



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



Scottish Minister thanks funeral profession

Scottish Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, has written to members of the **Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG)** to thank those involved in the funeral profession for their commitment to help people in need. DMAG are glad the hard work of the profession and of the Group itself, has been recognised. You can [view the letter here.](#)

Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

As the second wave hits the UK and parts of the country are getting locked down, more than ever we appreciate the work of the dedicated staff in the funeral sector.

I would encourage you to follow [The Cremation Society](#), and the [Deceased Management Advisory Group](#) on Twitter or regularly visit the [dedicated COVID-19 page](#) on our website, to ensure you keep up to date with any changes in guidance, as they happen.

COVID-19 - UPDATE

Deceased Management Advisory Group



There have been a number of updates in guidance issued since our last news review and some of the more significant updates issued are listed below:-

- 22.10.2020 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 16th October 2020
- 19.10.2020 Scottish Government issues [request to Scottish crematoria to stop the use of outside speakers](#)
- 14.10.2020 Northern Ireland Executive [tightens restrictions to curb COVID-19](#) - includes funerals to be limited to 25 people with no pre- or post-funeral gatherings
- 12.10.2020 Local COVID alert level VERY HIGH restrictions - [guidance](#) - including guidance for religious services and funerals
- 12.10.2020 Local COVID alert level HIGH restrictions - [guidance](#) - including guidance for religious services and funerals
- 12.10.2020 Local COVID alert level MEDIUM restrictions - [guidance](#) - including guidance for religious services and funerals
- 07.10.2020 Scottish Government issues updated guidance on '[Carrying The Cords And Coffin](#)'

You can also read the notes of our regular meetings with the Cabinet Office and other Government agencies, [on our website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

The planning application for a crematorium in **Oxted** has been refused. The proposal from developers, **Horizon Cremation**, was to build a crematorium on a Green Belt field at the junction of Barrow Green Road and the A25, but was refused by **Tandridge District Council**. You can read more on this on the [Oxted and Limpsfield Residents Group website](#).

Pure Cremation's Charlton Park Crematorium, has broken the UK record for cremations carried out in the first year of operation. The crematorium, located in the beautiful Hampshire countryside near Andover, carried out 2,380 cremations since January 2019, with the previous highest figure being 1,462 for South Leicestershire Crematorium in Counteshorpe in 2016. Catherine Powell, who co-founded Pure Cremation with her husband Bryan, said: "Mourners and our funeral colleagues can rest assured that the deceased is being cared for at an innovative, well-run facility in beautiful surroundings and with exceptional customer service." You can read more about the **Charlton Park Crematorium** [on their website](#).

Plans submitted to **Dacorum Borough Council** for the construction of a new crematorium in **Hemel Hempstead**, have been approved by the Council's planning committee. The plans submitted by **West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee**, which comprises of councillors from five constituent authorities – Three Rivers District Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City & District Council and Watford Borough Council - have now been referred to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. You can view details of the proposed crematorium on the [West Herts Crematorium website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Contractors have been appointed for the construction of **Hambleton's** new crematorium. Contractor, Willmott Dixon, will begin work on the site on the outskirts of Thirsk in the first week of November. The multi-million-pound **Hambleton District Council** project will feature a revolutionary electric cremator to reduce emissions. Leader of Hambleton District Council, Councillor Mark Robson, said: "I'm delighted we are getting this much needed and significant development underway in November". You can read more on this development in the [Hambleton Today article](#).



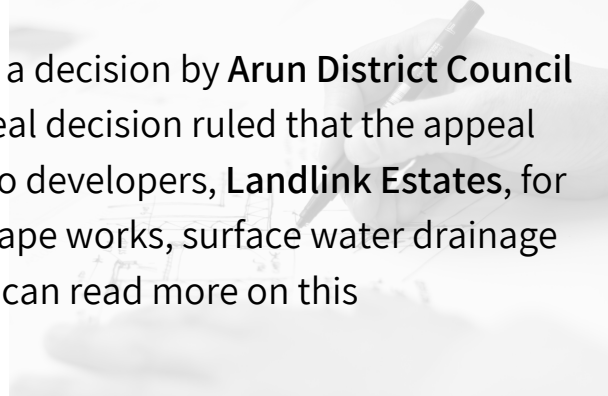
A £3.4 million modernisation of **St Helens Crematorium** has been approved. The announcement comes after the council's Bereavement Service team was recognised at a national level, securing a Silver in the nationwide Cemetery of the Year Awards. St Helens Council wants to build on this success and achievements of the service with a multi-million-pound investment in the building and completely revitalise facilities to a modern standard. The ambition for the project is a full refurbishment of the crematorium building, "in a cohesive, modern and respectful style". You can read more in the [St Helens Star article](#).

