



We are pleased to bring you the Cremation Society's news review for March 2025, which we hope will help you to stay abreast of news and developments from across the cremation sector. Looking ahead, to find out more about CBCE, the joint conference held with our colleagues from the FBCA, please visit the [CBCE website](#) and follow CBCE on [LinkedIn](#) or Twitter. You can now also find The Cremation Society on [BlueSky](#).



News in this issue includes updates on:

- Plans for a multi-million pound crematorium near Daviot refused.
- Waseley Hills cemetery and crematorium commendation.
- Ashfield District Council plans to contribute £2 million towards the refurbishment of Mansfield Crematorium.
- Construction of new crematorium reaches milestone.
- Plans unveiled to build new crematorium and natural burial ground in Oulton.

23rd - 25th June 2025 - *Hilton Southampton - Utilita Bowl*

Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2025

Updates from

- Ministry of Justice
- Regional Medical Examiner
- Environment Agency
- Scottish Government
- Law Commission
- Local Government Association
- International Cremation Federation



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As well as other experts from the burial and cremation sector discussing topics such as AI in the bereavement sector, sustainability in crematoria and the latest advice on cremator technology and efficiency.

MORE INFORMATION



CBCE.ORG.UK

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



Plans for a multi-million pound crematorium near **Daviot** have been refused. Businessman Fraser Milne, who owns Inverurie Garden Centre, lodged plans for the facility with Aberdeenshire Council last year. The proposal had previously gone before councillors twice but had divided opinion. Members of the Formartine area committee recommended the plan be refused, while their counterparts in Garioch wanted to see the crematorium get the go-ahead. But as the committees were both at odds with what should happen, the application went to the infrastructure services committee for a final determination. However, infrastructure chairman councillor Alan Turner backed the planners' recommendations and was "content" to see the plan be approved. The matter resulted in a vote, but the application was refused by ten to four. To read the complete article, please go to: www.grampianonline.co.uk.

Waseley Hills Cemetery and Crematorium has received commendation following an inspection by the **Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA)**. The cemetery and crematorium was given a perfect score for administration, grounds and memorialisation, and service and staff. The crematorium compliance scheme scrutinised six key areas of service delivery, based on discussions and an examination of more than 80 points of interest. Federation inspector, Mr Connelly was impressed with the knowledge and dedication of the team members, noting their professionalism and care. He found the crematorium to be operating in accordance with the three key areas of compliance: the Cremation Regulations 2009, the Defra Process Guidance notes 5/12, and the Code of Cremation Practice. To read the full article, please go to: www.redditchadvertiser.co.uk.

The steel frame for a new crematorium in Bradford has been completed, as work continues to upgrade the city's burial facilities. The new crematorium off **Shetcliffe Lane** in Bierley - to replace the existing facility at **Scholemoor** - is set to have two service halls, car parking, state-of-the-art cremators, office space and a waiting room. It is the last step in Bradford Council's bereavement services overhaul, first announced in 2016, after the refurbishment of Oakworth Crematorium and the new crematorium at Shay Grange. Once the new facility has opened, Scholemoor Crematorium will close but the cemetery will remain open, the council said. To read the full article, please head to: www.bbc.co.uk.

Ashfield District Council plans to contribute £2 million towards the refurbishment of **Mansfield Crematorium**. The project was discussed at a meeting of the council's cabinet on Monday, March 17th. The crematorium refurbishment will include the installation of electric cremators, solar panels, rainwater harvesting and heat recovery systems to support the council's commitments to decarbonisation. A total of £7.37 million will be invested into the project by local councils. Ashfield will cover its share through a loan and Joint Crematorium reserves. The crematorium currently operates two chapels, runs three gas-fuelled cremators and has a capacity of 5,088 cremations a year when fully operational. The crematorium generates about £400,000 a year in revenue from its services, and the funds are then put into services across Ashfield. Works are expected to begin in the next 12 months and the crematorium will remain fully operational while building work takes place. Documents state that the purpose of refurbishment is to be 'more aesthetically pleasing' as well as 'improved functionality, a more efficient operation and an enhanced range of offers for bereavement services that meet changing demands.' To read the entire article, please head to: www.nottstv.com.

Services offered at **Haycombe Crematorium** in Bath are excellent, with one of the highest environmental scores seen nationally, a new report has found. An inspection of the crematorium earlier this year by an inspector from **The Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities (FBCA)** found it complies with three key standards and provides an excellent service overall. The inspector looked at Haycombe's cremation and administration facilities and environmental credentials, to ensure that residents continue to receive high standards of service. Haycombe, which is run by Bath & North East Somerset Council, provides bereavement services to people of all faiths and beliefs, or none, and designs services that are accessible to everyone. The council recently made improvements to reduce carbon emissions and help tackle the climate emergency at Haycombe, including installing a filtration system to eliminate nitrogen oxide and increasing biodiversity with new woodland, wildflower meadows and a beehive. In 2023 the FBCA awarded Haycombe an Environmental Policy Statement for operating sustainable services. As part of its inspection feedback this year, the FBCA said: "It was noted by our CEO that the environmental score was one of the highest we have seen for some time, so well done to all on a great achievement." To read the full article, please head to: www.bathecho.co.uk.

