



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



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With lockdown measures easing and more and more of us receiving our COVID vaccinations, it is beginning to feel more 'hopeful' as we head into Spring.

You can keep up to date with any changes in legislation or guidance by visiting our dedicated COVID-19 news page on [our website](#). We continue to meet weekly with our colleagues and Government representatives, in the Deceased Management Advisory Group and you can find notes of the meetings on the [DMAG website](#).

We are disappointed not to be able to meet you in person at this year's CBCE event but we are delighted to be working with the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities in bringing you a one-day CBCE event on Wednesday 23 June 2021. It will also be a great opportunity for exhibitors to update us on their activities so please do get in touch if you are interesting in exhibiting at the virtual event. You can find more details on page 3 or on the [CBCE website](#).

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

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## CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

### ANNUAL SURVEY OF CREMATORIA

We have had a fantastic response from crematoria returning the annual survey forms. We appreciate the time you have taken to complete the questionnaires. We are still waiting to hear from a small number of crematoria. If you have yet to return your form, we would appreciate it if you could email or post the forms back to us as soon as possible. This will enable us to compile and publish the data both in our statistics issue of Pharos International and on our website. Many individuals and organisations are waiting to analyse the data so your early response would be appreciated.



**THE CREMATION SOCIETY  
OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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**NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS 2020**

Name of Crematorium: <crematorium> Number: <number>

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**NUMBER OF CREMATIONS**

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (a) \_\_\_\_\_

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CREMATIONS for the year 2020** [(a) - (b)]  \_\_\_\_\_

How many of the cremations for 2020 were unattended (direct cremations)?  
(That is no mourners, no service and the body brought straight to the crematorium for disposal) \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISPOSAL OF CREMATED REMAINS FOR THE YEAR 2020**

1. Shown in the grounds of this crematorium \_\_\_\_\_

2. Interred in the grounds of this crematorium \_\_\_\_\_

3. Placed above ground at this crematorium \_\_\_\_\_

4. Removed from this crematorium \_\_\_\_\_

5. No collectable remains obtained \_\_\_\_\_

6. Awaiting instructions for disposal \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** [Should agree with  above] \_\_\_\_\_

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**OTHER CREMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR 2020**  
(Not to be included in the above figures)

1. The number of **individual** fetal cremations that you carried out at your crematorium during the year ended 31 December 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

2. The **number of shared coffins** containing fetal remains that were cremated at your crematorium during the year ended 31 December 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

3. The **total number** of individual fetuses (if known) that were contained **within** the shared cremations (Question 2) that you carried out at your crematorium in the year ended 31 December 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

This is essential for us to be able to accurately record the number of fetal remains cremated each year and to compare this figure with the total fetal losses occurring in the UK during the same period.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and position of Signatory (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE): \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number in case of any queries: \_\_\_\_\_



## CBCE UPDATE



In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty over when large gatherings will be allowed, we have made the difficult decision to postpone this year's live CBCE event.

We are pleased to confirm that the event will now take place on Monday 20 June – Wednesday 22 June 2022 and we will be returning to the Hilton at Ageas Bowl in Southampton.

We are disappointed not to be able to welcome you in person to CBCE this year, however we are delighted to also announce that, for one year only, a bitesize one day CBCE event will be taking place virtually on Wednesday 23rd June 2021.

Full details of how to register as an attendee for CBCE Virtual 2021 will be distributed shortly. Please also keep an eye on our website [www.cbce.org.uk](http://www.cbce.org.uk) for updates.

We also have limited sponsorship opportunities for CBCE Virtual 2021, as well as the chance to exhibit in our virtual expo. If you would be interested in either of these opportunities please do contact us for further details. We very much hope you will join us on the virtual platform as a way to maintain contact with clients, customers and colleagues old and new.

If you have any questions about the virtual event please contact the CBCE Administration Office on [info@cbce.org.uk](mailto:info@cbce.org.uk) or +44 (0) 1543 439 714.