Plans have been announced for a new crematorium and memorial garden to be built in **Woodhatch**. The plans for the crematorium show a modern and discreet building, set in a landscaped garden of remembrance that complements the surrounding landscape. **Reigate & Banstead Borough Council** is planning an online consultation event on Thursday 29 October at 6.30pm via Zoom. Residents will hear from the Design Team about the proposed development and will be able to ask questions. For details of how to take part, visit the [Reigate & Banstead Borough Council website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Developers have been successful in an appeal against a decision by **Arun District Council** to reject plans for a crematorium at **Yapton**. The appeal decision ruled that the appeal should be allowed and granted planning permission to developers, **Landlink Estates**, for a single chapel crematorium, with car parking, landscape works, surface water drainage features and associated highway improvements. You can read more on this development in the [Bognor Regis Observer article](#).



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND NEWS

Planning permission is being sought for the construction of a crematorium near **Castleblayney**. The single storey building, including a chapel of rest, would be built adjacent to and within the same complex as a previously approved pet crematorium building in Broomfield. The planning statement notes that the applicant, Olive Cunningham, wishes to erect a pet crematorium and a human crematorium as “an overall integral development operated as one”. You can read more in the [Northern Sound article](#).

Donegal County Council has refused permission for a proposed crematorium in Monclink, **Manorcunningham**. The Council finding said that there is a need for such services, and in principle, the general area is suitable for such a development. However, the site was determined not to be suitable, with the council saying it was not compatible with local industry and dwellings. You can read more in the [Highland Radio article](#).



NEWS REVIEW

COMPANY NEWS

LifeArt has won global recognition for its personalisable, low emission coffins and caskets in a prestigious international awards scheme. The business scooped Silver in the FESPA Awards 2020's Packaging on Paper and Board category for an entry titled 'Final Delivery', which showcased its Heritage Timber and Collections range. Kevin Crute, CEO of LifeArt UK & Ireland, said: "We're thoroughly honoured to achieve recognition in this year's FESPA Awards and it's a real testament to the collective hard work and innovative approach by our teams across the world." You can see more on the [FESPA Awards website](#).

NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER UPDATE

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner, has provided his latest update for October which includes details of 'Good Practice Series – medical examiners and BAME communities', a review of the Coronavirus Act, and implementation of the medical examiner scheme in England and Wales. You can read the latest update on the [NHS.uk website](#).



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](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

Our 2020 **Directory of Crematoria** is now available to purchase. The Directory is an essential resource for anyone working in the funeral profession. The Directory contains details of:

- Progress of Cremation in the UK - 1885-present (Statistics)
- Crematorium Ownership
- Projected Crematoria (whether public or private)
- Directory of Crematoria: crematoria listed by county
- Maximum accepted coffin dimensions
- Facts and Figures
- Table of Cremations (showing number of cremations carried out in each crematorium for previous year and since opening)
- Building Costs
- Architects
- The Siting and Planning of Crematoria

You can order your copy of the Directory (with or without binder), via the [online order form on our website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

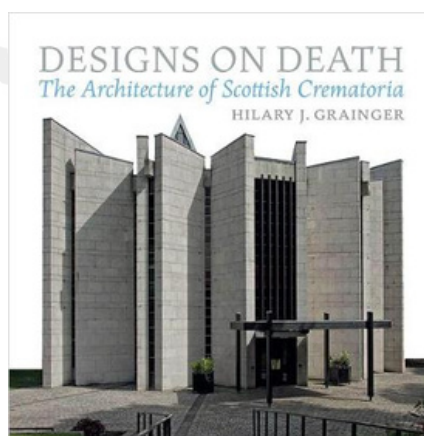
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The number of people choosing to have their body sent overseas for cremation has increased in the past year, according to a leading funeral company that plans to build **Malta's** first crematorium. In May 2019, a landmark piece of legislation was approved in parliament, allowing cremation services to be offered on the island for the first time. More than a year later, there are still no crematoria operating in the country, but the passage of the law appears to have prompted a rethink in some people about what to do with their bodies when they die. You can read this news story in full on the [Times of Malta website](#).



BOOK NEWS

Cremation Society Chair, **Professor Hilary J Grainger OBE**, has published her latest book '**Designs on Death - The Architecture of Scottish Crematoria**' which explores the architectural biographies of Scotland's thirty-one crematoria, their increasing relevance in contemporary Scottish society, pointing to Scotland's distinctive contribution to the progress of cremation and the architecture of crematoria. We will be featuring a full book review in the Winter issue of *Pharos International* but in the meantime do order your copy from any [reputable book store](#).



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Capital Refractories specialises in supplying refractory linings and associated products to metal melting, foundry and cement industries around the world.



Cemetery Development Services - Cemetery Development Services is recognised as a leading international brand in cemetery, crematorium and mausoleum design and development.



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.

If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please [click here](#) for a media pack. Attractive discounted rates for 4 issues available upon request for new advertisers. Agency Discount 10%

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Facultatieve Technologies - over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.



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.



Matthews Environmental Solutions - a manufacturer of combustion technology, including waste incineration, human and animal cremation and emission abatement systems. They are a part of the Matthews Family of Companies (MATW).



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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 - 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



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