Lea Fields is incredibly proud to have been awarded the Gold Certification for Environmental Excellence by the **Greener Globe Funeral Standard**. The award recognises the crematorium's commitment to implementing green practices to ensure a sustainable cremation service. The crematorium had previously been awarded bronze in December last year, but a recent environment and sustainability audit scored them the 'highest score for a crematorium so far' as they were awarded gold-level status for sustainability. Greener Globe's external audit is a suitability assessment that highlights areas of excellence and identifies opportunities to go even further for the planet. Lea Fields Crematorium has adopted several practices to reduce its environmental footprint across its operations, waste disposal and supply chain. For example, flowers left after services are composted on site and used around the grounds and the facility uses energy efficient processes throughout the cremation process. Lea Fields Crematorium is also a member of the **Charter for the Bereaved** with Gold Standard recognition. To read the complete article, please go to: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk.

Plans to build a new modern crematorium and natural burial ground in **Leeds** have been unveiled. Drawn up by **Westerleigh Group** the state-of-the-art crematorium, set within landscaped gardens of remembrance, would be located on a 20-acre site at **Oulton**, six miles south east of Leeds and five miles north of Wakefield. Proposals would see natural burial grounds, of wild meadow and woodland, offered in Leeds for the first time - this would involve single graves, the use of biodegradable coffins or shrouds, and no granite headstones. The newly unveiled plans come as cremations at Lawnswood Crematorium remain on hold almost four months after "structural problems" were found in the building. The purpose-built modern chapel building would contain seating for a minimum of 112 mourners, with overflow standing areas. Facilities would also offer 136 parking spaces, including disabled, electric vehicle and coach provision, plus an accessible space with mobility changing bed and toilet. Those wishing to find out more about the plans can attend a public consultation event on **Monday, April 7th** at Oulton Hall Hotel, Rothwell Lane, Oulton, between 3pm and 7.30pm. To read the complete article, please go to: www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk.

NEWS REVIEW

SECTOR NEWS

Members of the **Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG)** met for an in-person meeting in Solihull last week to discuss the current activities of the Group and plans for progressing a number of issues facing the deathcare sector, including the ongoing delays to funerals following the introduction of the statutory medical examiner system; the current Government's resilience strategy and the inclusion of the deathcare sector in its resilience planning; the challenge of unclaimed ashes stored by funeral directors; and the need for publication of the revised Process Guidance notes for crematoria. DMAG continues to work with the APPG for Funerals and Bereavement to highlight the issues faced.

DMAG was formed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and its members continue to work collaboratively to represent a united voice to Government in tackling the current challenges, in particular where these impact on bereaved families.

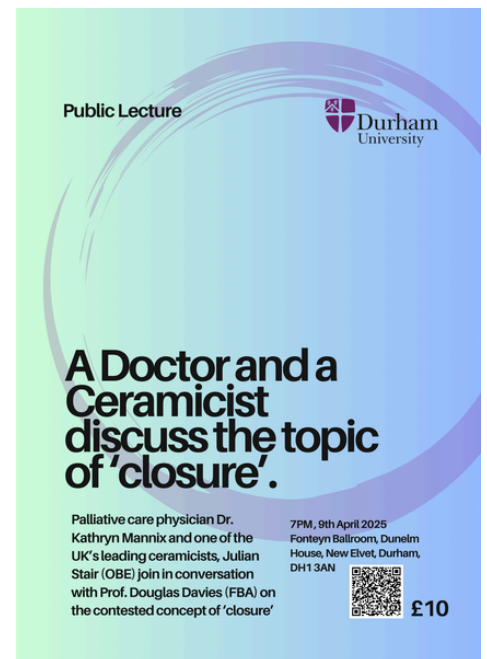


DMAG members comprising representatives from the APCC, FBCA, FSA, ICCM, NAFD, SAIF and The Cremation Society

NEWS REVIEW

SECTOR NEWS

Durham University are delighted to share the full programme for their upcoming conference exploring the contested concept of 'closure', hosted by Durham University's Centre for Death and Life Studies on 9th and 10th April 2025.



Registration is open via this link: <https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/closure-conference-2025>

Across two days, attendees will hear from over 20 speakers, representing a diverse range of professional and disciplinary perspectives drawing from anthropology-sociology, theology, ceramic-pottery art, music, funeral directing, funeral celebrants, and palliative care, as well as more personal reflections on loss and grief. All talks, some longer and some shorter, are in a plenary context and not parallel sessions to provide everyone with a widely shared audience.

At 7pm on Wednesday evening, there will be a special public lecture - doctor and ceramicist discuss the concept of 'closure'. Dr Kathryn Mannix (well-known palliative care physician) and Dr Julian Stair OBE (one of the UK's leading ceramicists) will be in conversation with Professor Douglas Davies FBA, followed by a drinks reception with views overlooking the River Wear and Durham Cathedral. Tickets are £10 for this public event (or included within the full conference package).

Full details and booking available here: <https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/closure-conference-2025>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch at georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk

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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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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.



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

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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.



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



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

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