



# THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



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

We have now received the **cremation statistics** back from all 299 crematoria in the British Islands (as at 31 December 2018). We are grateful to all the crematoria for their help in providing this information which is increasingly relied upon by professionals across the sector. We will shortly be publishing the full information collated, in our dedicated statistics issue of ***Pharos International*** - in the meantime, you can find a selection of the information collected, on our **website**.



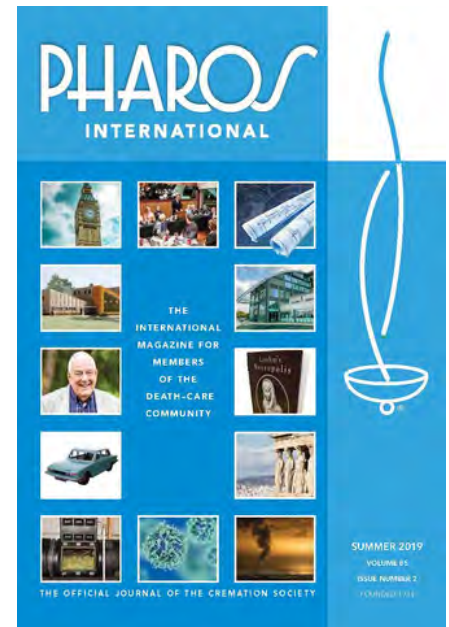


## Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

The Summer issue of *Pharos International* is now available to purchase. In this issue we include the presentations given at CBCE 2018 by **Tony Brookes** of Facultatieve Technologies on 'NOx in the City' and Cremation Society Council Member **Professor Hilary Grainger OBE** on 'Designs on Death: Twenty-first Century UK Crematorium Design'

You can purchase a subscription to *Pharos International* or purchase a single issue, via our **website**. The subscription includes our dedicated 'statistics' issue which cannot be purchased separately.



If you have not read *Pharos International* and would like to **view a sample**, why not take a look on our **website**?

---

### Guidance for funeral directors and crematoria managers

We regularly take queries from members of the funeral sector on cremation issues. We were recently asked whether a crematorium can accept **scanned** application forms from an applicant. Having confirmed the position with the Ministry of Justice, s4 of the **Cremation (England & Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2017** amends s14 of the Cremation (England & Wales) Regulations 2008, **allowing application forms to be submitted in electronic form** provided that they include an electronic signature. More guidance on this is given in the **guidance notes on the Gov.uk website**.

## 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 are only a matter of weeks away from this year's **CBCE** and we are very much looking forward to seeing many of you there. Our delegate numbers are already up on last year and there is **still time to register** if you have not yet booked. You can find the full programme on the **CBCE website** and as a reminder, here are the details of this year's speakers:

- Judith Bernstein OBE - Head of Coroners, Burials, Cremation & Inquiries Policy - Ministry of Justice
- Kate Davidson - Crematorium Compliance Working Group - FBCA
- Professor Douglas Davies - University of Durham
- Dr Alan Fletcher - National Medical Examiner & Consultant Emergency Physician at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Simon Holden & Dr Caroline Sampson - Faunus Group
- Debbie Kerslake - Cremation Society of Great Britain
- Howard Hodgson - Chief Executive - Memoria Limited
- Richard Martin - Founder and Director - Scattering Ashes
- Nick Ricketts - Chairman - Association of Private Pet Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Lee Searles - Director of Planning - Enzygo Limited
- Terry Tennens - Chief Executive - SAIF
- Alun Tucker - Chief Executive - Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association
- Steven Wibberley - Chief Executive - Cruse Bereavement Care

To register for this year's CBCE, visit [www.cbce.org.uk/2019](http://www.cbce.org.uk/2019)



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans for a major modernisation and improvement scheme at **Distington Hall Crematorium** have been submitted to Copeland Council's Planning Panel. The project includes internal and external modifications to enhance the experience for visitors and improve operational areas for staff. Further to the planning application, a second cremator is also in the process of being installed at the crematorium to improve efficiency and environmental performance. If planning permission is awarded, work is scheduled to commence in October. You can read more about the project on the **Copeland Borough Council website**.

