



THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



National Medical Examiner announced

Dr Alan Fletcher, has been appointed as the National Medical Examiner for the NHS.

The new system will ensure that every death in an acute hospital is scrutinised by either a medical examiner or a coroner so that issues with patient care can be identified quickly to improve services for others.

See page 8 for the full article.

Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

The year seems to be off to a flying start and it hardly seems possible that we are in March already.

Thank you to all those crematoria who have returned the annual **cremation statistics** and questionnaire. We appreciate the swift response. If you have not already returned the form, please do email or post it back to us so that we can collate the information received.

If you are not already following us on social media, please do follow us on **Twitter** and **LinkedIn** where we can keep you posted with news, as it happens!



Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

Bereavement Services Seminar

'The Impact of Burial and Cremation on the Environment'

This month we are working alongside the Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management in hosting a **one-day bereavement services seminar**.

The seminar will take place on Wednesday 27 March 2019 at Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon and we have a superb line-up of speakers.

It is looking to be a popular event and a perfect chance to hear up to date information on how the sector is being impacted by developments around the issues of the environment.

If you haven't already booked, please do have a look at the **programme** and book your place **via our website**. Thanks to all those who have already registered!

**WEDNESDAY 27th
MARCH 2019**

**BEREAVEMENT SERVICES
SEMINAR:**

**'The Impact of Burial and
Cremation on the Environment'**

Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 0PY

The four representative organisations for cemeteries and crematoria in the UK are once again holding a one-day Joint Seminar for their members. Each organisation will sponsor one session, and introduce a paper relating to a key aspect of bereavement services, followed by a discussion based on the themes in the paper. See over for details of each session. A not-to-be-missed event for all involved in bereavement services in the UK.



Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries



Cremation Society of Great Britain



Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities



Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management

Joint
Organisations'
Seminar

For Professionals,
By Professionals

Excellent
Learning
Opportunity

4 Sessions –
Papers and
Discussion

Excellent Value
for Money

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CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

CREMATION AND BURIAL COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July 2019

Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton

Preparations are well underway for **CBCE 2019**, with this year's event being held in Southampton.

This year's theme is '**Pause, Reflect, Respond**'. We are delighted to have so many well-respected speakers from across the sector joining us this year, including:

Judith Bernstein OBE - Head of Coroners, Burials, Cremation & Inquiries Policy- Ministry of Justice

Dr Heather Conway - University of Belfast

Professor Douglas Davies - University of Durham

Lee Earles - Director of Planning - Enzygo Limited

Dr Alan Fletcher - National Medical Examiner & Consultant Emergency Physician at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Howard Hodgson - Chief Executive - Memoria Limited

Richard Martin - Founder and Director - Scattering Ashes

Nick Ricketts - Chairman - Association of Private Pet Cemeteries and Crematoria

Terry Tennens - Chief Executive - SAIF

Alun Tucker - Chief Executive - Funeral Furnishing Manufacturer's Association

Steven Wibberley - Chief Executive - Cruse Bereavement Care

It is certain to be another fantastic event and if you haven't already booked your place, please do take a look at the website and register! For full details, please click **here** to visit cbce.org.uk/2019

We look forward to seeing you there!



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

The new **Aylesbury Vale Crematorium** in Watermead has opened its doors for the first time. Developed by **Westerleigh Group**, the new crematorium aims to hold four funerals a day, in hour long slots. The site includes a 90-seat chapel, overlooking Watermead Lake. Heather Dyson, Crematorium Manager, said: "It's a huge relief for us to finally be open, and providing a valuable service to the people of Aylesbury Vale. It's been a long road to get to this point, but now we're finally here after the first service, it feels great." You can view a gallery of photographs and read more details on the **Bucks Herald website**.

Plans for a 'multi-million pound' transformation of **Lincoln's** 50-year-old crematorium have been approved by the City of Lincoln's executive councillors. The two-phase plan will include cladding on the outside, an update of the crematorium's IT system, a new rose garden and more parking. For more details, please read **The Lincolnite's article**.

