



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



## **ANNUAL CREMATION QUESTIONNAIRE**

We will be contacting crematoria with our annual cremation statistics questionnaire, in the new year. We will be contacting you by email this year, so please do look out for our email (and do check your Junk folders as they are occasionally filtered there).

We are grateful for your time in providing this information and we look forward to reporting on this to the funeral sector later in the year.

We are pleased to bring you the last news review of 2021. It has been quite a year! We continue to face pandemic uncertainties as we head towards 2022. We continue to work with our DMAG colleagues in providing updated guidance and advice as the pandemic develops. We are certain that the funeral sector will continue to serve bereaved families with as much compassion and commitment as ever.

May we wish you a peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year.

**Wendy Buchan**  
**Executive Officer & Secretary to The Cremation Society**

---



# Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year

FROM ALL AT THE CREMATION SOCIETY

WE WILL BE MAKING A DONATION  
TO CHILD BEREAVEMENT UK IN PLACE OF POSTING  
CARDS



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

A crematorium could be built in East Ayrshire under new plans submitted. No such facility exists in the region, with the applicant, **KT Montgomery Environmental**, keen to build the crematorium overlooking a lochan — a small loch — between Hurlford and Galston. Dreghorn's Holmsford Bridge, Ayr's Masonhill Crematorium and Clyde Coast & Garnock Valley Crematorium, between Kilbirnie and Largs, are the only crematoria in Ayrshire, with currently no establishment in East Ayrshire. Detailed blueprints submitted to East Ayrshire Council planners say that access and parking arrangements have "been designed to take advantage of the attractive views over the lochan." You can read more on this proposal on the [Daily Record website](#).

---

A new crematorium is becoming more of a reality as developers took the next step to bringing the building to **Maldon**. A planning application to build a new crematorium to serve the Maldon area has officially been submitted. Plans were first unveiled in September before consulting residents and stakeholders. Results of a previous survey carried out for developer **Elegy** indicated more than nine out of ten residents, 91%, believe there to be a need for a new crematorium to serve the Maldon district. Managing Director at Elegy, Richard Evans said: "The consultation with local residents and organisations has been very important to us and allowed us to enhance our plans. We were encouraged by the support that we received but we also realise how important it is to deliver on our promises." For more on this development, please read the [Maldon Standard article](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

A new modern crematorium to serve south **Birmingham** and **Worcestershire** is to open in the New Year. **Waseley Hills Crematorium**, developed by **Westerleigh Group**, will be state of the art and will be for people in south Birmingham, Bromsgrove and north Worcestershire. Sitting right next to the beautiful Waseley Hills, the crematorium is set to open in January next year. Inside the chapel there is seating for 105 mourners with additional standing room. For larger congregations, there are speakers outside the chapel too. A beautifully landscaped memorial garden will also provide views over the landscape of Waseley Hills. Manager, Joy Edgington, said she hoped that Waseley Hills would become the "crematorium of choice" for Birmingham, Bromsgrove and north Worcestershire families. For more on this development, please read the [Birmingham Live article](#).

---

Plans for a crematorium on green belt land near **Flitwick** have been submitted by a local authority. A previous application to build the development off Fordfield Road in Steppingley was withdrawn by **Central Bedfordshire Council**. The premises would become Central Bedfordshire's first crematorium, if approved by the Council's development management committee. Subject to approval, construction is estimated to take 12 months, according to the Council. "Changes to the environment since the first proposals include a new 40mph speed limit on Fordfield Road, after safety concerns raised by residents," said Central Bedfordshire Council in a statement. For more details on the proposal, please visit the [Bedfordshire Live article](#).

