



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

## TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



The Cremation Society of Great Britain joins the nation in mourning the death of Her Majesty The Queen. Our thoughts and condolences are with the Royal Family. Throughout her unprecedented 70 years on the throne the Queen served the nation as an example of British values of honour, dignity and resilience. She dedicated her life to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, providing compassionate and inspirational leadership during the many challenging times of her long reign and was a hugely influential and respected figure across the globe.

Lord Rupert de Mauley – Honorary President of The Cremation Society



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

A new £2.6m crematorium is set to open in Northumberland next month. The purpose-built crematorium and chapel is being built at Northumbrian Woodland Burials, near **Felton**, and is scheduled to open on October 14. Blyth has the only crematorium in the county at the moment, so owners **Scott and Laura Clarehugh** are confident it will be welcomed. The business has offered only coffin burials since it was established by Scott's father, Steve, in 2002. When he passed away in 2015, the business was taken over by Scott and Laura who realised that demand for burials was falling. The crematorium has no catafalque or curtains, but instead a restored coffin bier which will be illuminated during the service, with the dimming of the lights marking the end of the service instead. Underfloor heating using an innovative heat exchanger captures the waste heat produced by the cremator. A filter which significantly reduces the amount of harmful nitrogen oxides released from the types of coffin used during the cremation process has also been installed at a cost of £30,000. Five new full-time jobs have also been created at the renamed Northumberland Woodland Burial & Crematorium. To read more on this story please visit: [Northumberland Gazette](#)

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The wait for a decision on whether plans a crematorium can be built near **Caersws** could go on for another couple of months. A Welsh Government spokesman has said that November 1 is the deadline for a ministerial decision on the application. On July 5 a planning hearing took place into planning hearing took place which heard arguments for and against plans by **Powys Crematorium Limited** to build an all-new crematorium at a site north of the B4568 road on land "formally known" as Ael Y Bryn between Caersws and Aberhafesp. The application, which was lodged Powys County Councillor for Abermule, Cllr Gareth Pugh's firm, had been approved by the council's Planning Committee in May 2021. But it was "called in" to be decided by a government minister in August 2021.

The hearing was conducted by former director of Wales planning inspectorate, Tony Thickett who kept the parameters of the hearing to three key issues: Is there a need for a crematorium in Powys? Is it the right location? Issues of highway safety.

For more on this story, please visit: [Powys County Times](#)

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Atlantic View Crematorium is planned for a site off the A39 near **Bude** but opponents have raised concerns about traffic, impact on the landscape and on tourism. A decision is set to be made next week on whether a new crematorium can be built in North Cornwall. A planning application to build the new facility on land next to the A39 at Poundstock is set to go before Cornwall Council's strategic planning committee. The **Atlantic View Crematorium Consortium** is seeking permission to build the new crematorium which they have said is designed to look like an Anglo-Saxon burial mound. Planning officers have recommended that the application be approved. However, the plans have attracted a number of objections including from local Cornwall councillor Nicky Chopak and Poundstock Parish Council. There are concerns that the crematorium would affect the landscape, generate additional traffic and have an impact on tourism businesses in the area. Cornwall Council's strategic planning committee will meet on Thursday (September 15) to debate and make a decision about the application. For the full article please visit: [Cornwall Live](#)

Further to the above press release, the decision on whether to grant planning permission has been delayed for a month following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The application will instead proceed to be targeted towards the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee on the 13th October 2022

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Plans for a multi-million pound facility to create a space for locals in a Derbyshire town to say farewell to loved ones closer to home is set for approval. In March, **Bolsover District Council and Shirebrook Town Council** were given the go-ahead to make plans at the **Shirebrook** site for the £9 million project. Set to be built on land adjacent to the current Shirebrook Cemetery, official plans for the crematorium were submitted to the local planning authority at the end of June. If approved the new project would allow locals to say their final goodbyes to loved ones much closer to home. If approved, construction is expected to then begin in March 2023 and the facility would open in April 2024. For the full article please visit: [Derby Telegraph](#)



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Cremators will not be installed at **Poole Crematorium** for the foreseeable future under current plans from the council. The proposal for the site at Gravel Hill is for the process to be undertaken to formally change from the status of the venue to ceremonial only.

