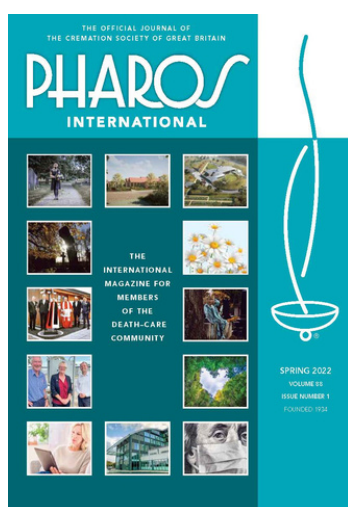




A monthly review of news and events from within the bereavement sector



The spring issue of our journal, **Pharos International**, will shortly be published. If you do not subscribe and would like to, you can order your subscription [via our website](#).

We're delighted to announce that booking for this year's CBCE is now open. Thank you to all those exhibitors and delegates who have already booked on - please do not leave it too long to book your place! You can find more details on the [CBCE website](#) and on page 5.

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



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Refurbishment works at **Lincoln crematorium** have now been completed after a **£2.5 million** investment to increase capacity and enable more tailored services at the site. Plans were first given the green light for refurbishment in 2019 to make the site more welcoming, as well as doubling capacity with the construction of a second chapel. There has also been an upgrade to the back of house areas of the main building, including the committal areas, and the inclusion of two new cremators along with a new 85-space car park. Cllr Bob Bushell Portfolio Holder for Remarkable Place at **City of Lincoln Council** said: “Investment into Lincoln Crematorium has been important to ensure this site is kept up to date and at a high standard for families to say goodbye to their loved ones. By doubling the capacity of the site, we are future-proofing the facility, preparing for an increase in demand as both the city and its surrounding villages continue to expand.” For more on this story please visit the [Lincolnite article](#).

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Rural **Angus** residents have won a 16-month planning fight to stop a crematorium being built on their doorstep. Angus Council officials said the plan for the **Duntrune site** breached local, regional and national planning policy, whilst local objectors spent £3,500 fighting the proposal. Angus farming firm **F M & G Batchelor** wanted to build the crematorium, car park and memorial garden on nearly two hectares of farmland east of **Duntrune House, near Murroes**. The proposal drew more than 700 objections, 450 of which were people who lived within a mile-and-a-half of the site. Opponents of the scheme have also suggested the area is already adequately served by crematoria in Dundee and at Parkgrove, Friockheim. Angus officials also considered that the scheme would have resulted in an “unsustainable pattern of travel and development” and that its location would have put a reliance on mourners using private cars because of poor public transport links. The family firm behind the idea has yet to comment on the refusal decision, but it remains open for them to appeal. For more details on this story, please visit [The Courier website](#).

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## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Great Glen Crematorium has celebrated the third anniversary of a Shiva shrine installed at its site to serve local Hindu and Sikh families. Great Glen Crematorium is believed to be the first in the UK to have installed a dedicated shrine to Shiva and three years on, the team reflected on the positive impact it has had serving the needs of the diverse local community. **Site Manager Harvey Watson** said: "We have seen families bring their loved ones to us on their final journey from all over the country". Great Glen Crematorium is part of **Westerleigh Group**, the UK's largest owner and operator of crematoria and cemeteries, with 36 sites in England, Scotland, and Wales. Shiva is the third god in the Hindu triumvirate, and the statue at Great Glen Crematorium has had a roof placed over it to offer shelter to those who visit it to offer their prayers. The statue is significant to the local community, as it is said that Lord Shiva is an inhabitant of the cremation ground. Hindu and Sikh families can have an open coffin ceremony and say a final goodbye to their loved ones before the short committal service in Great Glen's chapel before the cremation takes place. Great Glen Crematorium opened in 2017 within 30 acres of landscaped grounds and gardens. For more details on this story, please visit the [inyourarea.co.uk website](http://inyourarea.co.uk).

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Plans to build a new crematorium off the **A414/Maldon Road** near **Woodham Mortimer** have been given a boost after funeral directors expressed their support for the proposals. The proposed **Maldon Fields crematorium** would provide a cremation service and garden of remembrance, enabling families living in and around the district to avoid longer journeys to Chelmsford, Basildon or Colchester. Funeral director Paul King wrote: "A new facility will finally allow families to have the service they crave without delay and within a dignified, peaceful setting." His views were echoed by Saul Hunnaball, director of the Hunnaball Family Funeral Group who stated: "Chelmsford crematorium suffers from being quite busy, holding many more funerals than its original design. A new, more accessible crematorium would greatly improve this situation, allowing a more dignified service to take place without the sense of being the next one in line." To read the full article, please visit the [Maldon Standard's website](#).

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## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

The overall cost of a scheme to modernise **Bradford's crematoria** will cost almost £7million more than originally budgeted. Announced in November 2016, **Bradford Council's** Bereavement Strategy included a major refurbishment of **Oakworth Crematorium** and two new crematoria created to replace existing, ageing facilities. A new crematorium at **Long Lane in Heaton** would replace the existing facility at **Nab Wood**, and a new facility at **Shetcliffe Lane, Bierley**, would replace the **Scholemoor Crematorium**. Originally all three projects were projected to cost £23m, but that has now rocketed to £29.7m. "Volatility in the construction market" has been blamed for the rising costs. Councillor Sarah Ferriby, Bradford Council's Executive Member for Healthy People and Places, said: "Like many other significant building projects around the country there are well-documented pressures in the construction industry around staff and materials. This is something that we are fully aware of and are continuing to monitor and respond to closely". For more information regarding this story, please visit the [Telegraph and Argus article](#).

