



# THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



## Children's Funeral Fund

The Children's Funeral Fund comes into effect on 23 July 2019. You can read more about this and find the link to the forms for use by funeral directors and burial/cremation authorities on page 10.

## Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the recent **CBCE** event. We were delighted with the record number of delegates and it was good to see many colleagues catching up with the latest developments from within our sector. There will shortly be an online selection of photographs available on the **CBCE website** and updates will be posted on our social media channels.





## Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

#### **The Cremation Society elects Professor Hilary J Grainger OBE as new Chair**

We are delighted to announce that **Professor Hilary J Grainger OBE** has been elected as the new Chair of The Cremation Society. Retiring Chairman, Harvey Thomas CBE, said: "I am delighted that Hilary has been elected Chair of the Society. She has made many strategic contributions since she joined the Council in 2008 and she has an extraordinary knowledge of UK cremation and crematoria, which will be invaluable as she leads the Society forward."

You can **read the full Press Release on our website**. We feature an interview with our new Chair on page 4.



## **CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS**

### **CREMATION AND BURIAL COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION 'Pause, Reflect, Respond'**

**Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July 2019**  
Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton

We were delighted to work with the **Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities** on another successful **Cremation and Burial Communication and Education** event this year. We hope those who attended will agree the calibre of speakers was excellent, covering a wide range of topical issues and creating many debates and discussions throughout. It was good to see many new exhibitors as well as our friends and colleagues who have joined us at CBCE, over many years. For those who were with us, we hope you found it an informative few days, with a chance to meet others within the sector. If you have not already completed your feedback form, please do as we would like to hear from you.







## CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

### **An interview with Professor Hilary J Grainger OBE, new Chair of The Cremation Society**

#### **When did you first begin to take an interest in crematoria design and architecture?**

In the late 1970s when I was undertaking my PhD on the late Victorian architect Sir Ernest George. I discovered that he had designed Golders Green Crematorium and I spent some time in both the London Cremation Company and The Cremation Society Archives. Many years later in 1999 I gave a paper about Golders Green at the DDD4 (Death, Dying & Disposal) Conference at Glasgow Caledonian University where I met Peter Jupp and Stephen White from the Cremation Society who invited me to speak at the Cremation Society Conference the following year. Realising that there was nothing published on the architecture of crematoria I set about researching the subject which resulted in my first book, *Death Redesigned: British Crematoria, History, Architecture and Landscape*, being published in 2005.



#### **What do you think are the biggest challenges facing architects today from an environmental aspect?**

Increasingly one of the main challenges will be the adaptation of older, often listed, buildings to include mercury abatement equipment. There have been some highly creative solutions emerging. When Medway Council employed Clay Architecture to install equipment, they seized the opportunity to increase the capacity of the chapels. A handsome 'wedge-shaped' extension hides the technology in the roof space. One of the most complex and challenging exercises took place at Pere-Lachaise in Paris, one of the earliest crematoria in Europe, and which remains one of the busiest. Five cremators carry out about 8,000 cremations a year. The abatement equipment is housed underground and is hidden entirely from the public. New chimneys have been rendered invisible by the ingenious use of a double wall at the end of one of the columbaria.

**Cont...**



**Have there been any highlights in your time researching and lecturing on crematoria architecture?**

There have been dozens over the past 20 or so years – some very amusing, some very touching and others rather bizarre and unexpected. For many years Peter Jupp and I travelled to Romania to give conference papers at the University of Alba Iulia in Transylvania where our colleague Marius Rotar is making strenuous efforts to introduce cremation. On one occasion we were whisked away from the airport on arrival, to attend the opening of the second crematorium in Romania. We ended up being interviewed by the local television company, apparently appearing on the evening news later that evening.

One of the overarching highlights in visiting so many crematoria, lately in Scotland, I am always struck by the commitment and professionalism of all those involved in cremation.

**What are you looking forward to in taking on the role of Chair of the Cremation Society?**

I am very much looking forward to working with the Council and colleagues from fellow organisations across the sector to vigorously promote cremation and the role of the crematorium in contemporary society. The Cremation Society's independence and charitable status provide it with a unique opportunity to take responsibility for educating and fostering good practice through publication, in particular, *Pharos*; conferences and other media and the interrogation of the comprehensive statistical data which is held by the Society and used worldwide to support cremation.

The Society has the resources and talents to inspire and inform the different approaches needed to ensure that cremation continues to play a vital role in society, given the changes and challenges that confront us today, not least of which involve environmental sustainability and the need to serve the diverse needs of mourners and the bereaved.

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

**Dignity UK Ltd** has won a planning appeal over its plans to build a new crematorium near RAF Wyton, **Huntingdon**, despite Huntingdon Town Council planning to build their own crematorium just over a mile away. Planning appeal inspector Claire Searson said: "In broad terms there is no dispute that within Huntingdonshire district there is a qualitative and quantitative need for further provision at the current time, as no crematoria currently operate in the district." The planning permission comes after a history of appeals from both the Town Council and Dignity to previous rejected applications. You can read the full story on the **Hunts Post website**.