Poole Crematorium has not had working cremators since April 2020. The site has still held services when open but bodies have been transported to Bournemouth Crematorium for the cremation. A petition to save Poole Crematorium has attracted thousands of signatures, but, based on a BCP Council cabinet report, these calls have fallen on deaf ears. Due to a BCP Council error in its report to members, it was originally recommended to councillors that the reinstatement of cremators at the local authority's Poole site be deferred until such time as the Bournemouth facility cremators reach end of their economic life, which is believed to be in around seven years. To read more on this story and the new recommendations visit: [Bournemouth Echo](#)


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**Portchester Crematorium** to replace its cremators with new natural gas-fuelled equipment. Ageing cremators at Portchester Crematorium are set to be replaced by new natural gas equipment after cheaper and more environmentally-friendly electric machines were ruled out. Despite the aims of the local authorities that own the facility to reduce their carbon emissions, a feasibility study into the £3.5m project favours the more polluting option. '[Electric cremators are] larger than the existing and the available space can only accommodate three electrical cremators,' a report by Fareham Borough Council property manager Ian Cousins says. 'Due to the proximity of nearby properties, three is the maximum number of this type of cremators that we can provide. The report will be considered by the crematorium's controlling joint committee of councillors who will be asked to back its recommendations on Monday (September 26). For further information on this story please visit: [Portsmouth News](#)

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Interactive tours of UK crematoria are being rolled out to help grieving families understand what happens ahead of a loved-one's funeral. New technology, already embraced by the hospitality industry, to give the most realistic virtual experience, has now been adapted by a leading funeral company. In a worldwide first, all five senses are targeted by 'immersive' show-round experiences – from seeing the layout of a chapel of rest, to hearing planned music and smelling flowers with scents made available ahead of the service. Children and first-time funeral attendees can particularly benefit from an opportunity to get such a realistic taste of how a ceremony all fits together, says Frank Meilack, Director of Community Engagement at **Memoria UK**. This move has been supported by Ann Chalmers, Chief Executive of Child Bereavement UK, (<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>) a charity which supports families and trains professionals when a child grieves and when a child dies. Its groundbreaking technology allowing mourners to experience the surroundings of a cremation, has been supplied by Snowdonia-based hyybab, <https://hyybab.com/> launched last year by hyybab pioneers Leo and Paul Lloyd as they pivoted from their hospitality marketing business. As well as the hi-tech tour, mourners will also receive a pack of items to help gain insights into their intended site for a final goodbye. To read more on this story please visit: [Response Source](#)





## NEWS REVIEW

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cyprus' first crematorium is set to begin operations by 2024, eight years after the relevant law was first passed. The environment department approved the application for the creation of the crematorium by **MW Crematorium Cyprus Ltd**, at an estimated cost of €2.2 million, sources told Cyprus Mail. The timeline for the project to be completed was set at 18 to 24 months. According to the environmental authority, the proposed building site in Ayia Varvara in Paphos poses no significant negative impact to the area's surroundings.

The crematorium will be a fully-fledged facility with a furnace in the basement and refrigeration facilities. There will also be a room on the ground floor with the capacity to accommodate up to 70 people where services can take place.

Despite parliament passing the long-awaited law regulating cremations in 2016, up to now there has been no movement on the creation of a facility.

The island, together with Malta remain the only EU members without a crematorium.

Calls for the option for cremation have been raised in particular among the expatriate community, both personal choice and practical grounds, noting the shortage of cemetery plots and the high cost of repatriating a body. During discussions of the bill in 2016, the Church had voiced its opposition, but said its position stemmed not from dogma but rather from the need to "preserve tradition". The Church argued that burial fulfils the needs of relatives to visit the graves of loved ones, adding that this ritual offers them solace. In contrast, the Green Party has long backed the creation of a crematorium in Cyprus. "A crematorium is necessary because it will provide an alternative to people funding cemetery land that is tied up for years. It is difficult to change century old habits, but I believe that we should make a start," Green Party leader Charalambos Theopemptou had previously said. For more information please visit: [Cyprus Mail](#)



