. It will provide further choice and options for those considering difficult plans with loved ones." The project is due for completion in December 2022 and will utilise the most up-to-date equipment, ensuring environmental protection is maintained at the highest level. To read the full article, please visit [Belfast Live's website](#).

A £3.45 million modernisation of **St Helens Crematorium** has been completed. The ambitious project has seen a full refurbishment of the crematorium building, in a cohesive, modern and respectful style, whilst construction work by **Seddon** took place outside operational hours to ensure that services could continue to be provided to the public. **Councillor Andy Bowden, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport**, said: "St Helens Cemetery and Crematorium are among our greatest assets, from the building's striking structure and heritage, with its many original features including the beautiful 'dalle de verre' stained glass, to its green and picturesque, well-maintained grounds. This major investment represents our faith in the future of the crematorium, and our aspiration to enhance the caring service provided to the bereaved and their families in the most difficult times, and I'm delighted to see it completed." For more details on this story, please read the [Locally News article](#).

SECTOR NEWS

We were delighted to work with our colleagues at the Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, in bringing delegates another thought-provoking joint seminar.



This year's seminar looked at the 'Impact of the Bereavement Sector on the Environment' with a range of subjects covered, including cremator fuel developments; Resomation; Organic Dispersal, as well as an overall look at the impact of the sector and climate change. There is no doubt that delegates left with much to reflect on and we hope that the information provided will at least provoke a discussion on the various areas covered.

Thank you to those exhibitors who joined us and supported the event :

The Columbaria Company, Signature Aromas, EdgeIT Systems, CanFly Marketing, Secure Haven Urns & Keepsakes, The CDS Group, PlotBox, Greenbridge Designs, OpusXenta and Benchmark Architects.



GOVERNMENT NEWS

NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER UPDATE

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner, has published his latest update, which can be read on the [NHS England website](#). Topics covered by the latest update include:

- Coronavirus Act: death certification and registration
- New good practice papers
- Health and Care Bill update
- Medical examiner case management system
- Medical Certificate Cause of Death Digitisation
- Implementation in Wales
- Training and events
- Contact details



National Medical Examiner update

April 2022

Welcome

As a new financial year begins, we can reflect on significant progress being made across England and Wales, as medical examiners continue to work with colleagues across all health settings to extend scrutiny to all non-coronial deaths. This is a significant and complex undertaking, and I recognise the challenges. Often there are obstacles to overcome. However I am hearing many examples where medical examiners and colleagues across health providers are working in partnership to deliver benefits for bereaved people and to inform learning and improved care. Progress towards the statutory medical examiner system is also continuing, as the [Health and Care Bill](#) has completed its third reading in the House of Lords.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the second medical examiner conference on 18 May 2022. I would like to extend my thanks to the Royal College of Pathologists for arranging this, and for their continuing support to medical examiners, including through their ongoing training for medical examiners and officers, and publication of the National Medical Examiner's Good Practice Series. I am pleased to report two further publications since my last update. My thanks again to the Royal College of Pathologists who worked with the Judicial College to run five very successful joint coroner and medical examiner training days helping build constructive working relationships with coroners.

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Ministry of Justice has published updated cremation guidance which has been revised to reflect the changes to the **Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008** provided by **Cremation (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022** which came into force on **25th March 2022**. The forms remain unchanged, however the **cremation certificate (form Cremation 5)** has now been permanently removed.

As well as the amended Regulations, the following provisions are continuing after 24th March 2022:

- The period before death within which a doctor completing a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) must have seen a deceased patient will remain **28 days** (prior to the coronavirus pandemic, the limit was 14 days).
- It will still be acceptable for medical practitioners to send MCCDs to registrars electronically.

The amended Regulations and revised guidance will be in force from **25th March 2022** and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cremation-forms-and-guidance>



The Cremation (England and Wales) Regulations 2008

Guidance for cremation authorities and crematorium managers

March 2022



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The Columbaria Company - specialists in the production of personalised memorial artwork and after cremation memorials.



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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.



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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.

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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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