



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



JOINT BEREAVEMENT SERVICES SEMINAR

Due to the surge in Omicron cases at the beginning of the year, the decision was made to postpone the **Joint Bereavement Services Seminar** from 2nd February to 30th March.

We hope you will be able to join us for the seminar at Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon and booking details will be made available soon.

After preparing for a challenging start to the start of 2022, with Omicron looking likely to derail progress made, it is a relief to have escaped another lockdown with restrictions easing across the UK. Some good news at last!

We have emailed crematoria with our annual cremation survey and we are grateful for the prompt response by many. If you have not yet completed yours, please do - we do appreciate your time.

Thank you!

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society




NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Work on the £3.88 million project at **Le Foulon Crematorium** is expected to finish soon. The project began back in August 2019 to replace the 20-year-old crematorium equipment and upgrade the chapel and grounds. However, the work ended up taking longer than planned, largely due to delays caused by lockdowns and safety measures put in place to protect staff and contractors whilst work continued. A Property Services spokesman confirmed that the project had been progressing and went on to state that "the work to replace the end-of-life existing unit with new bariatric cremators, install new flue gas abatement plant and make improvements to the chapel and surrounding area is now well progressed. The new cremators are now fully functional and the old cremator plant has been removed." The building works are due to be completed in the first quarter of the year. You can read more in the [Guernsey Press article](#)

A scaled-down proposal has been presented for a crematorium in **Hooton** in response to public concerns about previous plans from Scottish consortium 'Horizon Cremation'. The new bid from **Hooton Paddocks**, a local family company, is to be built on a secluded site on School Lane, utilising previously developed land. The prospective architects say the project would be a sympathetically designed and carefully proportioned crematorium building, less than half the size of the one proposed by Horizon. Richard Evans, Managing Director of Hooton Paddocks, said: "Bereaved families should have the chance to hold a more personal event closer to home, but the community needs a facility which is also respectful to the countryside by being of proportionate scale and discreet." The new development would hold just four funerals a day, enabling better spacing and a less rushed funeral experience. For more information on this story, please read the [Standard article](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

PLANS to build a Crematorium near **Caersws** are still in limbo months after the decision was called in by the Welsh Government. At the end of August 2021 plans by **Powys Crematorium Limited** to build an all-new crematorium as well as a garden of remembrance at a 13.66-hectare site at Ael Y Bryn between Caersws and Aberhafesp were “called in” to be decided in Cardiff by a government minister. A Welsh Government spokesman told the Local Democracy Reporting Service that there was no “update” and that no decision had been made yet. In May 2021, councillors on Powys County Council’s (PCC) planning committee backed the proposal – although with the understanding that the decision would be an advisory one should the plans be called in. Powys Crematorium Ltd has said it is “disappointed” and is confident the scheme will stand up to “the fullest scrutiny”. Objectors to the scheme are happy to see the Welsh Government decide the application and are “keen” to find out when a decision will be taken. They have argued that there are “many” reasons not to allow the Crematorium to be built. One of their main arguments is that extra traffic in a rural area, “on winding B roads” will cause major safety issues. For more on this story, please read [the Powys County Times article](#)

A proposed crematorium site near Earlswood Lakes in **Reigate** has been given protection from development. Hundreds of people last year spoke out against **Reigate and Banstead Borough Council’s** proposals for the facility off Woodhatch Road in Reigate, citing concerns about the crematorium being developed on green belt land, the potential increase in traffic and the impact on wildlife in the area. The council's planning committee later refused permission on the grounds that it was not appropriate development on the green belt. The decision also means the land will enjoy additional protection from development. The proposals for a crematorium on the site were rejected in late September, with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's planning committee deciding that it "would be inappropriate within the Metropolitan green belt and harmful to its openness". For more on this story, please read the [Surrey Live website](#)

