



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



We were delighted to welcome delegates, speakers, exhibitors and sponsors to this year's CBCE in Southampton. This year's joint conference with our colleagues at the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities was another huge success and we were pleased to hear some excellent feedback from delegates. We are already working on next year's conference which will see us visiting Blackpool for an anniversary special of CBCE - with the Cremation Society marking its 150th anniversary, and the FBCA its 100th anniversary. Do keep an eye on more news to follow!

We have recently published the annual cremation statistics for 2022 and we would like to record our thanks to all those crematoria staff who have given their time to complete our survey and return this information to us. See page two for more details.

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



The annual table of cremations for 2022 covering all crematoria across the UK, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, is now available to [view on our website](#). Thank you to all those who provided this information. The full results of our annual crematoria survey will be published in the dedicated statistics issue of **Pharos International** which can be purchased via our [website](#).

TABLE OF CREMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE BRITISH ISLANDS 2022						
* Basic Cremation Fee comprises <b>standard</b> cremation fee plus Medical Referee's fee and environmental surcharge (if applicable), plus music (recorded or organ), scattering/strewing of ashes (not witnessed)						
The table of cremations includes those crematoria where cremations have been carried out in 2022 or where crematoria are not currently operating but continue to publish a cremation fee.						
In some cases figures may show an increase/decrease caused by the closure or restricted service of individual or neighbouring crematoria, as a result of operational disruption (for example refurbishment or emergency works).						
Figures shown in <b>RED</b> are provisional as updated information has yet to be provided.						
CREMATORIA	1 Jan-31 Dec 2021	1 Jan-31 Dec 2022	Total Since Opening	County/Area Total 2022	*January 2022 Basic Cremation	*January 2023 Basic Cremation
<b>BEDFORDSHIRE (2)</b>						
Bedford	1,763	<b>1,666</b>	88,861		€900.15	<b>€959.15</b>
Luton	1,739	<b>1,615</b>	132,039	<b>3,281</b>	€785.00	<b>€935.00</b>
<b>BERKSHIRE (4)</b>						
Bracknell	2,285	<b>2,354</b>	74,413		€920.00	<b>€925.00</b>
Reading	1,714	<b>1,768</b>	139,276		€850.00	<b>€867.00</b>
Slough	1,268	<b>1,372</b>	91,877		€870.00	<b>€870.00</b>
West Berkshire (Thatcham)	1,145	<b>1,331</b>	17,961	<b>6,825</b>	€1,010.00	<b>€1,095.00</b>
<b>BRISTOL (3)</b>						
Bristol (Canford)	1,363	<b>1,300</b>	136,773		€965.00	<b>€1,030.00</b>
Bristol (South)	1,762	<b>1,895</b>	89,880		€965.00	<b>€1,030.00</b>
Westerleigh	2,999	<b>3,216</b>	61,761	<b>6,411</b>	€1,010.00	<b>€1,095.00</b>
<b>BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (4)</b>						
Amersham (Chilterns)	3,384	<b>3,024</b>	154,557		€670.00	<b>€700.00</b>
Aylesbury Vale	686	<b>968</b>	2,793		€670.00	<b>€795.00</b>
Bierton	758	<b>679</b>	2,497		€670.00	<b>€700.00</b>
Milton Keynes	1,797	<b>1,724</b>	61,892	<b>6,395</b>	€960.00	<b>€960.00</b>
<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE (4)</b>						
Cambridge	2,086	<b>1,633</b>	173,072		€850.00	<b>€880.00</b>
Huntingdon (opened October 2021)	70	<b>691</b>	761		€818.00	<b>€888.00</b>
March (Fenland)	1,270	<b>1,218</b>	11,578		€999.00	<b>€999.00</b>
Peterborough	2,175	<b>2,136</b>	125,520	<b>5,678</b>	€1,022.00	<b>€1,044.00</b>
<b>CHESHIRE (7)</b>						
Chester	1,861	<b>1,818</b>	98,969		€876.00	<b>€911.00</b>
Crewe	1,149	<b>1,109</b>	67,284		€840.00	<b>€866.00</b>
Lach Dennis (Birches) (opened April 2020)	664	<b>1,023</b>	1,825		€895.00	<b>€895.00</b>
Macclesfield	1,771	<b>1,758</b>	82,078		€840.00	<b>€866.00</b>
Northwich (Vale Royal)	1,155	<b>1,338</b>	9,593		€890.00	<b>€960.00</b>
Warrington (Walton Lea)	2,101	<b>2,025</b>	99,060		€834.00	<b>€859.00</b>
Widnes	1,224	<b>1,386</b>	38,012	<b>10,457</b>	€799.00	<b>€815.00</b>
<b>CLEVELAND (3)</b>						
Hartlepool	960	<b>887</b>	56,972		€776.00	<b>€799.00</b>
Kirkcaldham	1,792	<b>2,291</b>	12,950		€930.00	<b>€930.00</b>
Middlesbrough	2,185	<b>1,925</b>	195,477	<b>5,103</b>	€810.00	<b>€902.00</b>





