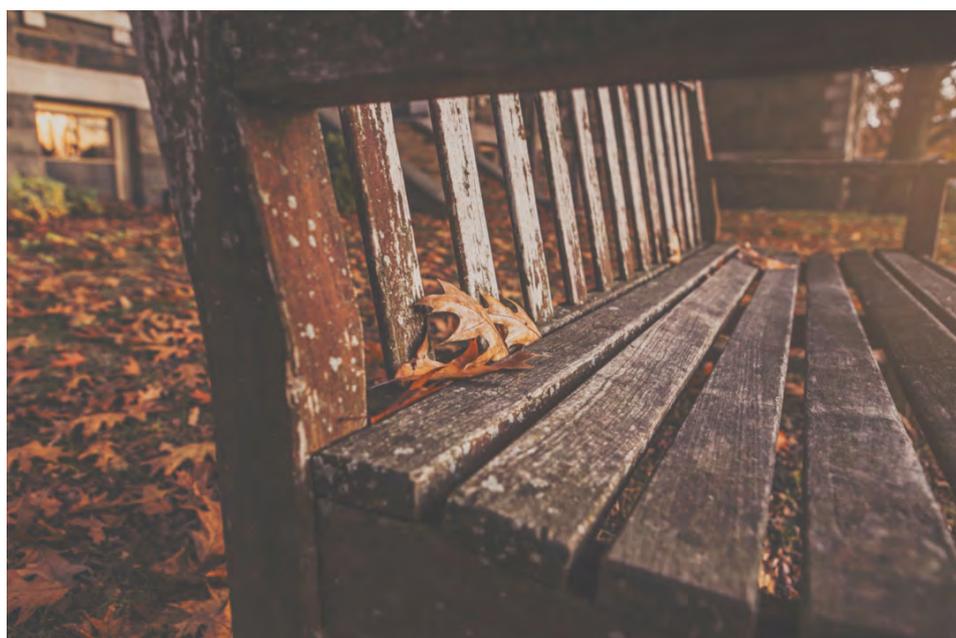




*A monthly review of news and events from within the bereavement sector*



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## **FFMA APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association (FFMA) has announced the appointment of Alun Tucker as its new Chief Executive.

See page 3.

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## **REMEMBER, REMEMBER...**

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

This year seems to be flying past, Bonfire Night is over and we are already on the countdown to the festive season.

At the Cremation Society we are busy looking ahead and making plans for 2019 so please do look at the '**Save the Date**' announcements in this news review to get the dates in your diary and let us know if you have any events planned that you would like us to share.

## Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

#### Cremation and Burial Communication and Education (CBCE) 2019

Following on from the tremendous success of this year's CBCE in Newcastle upon Tyne, we are delighted to announce the dates for CBCE 2019.

The event will take place from 1 -3 July 2019 at the Hilton Ageas Bowl, Southampton.

Booking will open shortly so please 'save the date', look out for news on this in future newsletters or keep an eye on the '**Latest News**' section of our website.



#### Bereavement Services Seminar - March 2019

As previously announced, the four representative organisations for cemeteries and crematoria in the UK (APCC, CSGB, FBCA and ICCM) are once again holding a one-day joint seminar on Wednesday 27 March 2019.

The seminar will be held at the Stratford Manor Hotel, Warwick Road, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0PY.

Further details on booking for the event will be announced shortly and again, will be added to the '**Latest News**' section of our website.



## **NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS FORM**

Looking ahead to 2019, we will be sending out the annual national cremation statistics questionnaire, combined with the cremation fee questionnaire, in January 2019.

As many of you may know, last year was the first year we took over the collection of the annual cremation statistics from the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA).

The information gathered allows us to build a comprehensive picture of what is happening in the cremation sector and your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## **FFMA APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association (FFMA) has appointed Alun Tucker as its new Chief Executive with effect from 22 October 2018. Alun is a very familiar face in the funeral world having joined the sector at the age of 14.

On the announcement of his appointment, Alun said: "I'm delighted to have been given the opportunity to lead the FFMA.

"In the coming months, I look forward to working with the President of the FFMA and its Executive Board to develop a strategy which builds upon the good work done to date and facilitates the growth of the Association in the future."



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

**Portchester Crematorium** in Fareham, Portsmouth, has celebrated its 60th anniversary. Since its opening in 1958, it has carried out over 210,000 cremations. The crematorium is renowned for its ten acres of gardens which have won many awards over the years and provide visitors with an area for reflection overlooking Portsmouth Harbour.

For more details on the anniversary, please read the article on the **Funeral Service Times website**.

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**Plymouth City Council** has unveiled the first detailed plans for their proposed new 'modern quality' crematorium. It is estimated that £12m will be spent on the new 17-acre site as detailed plans were published. You can see the plans and read more details by visiting the **Radio Plymouth article**.

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**Westerleigh** has submitted plans for a new crematorium to serve **Oswestry** and the surrounding areas. Once operating, it is estimated that the new crematorium would host an average of around four funerals per day. To read news on this development, please visit the **Shropshire Star article**.