Barnby Moor Memorial Park and Crematorium has officially opened to serve the communities of Worksop, Retford and surrounding areas. Richard Todd, **Memoria's** Regional Director for the North, said: "Memoria, as a family owned business, is committed to providing exceptional standards of service to the bereaved families that will use our facility. This will be our 10th site with our crematoria operating across England and Wales." The new crematorium offers one hour service times, a chapel with a 100-seat capacity, memorial garden, web camera for live-streaming facilities and is set in a tranquil countryside environment. For full details, please read the article on the **Gainsborough Standard website**.



CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans submitted by **Westerleigh Group** for the development of a new crematorium near **Nesscliffe**, Shropshire have been deferred by Shropshire Council's North Planning Committee whilst it carries out its own viability assessment. Planning bosses had previously recommended that the development be given the go-ahead. Councillors raised concerns about comments from RAF Shawbury who said the noise from their helicopter flying school could disrupt the services, as well as whether the proposed location was the best place for a facility to serve Shropshire. You can read up to date news on this on the **Shropshire Star website**.

A report by the City of York Council has warned that **York Crematorium** could close for three months if upgrading work is not carried out. The report states that two cremators at the crematorium need to be replaced and failure to do so could have 'catastrophic consequences'. Pauline Stuchfield, Assistant Director for customer services at the Council, said: "We have been closely monitoring the situation and are aware of potential risks which, whilst not affecting services currently, need to be resolved on a permanent basis." For more details, please read the **BBC News article**.

Barnsley Crematorium will see its four cremators replaced over the next 24 months, after Barnsley Council approved the financing of the work required. The current cremators are around 25 years old. Two cremators will be replaced and two switched to modern equipment. The new cremators will have larger capacity and will therefore be able to accommodate requests for the cremation of larger coffins. Full details can be found on **The Star website**.

CREMATORIA NEWS

Rushcliffe Borough Council's planning committee are due to consider plans submitted by **Mercia Crematoria Developments** for the development of a new crematorium on land near **Cotgrave**. The plans have been recommended for approval. The plans were described in a recent council report as "inappropriate development in the green belt" but states "there is a proven and substantial need for a crematorium to better meet the needs of Rushcliffe's population". News is awaited of the planning committee's decision but in the meantime, full details can be found on the **Nottinghamshire Live website**.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

An extension to the planning permission granted in 2014 for the development of a crematorium in **Ballinasloe**, County Galway, has been granted to developers **BKT Construction**. The plans include a crematorium building, reflection room, ceremony room, cremator and a memorial garden. Galway County Council granted an unconditional extension of five years to the original permission. You can read more on this story on the **Galway Daily website**.

NEWS FROM WALES

Plans for the first crematorium to be built in **Caerphilly** have been approved by the borough council. The plans submitted by **Westerleigh Group** for the site in **Blackwood** include a 98-seat chapel, a crematory, office and waiting room. The crematorium is expected to hold approximately 1,300 services per year. The only matters to be finalised are the highways and pedestrian access to the site. For more details, please read the **South Wales Argus article**.



NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

An application for the development of **East Renfrewshire's** first crematorium has been submitted by **Horizon Cremation**. A separate application has also been made to transform a nearby pub-restaurant into a funeral parlour. Jeremy Hamilton, Director of Horizon Cremation, said: “At the minute, families have no choice but to use old and dated facilities in either Glasgow or Paisley and, during peak winter months, it can be difficult for families to secure a crematorium service on a day and time that best suits them. We believe the people of East Renfrewshire should have their own dedicated crematorium facility and shouldn't have to travel out of the area to access cremation services.” For more on this development, please read the **Barrhead News article**.

NEWS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council has announced that it will make a full planning application for the construction of a crematorium in the Doagh Road area of **Newtownabbey**. The Council already has outline planning permission. A spokesman for the Council said: “This significant capital development project is expected to commence on site in April 2020 with completion in May 2021. This much-needed facility will serve our residents and people across the whole of Northern Ireland.” Read more on the **Newtownabbey Today website**.

BEREAVEMENT SECTOR NEWS

Dying Matters Awareness Week is led by Hospice UK and takes place in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This year, Dying Matters Awareness Week takes place from 13th to 19th May and the theme is 'Are We Ready?'. In Scotland, **Good Death Week** takes place on the same dates and is led by Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief and the Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care. If you are holding an event, please do add your event to the **Dying Matters Awareness Week map** on their website.