---

Plans to expand the main chapel seating area at **South Shields Crematorium** have been given the green light. Back in September 2021, **South Tyneside Council** lodged an application with its own planning department for the facility off John Reid Road. This included an "infill development" of an existing four-sided courtyard to maximise seating capacity within the building. A design and access statement submitted with the Council plans said the proposals aimed to "address capacity limitations in holding large funerals". You can read full details of the proposals, on the [Shields Gazette website](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

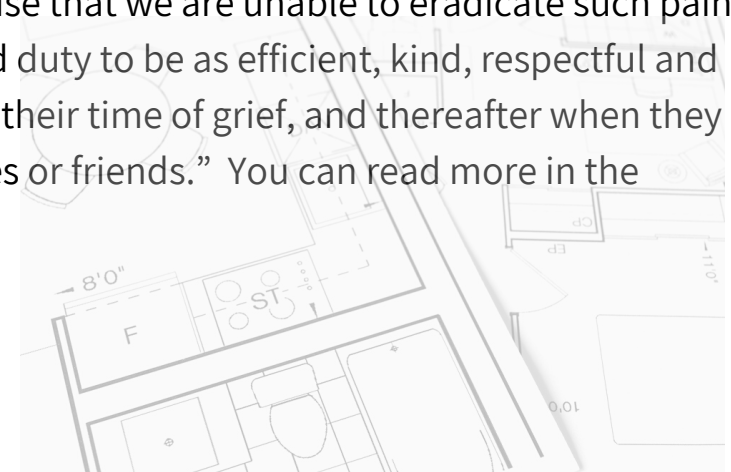
### CREMATORIA NEWS

The UK is to get its first purpose-built crematorium for the **Hindu** community in Buckinghamshire, south-east England, after a charity organisation won its appeal for the creation of the structure adjacent to its temple building. The UK's Planning Inspectorate granted the appeal on Thursday, which means **Anoopam Mission UK** has the requisite planning permission to erect a crematorium with associated landscape and biodiversity enhancements in **Denham**. The construction will come up next to the mission's Swaminarayan Temple at The Lea, Western Avenue, and will cater to the needs of the wider region's Hindu, Sikh and Jain communities. "We welcome this important decision and the opportunity for Anoopam Mission to serve the Hindu population of the UK," said Param Puya Sahebji, the Spiritual Leader of Anoopam Mission. For more on this development, please read the [Times of India article](#).

---

Dignitaries from local churches gathered on 4 November 2021 in a multi-faith service to officially open the new **North Oxfordshire Crematorium & Memorial Park**, which will serve North Oxford, Kidlington, Bicester, and surrounding areas. The site is the first of its kind nationwide to use an innovative electric cremator in a bid to cut carbon emissions.

**Memoria**, the leading funeral firm behind the facility said they would do all it can to help bereaved families in the area at their time of need. Howard Hodgson, CEO of Memoria, said: "The loss of a loved one is the most stressful, unhappy and traumatic experience that we will face in life. We at Memoria realise that we are unable to eradicate such pain, but we also know it is our responsibility and duty to be as efficient, kind, respectful and polite as humanly possible to our clients at their time of grief, and thereafter when they return to remember their cherished relatives or friends." You can read more in the [Bicester Advertiser article](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Extended opening hours at a crematorium have been given the green light despite objections from the local parish council. Cheshire West and Chester Council's planning committee rubber-stamped amended changes to opening times at **Birches Crematorium and Remembrance Park** in Lach Dennis. The committee also gave the go ahead to a separate application for a building extension, site cabin and children's garden at the site. The crematorium had applied to extend its opening hours to include Saturday afternoons, and in the mornings on Sundays and public holidays, citing one of the reasons as pent up demand for memorial services due to many people not being able to attend funerals during Covid lockdowns. You can read more in the [Northwich Guardian article](#).

---

As had been widely anticipated, a second application to build a crematorium on the site of the former **Duhallow Park Hotel** has been shot down by Cork County Council planners. It now remains to be seen if **Classic Lodges (Ireland) Ltd** will appeal the Council's decision not to grant permission for the facility at Dromcummer Beg, **Kanturk**, to An Bord Pleanála. In upholding the Council's decision to reject the initial proposal for the facility over concerns about its potential impact on the surrounding environment, the Appeals board cited traffic safety concerns along the busy N72 road and the potential for pollution to the Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Undeterred, in March of this year, the applicant submitted a new application for the facility. You can read more on this latest development, in the [Independent.ie article](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### 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:

- MCCD digitisation
- Good practice series – organ and tissue donation
- Health and Care bill update
- Digital system – overview of rollout plan by April 2022
- Coronavirus Act easements



