



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



Whilst it has been a quiet month for planning news across the cremation sector, UK governments continue to keep us busy with updates to funeral guidance from across all UK governments. Please do find links to all the [latest guidance on our website](#).

Our dedicated statistics issue of **Pharos International** will be posted out to subscribers next week. It includes our table of cremations, the results of our annual survey of crematoria, progress of cremation data, as well as international cremation statistics.

You can take out a subscription to Pharos International via our [online order form](#). We hope you will find it an interesting and informative publication.

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to The Cremation Society

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

RESEARCH NEWS

Some of you may remember the issue of *Pharos International* late in 2020 when I outlined the 'Cremation and Covid19 Research Project' funded by **The Cremation Society** and which we hoped would involve a questionnaire and some follow-up interviews in January 2021. This did not come about because we were alert to the workload and situation still surrounding Covid19 and funerals here in the UK with you on the front-line.

However, now that the Covid19 situation has changed to a significant degree we hope to run the questionnaire survey in September of this year, 2021, with some interviews to follow. All being well crematorium managers should receive a communication on this from The Cremation Society, and we will very much look forward to the responses you will send to us here at Durham University. As we work together for a Report we can anticipate materials that can inform the organization and planning of cremation authorities, as well as provide material for the Cremation Society Archives held at Durham University available for future research. Be sure that there will be ample opportunity for you to talk about your own circumstances, and I will always be ready to talk to you about this situation.

With best wishes to all.

Professor Douglas Davies FBA
Director of the Centre for Death and Life Studies,
Durham University

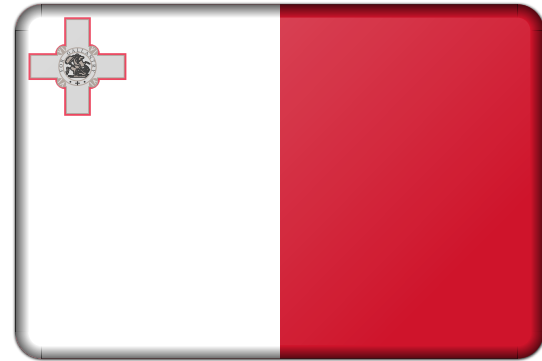
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NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Plans have been submitted for **Malta's** first crematorium, near Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery. The application, which spreads across a 7,638sq.m plot, was presented by Johann Camilleri on behalf of Active Group Limited. It is located in an area outside the development zone. The site's architect is Robert Musumeci. According to plans, the development will see a crematorium built over two underground levels and a ground floor. Two mortuaries, a multipurpose hall, a reception area, two viewing rooms, a cold room, five columbariums and other ancillary facilities will be also constructed. You can [read more on this development here](#).



SECTOR NEWS

A new **digital autopsy service** in Kent to help determine the cause of death using 3D imaging and computer software has moved a step closer. Planning permission has been granted for the facility to be built on **Kent County Council's** former transport workshop site on the Aylesford Industrial Estate. Autopsy services are currently carried out by the NHS at various locations throughout Kent, using traditional invasive procedures. The proposed development will provide a new centralised, digital autopsy facility which will be a more sensitive, high tech and cost-effective solution. Mike Hill, KCC's Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, said: "Our staff in the Coroners' Service have been working with colleagues in the Infrastructure team for some time to bring this project to fruition. The granting of planning permission is a major step forward. This facility will save time and be more cost-effective for taxpayers, but most importantly it will also be less distressing for the relatives of the deceased." You can read more on this story on the [KCC Media Hub](#).

NEWS REVIEW

RESEARCH NEWS

The **Durham Residential Research Library (DRRL)** is inviting applications from researchers for Visiting Fellowships, of one month in duration. The purpose of the Visiting Fellowships is to support research into the three globally significant historic collections of Durham – those held by Durham Cathedral, Ushaw College and **Durham University**, including Palace Green Library and the Oriental Museum. They include not only libraries, but also archives, collections of visual and material culture, and architectural assets. The DRRL are now advertising for fellows who are interested in coming to Durham between February and May. Applications should be submitted by noon on Friday 6 August 2021. The [extensive archives of The Cremation Society](#) and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities might offer one focus for a suitable applicant. Further details on the fellowships, funding, and the application process are available [on the DRRL website](#).

APPG FOR FUNERALS AND BEREAVEMENT NEWS

The work of the APPG for Funerals and Bereavement continues with tackling many issues arising out of the pandemic. Sir John Hayes MP, Chair of the APPG, has recently raised a number of concerns with appropriate Ministers including the issue of continued free workplace testing and the request for exemption from self-isolation rules for funeral sector workers. Members of the Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG), working with the APPG, will continue to represent the sector and push for the protection of funeral staff, and acknowledgement of the vital work being carried out, wherever appropriate. You can [follow the APPG on Twitter](#).



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