MEDICAL EXAMINER NEWS

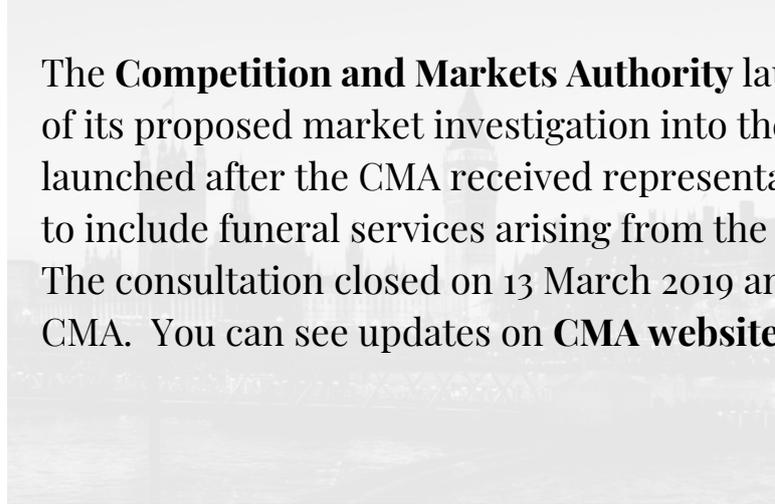
Dr Alan Fletcher, a consultant in Emergency Medicine, has been appointed as the **National Medical Examiner** for the NHS. Dr Fletcher will report directly to the NHS Director of Patient Safety, Dr Aidan Fowler. Dr Fletcher said: "I am delighted to be given the opportunity to lead the medical examiner system in England and Wales. Having worked on the system's first pilot for the last decade, I have seen first-hand the crucial role that independent medical examiners can play in giving those bereaved a voice, while ensuring that the necessary steps after their loss are as problem free as possible." You can read the full press release from the **Royal College of Pathologists** [here](#).

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Children's Funeral Fund** will be implemented 'by the summer', Prime Minister Theresa May has confirmed. Sir John Hayes MP raised the issue of the Fund during Prime Minister's Questions on 27 February 2019. You can view Theresa May's response to Sir John Hayes' question on the **BBC website**.



The **Competition and Markets Authority** launched a brief consultation on the scope of its proposed market investigation into the funerals market. The consultation was launched after the CMA received representations that the scope should be extended to include funeral services arising from the redemption of prepaid funeral plans. The consultation closed on 13 March 2019 and we await further updates from the CMA. You can see updates on **CMA website**.





INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A public consultation on the introduction of cremation in **Malta** has been launched by Health Minister Chris Fearne and MP Rosianne Cutajar.

The public consultation will remain open until 29 March 2019 and will then be debated in Parliament.

The proposed law will make cremation legal, will set criteria for the application for cremation and will provide for the possible means of storage or disposal of the ashes. It will also lead to the establishing of the responsible entity which will issue cremation licenses and put in place the groundwork for registering cremations.

For more details, please read the **Times of Malta article**.



Greece's Environment and Energy Minister George Stathakis has approved plans that will see the creation of Greece's first cremation facility. The plans for the construction of a crematorium in a plot west of Athens will see cremations carried out at an average cost of 500 to 600 euros. For more on this news, please read the article on **The Guardian website**.



UNDERTAKERS BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT!

If you've ever wondered what happens to your online presence after your worldly one has gone then wonder no more. According to the article in **Wired**, digital undertakers can organise a '**cyber funeral**' for you, in order to ensure your online data is removed or tidied up, after you die. Companies have been established in South Korea, the US and the UK and will work with online companies to dispose of your online data to ensure that your online presence does not last any longer than your worldly one...



AND FINALLY...

The great and the good of the fashion world gathered in Nanterre, France for the cremation of the legendary fashion designer **Karl Lagerfeld**, on 22 February 2019. The designer, who was once quoted as saying he 'would rather die' than be buried, was cremated at **Mont Valérien Crematorium** where a large number gathered to pay their respects. You can see more on the **Evening Standard website**.



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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