

# News Review



We are pleased to bring you **The Cremation Society's** news review for August.

We hope our newsletter will help you to stay informed of news and developments from across the cremation sector.

## THIS ISSUE'S NEWS UPDATES

- Crematorium joins parks with Green Flag status
- Work on a new crematorium in Mepal will begin next month
- Supreme Court challenge to Surrey crematorium plans fails
- Heat from cremations to be used to warm new £120m school
- Inverness crematorium upgrade making 'significant steps'
- Next phase of Bushbury crematorium refurbishment begins
- Vale Royal Crematorium earns praise from inspector
- CMA publishes third annual review of funeral sector market outcomes

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Crematorium joins parks with Green Flag status**

GREEN Flag status might normally be associated with top-notch public parks - but Rotherham's East Herringthorpe crematorium and cemetery has just won the accolade. It is the first burial site in the borough to be recognised with a Green Flag, alongside four other venues to get the status in 2025. The site has been transformed through sustainable landscaping and biodiversity initiatives tailored to the cemetery's unique environment, according to Rotherham Council. Schools and community groups also supported work to improve several areas across the cemetery to make it a more inclusive, respectful, and uplifting place for visitors. The Green Flag Award is an international benchmark for parks and green spaces, celebrating well-managed and accessible outdoor areas. Other parks that have been awarded the Green Flag Award include Rother Valley Country Park, Ulley Country Park, and Greasbrough Park. Managing Director, Crematoria, James Wintle, said: "I'm delighted to share that our Rotherham Crematorium, led by Kim Phillips, has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award. "This award places Rotherham among the very best in the UK." To read the full article, head to: [www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk](http://www.rotherhamadvertiser.co.uk).

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#### **Work on a new crematorium in a village will begin next month after a contractor was appointed to deliver the project.**

Kier Construction will build the bereavement centre in Mepal, East Cambridgeshire, which will include a graveyard, remembrance garden, function room, memorial walkway and pet cemetery. East Cambridgeshire District Council said the crematorium near Ely will run on electricity, meaning it can be operated on a green energy tariff. Its Conservative administration has, though, faced opposition to the plans from Liberal Democrat councillors who called the £13m project a "white elephant" and launched a petition opposing it. Council leader Anna Bailey said that "being able to say goodbye to a loved one in such a beautiful and tranquil lakeside setting that not only protects, but enhances, wildlife, is something this council is very proud to be able to deliver". The new crematorium will be built on the site of the former Mepal Outdoor Centre, which closed in 2017 after a fire and planning documents suggest the new crematorium will have the capacity for 108 visitors, while there will be parking on site for 123 vehicles. To read the full article, please head to: [www.bbcnews.co.uk](http://www.bbcnews.co.uk).

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## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Supreme Court challenge to Surrey crematorium plans, led by Al Fayed's widow, fails**

The widow of Mohamed Al Fayed has lost a Supreme Court battle against the Government over plans to build a crematorium near her Surrey home. The plans, proposed by **Horizon Cremation Limited**, would see a ceremony hall, memorial areas and a garden of remembrance built on land near the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Tandridge District Council rejected the scheme, but a Government planning inspector allowed Horizon's appeal against that decision. **Mrs Wathen-Fayed** lost High Court and Court of Appeal challenges against the inspector's decision in 2023 and 2024, respectively, and five Supreme Court justices unanimously dismissed her latest challenge on July 30th. Her barristers previously told the High Court and the Court of Appeal that the decision to permit the plans should be quashed as they breached part of the Crematorium Act 1902, which states a crematorium cannot be built within 200 yards of a house. They argued the memorial garden, and any other place where ashes would be stored, should be included in the definition of a crematorium. But the High Court and Court of Appeal both ruled against her, with Lady Justice Andrews stating last year she could see "no reason" why the law should be interpreted to include "an open area where ashes are strewn". The Government opposed the challenge, claiming the disposal of ashes was distinct from the extent of a crematorium. In a judgment backed by Lord Reed, Lord Leggatt, Lord Stephens and Lady Simler, Lord Hamblen said the word "crematorium" meant "a building fitted with appliances for the purposes of burning human remains", which "enables the distance to be measured by reference to a fixed point on a single, permanent, substantial structure. To read the full article, head to: [\*\*www.getsurrey.co.uk\*\*](http://www.getsurrey.co.uk).

