



THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor
Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

We are feeling the love in The Cremation Society's offices this month as more and more of you are booking your places on both the joint organisations' **one-day bereavement seminar** and this year's **CBCE event**. We have some really high quality speakers booked for both events and so if you haven't already, I would encourage you to book your place. The events will not only provide you with an opportunity to hear interesting and relevant subject-matter discussed by real experts but also a chance to network with colleagues in the sector. Those opportunities are invaluable to us all, I am sure you will agree. So please have a look at our '**Latest News & Events**' **page on our website** and register your place now.

Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS



Harvey Thomas CBE has announced that he will step down from the role of Chairman of the Cremation Society in July. He will continue as a trustee and Council member.

Mr Thomas succeeded the Reverend Dr Peter Jupp as Chairman of the Society in 2009. He is also a non-executive director of the London Cremation Company plc which owns Golders Green Crematorium, together with five other crematoria.

His professional career included 15 years directing the late Billy Graham's missions around the world and 14 years with Margaret Thatcher, when he was Director of Press and Communication for the Conservative Party.

'The Cremation Society is the leading cremation organisation in the country', Mr Thomas said. 'It has been a privilege to serve as its Chairman and I look forward to working with, and supporting, my successor.'

The Society's Council will shortly appoint a Vice-Chairman to succeed Mr Thomas and take on the role of Chairman in July.

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

The latest Spring issue of *Pharos International* is now available to purchase, as part of a subscription or as a one-off issue. An annual subscription now includes a dedicated 'statistics' issue which is due to be published in August 2019 – at no extra cost. Articles included in the latest issue of *Pharos* include:

Presentations from CBCE 2018:

- **History helps deal with the future** – Howard Hodgson MBIFD (Dip) Ass. RSH

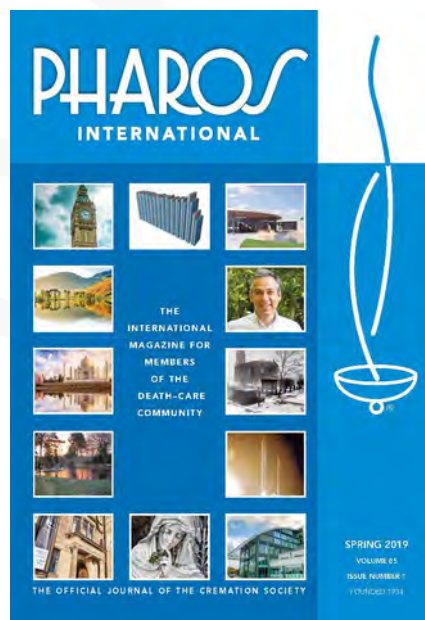
- **The Funeral Discourse – Drivers of Change in Scotland** – John Birrell MA, LIB, BD

Government press release – New law supports all families who suffer the loss of a child

Article by writer John Clarke – Brookwood Cemetery – ‘Midst Surrey Pines’

UK & International Cremation News

To purchase a subscription or issue of *Pharos*, please **visit our website**.



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Southern Co-op have submitted an application to build a new crematorium at Climping, West Sussex, within a week of a similar application being made by another applicant for a site on the opposite side of the road. Southern Co-op said "The proposed site would include a crematorium and car parking together with a comprehensive landscaping scheme. As with other crematoria we own, we would ensure the land retains its character and carry out additional work on site to enhance biodiversity in the area." To read more on the application please visit the **West Sussex Today website**.

Plans submitted by **Huntingdon Town Council** for a new crematorium and cemetery near the Jubilee Park sports facility, have been approved by Huntingdonshire District Council's development management committee. Plans submitted by Dignity plc to build a crematorium a short distance away at Sawtry Way, in Wyton, were rejected by the committee for a second time and will now be considered by the Planning Inspectorate in April. For more details, please read the **Hunts Post article**.

Cheltenham's new £8.5million crematorium will host its first services on March 4 this year, the borough council has reported. An open day has been arranged, from 10am to 5pm, on Saturday March 2 so that members of the public can visit to view the new modern buildings and grounds. Please visit the **Gloucestershire Live website** for more details.