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Significant refurbishment to the public areas at **Poole Crematorium** is due to begin soon with **BCP Council's** investment in the site seeing notable improvements to the ceremony room and cloisters, the construction of a new covered external waiting area, plus renovation of the reception and waiting room. Other improvements include the creation of a new Book of Remembrance private viewing room, the addition of a wildlife-inspired mural by a local artist and a new outside floral wreath court. As a result, Poole Crematorium will be temporarily closed from 14th March 2022 for 22 weeks, with the crematorium scheduled to re-open at the end of August 2022 and services resuming from the first week of September. These enhancements form part of the BCP Bereavement Care 'Phase 1' business plan approved by Cabinet. Councillor Mark Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Place said: "The experience of many bereaved people throughout the pandemic has shown just how important the right time and space needed to grieve is, so these vital refurbishments at Poole Crematorium will make a real difference to residents in their times of grief". For the full article, please visit the [Dorset Eye website](#).

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## SECTOR NEWS

### CBCE 2022

**Return and Reset. Exploring post-COVID changes in the cremation and burial sector**



We are delighted to announce that registration is now open for this year's CBCE 2022. We will be meeting again in-person and we look forward to inviting you to join us! This year's event will be held at **Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton** from **Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd June 2022**.

Whilst the cremation and burial sector faced many challenges raised by the COVID-19 pandemic, significant changes impacting the sector were already simmering away in the background, and these issues have not gone away. CBCE 2022 will bring together inspirational and relevant speakers to discuss some of the key developments that the sector will have to contend with, in the short to medium term.

CBCE 2022 provides the ideal opportunity to not only reflect on some of the experiences during the pandemic but also to tackle the many changes and challenges that have been developing in the background.

**To register for this year's event** - visit the [CBCE website](#) and book online. For any queries please contact the CBCE Administration Team at [info@cbce.org.uk](mailto:info@cbce.org.uk) or call on 01543 439714.

For sponsorship and exhibiting opportunities, please find more details on the [CBCE website](#).

Follow CBCE on [Twitter](#) for further updates.



## BEREAVEMENT NEWS

### DECEASED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP UPDATE

Update on 'Coronavirus Act – Death certification and cremation forms after the Coronavirus Act expires'

The Coronavirus Act 2020, which introduced easements to death certification processes and cremation forms in England and Wales, expires at midnight on **24th March 2022**. Some changes have been retained on a permanent basis through other measures, and other processes revert to previous practice.

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 government's intention is that the form **Cremation 5** will **not** be re-introduced after the **Coronavirus Act expires**.

The following emergency provisions are **changing** with the expiry of the Act:

- The provision temporarily allowing any medical practitioner to complete the MCCD, introduced as a temporary measure by the Coronavirus Act, will be discontinued.
- Informants will have to register deaths in **person**, not remotely.



Deceased Management  
Advisory Group



## BEREAVEMENT NEWS

### JOINT BEREAVEMENT SERVICES SEMINAR



Booking is now open! The Seminar will take place at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-Upon-Avon on Wednesday 30th March - 9:15am - 4:20am.

As the environmental agenda increasingly impacts society, how should the bereavement sector respond? What is the future for burial and cremation? Where are we with new and existing technologies to provide greener means of disposal? What changes are likely to environmental legislation?

**A not to be missed event for all involved in bereavement services in the UK.**

For Professionals, By Professionals | Excellent Learning Opportunity  
4 Sessions - Papers and Discussions | Excellent Value for Money

We are welcoming sponsorships for companies/affiliates looking to sponsor the event! There are currently 4 spots available which we will use in promotional activity as well as include any potential exhibition space on the day. Please contact [admin@fbca.org.uk](mailto:admin@fbca.org.uk) to discuss this opportunity and pricing. [Visit the booking page for the full programme and to book tickets now.](#)



## BEREAVEMENT 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 easements
- MCCD digitisation
- Health and Care Bill update
- Extending medical examiner scrutiny to other healthcare providers
- Medical examiner case management system
- GP section - national solution to data sharing
- Deaths after discharge from hospital



#### National Medical Examiner update

February 2022

##### Welcome

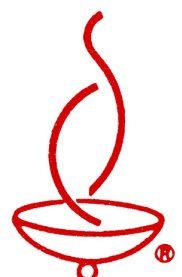
Medical examiners and medical examiner officers, along with the rest of the NHS in England and Wales, will have experienced considerable pressures over recent months. I fully understand that Omicron, along with winter pressures, have made it a particularly challenging time.

However I am encouraged and grateful for the remarkable progress that medical examiner offices have continued to make. Medical examiners scrutinised more than 50,000 deaths in the quarter ending December 2021. I know that some medical examiner offices have been recruiting additional staff, and started to develop processes with GPs and other healthcare providers. This process will need to continue and accelerate in coming months. I intend to provide guidance on out-of-hours provision in the near future.

As you will see in this update, the Health and Care Bill continues to progress through parliament, bringing us closer to the advent of the statutory medical examiner system. There are many other areas of significant work to take forward, including our ambition to provide a national means of accessing GP records in England. We have also been working hard to provide updated guidance about the death certification, registration and cremation provisions after the Coronavirus Act expires, and DHSC, the Ministry of Justice, and the General Register Office recently agreed the update which is being published.

There is much to do, but as ever I am grateful to all for your hard work and dedication.

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner





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**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

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**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



**EDGE IT Systems** are market leaders in the supply of cloud based software solutions. Our Epitaph software with digital mapping is specifically designed for cemetery and crematorium facilities management.

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**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.

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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](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)



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