---

A new crematorium serving residents in the Stirling and Bannockburn areas opened on 30th May 2019. **Stirlingshire Crematorium**, operated by **Westerleigh Group**, includes the latest fully-abated cremator equipment, including NOx abatement plant fitted. Westerleigh's Marketing Manager, Robin Gurton-Vernieux said: 'We want to ensure our neighbours have a clean and healthy environment. The Westerleigh Group is committed to raising environmental standards and all of our new crematoria are fitted with the latest and best abatement equipment available.' You can read more on the **Stirling News website**.



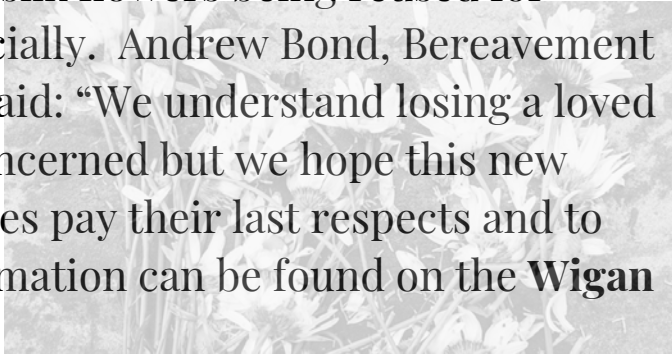


## CREMATORIA NEWS

A dedication service marking the official opening of **Barnby Moor Memorial Park and Crematorium** has taken place. The new crematorium, owned by **Memoria Limited**, is the 15th memorial park built by the family-owned business. CEO and founder, Howard Hodgson, said: 'It is our aim to provide immaculately clean and tidy facilities in tranquil and beautiful surroundings attended by people who are sincerely dedicated to our mission, and who take a great pride in their work as a result.' You can read more on the service, on the **Gainsborough Standard website**.

---

A new recycling initiative has been adopted by **Wigan Crematorium** which involves unwanted frames and silk flowers being reused for families who may be struggling financially. Andrew Bond, Bereavement Services Manager at Wigan Council, said: "We understand losing a loved one is a difficult time for everyone concerned but we hope this new initiative goes some way to help families pay their last respects and to create lasting memories." More information can be found on the **Wigan Council website**.



---

After a long planning battle, an inspector from the Government's Planning Inspectorate has held a hearing as part of the consideration of an appeal from developers **H2Land** to add a crematorium to the planned **Waseley Hills Cemetery site**, Rubery. H2Land Director Mark Donald said: "We are satisfied that the case has been heard and our evidence is before the inspector and we look forward to her determination." You can read more on the **Bromsgrove Standard website**.

## GOVERNMENT NEWS

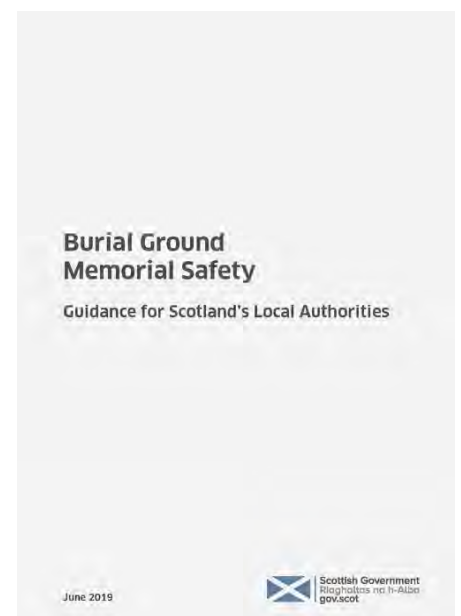
HM Treasury has announced new plans to regulate the **pre-paid funeral sector** for the first time to 'ensure the market is competitive and consumers, who are often old and vulnerable, understand what they are buying.' City Minister John Glen confirmed that the regulation of the sector will now be overseen by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). You can read more on this development on the **Gov.uk website**.

## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

Councillors from **Melrose Community Council** have confirmed their position over the scattering of ashes at prominent landmarks in the region. Town Councillor David Parker said: "I don't think anyone properly objects to people scattering ashes. It's the non-scattered ones that are the issue." Relatives regularly leave ashes at memorials, beauty spots and monuments in the region but concerns had been raised over heavy clumps of ashes being left. You can read the full story on the **Southern Reporter website**.

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Scottish Government has published guidance for local authorities on burial ground maintenance. The guidance is intended to assist them to meet their obligations to inspect and make safe memorials and headstones in local authority burial grounds. This guidance was created in response to recommendations made in January 2018 following a Fatal Accident Inquiry (FAI) into the tragic death of 8 year old Ciaran Williamson in 2015. You can download the guidance from the **Scottish Government website**.





## FUNERAL DIRECTOR NEWS

A new initiative by **The Funeral Celebrancy Council**, a collaborative organisation made up of representatives from across the funeral sector, has been launched at the National Funeral Exhibition this month. The **Funeral Celebrant Accord** defines the attributes and skills required of an excellent funeral celebrant and is intended to set the standards by which all celebrants offering funeral services should be measured. The launch was hosted by representatives of the Council, including NAFD President David Barrington and SAIF CEO Terry Tennens. You can read more on the **Funeral Celebrancy Council website**.



---

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Malta** has passed its first Cremation Bill, introduced by Labour MP Rosianne Cutajar, allowing cremation services to be offered in Malta for the first time. The new law will not only introduce a burial alternative but will also allow people the flexibility to decide what to do with the ashes. Each crematorium will have a mortuary, a viewing room, adequate facilities for the extraction of implants from the body, a cremation room and a storage room for remains. You can read more on this landmark decision, on the **Times of Malta website**.



## BEREAVEMENT NEWS

Researchers at Cambridge University's Faculty of Education have published a report, commissioned by bereavement charity **Winston's Wish**, on '**Consequences of childhood bereavement in the context of the British school system**'. Researchers also gathered the experiences of adults who lost parents and siblings as children, which are presented in a separate report, 'Voices of adults bereaved as children'. The charity has issued guidance to schools in supporting children who have suffered bereavement. You can read both reports on the **Winston's Wish website**.



---

## RESOMATION NEWS

Sandy Sullivan, founder and Director of **Resomation**, will be giving presentations at an open day at Altrincham Crematorium and Dunham Lawn Cemetery on Sunday, 23rd June. Trafford Council organised the open day to give people the opportunity to come together to share views and to see what goes on behind the scenes in their local crematorium. For more details on the event, please visit the **Trafford Council website**.



---

## AND FINALLY...

The city of Taipei in Taiwan has developed the **world's tallest columbarium**. **True Dragon Tower**, a 20-storey columbarium houses the ashes of over 400,000 people. It is traditionally organised with niches for funeral urns to be stored for visitors to attend as one might visit a cemetery. A basic individual niche measures about 22 by 25 centimeters (9 by 10 inches) and starts at about NT\$200,000 (\$6,500). More elaborate niches can cost more than NT\$1 million at the top end (excluding the costs of other funereal procedures such as memorial services and burning offerings). Despite the cost of a stay, nearly 1/10th of the building is already occupied, according to the article in **Architect News**.





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)



---

You can contact us at:

The Cremation Society  
Brecon House (1st Floor)  
16 Albion Place  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 5DZ

01622 688292/3  
[info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)  
[www.cremation.org.uk](http://www.cremation.org.uk)

If you do not wish to receive future newsletters from us, please email us at [info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk) and simply type 'STOP' in the heading

The views expressed in the Editorial comments are those of the Editor and unless specifically stated otherwise, are not the official views of the Cremation Society. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of articles reproduced in this newsletter.