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Plans to bring a new crematorium to **Nottinghamshire** are to be discussed by Rushcliffe Borough Council's cabinet. The new facility at Stragglethorpe near Cotgrave could provide additional capacity for at least 1,000 funerals each year alongside the borough's only currently existing facility at Wilford Hill. To read more on this development, please read the **Nottinghamshire Live article**.

## **DIGNITY PUBLISH REPORT ON CREMATORIA**

We were pleased to be able to contribute towards the recent 'Cost, Quality, Seclusion and Time' report published by **Dignity**. The research was commissioned by Dignity to gather information from customers and funeral directors on their experience of UK crematoria. The report highlights a number of improvements that Dignity would like to see introduced, in order to improve consumers' experiences. The report was highlighted in a BBC article, which you can **read here**.

## **DEATH CERTIFICATION REFORM - MEDICAL EXAMINERS SCHEME**

The **Royal College of Pathologists**, the lead college for medical examiners, held an event on 20 September 2018 to support the implementation of the medical examiners scheme. The event was open to all and attracted attendees from across the bereavement sector, as well as NHS, coroners and registrars.

The event was jointly chaired by the President and former President of the RCP, Professor Jo Martin and Dr Suzy Lisman and speakers included Dr Alan Fletcher, the Lead Medical Examiner at the Department of Health and Social Care pilot scheme in Sheffield.

You can read the full report and keep up to date on future events surrounding the introduction of medical examiners on the **Royal College of Pathologists website**.

## **GOVERNMENT NEWS**

The **Competition and Markets Authority** has released the results of its commissioned consumer research as part of its funerals market study. The conclusions contained in the qualitative research report include the greater need for independent advice for consumers on arranging a funeral, and the need for raising awareness of the considerable variations in prices charged by different funeral directors. The research can be found on the **CMA website**.

The **National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors** has published its response to the consumer research findings. Their response can be found on the **SAIF website**.

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The **Parental Bereavement (Pay and Leave) Act** will be widened to ensure that eligibility will also include primary carers for children, the Government's Business Minister has announced. The new Act which is expected to come into force in 2020 will provide bereaved employees who lose a child under the age of 18 with two weeks' leave. Eligible employees will be able to claim two weeks statutory pay for this leave. For more details, please read the **Government's press release**.

## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

A new protocol has been introduced to speed up the release of the bodies of murder victims that have been retained for post-mortem examinations. In consultation with the Law Society of Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates, and the Royal College of Pathologists, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service has reviewed post-mortem protocols. For more on this news, please see the **Scottish Legal News website**.

## NEWS FROM IRELAND

Plans to build a new crematorium in **Kanturk** face a setback after it became clear that the planning application by Classic Lodges Limited did not meet Cork County Council planning guidelines. Cork County Council has stated that only one site notice was erected, when in fact two site notices were required. The applicants face the prospect of having to re-submit their application, as well as the objectors needing to re-submit their objections. For more information on this, please visit the article on **The Corkman website**.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

A **German** undertaker faces a 10,000 Euro fine after accidentally cremating a man who was due to be buried and burying another man in his place.

The mistake came to light after the man's family thought they had attended his burial but were then told that their relative had been cremated in error.

The undertaker could face a lawsuit for damages by the man's relatives plus a fine of up to 10,000 Euros. Under German law, the body due to be cremated must be identified a second time immediately before the cremation. The full article can be found on **The Times website**.

## PHAROS INTERNATIONAL - NEW 'STATISTICS' ISSUE IN 2019



We are pleased to announce that next year we will be publishing a separate **'statistics'** issue of **Pharos International**. This will be published in July/August and will include statistics gathered from the UK and internationally, including statistics previously collected by the FBCA.

As many of you will know, the Cremation Society currently publishes *Pharos International* quarterly. The annual subscription will therefore now include the 'statistics' issue, at no extra charge (five issues for the price of four).

The new 'statistics' issue will be a free publication only to those with an annual subscription. Prices for the annual subscription for 2019 have been frozen so do visit our **website** to purchase your subscription for next year. You can find the **order form here**.

## **COURT NEWS**

A comedian who appeared on 'Mock the Week', Ava Vidal, has lost her court battle with her ex-partner over the final funeral plans for their late daughter. Ms Vidal (42) had wanted to spread at least some of her daughter's ashes, to pay for her funeral and limit attendance at the cremation to only blood relatives but in a ruling, it was ordered that the ashes would instead be scattered in a garden of remembrance at the London church where her funeral will be held. To read the full report, please visit the article on the **Belfast Telegraph website**

## **RESOMATION NEWS**

**Resomation** will be hosting an open day on Thursday 6 December. Go along to find out more on the process of water cremation and to hear updates on the progress being made with this alternative method of disposal. To register your interest, please email [info@resomation.com](mailto:info@resomation.com) More details on **Resomation** can be found on **their website**.

## **FINAL WORD...**

The **Flying Scotsman** recently took a special journey from London to York with the ashes of its owner inside its engine box. The final tribute was made to the owner of the iconic steam train, **Alan Pegler**, who bought the train in 1963. He had requested his ashes be placed in the firebox of the steam engine he called "old girl". Mr Pegler died on 18 March 2012 at the age of 91. You can read more on this final journey on **The Telegraph website**.

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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