



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



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

We hope that this month's news review finds you safe and well. Life has settled into a new rhythm and here at The Cremation Society we are continuing to work hard to provide access to our resources, continue with our publications and to answer queries from professionals and the public alike.

We are embracing technology with daily video meetings and for the first time in the Society's 146-year history, the Council of The Cremation Society held its first online 'virtual' committee meeting. I wonder what Sir Henry Thompson and his co-founders would have thought of that!



COVID-19 - UPDATE

Deceased Management Advisory Group



We continue to work with fellow organisations to represent the funeral sector with regular meetings with the Cabinet Office and other UK Government teams. Please do visit the [website](#) and follow @DMAG2020 on [Twitter](#) to keep up to date with the work of the Group and to read all the latest Government guidance and DMAG meeting notes.

DMAG has also carried out an **interim review** of the response by the death management sector to the pandemic. The primary purpose of the report is to identify any lessons from our collective experience and apply them so the sector will be better placed to react to any increase in deaths that may result from a 'second wave'.

We would welcome your comments on what you found worked well and what did not work so well, at your own facilities, in order that this valuable learning can be collated and shared across the sector as a whole.

Please email Miriam Deacon at info@cremation.org.uk with any feedback you may have.



OBITUARY - ERNEST TURNER



Ernie Turner was born in East Ham, London on 12th February 1923, the youngest of four children. He left school at 14, undertaking various jobs including a runner for a firm in the City of London and an electrician, before working in the office at the City of London Cemetery. Ernie was then conscripted to the RAF during World War II, training as a pilot in the Bomber Command before a problem with his eyesight quashed his hopes of serving as a pilot.

After being demobbed, Ernie went back to work at the City of London Cemetery as a General Assistant. Ernie's career spanned over 40 years and he went on to become one of the most influential people of his generation in the burial and cremation industry.

Ernie married Betty in 1951, working diligently at the Cemetery, whilst also obtaining his Diploma of the Institute of Burial and Cremation Administration (now ICCM) with Honours, in 1960. Ernie was appointed Deputy Superintendent and Registrar in 1961 before being appointed as Superintendent on 31st October 1964, following the retirement of Mr Herbert. He oversaw the design and construction of the replacement crematorium built in the grounds of the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium, which opened in 1973.

Ernie was the IBCA Public Relations Officer for three years, Tutor for the Office Records and Administration Examination for many years, and was elected a Fellow of the IBCA in 1971. He also served as a member of the Council of the Cremation Society of Great Britain from 1970 to 1996, as well as being on the Executive Committee of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities (now FBCA).

Ernie served as President of the IBCA in 1973/74, a position he was proud to hold, spending his year in office visiting every Branch in the UK, along with Betty, before being elected a Life Member of the IBCA in 1976. Ernie retired from his post at the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium in June 1981. However, Ernie did not completely retire but instead took on the role of Secretary of the FBCA, working tirelessly in that role until 1988.

Ernie and Betty retired to Broadstairs, Kent with Ernie indulging in his love of sailing. After Betty's death, Ernie moved to a Royal British Legion retirement home where he lived until his death in April 2020, aged 97.

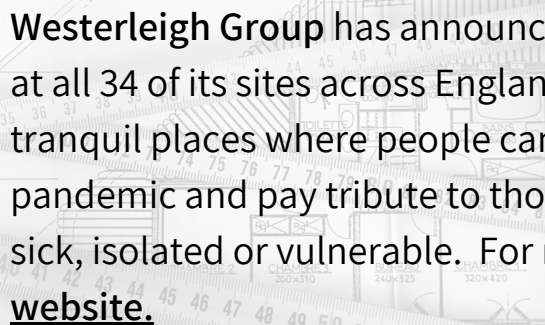
With thanks to the FBCA for the above information.



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Details of a proposed new crematorium in **Hemel Hempstead** have been published by Haverstock architects. The architects published the detailed proposals, carried out on behalf of **West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee** which represents Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City & District Council, Three Rivers District Council and Watford Borough Council. The crematorium development is expected to be completed in 2022. You can view the details on the [Haverstock website](#).

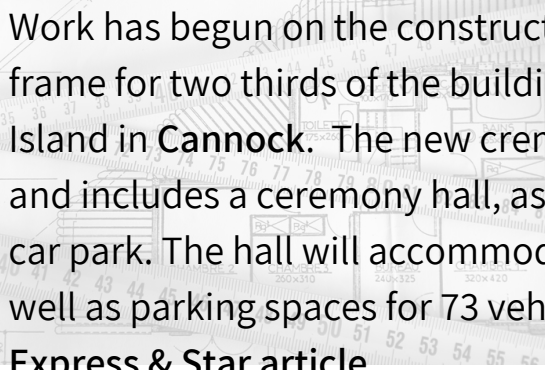


Westerleigh Group has announced that it will be creating a Covid-19 memorial garden at all 34 of its sites across England, Scotland and Wales. These memorial gardens will be tranquil places where people can come to remember loved ones who died during the pandemic and pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much to help others who were sick, isolated or vulnerable. For more information, please visit the [Westerleigh Group website](#).