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#### **Heat from cremations to be used to warm new £120m school**

Plans have been lodged for a new low-carbon energy centre on the site of the new £120m Hazlehead Academy that would use waste heat from cremations. The new energy centre would supply the current heat network and new school through air source heat pumps and use waste heat from the crematorium nearby. This would mean capturing heat created during the cremation process and diverting it instead of releasing it out into the atmosphere. Aberdeen City Council is sponsoring the project and Sustainable Energy Ltd has been commissioned to help develop the proposal. To read the full article, head to: [\*\*STV News\*\*](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Inverness crematorium upgrade making ‘significant steps’, Highland Council report reveals**

‘Significant’ steps have been taken towards the upgrade of Inverness's crematorium to ensure it remains fit for purpose into the future, with work expected to begin in November. It was previously reported that the need to replace the existing cremators had become necessary due to the planned introduction of stricter emissions standards by 2027 and the collapse of the company which made the existing facilities - the latter of which poses ‘long-term reliability’ risks for the current plant when it comes to ongoing maintenance and support. A contractor has been chosen to install two new Facultatieve Technologies III SE cremators, with Morrison Construction expected to carry out the work, and design development ‘currently underway’. Online works are scheduled to commence in November, with the extension is expected to be wind and watertight by March, aligning with the removal of Cremator 1, installation of the new Cremator 1 will then follow, with completion anticipated by June after a 10-week installation period. Cremator 2 will be removed in July, with its replacement installed by September 2026, also over a 10-week period. Facultatieve Technologies is then expected to handover the completed cremators that same month. To read the full article, head to: [www.strathspey-herald.co.uk](http://www.strathspey-herald.co.uk).

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#### **Next phase of crematorium refurbishment begins**

The first phase of refurbishment work at a Wolverhampton crematorium has been completed, with a second area now closed off for further work. The West Chapel and East Chapel at Bushbury Crematorium are being updated at separate times to avoid causing disruption to services. During the course of four weeks in July, the West Chapel has had new carpets, curtains around the catafalque, refreshed paintwork, improvements to the windows to prevent sun glare and renovations to the floor at the entrance. East Chapel is now having new carpets, a full repaint, new lights in the entrance hall and a new oak door, City of Wolverhampton Council said. It was due to remain closed until 22nd August. To read the full article, head to: [www.bbcnews.co.uk](http://www.bbcnews.co.uk).

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## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Vale Royal Crematorium earns praise from inspector**

A Northwich crematorium has earned praise for delivering an 'excellent level of service'. Vale Royal Crematorium in Davenham, part of the Westerleigh Group, received the rating from Michael Day, an inspector from the Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities (FBCA) during a visit in May. Mr Day completed a detailed assessment as part of the FBCA's Crematorium Compliance Scheme, which reviews more than 80 points across six key service areas. He said he 'did not feel it necessary to make any recommendations' and awarded the site full marks in three categories. Georgia Hanson, manager at Vale Royal Crematorium, said: "It was particularly pleasing to receive full marks in the service and staff category, because people are at the heart of everything we do. "In order to provide the exceptional care and support that we have built our reputation on, we need to have the right people in place at the crematorium, and I am proud of the professionalism and dedication of my team here, who are all so passionate about what they do. "Clearly the inspector has seen that too, and his assessment is a welcome endorsement of the care and commitment shown every day by the team here." To read the full article, head to: [www.northwichguardian.co.uk](http://www.northwichguardian.co.uk).

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### SECTOR NEWS

#### **Competition and Markets Authority publish annual review**

The Competition and Markets Authority has published its third annual review of market outcomes in the funeral sector, since the implementation of the Funerals Market Investigation Order 2021.

You can [read the full annual review here](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### PLANNING NEWS

#### Respect Developments Land for Sale

Glenrothes crematorium is a ready-made opportunity, requiring no planning risk.

Approved plans with road access and a high percentage of infrastructure in place.