**Federation and Cremation Society**

**Joint Conference**



**FBCA**  
Federation of Burial  
& Cremation Authorities



**The Cremation Society**  
Rooted in history: committed to the future

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans for a new crematorium in **Gretton** have been given the go-ahead despite concerns from village residents. **Corby Borough Council** discussed the application by **Dignity Funerals** to build the facility just over 1km south of Gretton, off Corby Road, at a meeting on 16 March 2021. Planning officers, who had recommended the application be approved, said a range of 19 conditions attached to the approval, would address the concerns raised. Dignity Funerals, which already runs 46 similar sites across the country, plans to build a crematorium, 120-seat chapel, memorial gardens and a linear pool. For more on this development, please read the [Rutland & Stamford Mercury article](#).

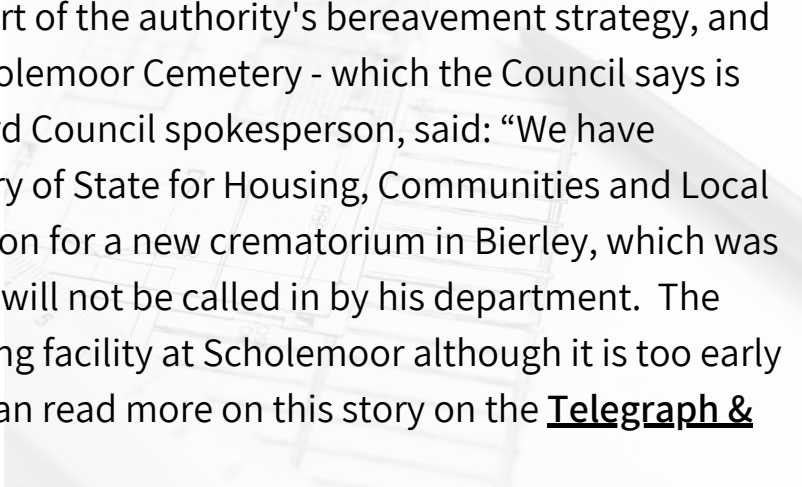
Plans for a pagan-style long barrows crematorium near **Bude** have been submitted to **Cornwall Council**. A planning application has been put forward by the **Atlantic View Consortium**. A public consultation found that 66% of people who took part were in favour of the plans for the Atlantic View Crematorium and Memorial Garden, which would be located on the outskirts of the village of Poundstock near Bude, Cornwall. Howard Smith of the Atlantic View Crematorium Consortium, said: "The creation of a new crematorium would substantially reduce the emotional turmoil of those who currently have to travel long distances to say goodbye to a loved one." You can read more detail, in the [In Your Area article](#).

Council bosses have revealed that the search for a site for a new £7.5 million crematorium in Sunderland is still ongoing – with any final decisions yet to be made. The facilities at the present Bishopwearmouth Crematorium, just off Chester Road, have been deemed to be outdated and the council has begun looking for a new location. The council had conducted initial groundwork studies at a site in Gilly Law, which received strong community feedback and the site has now been ruled out of the planning process until further notice. For more on this story, please visit the [Sunderland Echo website](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

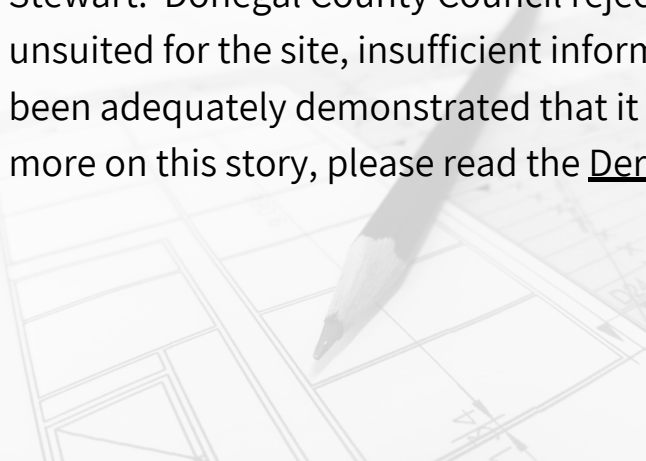
### CREMATORIA NEWS

THE Secretary of State has declined to call in plans to build a new crematorium on an area of Green Belt in South Bradford. Last month **Bradford Council's** Regulatory and Appeals Committee approved plans to build the new facility on a field off **Shetcliffe Lane, Bierley**. The crematorium was part of the authority's bereavement strategy, and is intended to replace the facility at Scholemoor Cemetery - which the Council says is way beyond its operating life. A Bradford Council spokesperson, said: “We have received confirmation from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government that the planning application for a new crematorium in Bierley, which was recently approved by Bradford Council, will not be called in by his department. The new crematorium will replace the existing facility at Scholemoor although it is too early to say when the works will start.” You can read more on this story on the [Telegraph & Argus website](#).