CREMATORIA NEWS

Central Bedfordshire Council have announced plans to build a new crematorium in Steppingley near Flitwick. Application for planning permission to build the 'new and contemporary crematorium' was made on 1 February 2019 and the Council have now invited the public to give their feedback on the proposals. You can see the full application on the **Central Bedfordshire Council website**.

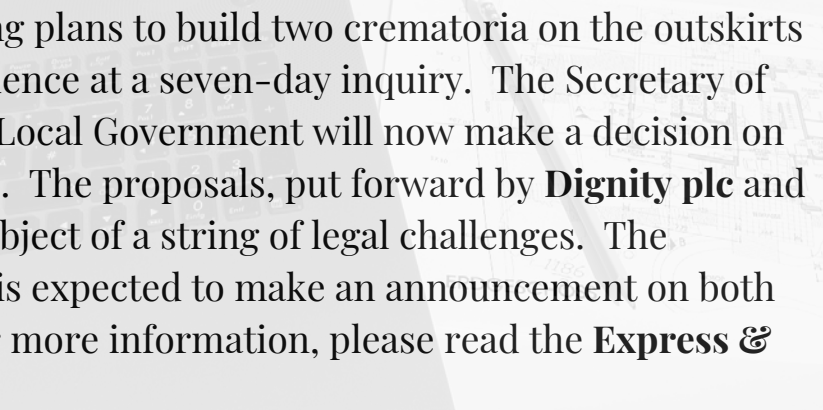
Plans have been approved by **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council** for a new £4.6 million crematorium by the A47 near the town's football stadium. The planning committee gave the green light to the plans and construction should start at the end of the year with the crematorium up and running within two years. The cost of the project is being paid for out of the council's capital budget, money which can only be spent on large projects, not day to day services. For more details, please visit the **Leicestershire Live article**.

Great Glen Crematorium in Leicestershire is believed to be the first UK crematorium to have an outdoor shrine dedicated to a Hindu deity, meaning worshippers can now perform an outdoor Shiva Abhishake, in which offerings are made to the god. Leicester has one of the largest Hindu populations in the UK, and its Diwali celebrations are among the biggest outside of India. To read more about the installation at the crematorium, please read the **BBC News article**.