#### National Medical Examiner update

November 2021

##### Welcome

I have been encouraged by feedback from regional medical examiners and Shared Services Partnership in Wales about progress in extending the work of medical examiners to deaths in the community. There have been many positive interactions, though, as I have acknowledged previously, this is a complex area of work. The team are working with DHSC, NHS Digital and NHSX to identify more ways for providers to share patient records, and providing information on options to medical examiners. I am also conscious that Covid-19 is still with us, and winter pressures affect all healthcare providers. This is why I did not set arbitrary deadlines: it is most important to embed the principles of medical examiner scrutiny in acute trusts, and build relationships and appropriate ways of working at a local level. Another important consideration is to establish connections with local communities and faith groups who may have particular views on how medical examiners are implemented. There is now information in the medical examiners' online resource to help with this.

I am delighted that medical examiners are continuing to increase the number and proportion of deaths for which they are providing independent scrutiny. Provisional information suggests in July-September 2021, medical examiners scrutinised 47,641 deaths in England and Wales, compared to 39,564 in the previous three months.

In this update there is more information about work to develop the medical examiners' case management system, and digitising Medical Certificates of Cause of Death. Both are complementary to the operational processes medical examiners are implementing and promise to be extremely helpful. Thank you again for all the work you are doing. The progress is most encouraging and in coming months I am confident a growing number of bereaved people will benefit from being able to discuss causes of death and concerns with medical examiners and their officers.

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner

---

### APPG FOR FUNERALS AND BEREAVEMENT

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Funerals and Bereavement has published its November newsletter. You can read the newsletter on the [APPG website](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GROUP REPORT

The ESG has published its 'year zero' report aimed at reflecting the state of the sector at the end of the Group's initial year. Jon Cross, facilitator of the ESG, explained: 'At our launch on 1st March 2021, we confirmed our first task in leading the bereavement sector to sustainability and proactively responding to the Climate Emergency declarations, that we would spend time speaking to the sector to understand where it stood in relation to these challenges. This report is the direct result of that activity, and reflects the range of concerns, challenges, hopes and aspirations for the future. Framed by Chatham House rules, those who attended our roundtables, gave personal opinions, were generous in their time, and especially their willingness to share thoughts to help produce this report. The ESG have been humbled by the comments and requests made in their sharing of a future vision for the Group in achieving carbon net zero for the sector. Special thanks go to those who have attended sessions, produced feedback, undertaken interviews and written articles for the website. These actions will help to inspire, to share best practices and to help prompt further considerations as we move forward as a sector towards sustainability.' You can download the report from the [ESG website](#).





## NEWS REVIEW

### SECTOR NEWS

The **European Commission** has contracted consultant support for undertaking the assessment of impacts related to potential revisions of Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury. Specifically, this includes the area of emissions of mercury and mercury compounds from crematoria. The purpose of this consultation is to gather information from technical experts and experienced professionals on the preferred methods to phase out mercury in the three areas mentioned. A consortium comprising Air Quality Consultants (AQC), Bio Innovation Service (Bio), Risk and Policy Analysts Ltd (RPA), Global Research for Safety (GRS), and the French Institute for Industrial Environmental Risks (INERIS), has been appointed to carry out the contract. You can find more on this and take part in the stakeholder survey by visiting the [RPA website](#). The deadline for completion of the questionnaire is Friday 25th February 2022.



---

### RESEARCH NEWS

The Centre for Death & Society has announced its conference for 2022 - 'Institutions and Death'. The online conference will explore institutions and institutional responses to death. The ways in which institutions themselves shape and inform understandings of death, loss and grief and the inequalities and disenfranchisement that can arise as a result. The call for contributions is now open and you can find more details on the [CDAS website](#).

## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



**Canfly Marketing** produce beautifully designed presentation bags suitable for Urns, Caskets, Scatter Tubes and Cremation Ash Boxes.



**Capital Refractories** is a leading manufacturer and supplier of refractory materials offering bespoke design and installation solutions for cremation and incineration systems.



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.



**The MazWell Group Ltd** - Exclusive Manufacturer and Distributor of Dodge® Products

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**



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



**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](mailto: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](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)  
[www.cremation.org.uk](http://www.cremation.org.uk)



If you do not wish to receive future newsletters from us, please email us at [info@cremation.org.uk](mailto: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.