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Two new crematoria planning applications due to be discussed by **Arun District Council's** planning committee, were removed from the agenda pending more information being required by the committee. Applications had been submitted by **Southern Co-operative** and **Landlink Estates**. You can read more on the **Littlehampton Gazette website**.

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Plans submitted by **Westerleigh Group** for a new crematorium on land in **Nesscliffe**, between Oswestry and Shrewsbury, have been refused by Shropshire Council's Central Planning Committee, saying it is in the wrong location. Prior to the decision, a spokesman for RAF Shawbury had placed on record that any noise complaints received would be referred to Shropshire Council's Planning Department. You can read more details about the decision, on the **Border Counties Advertiser website**.

## CREMATORIA NEWS

**Breckland Crematorium** has officially opened, five years after plans were originally submitted. The new crematorium, developed by Thornalley Funeral Services began services at the beginning of July. The crematorium has a large chapel for services including music and visual tributes. There is also a garden of remembrance with a number of memorials available. You can read more on the new crematorium on the **Eastern Daily Press website**.

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**Bierton Crematorium** has celebrated opening its doors with an official ceremony, attended by local dignitaries and councillors. The new crematorium was officially opened by Councillor Mike Smith, Chairman of the Crematoria Joint Committee (made up of Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern and Wycombe District Councils) which commissioned and will run the site. You can read about the ceremony on the **Bucks Herald website**.



**The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities** has published guidance on **direct cremations** detailing the standard of care and procedures expected of its Members. You can read the guidance on the **FBCA website**.




**FBCA**  
FEDERATION OF BURIAL  
AND CREMATION AUTHORITIES



## CREMATORIA NEWS

**Plymouth City Council** has secured land for the development of its new crematorium near Saltram Park. The transfer of the site marks another major milestone in the £12 million scheme, which will see the development of a state-of-the-art, modern facility. For the latest news on this story, please see **the Plymouth Herald article**.



**Hambleton District Council** has announced proposals to build a new crematorium. Leader of the council, Councillor Mark Robson, said that approval for the scheme will be sought from members in September with work on the project having been underway for the last 12 months with a specialist consultant looking at the need, business case and possible sites. News on this development can be found on the **Minster FM website**.

A service of dedication of **North Wiltshire Crematorium** took place on 17 July 2019, attended by local funeral directors, clergy and funeral celebrants as well as senior representatives of professional organisations from the bereavement sector. The service of dedication was led by The Right Reverend Lee Rayfield, Suffragan Bishop of Swindon, who emphasised the importance of those involved in making funeral arrangements and providing facilities at crematoria and for the bereaved to be able to mourn. You can find more information about the crematorium on **Westerleigh's website**.

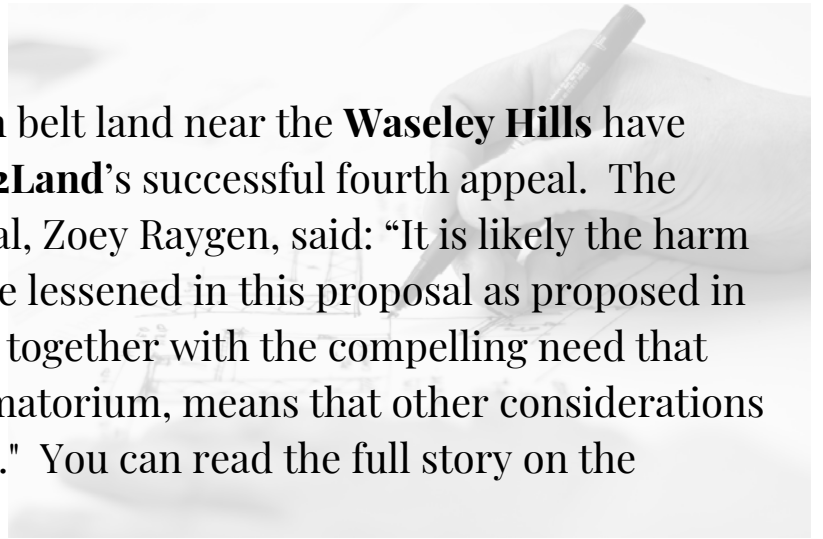






## CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans to build a crematorium on green belt land near the **Waseley Hills** have been approved following developer **H2Land**'s successful fourth appeal. The planning inspector for the latest appeal, Zoey Raygen, said: "It is likely the harm to the openness and purpose, would be lessened in this proposal as proposed in the extant planning permission. This, together with the compelling need that has been demonstrated for a new crematorium, means that other considerations in this case clearly outweigh the harm." You can read the full story on the **Bromsgrove Standard website**.



The development of a crematorium on the graveyard of former mental institution, **Calderstone Hospital**, has been halted by The Bishop of Blackburn. The Rt Rev Julian Henderson has rejected an application to de-consecrate the cemetery at Calderstones Hospital necessary to allow building work to continue. Rt Rev Henderson said: "This matter has been considered carefully at every stage of the process. Having looked carefully at the current evidence presented to me, I state in my determination I am not convinced enough of the site is clear of human remains. That being the case therefore, I will not allow the building work to proceed." You can read more on this development on the **Lancashire Telegraph website**.