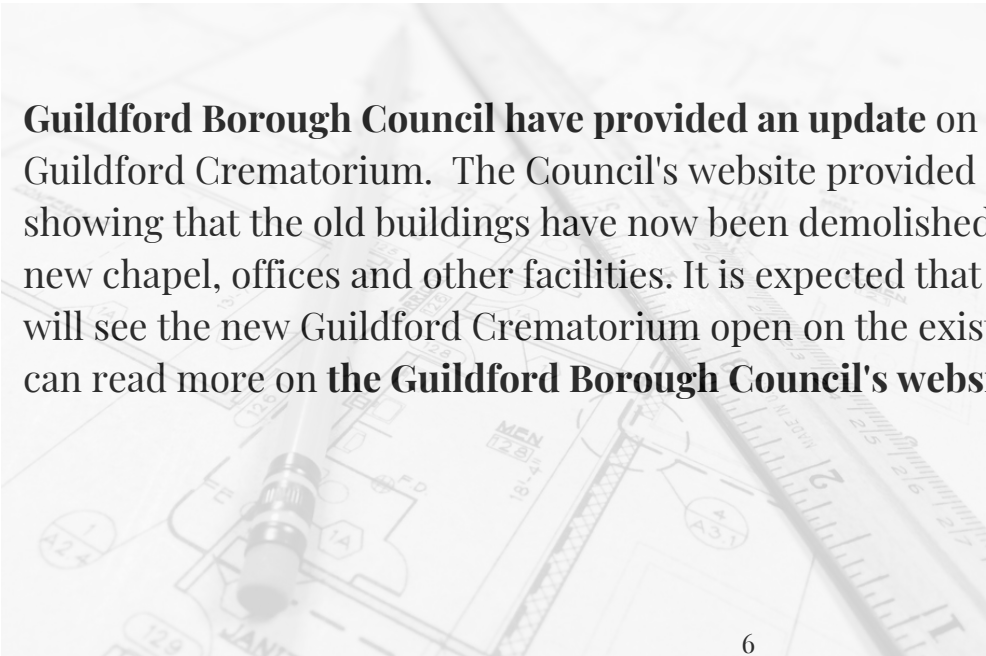
CREMATORIA NEWS

Government ministers are considering plans to build two crematoria on the outskirts of **Wolverhampton** after hearing evidence at a seven-day inquiry. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government will now make a decision on both proposals in the coming months. The proposals, put forward by **Dignity plc** and **Westerleigh Group**, have been the subject of a string of legal challenges. The Government's planning inspectorate is expected to make an announcement on both proposals in the coming months. For more information, please read the **Express & Star article**.



Chelmsford City Council says it is looking to spend £1.8m on a new cemetery and crematorium, enabling more cremations to be carried out and for the Council to increase its revenue. The Chelmsford Cemetery and Crematorium has been in operation since 1887. The Council hope that cremations will increase from 2,200 to 2,400 per annum and burials from 41 to 50 per annum by 2028. To read more on the proposals, please visit **the Chelmsford & Mid Essex Times website**.

Guildford Borough Council have provided an update on the redevelopment of Guildford Crematorium. The Council's website provided an aerial photograph showing that the old buildings have now been demolished and work has begun on the new chapel, offices and other facilities. It is expected that the £10 million investment will see the new Guildford Crematorium open on the existing site in late 2019. You can read more on **the Guildford Borough Council's website**.

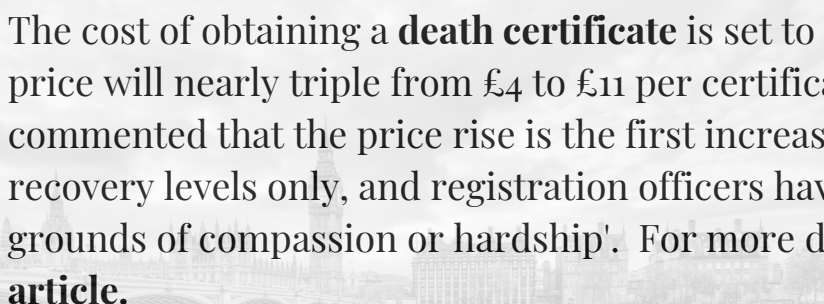


FUNERAL DIRECTOR NEWS

North Staffordshire's senior coroner Ian Smith has revealed a backlog of bodies in the area's public mortuary, caused by a shortage of pathologists available to carry out post-mortems. Mr Smith, who is due to retire in March, said that the national shortage of pathologists was likely to be the biggest issue facing his successor. Mr Smith said: "It's horrible for families left in limbo. We can't make things better with a death, but we can make it worse if we don't resolve the issue." You can read more on the issues facing Mr Smith's team in the **Stoke on Trent Live article**.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Competition and Markets Authority** (CMA) has published the responses it has received to its **Funerals market study** interim report. We await news on whether the CMA will be launching a full market investigation. You can read the responses received, on the **CMA website**.



The cost of obtaining a **death certificate** is set to increase from 16 February 2019. The price will nearly triple from £4 to £11 per certificate. The Home Office has commented that the price rise is the first increase since 2010: 'The fees are set at cost recovery levels only, and registration officers have power to waive or reduce fees on grounds of compassion or hardship'. For more details, please read the **BBC News article**.

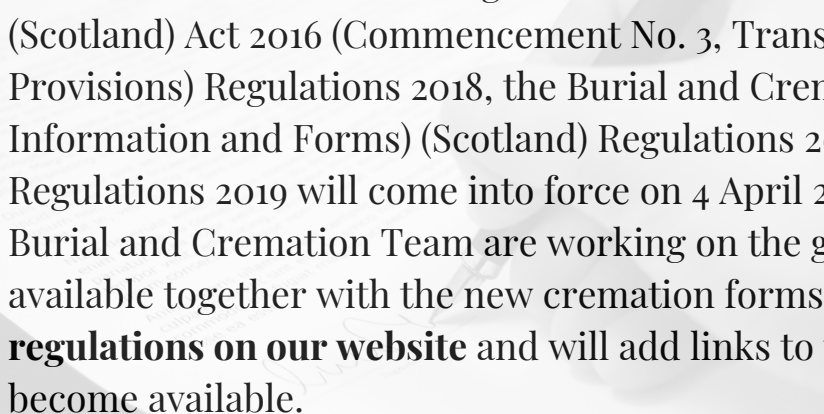


NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

The **Scottish Government** have published their analysis of the responses received to their consultation on the **draft guidance on funeral costs**. You can read the full analysis report on the **Scottish Government website**.