## INTERNATIONAL CREMATION FEDERATION NEWS

Please note that ALPAR (Latin American Association of Cemeteries and Funeral Services) has changed the location of their VI International Symposium to Panama City, Panama. The symposium will take place from Friday 14 - Monday 17 October. As previously communicated, the **ICF General Council Meeting (GCM)** will be held during the ALPAR Symposium! Please check our website for more information and registration options: [www.icf-worldwide.org](http://www.icf-worldwide.org)

ALPAR is a leading association with great recognition in the Funeral Industry worldwide, which brings together the companies of the Funeral Industry in Latin America, promoting cooperation among its members, offering specialised services and channeling to them those provided by other entities, as well as training the employees of the companies to achieve maximum levels of efficiency in operational and excellence in the provision of services to families.

Many important topics will be attended and the exchange of information on worldwide developments between the different organisations and countries is a core element. In our industry, urgent issues and inequalities are worth exploring and extensive knowledge is available to be shared in order to achieve a professional cooperation at an international level.

We have two vacancies within our Executive Committee concerning the position of Vice-president. The following candidatures were submitted:

- Mr Andrés Aguilar, nominated by ALPAR, Colombia
- Professor Hilary J Grainger OBE, nominated by The Cremation Society, UK
- Mr Thies Heinrich, nominated by the RAL Gütegemeinschaft Feuerbestattungsanlagen e.V., Germany





## SECTOR NEWS

VIP guests and industry leaders came together at **Westerleigh Cemetery & Crematorium**, near Bristol, to commemorate its 30th anniversary.

Representatives from the Cremation Society of Great Britain, Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities, Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, National Association of Funeral Directors, British Institute of Funeral Directors, the Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors plus other business partners and suppliers, helped to mark the occasion by observing the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by Site Manager, Shaun Chapman-Young.

Guests were also invited to write a message in a book which will be placed in a time capsule and buried on the site later this year, to be re-opened in 30 years' time. They also toured the site's lovingly landscaped grounds and buildings.

A special guest of honour at the 30th anniversary celebration was former Northavon District Council member Marilyn Palmer, who planted the first tree on the site to mark the beginning of the building process. Marilyn has visited the site several times since its opening in 1992, was delighted to join on this special anniversary and meet Shaun Chapman-Young and his team who care for the site and the bereaved today.

To find out more about Westerleigh Cemetery & Crematorium, and the exceptional care it provides, visit [www.westerleighcrem.co.uk](http://www.westerleighcrem.co.uk)





## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



**Capital Refractories** is a leading manufacturer and supplier of refractory materials offering bespoke design and installation solutions for cremation and incineration systems.



**The CDS Group** offer our clients a complete solution of in-house environmental, design and planning services covering Cemeteries and Crematoria, Parks and Leisure, and Environmental Solutions



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



**EDGE IT Systems** are market leaders in the supply of cloud based software solutions. Our Epitaph software with digital mapping is specifically designed for cemetery and crematorium facilities management.

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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## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



**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.



**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.



**Harkness Roses** have been breeding and growing over 200 varieties of exquisite British Roses for more than 140 years. These repeat flowering disease resistance roses are now available bare root for Autumn planting.









**IFZW** is an established manufacturer of cremator and emission filter systems.

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	<b>The MazWell Group Ltd</b> - Exclusive Manufacturer and Distributor of Dodge® Products
	<b>Obitus</b> - provider of bereavement technology services, delivering music, webcast and tributes for families, funeral directors and leading funeral venue throughout the UK.
	<b>OrthoMetals</b> - a family owned and operated business, recycling metals remaining after cremation.
	<b>PlotBox</b> 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.
	<b>Treske</b> - one of the UK's leading makers and suppliers of bespoke crematorium furniture and soft furnishings.
	<b>Welters</b> - 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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You can contact us at:

The Cremation Society  
Brecon House (1st Floor)  
16 Albion Place  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 5DZ

01622 688292/3  
[info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)  
[www.cremation.org.uk](http://www.cremation.org.uk)



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