



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



Pharos International Statistics Issue 2020

We are delighted to publish this year's dedicated statistics issue of **Pharos International**.

We received fantastic feedback on last year's publication and would be interested to hear from you as to what you find interesting and what you would like to see featured in future issues. Please do **let us know** what you think!

Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

Life seems to gradually be settling into a 'new normal' and we hope you are finding your way back into life as we know it!

We are pleased to announce that we will be back in the office full time from Monday 3rd August 2020.

We will continue to keep you updated on news and developments from across the sector via our **Latest News page** on our website and via **Twitter**.

COVID-19 - UPDATE

Deceased Management Advisory Group



Government guidance continues to be published on a regular basis and we continue to liaise with the Government and devolved administrations over the continuing easing of lockdown measures and the implications for the funeral sector.

Please visit the [DMAG website](#) or the [DMAG Twitter feed](#) to view recent updates but we have listed below some of the more significant guidance notes issued since our last news review:-

- 16.07.2020 **Scottish Government** updates guidance on '[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): funeral services in places of worship](#)'
- 15.07.2020 **Scottish Government** introduces '[COVID-19 Test and Protect guidance in the funeral industry](#)', applicable to cremation authorities, burial authorities, places of worship and funeral director service rooms offering funeral services
- 09.07.2020 **Public Health England** issues updated '[COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#)'
- 08.07.2020 **Public Health England** issues updated '[Guidance for care of the deceased with suspected or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)'
- 03.07.2020 **Northern Ireland Department of Health** issues '[Updated Interim Guidelines for Funeral Directors on managing infection risks when handling deceased](#)'
- 02.07.2020 **Department of Health & Social Care** issues [guidance on maintaining records](#) to support NHS Test and Trace, which applies in (amongst other places) 'places of worship' and 'facilities provided by the local authority'



CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

We are delighted to publish our second dedicated statistics of journal, **Pharos International**.

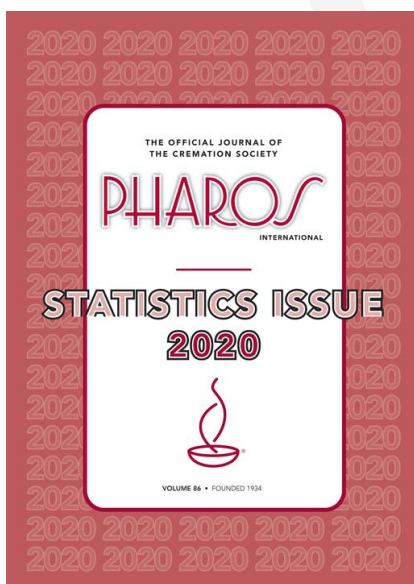
We are grateful to every single crematorium who completed and returned their annual questionnaire in order for us to be able to collate, analyse and publish this information.

Included in the statistics issue:-

- Table of cremations carried out in the British Islands 2019
- Survey of crematoria in the British Islands 2020
- Cremations per crematorium 2019
- Cremation comparisons 2019
- International statistics

You can receive the statistics issue as part of an annual subscription to **Pharos International**.

Full details and an online order form are [available on our website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

A new £8.5m crematorium could be built in East Yorkshire under new plans. **East Riding Council** is putting in motion proposals for the new facility which will be built close to Preston in **Holderness**. Cabinet approval is being sought, in principle, to consult and develop a business case to build the crematorium. The council has identified a need for a new crematorium because of the time it takes for people to travel to existing sites from the Holderness area. For more on this development, please read the [Hull Live article](#).

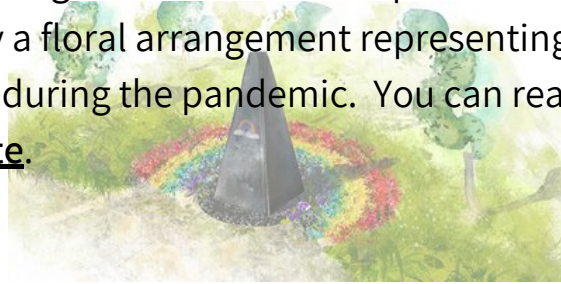
More details of a new crematorium in **Heaton** have been revealed by **Bradford Council**. As part of major changes to its bereavement services, the Council plans to replace two crematoria and refurbish a third. **Nab Wood Crematorium** will be shut under the plans, with a replacement facility built at Long Lane in Heaton, next to Northcliffe Golf Club. A planning application for the development has now been submitted, and includes artists impressions of the crematorium building and garden of remembrance. The Council's Bereavement Strategy will also see **Scholemoor Crematorium** closed, with a new facility built on a field off Shetcliffe Lane, Bierley. **Oakworth Crematorium** will be demolished and re-built. For more details on Bradford Council's proposals, please read the [Telegraph & Argus article](#).