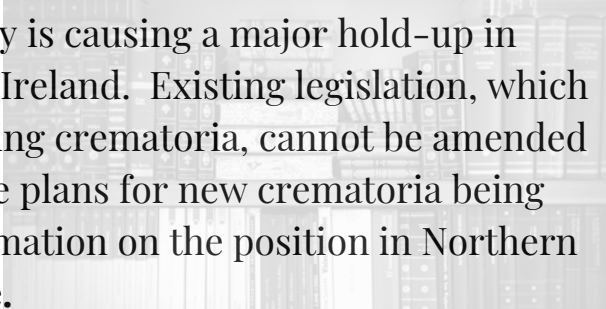


New burial and cremation regulations have been passed by Scottish Government committees and have been agreed in their final form. The Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 (Commencement No. 3, Transitional, Saving and Transitory Provisions) Regulations 2018, the Burial and Cremation (Pregnancy Loss Prescribed Information and Forms) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 and the Cremation (Scotland) Regulations 2019 will come into force on 4 April 2019 and the Scottish Government's Burial and Cremation Team are working on the guidance notes that will be made available together with the new cremation forms. We have added **links to the new regulations on our website** and will add links to the new cremation forms, once they become available.



NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

The suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly is causing a major hold-up in enabling new crematoria to be built in Northern Ireland. Existing legislation, which precludes private sector companies from operating crematoria, cannot be amended without legislative changes, meaning that despite plans for new crematoria being approved, no progress can be made. More information on the position in Northern Ireland, can be found on the **NewsLetter website**.





INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Washington is preparing to legislate to become the first US state to allow human composting as a burial option. The driving force behind the movement is Katrina Spade and her company, **Recompose**. It says it can turn a body into useable, fertile, soil in 30 days. University of Southern California public policy Professor David Sloane comments that as culture changes, there will always be ethical and societal questions raised by the composting of bodies. For more details on the push for new legislation, please see the **BBC News article**.

Dutch laws surrounding burial and cremation will be adapted in the coming year to suit the wishes of relatives, Dutch Home Affairs minister Kajsa Ollongren has announced. Among the rules that are being considered, will be the option of resomation and the removal of the stipulation that bodies be buried after a wait of at least 36 hours after death. Families will also be able to pick up urns containing the ashes of their relatives from crematoria earlier than the current one-month wait, the minister said. More details on the rules being considered, can be found in the **Dutch News article online**.

A **New Zealand** crematorium is making a final call to find homes for a number of sets of unclaimed ashes. Whenua Tapu Cemetery and Crematorium, Porirua would like to reunite the family of more than 20 sets of unclaimed human ashes. The crematorium received most of the ashes from funeral homes that went out of business and are now making a final push to reunite them. Any ashes that are not claimed by the beginning of March will be interred by cemetery staff. For more details, please see the **New Zealand Herald website**.



TRIPADVISOR FOR CREMATORIA...?



In an age where feedback is invited for seemingly every transaction in life, it appears that death is not exempt from the realms of star ratings.

'**The Times**' columnist Melanie Reid was intrigued to discover that Google allows users to 'review' the services of crematoria, giving them a star rating out of 5. In her **recent article**, she commented: 'My fellow mourners and I decreed that we want to go out in a five-star. Or 4.5 minimum. La crème de la crem, you might say.'

Have you read your reviews?

AS SEEN ON TWITTER...

American author, Dana Schwarz's tweet went viral when she tweeted an offer that some found hard not to take up:-

'If you pay me \$50 I'll show up to your funeral but stand really far away, holding a black umbrella regardless of the weather, so that people think you died with a dark and interesting secret.'

Coming to a funeral service near you...



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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