



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



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We are pleased to bring you this month's news review which we hope you will find of interest.

The end of the year is fast approaching and having attended a cemetery opening and two dedication services since last month's news review, it now feels like we are reaching the 'end of term' as far as events are concerned. It has been a real pleasure to meet up with many of you at the various services, conferences and events throughout the year.

The news, on the other hand, is certainly not slowing down and in this month's news review we include articles on new crematoria opening, developments reaching significant milestones and planning applications being approved. We look forward to working with colleagues on all of these new and exciting projects.

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

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## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS



The Cremation Society

Plymouth's brand new crematorium has hit a significant construction milestone with the steel frame for the main buildings beginning to take shape. It follows months of work on site by contractors **Kier** with roads and car parks now in place and the groundworks for the main building nearly complete. Councillor **Pat Patel**, Cabinet member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure & Sport, said: "It is so exciting to see the progress being made on site and watch as the build progresses from plans on a page to bricks and mortar in the ground. This crematorium is a once in a generation investment for the council and I'm ever so proud to be involved in delivering it for the people of Plymouth." The new crematorium, which will open in **2024**, has designs inspired by the landscape, the buildings will nestle into the slope of the site and will be surrounded by pooled water. Plymouth Limestone is being used on the façade with windows providing lots of light and stunning views out over the water, the local Devonshire scenery and beyond. Outside, reflective spaces, designed for memorialisation and scatterings will embrace the local environment and ecology. When the new crematorium is built, it will replace existing facilities at Efford and Weston Mill, which will continue to be active for burial and memorials. For the full article, please visit: [the Plymouth Herald website.](#)

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**Oakworth's** refurbished crematorium has been officially opened. The £2.5m-plus project included the installation of a new energy-efficient cremator – featuring latest emission-reducing technology – and a modernisation of the chapel. Work began last year, and was completed eight months ago. **Bermar Building Co Ltd**, based at Allerton, carried out the work. Designs were drawn-up by a team led by **Rex Procter and Partners**, supported by **Stride Treglown Architects**, **Furness Partnership** and **Novo Integration Engineers**. The project forms part of an overall **Bradford Council** bereavement services improvement package. Councillor **Sarah Ferriby**, portfolio holder for healthy people and places, said: "Our bereavement services strategy aims to ensure people receive the best possible service, wherever they live in the district, as well as addressing the need to reduce harmful emissions and increase energy efficiency." To read the article, please visit: [the Keighley News website.](#)



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## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

**Angus** councillors have further delayed deciding whether to approve plans for construction of a crematorium on farmland north of **Dundee**. After months of stalled decision-making following hundreds of objections from local residents, a final decision on the plans was anticipated earlier in November. But members of Angus Council's development management review committee (DMRC) decided that site visits are now necessary before reaching a resolution. **Mr Guthrie Batchelor** wants to build the facility, including a car park and memorial garden, on nearly two hectares of farmland east of **Duntrune House**, near **Murroes**. **David Fairweather**, former council leader and Independent member for **Arbroath West, Letham and Friockheim** said: "Regarding the simple fact that there are so many objections...I think it would be well worthwhile (the) committee seeing it for themselves." All other members agreed. Mr Batchelor says there is a need for another crematorium in Angus. Currently there is only one, located outside Friockhem near Arbroath; the other closest is in Dundee. The proposed site is approximately three miles north of the city. In January, Angus Council concluded that the plans for the **Duntrune** site breached local, regional and national planning policies. Local residents say the site is unsuitable because rural roads that lead there will not be able to cope with increased traffic. Moreover, they highlighted "serious discrepancies" in a lengthy report for the council. To read the full article, please visit: [the Courier's website](#).

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**Haltemprice Crematorium** has unveiled a new **Book of Remembrance** Room following transformative redecoration work to improve the visitor experience. In October 2020, the crematorium was severely damaged by a fire, but reopened earlier this year following a complex and extensive programme of repair works to restore the grade-listed building. The crematorium is today owned and operated by the **Crematorium & Memorial Group (CMG)**, part of end-of-life services provider, **Dignity**. Tom Napier, Haltemprice Crematorium's business leader, said: "We are delighted to unveil our new Book of Remembrance Room as a welcoming and warm space for visitors to come and remember their loved one. The room has been upgraded with freshly painted and wallpapered walls and lighting, new flooring and new furniture including an ornate chair and bookcase, alongside the Book of Remembrance within its elegant glass cabinet. Our Book of Remembrance is a lasting testament to the memory of someone special and is professionally inscribed by a calligrapher who can also create beautiful artwork in the book. For the full article, please visit: [the Hull Daily Mail website](#)