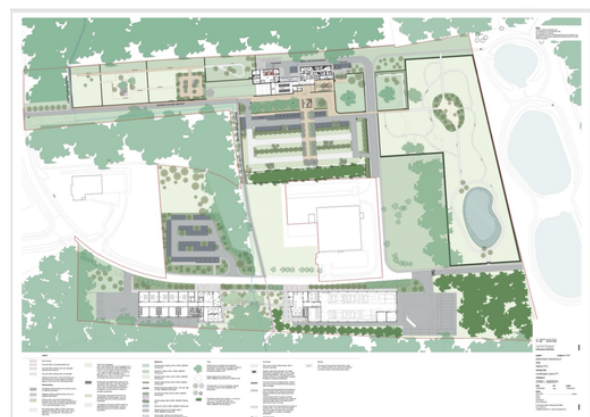
We are seeking an end user on either a freehold position or leasehold in the near future. We are now able to deliver a 14 acre site and building without cremator as a turnkey solution for offers over £9million. We would also listen to land offers only.

Our phasing plan/issue has now been resolved, and the crematorium can be delivered in a great timescale.

Genuine enquiries only please.

For further details, please contact **Steven @ Respect Developments on 07904957974**

Details of the successful planning appeal can be found at:  
**<https://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?ID=125269>**



## NEWS REVIEW

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### PA refuses crematorium in Gudja

An application to build a standalone crematorium on the outskirts of Gudja has been refused by the Planning Board on the grounds that it does not have clearance from the required authorities and was located in an ODZ agricultural area. The Environmental Health Directorate had objected to the proposal because it was less than 183 metres from any inhabited house as stipulated in the Cremation Act, while the Agricultural Advisory Committee had said it objected in principle to any development in ODZ that was not related to agriculture or not within policy.

The proposed crematorium project in Triq tal-Lampat, submitted to the PA by Daniel Buhagiar in February, consisted of excavation and construction of a basement and ground floor plus other amenities and ancillary facilities. Its' architect Ian Cutajar argued that it was located in an "appropriate site" next to a cemetery and a crematorium for pets and was the required distance from development, demanding a "level playing field" and an explanation from the health authorities for their position.

Perit Jesmond Mugliett and the Sta Luċija and Gudja local councils objected to the crematorium on behalf of "worried" residents in the area, citing "clear" environmental health concerns that had already been raised in representations. Mugliette said the project was recommended for refusal not just because it went against the Partial Review of the Cemeteries Policy and Design Guidance, but was also in breach of PA policies regarding valleys, aquifer protection and areas of high landscape value.

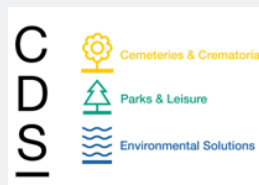
There are still no crematoria in Malta, despite the fact that cremation was legalised in 2019, with standalone crematoria following under the Cremation Act approved by parliament in 2022. To read the full article, head to the: **[Times of Malta website.](#)**



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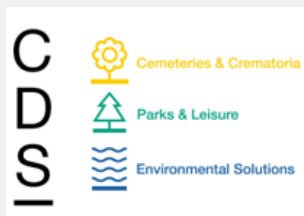
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**Benchmark Architects**, are an innovative architecture and design studio, with a passionate and personable team who enjoy working on creative, challenging, and innovative projects.



**DRM Technic**, is one of the UK's leading suppliers of gas analysis and conditioning equipment and services. They are also a renowned manufacturer of Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS).



**The CDS Group**, offer their 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**, are 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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**Facultatieve Technologies**, have over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.



**Fordingbridge**, are 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.



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



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

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**PlotBox**, is an international death care management solution. They facilitate cemeteries and crematoria in operating to world-class standards through integrated software and georectified mapping modules.



**SK Environmental Ltd**, is a UK manufacturer of instrumentation for measurement and control of combustion plants, specialising in environmental monitoring and control products.



**Treske**, are one of the UK's leading makers and suppliers of bespoke crematorium furniture and soft furnishings.



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# The Cremation Society

Rooted in history: committed to the future

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We love to receive news/press suggestions from our readers to include in future newsletters.

For any news you would like us to consider, please contact us at [info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)

## Our contact details



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