Equipment at Le Foulon Crematorium in Guernsey, which is nearly 20 years old, is to be replaced. The chapel will not be available for services for 18 months whilst the work is being carried out. "As the only option for funeral cremation available in Guernsey, it is a critically important facility, so maintaining availability while we replace this equipment is a priority" Mark Ogier, head of estates strategy at Property Services, said. For more details, read the **Guernsey Press article**.



## GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Government has laid regulations before Parliament, bringing into effect from 23 July 2019 the **Children's Funeral Fund** for England, announced by the Prime Minister in April 2018. The scheme will mean that bereaved parents, guardians or carers will no longer pay the fees charged for the cremation and burial of a child under the age of 18. For full details of the new regulations, please read the **Gov.uk news release**.

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The **Ministry of Justice** has released the **forms for use by funeral directors and burial and cremation authorities** to claim for the costs of a child's funeral, under the Children's Funeral Fund for England. The forms can be found on the **Gov.uk website** or via our website.

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The **Department for Work and Pensions** has announced changes to the **Funeral Expenses Payment** claim procedure, enabling claims to be made more quickly. An important change is that claimants will now be able to make a claim with an anticipated funeral date rather than a confirmed date. You can read more details from the **DWP Press Release**.

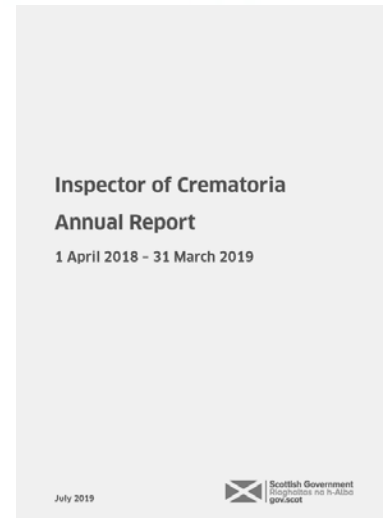
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The **Competition and Markets Authority** have published the responses received to their issues statement in relation to their **Funeral Markets Study**. You can read The Cremation Society's response along with other published responses, on the **CMA webpage**.



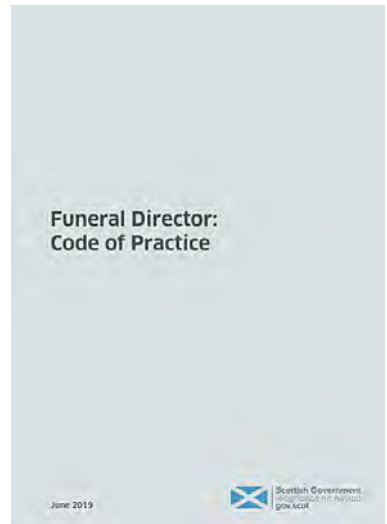
## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Inspector of Cremation, Robert Swanson**, has released his **annual report** covering the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. You can find this on the **Scottish Government website** or via our website <https://www.cremation.org.uk/consultations-and-reports>



The **Scottish Government** has published a consultation on a **Funeral Director Code of Practice**. This code will, for the first time, set out statutory standards of good practice for funeral directors in Scotland.

Public Health Minister Joe FitzPatrick said: “I am pleased to launch this consultation which has been developed in collaboration with representatives of funeral director businesses. The code will be the first of its kind for Scotland’s funeral directors and sets out good standards of practice, which funeral directors will be required to comply with.”



You can read more on this, along with the Code of Practice on the **Scottish Government website**.

## NEWS FROM WALES

**NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP)** has announced the appointment of **Dr Jason Shannon** to the role of Lead Medical Examiner for Wales. Dr Shannon will oversee the Wales Medical Examiner Service that will scrutinise all deaths across a local area that do not fall under a Coroner’s jurisdiction. You can read **NWSSP’s full Press Release** on their website.





## BEREAVEMENT NEWS

**Warrington Borough Council** has launched a new **funeral plan**, aimed at preventing residents from falling into debt following a bereavement. The authority says the community funeral plan offers residents a 'dignified and reasonable-cost alternative', through a fixed-cost funeral priced lower than the national average. You can read more details on this new scheme, on the **Warrington Guardian website**.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Faro Council** has signed a contract for the building and management of the **Algarve's first crematorium**.

According to regional newspaper Sul Informação, the facility will take shape in the city's new cemetery and comprises a crematory and all associated services, such as a tanatopraxia (body preparation) room, reception, ecumenical chapel, storerooms, sanitary facilities and a dressing room. You can read more in the **Portugal News article**.

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## RESOMATION NEWS

**Resomation** will hold their next open day on Thursday 26 September 2019. Join them to find out more information on the process, view a Resomation system and find out the latest about water cremation in the UK. You can find full details on the **Resomation website**.





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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