



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



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As you will imagine, we have received many requests for the 2020 **cremation statistics**. I am delighted to report that we received responses from all crematoria in the British Isles which has enabled us to report full data for 2020. Our [website](#) has now been updated with the '2020 Table of Cremations' and 'Progress of Cremation 1885 - 2020'.

We will update the website with the international data following the publication of the statistics issue of [Pharos International](#).

We are grateful to all those crematoria and organisations, both nationally and internationally, who have provided their data to us. This will form an invaluable source of information for the public and for the funeral sector as a whole.

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

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## CBCE Virtual 2021 - 'Reflecting on the challenges, preparing for the future'

Registration is now open for this year's online CBCE 2021. We are delighted to welcome some excellent speakers who will be covering a wide range of topical issues:-

- Simon Holbrook - Manager - Local Authority Review - Environment Agency
- Jon Cross - Environmental Stewardship Group
- Professor Douglas Davies - Director of the Centre for Death and Life Studies, Durham University
- Dr Alan Fletcher - National Medical Examiner
- Robert Swanson - Senior Inspector of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors, Scottish Government
- Scott Storey - OpusXenta
- Eric Powell - Head of Reform, Civil Registration, Her Majesty's Passport Office
- Andy Tait, CEO, Greenacres Group | Karen Halpin, Park Manager, GreenAcre

There are still exhibition opportunities available and you can find more by visiting the [CBCE website](#). Further details on registration and speaker programme can be found on the [CBCE website](#) or follow [CBCE on Twitter](#) to keep up to date with news on the event.

We are grateful to the following for sponsoring this year's event:-



Obitus

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THE  
LONDON  
CREMATION  
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Federation and Cremation Society

Joint Conference

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

DMAG continues to meet regularly to work with Government and devolved administrations both in discussions surrounding the easing of restrictions but also to tackle general issues as they arise. As lockdown easing continues across the UK, there continues to be revised funeral guidance published on a regular basis. You can find all the latest updates on the [DMAG website](#) or on the Cremation Society's own [dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#).

You can find the latest links to guidance below:

- 24.05.2021 Northern Ireland's Department of Health issues updated '[Guidance for handling the infection risks when caring for the deceased and managing funerals](#)' during the period of restrictions effective from 24 May 2021
- 19.05.2021 Public Health England and the Department of Health & Social Care issues updated '[COVID-19: guidance for arranging and attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#)'
- 14.05.2021 Public Health England and the Department of Health & Social Care publishes updated long-form guidance for funerals as part of the road map from 17.05.2021 '[COVID-19: guidance for arranging and attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#)'
- 13.05.2021 Public Health England and the Department of Health & Social Care issues updated '[COVID-19: guidance for arranging and attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#)'
- 03.05.2021 Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government announces removal of limit on mourners at funerals in England from 17 May 2021
- 03.05.2021 Welsh Government issues updated '[Guidance on funerals: COVID-19](#)'



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

It has been revealed an estimated 1,300 cremations a year – approximately five a day – could be held at the proposed £6.5m **Mepal** crematorium. Further details for the former Mepal Outdoor Centre site have been revealed in an early screening opinion application submitted to **East Cambridgeshire District Council**. As well as the number of cremations, it has also been revealed the 33-acre location could also accommodate 294 natural burials, 290 ash internments and 120 pet burials. The proposed buildings to be constructed include a combined crematorium, main chapel and side chapel, a reception building and a function building. The screening opinion application was validated on 17 May 2021. East Cambridgeshire District Council has 21 days from that date to respond.

You can read more on this proposal on the [Ely Standard website](#).

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Plans to build a crematorium near **Caersws** have been overwhelmingly backed by councillors. The applicants will need to wait and see whether the application is called in by the Welsh Government before the decision can become a binding one. **Powys Crematorium Limited** – whose sole director is Dolforwyn Conservative councillor Gareth Pugh – wants to build a crematorium beside the B4568 road at Ael Y Bryn between Caersws and Aberhafesp. A spokesman for the Welsh Government said: “We can confirm ministers have been asked to call in an application for the construction of a new crematorium and green burial site. This request is currently under consideration and a decision will be made in due course.” You can find more details on this application on the [County Times website](#).