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An Bord Pleanála has rejected an appeal against the decision to refuse planning permission for a crematorium in **Donegal**. Dozens of objections were lodged against plans to build the crematorium at a site near **Manorcunningham** off the main Derry to Letterkenny road. The plans for the proposed Sallybrook North West Crematorium were lodged with **Donegal County Council** last August by Lawrence Donnelly and Sane Stewart. Donegal County Council rejected the plans saying the development was unsuited for the site, insufficient information had been submitted and that it had not been adequately demonstrated that it could appropriately deal with emissions. For more on this story, please read the [Derry Now article](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### APPG FOR FUNERALS AND BEREAVEMENT NEWS

The Cremation Society, along with fellow members of the Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG), is an associate member of the **All-Party Parliamentary Group for Funerals and Bereavement**. The APPG meets online once a month and it is encouraging to see more and more Parliamentarians joining the Group, with a desire to raise and tackle issues affecting the funeral sector and the bereaved. Recently these discussions have included the ongoing problems surrounding excess mourners attending funerals, recognition of cemetery and crematoria workers as key workers, and the need for future cross-departmental working. You can read up to date news on the activities of the Group, on the [APPG website](#).



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### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Funeral pyres could make an unexpected return under legislation being considered in the US state of Maine. A bill before the state legislature would allow a non-profit with at least 20 acres of space to carry out open-air cremations. Maine would become the first US state to legalise open-air cremations, which are only legal in a limited way in Colorado and banned elsewhere. Missouri legislators backed a bill to allow open-air cremations in 2019, but it was vetoed by state governor Michael Parson. For more on this story, please read the [Scottish Legal News article](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### WELSH GOVERNMENT NEWS

Families who suffer the loss of a child will receive £500 towards funeral costs, the Welsh government has announced. From 1 April, anyone who registers a death under the age of 18 will be offered the money by the registrar. The Welsh government scrapped burial and cremation costs in 2017 but the move did not go as far as coffins. Julie James, local government minister, said of the change: "No parent wants to think about having to plan their child's funeral. We have worked with local authorities so this process is as seamless as possible for families." For more details, please visit the [BBC News website](#).



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

### RESEARCH NEWS

The first major study of pandemic-related changes in bereavement care, from the **University of Cambridge**, describes the 'drastic changes in bereavement care that have occurred, amid a flood of demand for help from bereaved people'. In the research, published in BMJ Open, researchers at Cambridge's Department of Public Health and Primary Care report the results of an online survey sent to health and social care staff in August 2020. 805 people responded, including those working in community, care home, hospital and hospice settings across the UK and Ireland. You can [view the research paper here](#).

The **Centre for Death & Society (CDAS)** is an internationally recognised research centre focusing on the interdisciplinary social aspects of death, dying and bereavement. Their monthly newsletter is now available to view [on their website](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### SECTOR NEWS

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust are looking for new trustees. The Friends took over the historic cemetery abandoned by its owners, forty years ago. Since then vegetation has been cut back, listed monuments repaired and Highgate Cemetery now welcomes one hundred thousand visitors a year. The Trust is looking for trustees bringing a wide range of skills from financial judgement to human relations, heritage appreciation, and fundraising, underlain by a concern for the local community and those whose friends and family are buried in the cemetery. For more details on this opportunity, please visit the [Highgate Cemetery website](#).



The **Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)** has opened a consultation on the provision and distribution of **pre-paid funeral plans**. From 29 July 2022, activities involving the provision and distribution of pre-paid funeral plans will come under FCA regulation, and firms conducting these activities will need to be authorised by the FCA. From 29 July 2022, the Financial Ombudsman Service will become responsible for resolving disputes about funeral plans. The consultation closes on 13 April 2021 and you can take part by visiting the [FCA website](#).





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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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