Stourbridge Crematorium will close for four months for urgent refurbishment works to be carried out. The crematorium in South Road will close on the afternoon of Friday 31st July and re-open at the start of December. Ageing cremators at the site will be replaced with new machines designed to accommodate larger coffins. A small extension will also be built on the side of the crematorium to accommodate the new cremators. You can read more details in the [Halesowen News article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

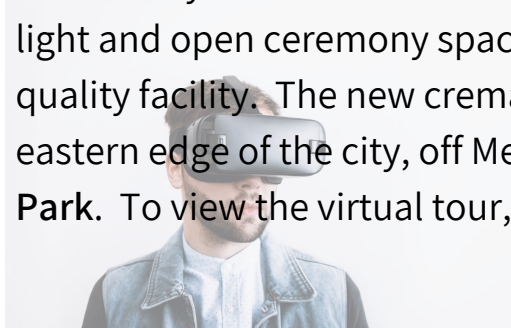
CREMATORIA NEWS

The **Westerleigh Group** has unveiled an artist's impression of how its new memorial gardens to remember people who have died during the COVID-19 pandemic, will look. Westerleigh announced last month its intention to create a memorial garden at each of its 34 sites across the country. The gardens are designed to be tranquil places for people to visit and remember loved ones who died during the pandemic, and to pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much to help others who were sick, isolated or vulnerable. Roger Mclaughlan, CEO of Westerleigh said: "The centre-piece of each garden will be a stone monument surrounded by a floral arrangement representing a rainbow, which has become a symbol of hope during the pandemic. You can read more details on the [Westerleigh Group website](#).



The **West Hertfordshire Crematorium Joint Committee (WHCJC)** has commissioned the submission of a full planning application on their behalf in respect to land south west of Bedmond Road, Bunkers Park, **Hemel Hempstead**. In the Planning Statement, submitted with the plans, it says: "This application seeks full planning permission for the construction of a single storey, single chapel crematorium with associated parking, landscaping and infrastructure on land adjacent to the new cemetery located off Bedmond Road that has recently been completed by Dacorum Borough Council (DBC)". You can read full details about this development on the [Hemel Today website](#).

Plymouth's newest crematorium has been brought to life in an amazing new virtual tour of the facility in eastern Plymouth. The fly-through gives people an idea of how the new facility will look - with a sleek and modern, one storey exterior. Inside there are light and open ceremony spaces featuring large windows to fit the theme of the modern quality facility. The new crematorium will be set in 17 acres of countryside on the eastern edge of the city, off Merafield Road near the Stag Lodge entrance to **Saltram Park**. To view the virtual tour, [visit the Plymouth Live website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council faces extra costs of £3.4 million to build a crematorium outside Hinckley. Planners at the Council have approved a fresh £6.9 million budget to build the facility outside the town, up from previous projections of some £4.9 million in capital costs for delivery of the complex, by the A47, near the town's football stadium. A Council update on the scheme also said that the increased costs may take the council over the partial exemption limit for VAT, adding a further 20 per cent (£1.4 million) to the bill if the Council directly owns and runs the crematorium. The report directed councillors to consider the options of selling the site to an operator or arranging a partnership where a company delivers services for the Council, similar to how Hinckley Leisure Centre is managed. For more on this story, please read the [Leicestershire Live article](#).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND NEWS

The long-running application to build a crematorium in **North Cork** has finally been concluded following a decision by An Bord Pleanála ruling against the facility. An Bord Pleanála has decided to uphold Cork County Council's ruling against the crematorium following an appeal by Classic Lodges (Ireland) Ltd. In their ruling, council planners cited one reason for the refusal saying that on the basis of the information submitted they were "not satisfied that the proposed development would not adversely impact on public health and the environment by reason of serious air pollution". You can read more details on the ruling in [The Corkman article](#).

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Children's Funeral Fund** introduced in England last year reached its first anniversary on 23 July 2020. Since its inception, nearly 3000 claims have been made to help bereaved parents with the costs of burying or cremating their child. For more details on the Fund, please visit the [GOV.UK website](#).

NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER NEWS

National Medical Examiner, Dr Alan Fletcher, has issued an update for July 2020. The update includes news on: scrutiny of staff COVID-19 deaths; quarterly reporting; cause of death list; medical examiner offices; and implementation in Wales. You can [read Dr Fletcher's update here.](#)



COMPANY NEWS

Westerleigh Group has announced an extension to its memorial renewals, due to the restrictions imposed on visitors to its gardens of remembrance during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a press release, the Group stated 'in recognition of the ongoing situation, and the fact that you would have been unable to visit your memorial for some time, an additional year can be added to the length of your memorial dedication, at no additional cost.' For more on this, please visit the [Westerleigh Group website.](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The **Health Council of the Netherlands** has produced an advisory report at the request of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, in which it produces a framework against which to analyse new methods of disposing of the dead. The Council concluded that the framework would require three values to be satisfied: safety, dignity and sustainability. The report concludes that in principle, the process of alkaline hydrolysis complies with the values of the framework but that technical specifications would have to be further examined before this way of disposing of the dead could potentially be authorised. The report also examines the process of human composting but concludes that insufficient information is currently available to assess this process against the framework. You can [read the report in full here.](#)



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Cemetery Development Services - Cemetery Development Services is recognised as a leading international brand in cemetery, crematorium and mausoleum design and development.



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.



Facultatieve Technologies - over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.

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**



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.



Matthews Environmental Solutions - a manufacturer of combustion technology, including waste incineration, human and animal cremation and emission abatement systems. They are a part of the Matthews Family of Companies (MATW).



Dodge is now under new ownership with a new name, but will be maintaining the same team and the same respected products

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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.

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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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