



I am delighted to bring you this month's news review which covers a number of aspects of the death care sector, which I hope you will find to be of interest.

For those planning to respond to the Defra consultation on the revised Process Guidance Notes, please do not forget to make your submissions by 3 December 2023. We will await the outcome of the consultation with interest.

The winter issue of our Pharos International, the official journal of both the Cremation Society and the International Cremation Federation, is now available to purchase either as a one-off issue or as part of a subscription. You can find more details on our [website](#).

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society



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Around 200 people took the opportunity to get a first look at a brand-new crematorium which is now serving the communities in and around Herne Bay, Whitstable and Canterbury. A community open day at Herne Bay Crematorium on Saturday 11th November, gave local people their first chance to visit the beautiful 14-acre site and meet the crematorium team. It is the 40th site to be operated by Westerleigh Group, one of the UK's largest independent owners and operators of crematoria and cemeteries.



It seemed fitting that people should get their first chance to see the new site on Remembrance Day, and a two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect, as crematorium manager **James Brown** played The Last Post. Herne Bay MP **Sir Roger Gale** then performed a ceremonial opening of the crematorium, which formally opened fully on Monday 13th November. Visitors were able to tour the crematorium and even see the crematory, too, if they wished. Herne Bay Crematorium is set within 14 acres of picturesque grounds, surrounded by mature woodland and agricultural fields. At the heart of the site is a light, airy and welcoming contemporary chapel building capable of seating 101 people, with significant additional space available if required. In addition to providing funeral services, the crematorium has a wide range of options to help people remember and memorialise their loved ones – even if their funeral did not take place at Herne Bay Crematorium.

Plans have been submitted to **Thurrock Council** for a new crematorium to be built on land adjacent to the A128. Currently there is no crematorium within the borough, with the nearest being at Corbets Tye near Upminster in the west and Pitsea Crematorium in the east. Since the introduction of an extension to the Transport for London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) scheme, local funeral directors have reported a significant number of bereaved families are now choosing Pitsea to avoid anyone attending services with a non-qualifying vehicle having to pay a levy of £12.50. The application for a crematorium within borough boundaries is to locate it behind Wick Place Cottage on the A128 Brentwood Road. A previous application for a crematorium on the site, together with a private doctor's surgery and a care home was refused. It was decreed it would be harmful to the Green Belt and it was at an unsustainable location. It would also have had an adverse traffic impact. The new plan is just for the crematorium and car park leaving a substantial part of the site as undeveloped. The main building will host two chapels. The applicant states that the new crematorium building will be set on the furthest northern boundary of the outlined site. The site will be arranged into five sections, the Book of Remembrance, a car park, north and south chapels, a reflection area and a large area of open green space. To read the full article, please head to the: **[Thurrock Nub News website.](#)**

Plans have been submitted to extend **Moray Crematorium** at Broadley, just outside Buckie. The proposals, which have been lodged with Moray Council, focus on improving office space for administration staff and an improved waiting area for family members. If approved the plans would also allow for increased capacity for operation and business growth at the site, which is owned by Dignity Funerals, as well as the installation of a new filtration system to meet up and coming legislation changes. The new office is proposed as a new single storey, standalone building constructed from mixed materials (timber, stone and tin), all of which are currently on site. The current office space would be converted to an area for families to wait prior to services which will not entail any alterations to building fabric. The new filtration system will sit in the same extension as the storage area and occupy the area to the rear of the building. To read the article, please go to the: **[Forres Gazette website.](#)**

SECTOR NEWS



The Funeral Suppliers' Association has elected **Anthony Hill**, Managing Director of Somerset Willow England as their new National President. Anthony succeeds Philip Halliday who has completed a two year term. On his installation Anthony said: 'it gives me great pleasure to follow Phil into this role and I want to thank Phil for his tenure as FSA President. I can safely say on behalf of the membership your commitment, presence, and hard work have been undeniably reassuring for us all... throughout this time you have firmly cemented your position within the echelons of FSA history. Unfortunately, though all good things do come to an end. As I step forward as incoming FSA President, I will have reduced the average age of the association's presidency by a quarter of a century!!!! However, let that not deter your faith in my ability to be totally committed and professional in all my work for the Association. I will promise to channel my energy into representing the FSA to the highest standard and to the best of my ability over the next twelve months.'

The Funeral Suppliers' Association is the only trade association solely for manufacturers, suppliers and service providers to the funeral sector.

Enquiries to Alun Tucker chiefexec@funeralsuppliers.uk



National Bereavement Alliance



The Guide has been developed by researchers at Cardiff University and the University of Bristol, in partnership with the National Bereavement Alliance, Marie Curie, the Good Grief Festival and Compassionate Cymru. It brings together research findings on the benefits of different types of bereavement support and signposts to national organisations in the UK. It was developed through consultation with over 30 professional and public stakeholders at an online stakeholder workshop and a local focus group with bereaved people. The Guide provides information on the variety of bereavement support that is available in the UK, from self-help resources and helplines to peer support groups and grief counselling.

It also includes details of support for specific groups of bereaved people, such as widow(er)s, children, cultural and faith groups and people bereaved by particular types of death.

The Grief Support Guide is hosted and available to download on the National Bereavement Alliance Website:

www.nationalbereavementalliance.org.uk/support

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Two female entrepreneurs from Canada - **Shelley Challenger** and **Minnelle Williams**, have offered to undertake the construction of a crematorium in **Antigua** and **Barbuda**, potentially alleviating the pressures on local funeral homes to store bodies. According to Chief of Staff in the Prime Minister's Office **Lionel Hurst**, the two have committed to spend more than US \$250,000 on the construction of the facility and shipping of equipment to the island, alleviating the financial support that the government will provide toward the plan. "These two women are indicating that it is best to have the crematorium as close as possible to the cemetery in the event families would wish to bury the remains rather than take them home. "In so far as government's input is concerned, [it might be] a long-term lease on the land within the cemetery or very close by," he said. Meanwhile, the government will continue to push for legislative amendments to ensure that crematoriums could be easily established on island. To read the full article, please go to the: **[Antigua Observer website.](#)**



PODCAST NEWS



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