It is unclear whether a crematorium originally planned for **Omagh** will be built in the town, despite the renewal of the planning approval for the proposed crematorium at **Greenhill**. **Fermanagh and Omagh, Derry and Strabane, and Mid-Ulster Councils** had been involved in three-way negotiations to see if a partnership plan could be agreed. However, Mid-Ulster Council has now decided that the development of a crematorium is not a priority for them, leaving the two remaining local government bodies to decide whether or not they should develop it jointly. A spokesperson for Fermanagh and Omagh District Council said this week that they remain committed to the development. You can read more on this story on the [Ulster Herald website](#).

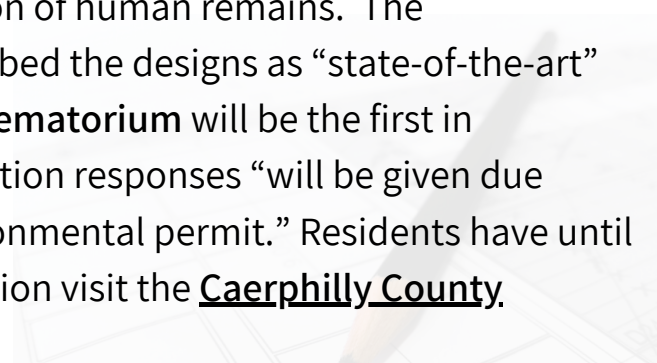
CREMATORIA NEWS

Divisive proposals to build a crematorium in a Norfolk village have been thrown out by councillors. **Dignity plc** had applied to develop 10 acres of farmland off Brandon Road, **Weeting**, in order to provide a crematorium with an accompanying chapel, memorial gardens and office space. Planning officer for Breckland Council, Rebecca Collins, highlighted concerns regarding the applicant's failure to demonstrate the need for a crematorium in the area. She said Dignity had claimed nearby crematoriums "do not meet the needs" of local people, but "have not demonstrated or justified in any way how that is factually correct". For more on this development, please read the [Eastern Daily Press article](#).



Work has begun on the construction of a new crematorium in Staffordshire. The steel frame for two thirds of the building has now been erected on land south of Five Ways Island in **Cannock**. The new crematorium is being developed by **Horizon Cremation** and includes a ceremony hall, as well as memorial areas, a garden of remembrance and car park. The hall will accommodate up to 90 people seated and 20 more standing, as well as parking spaces for 73 vehicles once it is built. For more details, please read the [Express & Star article](#).

The development of a new crematorium in Caerphilly is progressing with a consultation now underway for a permit to allow the cremation of human remains. The crematorium's developer **Westerleigh** has described the designs as "state-of-the-art" and if the permit is granted, then the **Sirhowy Crematorium** will be the first in Caerphilly. The council has said that all consultation responses "will be given due consideration prior to the issuing of a final environmental permit." Residents have until June 30 to submit their views. For more information visit the [Caerphilly County Borough Council website](#).



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND NEWS

A decision on a planning application to build a crematorium in north **Cork** is set to run on beyond the summer after it was confirmed a definitive decision on the proposal has been put back by almost two months. The decision on the application by **Classic Lodges (Ireland) Ltd** has now been put back to August 13 as a result of restrictions put in place following the COVID-19 outbreak. The crematorium proposal had galvanised the local community into action, with more than 50 observations/submissions lodged with Cork County Council against the initial application, and an online petition calling on people to voice their objections to the facility. For more on this story, please read [The Corkman article](#).

FUNERAL NEWS

The House of Bishops has announced that churches would be open for funeral services with effect from 15th June 2020. The **Church of England** has issued 'guidance on funerals in church buildings' for use during the COVID-19 pandemic and you can [view that guidance here](#).



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE NEWS

Northern Ireland's Economy Minister, Diane Dodds, has announced the launch of a two-month **Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay** consultation. The consultation follows the recent introduction of Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay legislation in Great Britain. Ms Dodds said: 'Since taking office I have been very keen to put in place provision for Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay legislation in Northern Ireland so that parents can access this support if they need it. I am therefore launching this two-month consultation in order to gather views from stakeholders and the wider public to inform how we can best introduce measures in Northern Ireland to meet the needs of bereaved parents here.' You can [view details of the consultation here](#).



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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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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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