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

A crematorium is to be built on the well-known but long derelict **Tayto factory site** in **north Dublin**. An increase in the number of people opting for a cremation after death rather than a traditional burial has led to the need for a new facility, according to those behind the plans. **Staffords Funeral Directors** initially planned to develop their new headquarters on the old, **Tayto factory site**, in **Coolock**, as offices, chapels and a hearse depot. However, the family business decided to include the cremator “and associated flues,” after struggling to get appointments elsewhere. **Jonathan Stafford, Managing Director**, is overseeing the development of the industrial facility, on the **Malahide Road** and said: “The site has been derelict for so long. We want to modernise the old Tayto factory and bring it back to what it was. We’re hoping to be open by the end of next year. The crematorium planning has only just gone in, but the locals we spoke to were very positive about it.” **Dublin City councillor, Alison Gilliland**, expressed support for the development. “I very much welcome the new plans for the Tayto site. It has been un-used and derelict for many, many years now so the building of this new crematorium will very much rejuvenate this site and indeed the surrounding area. It will also provide new employment opportunities. With more people opting for cremation instead of a traditional burial the crematorium will also be a valuable addition to end of life services on the north side of the city. I wish it every success,” she said. To read the article, please visit: [www.independant.ie](http://www.independant.ie)

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Controversial plans for a new crematorium in **North Cornwall** have been approved despite hundreds of objections from local people. Planning permission for the **Atlantic View Crematorium** next to the A39 at **Poundstock** near **Bude** was granted by **Cornwall Council’s** strategic planning committee on 17th November. The new crematorium had been proposed to try and provide a facility for people in **North Cornwall and Devon** who currently have to travel long distances to Bodmin or Barnstaple to access their nearest crematorium. However, objectors questioned the viability of the project and said that it was in the wrong location. **Councillor John Fitter** said he thought the crematorium was an “exciting design” and added: “I am not sure that we should be so concerned about hiding it away. We shouldn’t get fixated on it being something that we should hide behind the trees. People go to celebrate the lives of those who have passed. I don’t think it should be a closed environment.” The proposal to approve the application was approved with seven votes in favour and four against. To read the full article, please visit: [the \*\*Cornish & Devon Post website\*\*](http://the-cornish-and-devon-post-website).



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Funeral directors, celebrants, members of the clergy, local parish councillors and senior representatives from many organisations within the bereavement sector came together for a Service of Dedication at **Aylesbury Vale Crematorium**. The crematorium is part of **Westerleigh Group**, the UK's largest independent owner and operator of crematoria and cemeteries. Westerleigh Group has a long-held tradition to dedicate a new crematorium to its community, an occasion which usually takes place approximately 12 months after its opening. Aylesbury Vale Crematorium, in the heart of the Buckinghamshire countryside, opened in 2019 but previous plans for its Service of Dedication had to be postponed because of the pandemic and the period of national mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. **Debbie Smith**, Westerleigh Group CEO, spoke of the initial quest – which began in 2014 – to find a suitable location in Aylesbury, which led to the development of the crematorium at the site which edges **Watermead Lake** and the **River Thame**. The common theme that ran throughout the service was of the care and compassion for the bereaved provided by site manager **Lilly Fortune**, who only recently took up the position, and her team. Lilly said: “We’re grateful to everyone who joined us for our dedication service and who has supported us during the first few years of our crematorium establishing itself as a positive presence within the local community. The funeral profession has a true focus on care and compassion. To be able to provide that final journey and service for families and their loved ones is truly rewarding.” **Wendy Buchan**, Executive Officer & Secretary to The Cremation Society, was one of the guests at the event. She said: “It was very clear just how respected the Aylesbury Vale team is, by clergy and celebrants alike, and just how dedicated they are to the work they carry out.” To read the article, please visit: [the Aylesbury Vale Crematorium's website](#)



Aylesbury Vale Crematorium Dedication Service



## NEWS REVIEW

### DMAG and APPG UPDATE

Members of the **Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG)** continue to meet regularly to discuss issues and developments facing the funeral sector. DMAG recently met with the representatives from across the devolved administrations to update them on current challenges. DMAG have also met and are in regular communication with the Ministry of Justice on winter contingency planning, the rollout of the National Medical Examiner system, and the issue of medical implants and crematoria.

Members of the Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG) attended the latest meeting of the **All-Party Parliamentary Group for Funerals and Bereavement**. There was an update on the campaign for the re-use of graves, the rollout of the National Medical Examiner system and attendance by representatives from the Law Commission to discuss their project 'A Modern Framework for the Disposal of the Dead'.



**Deceased Management**  
Advisory Group



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

Our annual Directory of Crematoria is available now. To order your copy please fill in our [online form](#)



**Published:** Annually - latest edition 2022

**Price:** £38.00 each incl. claret binder and p+p.; £35.00 each insert only incl. p+p; £9.00 binder only incl. p+p

**Contents:** Statistics of cremations in Great Britain since 1885; Addresses of crematoria listed by county, indicating whether publicly or privately owned, and showing number of cremations carried out in each in previous year and since opening.

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- Crematorium Ownership Projected Crematoria (whether public or private)
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- Facts and Figures
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contact us at [info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)



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