### CREMATORIA NEWS

Work to repair **Pleasington Crematorium** which was 'badly damaged' in a huge fire earlier this month is progressing 'well' with the council hoping to reopen the Blackburn facility soon. The blaze broke out on the grounds on June 8th with eight fire engines called to the scene. Around 20 to 30 people were thought to be inside at the time. All services scheduled since the incident have been cancelled. The fire service spent nearly four hours tackling the fire and **Blackburn with Darwen Council** said the blaze started in or around an outdoor storage compound next to the cremation room. This room houses the two cremator machines. Neither of the cremator machines were switched on at the time the fire started and two other rooms within the crematorium building – the plant room and the chapel itself – sustained only smoke damage. Council bosses said they are hopeful that the building can reopen for cremation services 'in late July'. Work is currently underway at the site to refurbish the cremation room which was badly damaged in the fire. **Martin Eden**, Strategic Director of Environment & Operations, said: "So far, everything is going well on site, with lots of partnership working between different trades and contractors. When we have a firmer idea of exactly when services can be held at the crematorium again, our Cemeteries Team will give funeral directors two weeks' notice to allow them to start booking the crematorium again." To read the full story, please visit: the [Lancashire Live website](#)

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**Mercia Forest Crematorium**, in Broad Lane, Essington, has been built to serve the communities of Walsall, Wolverhampton, Cannock and surrounding areas and officially opened its doors this month. The team is led by **Joanne Taylor**, who is delighted to be the first-ever manager at what is one of the most environmentally-friendly crematoriums in the country. Joanne has worked in the funeral industry for 12 years in a wide number of roles before joining **Westerleigh Group**, and stated that: "My aim is to make Mercia Forest Crematorium a place where everyone feels welcome, a truly multi-denominational space for the bereaved. I believe this crematorium will be a brilliant addition to the surrounding communities, providing much-needed gardens of remembrance and a space for people to reflect and remember their loved ones in a way that is uniquely personal to them. We don't only care about the bereaved; we also care about the climate, which is why we have the latest in advanced filtration and abatement technology, which reduces pollution, as well as a programme of protecting and creating new wildlife habitats, retaining trees and enhancing native planting." To read the full article, please go to the: [Express & Star website](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS



A new crematorium will be built between **Fareham and Gosport** after plans were given the green light by councillors. Fareham Borough Council's planning committee has approved plans for a new facility on land north of Brune Lane – otherwise known as the 'Horse Field'. The plans, submitted by **Mercia Crematorium Developments Limited**, address capacity issues experienced at the **Portchester Crematorium** due to increasing population, death and cremation rates. Residents and community groups had raised fears about the impact the scheme could have on traffic and the suitability of the site's location. **Councillor Nick Walker**, chairman of the planning committee said: 'We had officers in Hampshire county council highways department come along and confirmed that as far as they were concerned, all the highway arrangements that have been made fit with all the latest protocols. There was a number of deputations that were written, but every question was answered, it was a well-written report and it was unanimously approved by members.' The crematorium chapel will provide up to 90 seats but internal folding doors could increase the capacity to 130 if the entrance vestibule is used. Visitors will use the main entrance, through the chapel and leave through the south exit porte cochere through a flower garden. For the full article please visit: the [Portsmouth News website](#).

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An East Lancashire crematorium has been given an interior designer makeover. The **Burnley** funeral site has seen extensive refurbishment works to the entrance, waiting area, and chapel. The work has helped modernise the building so it is functional, modern, comfortable, and calming. **Bev Wood**, founder of Lytham St Annes-based commercial interior designers **BWD Ltd**, said: "We highlighted existing features, such as the beautiful stained-glass windows, reflecting the plum colour within them in the soft furnishings and paint colour, bringing these assets to life. BWD felt the waiting area needed a focal point, so we created a new, key feature with a stretch ceiling. We printed material with a calming sky, seen through treetops, then backlit this with lighting on dimmers, to control the amount of light required." To ensure that the space was useable and accessible for all, the lectern was altered to allow space for a wheelchair, along with the ability to adapt the height of the lectern to suit various speakers. A new bespoke reception desk was fitted to ensure a better experience for disabled visitors. To read the full article, please go to the: [Lancashire Telegraph's website](#).