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

A major refurbishment scheme at **Oakworth Crematorium** is set for completion within weeks. The £2.5m-plus project has included the installation of a new energy-efficient cremator – featuring latest emission-reducing technology – and a modernisation of the chapel. Work began last summer and Berman Building Co Ltd, based at Allerton, was awarded the contract. The scheme is part of an overall **Bradford Council** bereavement services improvement package, as existing cremators in the district are almost two decades old and operating several years beyond their expected working lives. The improvements will include new provision at Heaton – where work is expected to start next month – and Bierley. Councillor Sarah Ferriby, Bradford Council's executive member for healthy people and places, said: "This is a major project for the district which will provide residents with modern, efficient and environmentally-friendly bereavement services. For more information on this, please visit [the Keighley News article](#)

Concerns have been raised by Fenland Council over the location and the decision by **East Cambridgeshire District Council** to consult on its proposed £6.5m crematorium on the site of the outdoor centre at **Mepal**, which will have a memorial garden, natural burial areas, pet cemetery, car parking, and new access, but will be less than 10 miles from March, where a successful crematorium opened 11 years ago. Cllr Mark Inskip, an East Cambs councillor who represents Mepal, complained that “the demolition wrecking ball” was taken to the outdoor centre even before the crematorium application was approved. This, despite a public consultation showing 85.4 per cent of those surveyed opposed to it whilst only 13 per cent expressed support. Mepal Parish Council has stated concerns “regarding possible odours” either from the crematorium or the anaerobic digester plant adjacent to the site, which has also been given permission to expand, and that could potentially affect those attending funerals, whilst it feels additional consideration should be given to pedestrian access and providing adequate parking given the remote nature of the site. Cllr Inskip, together with fellow ward councillor Lorna Dupre, accuse East Cambs of not providing “a robust case to justify the need for a new crematorium in this part of the district. For more information on this story, please read [the Ely Standard article](#)

NEWS REVIEW

BEREAVEMENT NEWS

Cruse Bereavement Support has launched a free to access on-line journal.

'Bereavement: Journal of grief and responses to death' has been launched with the publication of new cutting-edge articles from academics and practitioners, and this on-line journal will replace and build on Bereavement Care. It will be the online home to regular articles from leading experts, writing about grief from a variety of perspectives including academia and research, innovation in the field and commentary on current practice.

To continue the legacy of the journal's conversations and academic analysis on grief, this new edition includes articles covering: the latest research on bereavement during the Covid-19 pandemic, the uniqueness of the loss of a twin, the role of culture and religion in the experience of stillbirth in Nigeria, grief support and therapy dogs for incarcerated women and hospital services that support families bereaved during the pandemic. It also asks the important question: do bereavement studies need to be decolonised?

Cruse will be publishing blog posts on key topics raised and discussed in the journal on its website, to widen the knowledge and understanding of bereavement beyond the academic research to practitioners and to the general public. For more information, please visit the [Cruse Bereavement Support website](#)

Cruse Bereavement
Support



NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A Geelong manufacturer located in the south-eastern **Australian** state of Victoria is to investigate hydrogen-powered cremation. Renewable hydrogen is not yet produced in large volumes, though investigations into its potential are gathering pace, including a new Victorian government-backed study into its possible use in the crematorium industry. \$6.6 million in grants have been awarded to assist projects by six companies in the state, including bus maker Volgren, refinery operator Viva Energy, and engineering firm Austeng. The latter is leading a project with Geelong Cemeteries Trust – which will provide industry and operational information – on modifying crematoria furnaces to run on a gas/hydrogen blend, followed by purely green hydrogen. The initial blended solution would address “the challenge of balancing supply and demand during the transition” to 100 per cent renewable fuel. Darryl Thomas, CEO of the **Geelong Cemeteries Trust**, added that the project “was a terrific example of collaboration between Geelong organisations toward a common goal to improve environmental outcomes for the crematoria industry and beyond.” For more information, please visit the [Au Manufacturing article](#)



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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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