




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



## ANNUAL CREMATORIA SURVEY

 **The Cremation Society of Great Britain**  
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**NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS 2022**

Name of Crematorium: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF CREMATIONS**

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (a) \_\_\_\_\_

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 (b) \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CREMATIONS for the year 2022** [(a) - (b)] ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

How many of the total cremations for 2022 were unattended (direct) cremations?  
 (That is no mourners, no service and the body brought straight to the crematorium for disposal)  
 If none, please indicate whether not offered (N/O) or not recorded (N/R) \_\_\_\_\_

**DISPOSAL OF CREMATED REMAINS FOR THE YEAR 2022 (excluding N/O & N/R)**

1. Scattered 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] \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER CREMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR 2022**  
 (Not to be included in the above figures)

1. The number of unattended funeral cremations that you carried out at your crematorium during the year ended 31 December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

2. The number of shared coffins / containers holding fetal remains that were cremated at your crematorium during the year ended 31 December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

3. The total number of individual fetuses (if known) that were cremated within the shared coffins / containers (Question 2) that you carried out at your crematorium in the year ended 31 December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

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): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address and telephone number in case of any queries: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you to those crematoria who have kindly completed the annual crematoria survey forms. We have had a really good response so far, however if you are yet to return your form then please do email or post this back to us as soon as possible to enable us to collate and publish this information.

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



# Cremation and Burial Communication and Education 2023

Following last year's highly successful joint conference, we are delighted to announce that we will be returning to the Hilton Ageas Bowl, Southampton for this year's Cremation & Burial Communication & Education (CBCE) event.

CBCE 2023 will take place from Monday 26th June to Wednesday 28th June 2023.

Registration is now open! To book your place, please visit the CBCE website: [www.cbce.org.uk](http://www.cbce.org.uk)  
Please also follow us on Twitter [@CBCEevent](https://twitter.com/CBCEevent)



26 -28TH  
JUNE  
2023



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS



Plans for a new crematorium at **Chapelton** have been given the go-ahead to meet “significant” demand for services. **Southesk Farms** lodged an application for the new crematorium on the Elsie Estate near Newtonhill last October. They wanted to build a new hall and crematorium next to the walled garden of the historic Elsie House. A swimming pool building currently on the site will be demolished to make way for the new facility. The application was initially considered by councillors last month but they agreed to visit the site first due to concerns over parking. Council planners had recommended the plan be approved. The crematorium is expected to operate four and a half days a week – from Monday to Thursday and Friday mornings. Outside of these times, the hall would be available for alternative uses. Committee chairwoman **Wendy Agnew** said she had “no hesitation” granting the application. Councillor **Alison Evison** added: “The nature of what’s available on the site already is important when thinking about transport and travel arrangements that people have been concerned about.” The committee then unanimously approved the application. To read the full article please visit [The Press & Journal website](#).

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The future of cremations at the city’s **Astwood Cemetery** is to be investigated by council bosses. **Worcester City Council** is weighing up its options for the 170-plus-year-old Astwood Cemetery with the ability to carry out cremations at the site in the balance. Bosses are contending with a mix of ageing furnaces that need to be replaced, falling demand for burial and cremations and dwindling space. The council is looking to spend £100,000 on a new study into the city’s crematorium so it can decide whether the facilities should be improved or replaced and stay at Astwood Cemetery or even moved completely to a new site. The council admits a new crematorium would come at a “significant” cost and it would be cheaper to stay at a replaced or improved Astwood Cemetery. The city council’s environment committee meets in the Guildhall on March 14 to discuss the study which officers said would give the council the chance to “fully understand its options.” For the complete article, please visit [The Worcester News website](#).



### CREMATORIA NEWS

A historic cemetery chapel which is more than 160 years old could be set for an ambitious restoration worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. **Colchester Cemetery and Crematorium's** 19th century Anglican Chapel, in Mersea Road, is in desperate needs of external masonry repairs. The slowly crumbling building, understood to have been constructed in 1855, is also in need of a host of maintenance repairs and decorative improvements. Bosses at **Colchester Borough Homes**, acting on behalf of **Colchester Council**, are now looking to commission a workforce to carry out the works. The company entrusted with fulfilling the delicate restoration will be awarded a contract worth between £200,000 and £250,000. Work on the chapel is scheduled to get underway on April 17 and is earmarked for completion – providing there are no unexpected setbacks - by September 1. For the full article, please visit [the Daily Gazette Standard website](#).