## CREMATORIA NEWS

**Waltham Forest Council** has approved funding to build a “flagship” new crematorium in **Chingford**. A new “contemporary, purpose-built” crematorium in Chingford Mount Cemetery would replace the current temporary mortuary compound set up during the pandemic. The council is developing designs for a 450sqm building including a waiting area, family viewing area, chapel, crematorium space and office area. A report approving an £8.4m budget was approved last week, stating that the council hopes to make a large “return on investment” through a profit of £21million over 25 years. The report says a new service would need to carry out about 1,200 cremations per year at a fee of about £900 each. It adds that benefits of a new crematorium include easing “funeral day logistics”, accommodating residents of diverse beliefs, reducing traffic and creating additional revenue. Neither of the two design options being considered have been published by the council and a planning application has not yet been submitted. However, the report says designs include fridge storage and two modern electric cremators, which would “significantly reduce” emissions compared to those that use gas. To read the full story, please visit the: [Waltham Forest Echo's website.](#)

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**Plymouth's** new crematorium is taking shape, with works on its café and wake facility beginning earlier this month. Located away from the main building, near the entrance to the site, there will be a café open to serve refreshments for people attending funerals and also for those visiting the site to pay their respects. Crucially, though, it will also be available for families to hire for wakes, with rooms to accommodate up to 40 guests. The new crematorium, off Haye Road in **Plympton**, is being constructed by the **Kier Group** and will be known as The Park. It is due to open in **Spring 2024**. **Cllr Sally Haydon**, cabinet member for community safety, libraries, cemeteries & crematoria, said: “This is another crucial construction milestone on the journey to The Park, Plymouth's new, state-of-the-art crematorium.” The new crematorium buildings will nestle into the slope of the site and Plymouth Limestone is being used. Outside, reflective spaces, designed for memorialisation and scatterings will embrace the local environment and ecology. When the new crematorium is built, it will replace existing facilities at **Efford and Weston Mill**, which will continue to be active for burial and memorials. To read the full story, please go to the: [Plymouth Herald's website.](#)

## COMPANY NEWS



A special service has taken place in **Hampshire** to formally dedicate one of the most environmentally-friendly crematoriums in the country to the communities it serves. **New Forest Crematorium** opened in **April 2022** to serve the people of New Milton, Bournemouth, Christchurch and the wider area surrounding the New Forest. It is part of **Westerleigh Group**, one of the UK's largest independent owners and operators of crematoria and cemeteries, with 37 other sites across England, Scotland and Wales, all set within beautifully-landscaped gardens of remembrance which provide pleasant, peaceful places for people to visit and reflect. It is Westerleigh Group's tradition to dedicate a new crematorium to its community in the presence of funeral directors, celebrants, members of the clergy, other industry professionals and senior representatives from many organisations within the bereavement sector, usually about 12 months after its opening. The service was led by Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Southampton, in the presence of Councillor David Hawkins, Mayor of New Forest District Council. Rev Martyn Douglas and Humanist celebrant David Hewitt also spoke at the service, and Choralia Milford, a local choir, sang two carefully-chosen pieces, *You Are The New Day* and *Sing Gently*. New Forest Crematorium Manager Graeme Horobin said: "We're very pleased to have hosted this special event and dedicated our beautiful crematorium to the communities we serve. This is such a unique place where exceptional care is at the heart of everything we do. We also work very hard with families to create uniquely personal services for their loved ones." New Forest Crematorium features advanced technology which helps to minimise emissions and makes it one of the most environmentally facilities of its kind in the country. This approach ensures that it does not only minimise pollution in the local community, it also protects existing wildlife habitats and nature of the surrounding New Forest National Park. For more information about the exceptional care and services provided by New Forest Crematorium, and of the community events it hosts throughout the year, visit: [www.newforestcrematorium.co.uk](http://www.newforestcrematorium.co.uk)

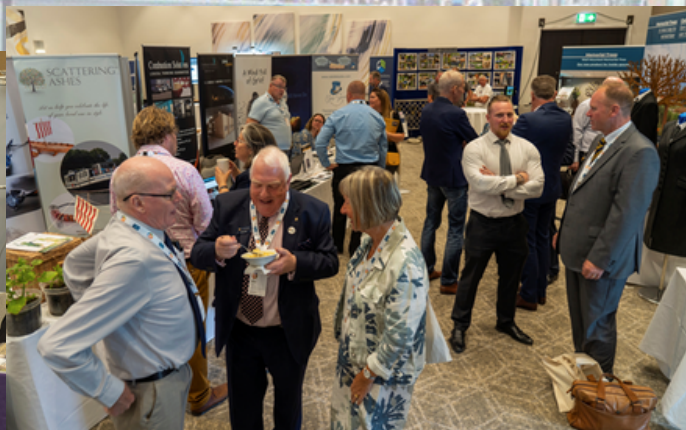






**CBCE 2023**

**Thank you to all those who  
attended this year's joint  
conference. We look forward to  
welcoming you to CBCE 2024 in  
Blackpool! A full report and  
publication of speaker  
presentations will be found in  
future issues of Pharos  
International.**







**CBCE 2023**  
**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**  
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**EVENT**

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# NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER NEWS



## National Medical Examiner update

The latest update by **Dr Alan Fletcher**, National Medical Examiner, has been published and can be read on the [NHS England website](#).

Topics covered in this update include:

- GP Practice Managers' study day
- Podcast – GPs and medical examiners
- Implementation in Wales
- Good Practice Series - dementia
- New and Digitised Medical Certificate of Cause of Death



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**The Columbaria Company** - specialists in the production of personalised memorial artwork and after cremation memorials.



**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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**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.



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**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.



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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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