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**Fife Council** is investing almost £1.6 million in its crematoria as it upgrades its furnaces to accommodate larger coffins and carry out more services. Liz Murphy, Fife Council's bereavement services manager, said: "Dunfermline Crematorium has two cremators, both are over 25 years old and both need to be replaced. To allow us to do this work we have to shut the crematorium down completely for cremation services." Fife Council has proposed a number of contingencies to ensure services that were to take place in Dunfermline do so in Kirkcaldy smoothly. You can read more in the [Fife Today article](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

The garden of remembrance and war memorial at the crematorium in **St Helier** will not be moved as part of the proposed Overdale hospital development, the minister spearheading the project has confirmed. After the future of the crematorium was discussed at a recent meeting for local residents, Senator Farnham confirmed that the technology at the facility was approaching a point where it would soon be obsolete, prompting a review of its future. ‘The need to consider the future of the crematorium was something that was required to be considered, regardless of the Our Hospital project.’ he said. ‘It needs rebuilding, with an investment in new technology, and there’s a train of thought that as part of this it might be better that it was moved to a different site.’ You can read more on the [Jersey Evening Post website](#).

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Plans to build a £6 million crematorium on the outskirts of **Faversham** have been given the green light - despite fears it will snarl up the nearby road network. The proposals, drawn up by **Memoria**, were approved by Swale Borough Council at a virtual meeting this week. The council looked favourably upon the project, stressing that it will “provide benefits in respect of job creation in the rural area”. At the decision meeting, one of Memoria’s directors, Jamieson Hodgson, said his company had been looking for a site in Kent since 2009 and added the new facility would have an electric cremation system using renewable energy sources which would emit 95% fewer carbon emissions. For more details on this development, please visit the [Kent Online website](#).

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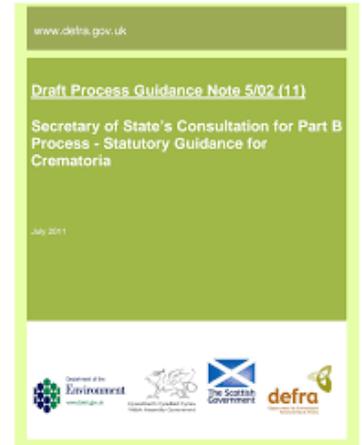
A Leicestershire crematorium is believed to be the first in the country to have a dedicated shrine to Shiva as part of its commitment to serve the diverse local community. **Great Glen Crematorium** is part of **Westerleigh Group**. The white marble statue of Shiva was donated by local businessman Sailesh Raja. The statue has recently had a roof placed over it to offer shelter to those who visit it to offer their prayers.

Harvey Watson, Site Manager at Great Glen Crematorium, said: “This has helped us to build even stronger relationships with our community, which is something that Westerleigh Group considers to be extremely important.” You can read more on the [BBC News website](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### DEFRA NEWS

Defra has notified local authorities in England that the Emergency Clauses within the **Process Guidance Notes for Crematoria** (paragraphs 5.31-5.38) were deactivated on 21st May 2021. The Emergency Clauses were activated on 17th April 2020 at the start of the pandemic as a preparedness measure to offer clarity for crematoria operators and regulators, encouraging them to prepare to handle the potential challenges of the coronavirus outbreak.



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### GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **House of Commons Justice Committee** has called for fundamental reforms of Coroners Courts to 'bring bereaved people into the heart of the system' in a **report published on 26 May 2021**. The Chair of the Justice Committee, Sir Bob Neill, said: "It is the mark of a civilized society to show respect and sympathy for the deceased and their bereaved families. That respect and sympathy must be followed through with a robust way for us all to learn from tragic, sometimes unnecessary premature deaths. We conclude that such a service is necessary to ensure that those who have lost loved ones – sometimes in dramatic and terrible circumstances – can receive the level of help and advice that they need, wherever they may live." You can read the **[full report here](#)**.

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### RESEARCH NEWS

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](#)**.

## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



**Canfly Marketing** produce beautifully designed presentation bags suitable for Urns, Caskets, Scatter Tubes and Cremation Ash Boxes.



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**The Columbaria Company** - specialists in the production of personalised memorial artwork and after cremation memorials.



**F G Marshall** supplied the very first Book of Remembrance to Woking Crematorium in 1938. To this day technology still hasn't replaced the precision, skill and touch of the human hand.

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**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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## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



**Obitus** - provider of bereavement technology services, delivering music, webcast and tributes for families, funeral directors and leading funeral venues throughout the UK.



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



**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](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)



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