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Construction of **Hatfield's** new crematorium is on track to be completed this summer after councillors visited the site to check on progress. The Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, **Cllr Barbara Fitzsimon** and leader of the council **Tony Kingsbury**, were among those to tour the facilities at **Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium**, which include a larger chapel and provides facilities for both burial and cremation funeral services. The existing buildings at the entrance to the cemetery have been replaced with new landscaping and areas for burial, while the bereavement services team will be based at the new complex. Oak Hill is being built after **Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council** identified the need for improved cremation services in the area. For more information on this article please visit the [Welwyn Hatfield Times website](#).

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Groundwork construction is underway on a new crematorium facility in **Steppingley, near Flitwick**, with the facility expected to be open in the spring of 2024. **Spacemaker Developments** have been appointed as the contractor behind the project by **Central Bedfordshire Council**. The project will incorporate a new contemporary crematorium within landscaped grounds. It is anticipated there will be capacity for four to five services a day between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. The gardens will be open for residents to use, with free parking onsite. More information about the crematorium plans can be found on the [Central Bedfordshire Council website](#).



### CREMATORIA NEWS

Mercia Forest Crematorium is being developed by **Westerleigh Group**, the UK's largest independent owner and operator of crematoria and cemeteries, on **Broad Lane, Essington**. Located within more than 10 acres of beautiful woodland grounds, bosses behind the plans say the new crematorium will be one of the most environmentally-friendly facilities of its kind in the country, serving the communities of **Walsall, Wolverhampton and Cannock**.

The bereaved looking for a full attended service will benefit from a light, airy and welcoming contemporary chapel, able to seat 112 people with significant standing room. Large chapel windows will provide wide, pleasant views of the surrounding woodland landscape and an exit door will lead mourners to a sheltered floral tribute area. To personalise services, **Mercia Forest Crematorium** will be able to offer an almost unlimited choice of music, while two high-resolution screens will allow services to be customised with a slideshow, photographs and suitable written words. Mercia Forest Crematorium will feature the latest, advanced filtration and abatement technology on its cremator, which aims to reduce pollution as well as a programme of protecting and creating new wildlife habitats, retaining trees and enhancing native planting. To help reduce the crematorium's dependency on external energy sources, solar photovoltaics are being installed, as well as crematory heat recovery systems and other measures which will make the site as kind to the climate as possible. For more information visit [merciaforestcrematorium.co.uk](http://merciaforestcrematorium.co.uk) and to read this article in full, visit the [Express & Star website](#).

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The idea of building a second crematorium in **Argyll and Bute** has been suggested in a new report – but some burial grounds in the area could be closed. Argyll and Bute currently has only one crematorium, in **Cardross**, and an executive director from Argyll and Bute has now suggested it may be “worthwhile” looking at another being established in a different part of the area because of the long distances involved for many mourners travelling to Cardross from places such as **Oban, Mid Argyll and Kintyre**. However, a report on the subject warns that a business case prepared seven years ago found such a project to be financially unviable – and that the same may end up being the case this time. The same report suggests reducing the number of active burial grounds across the area as an alternative, with more burial grounds provided on Argyll and Bute's main islands. The document will go before the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee on Thursday, March 2. For more on this article, please visit the [Helensburgh Advertiser website](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Two new cremators are expected to be operational at **Greenock Crematorium** by June. The first cremator is to be delivered in early April and will be operational within three weeks. The second cremator will arrive at the end of May. They are part of a wider £1.6m revamp of the crematorium which has been hit by delays. Work started last November and was progressing steadily until the discovery of an uncharted gas-main, which is now being diverted. The council says a new electricity supply, flue gas abatement system and remaining works are 'projected to be completed by October'. This article can be found on the [Greenock Telegraph website](#).

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Plans for a new crematorium have been submitted to Fareham planners as an existing site reaches full capacity. **Mercia Crematoria Developments** has applied to **Fareham Borough Council** for planning permission for the new facility on land **north of Brune Lane, Lee-on-the-Solent**. Due to an increasing population, death and cremation rates, the scheme is set to overtake the Portchester Crematorium which will be unable to meet increasing demand in future years. Developers hosted a public consultation in January to hear residents' views about the scheme. Planning documents state there were 'initial concerns' about developing on a greenfield site but once it was explained that 75 per cent of the site will remain clear 'such concerns soon dissipated'. The facility will comprise a chapel with a 130-seat capacity, two cremators and an associated memorial garden. Planning documents state the crematorium will provide services to Fareham and Gosport residents who 'currently have to travel north to the top of Portsmouth Harbour where the Portchester Crematorium is, or even further afield to the crematoriums of Wessex Vale to the northwest and The Oaks at Havant to the northeast'. The application has its decision deadline set on April 24. For more information on this article, please visit the [Daily Echo website](#).



### CREMATORIA NEWS

The renovation of two major **Glasgow City Council** owned crematoriums is to be completed this year, it has been confirmed. Refurbishment work on **Daldowie Crematorium's** building and surrounding roads was carried out in 2021 with further work to add CCTV due to be completed by the end of last month. Work is also expected to be carried out on **Linn Crematorium** later this year. The local authority undertakes an average 5500 cremations per year at its locations at **Linn and Daldowie**. An update was brought before the environment and liveable neighbourhoods committee on Tuesday afternoon. Questions were raised about the extent of the work due to be carried out on Linn Crematorium. Councillor **Stephen Docherty** said: "In relation to Linn, is there going to be any investment in the building in the near future because unfortunately I was there for a few funerals recently and the place is in a pretty dilapidated state." A council officer confirmed that a programme was in place, which would include renovating the building. The official said: "This is due to commence later this year. It will predominantly be dealing with mechanical and electrical but there will be a significant amount of money spent on the aesthetics as well." To read the full article please visit the [Glasgow Times website](#).

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A new crematorium being built in **Yapton** is set to open this summer. Nestled just three miles north-east of **Bognor Regis**, the new **Arun Crematorium** will serve the communities of Selsey, Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Worthing. It will feature a light and airy contemporary chapel building, with seating space for 112 people and standing room for even more. The chapel windows will provide wide, private views of the crematorium's landscaped grounds, and an exit door will lead mourners to a sheltered floral tribute area. The site is being developed by the UK's largest independent owner of crematoria and cemeteries – **The Westerleigh Group** – who also run 37 other sites across England, Scotland and Wales. The business also claims it is 'committed' to reducing the new facility's impact on the environment. The Westerleigh Group was the first company in the sector to adopt environmental policies issued by the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities, and bosses are now working towards making it a net-zero business by 2032. In an attempt to continue that positive precedent, the new building will feature advanced filtration and abatement technology, which, it is hoped, will reduce the environmental impact of the crematorium. To read this article in full, please visit the [Sussex World website](#).



### CREMATORIA NEWS

On Tuesday, February 21, Cllr **John Whittle**, the Chairman of **East Riding Council**, officially opened the new £11 million crematorium in **Lelley**. The new facility will provide residents of the whole region with a peaceful and tranquil space to say their goodbyes to their loved ones as well as providing a space for families to reflect and grieve. **Lelley Fields crematorium** is the first of its kind in **Holderness** and will eliminate the travel times previously undertaken by local residents to access cremation services in Hull and further afield. North Holderness Ward Councillor Mr Whittle, who oversaw the development from its application, said: "I think Lelley Fields demonstrates something different within the East Riding. It is a first time the East Riding Council has opened and run its own crematorium. "I have had the privilege of watching the construction from being on the planning committee when it was first passed. To see the final product is just absolutely mind-blowing. I think it is a fantastic testament, not just to the East Riding, not just to the architect, but everyone involved. The crematorium has been hailed a success story for the Holderness region with its fast development time, having been constructed in 15 months. To read this article in full, please visit the [Holderness Gazette website](#).

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Permit request for cremation facility outside **Addolorata** has been overruled by draft policy as it lies inside **Area of High Landscape Protection**. A draft policy for standalone crematoria will rule out cremation facilities in Areas of High Landscape Protection. That would mean a proposed cremation facility on a 7,600sq.m of agricultural land to the south of the national **Addolorata cemetery**, would be precluded under the proposed rules. The area, known as **tal-Horr**, is designated as an Area of High Landscape Protection and a strategic open gap between urban areas. The application was presented in 2021 by funeral undertaker **Johann Camilleri** on behalf of **Active Group Limited**. The application is currently suspended in anticipation of the new policy. The proposed crematorium would have a 560sq.m building, and an 890sq.m columbarium. A previous application was refused by the Planning Authority in 2018 because such development is not allowed by the present policy, which only allows cremation facilities within extensions of existing cemeteries. The new policy will now allow standalone crematoria outside the development zones, if they satisfy a number of stringent criteria. To read this article in full, please visit the [Malta Today website](#).



# Competition and Markets Authority Update

The CMA have introduced an **online portal** for funeral directors and crematorium operators which they can use to submit revenue returns and compliance statements.

## Information you will need

In completing this form, you will be asked to provide information including:

- your name and business details
- data on your business' revenue
- number of funerals or cremations your business carried out during the reporting period
- compliance statement

Compliance statements must be submitted by a Chief Executive Officer, Managing Director, Non-Executive Director, Senior Director, or a business owner.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/send-funeral-or-crematorium-information-to-the-cma>

## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



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**Fordingbridge** - designers, manufacturers and installers of innovative canopies and walkways.



**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.**

**OrthoMetals** - a family owned and operated business, recycling metals remaining after cremation.

 **PlotBox**

**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**

**Treske** - one of the UK's leading makers and suppliers of bespoke crematorium furniture and soft furnishings.

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**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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