



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



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**NEWS FROM  
SCOTLAND  
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Inspector of Funeral  
Directors publishes first  
annual report - 4

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## **No 'fake news' here**

Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor  
Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

We live in an age where we can keep abreast of news from so many different sources, whether it be on an app, through social media, by listening to the radio, watching the TV or even by reading the newspaper. There is often not enough time in the day to sift all the information presented to us, to focus on the news that is relevant to our day to day working lives.

At the Cremation Society, we aim to bring you a monthly newsletter which will bring together all the latest news from the industry, delivered to your inbox. So we hope you can spare a few moments to bring yourself up to date with changes in 'our' world.

If there are any topics you would like to see featured in future newsletters, please do let us know.

## **Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review**

We are pleased to be able to bring you this, our very first, monthly news summary from across the bereavement sector. For those of you who we have yet to meet we thought it would be helpful to give you a bit of background on the Society and our work. For those of you who already know us, we are glad to have the opportunity to make contact again.

### **Our History**

The Society, a registered charity, not conducted for profit, was established in 1874. It is the pioneer of cremation in Great Britain and in 1885 built and operated the very first crematorium in Woking, Surrey.

The Society was responsible for drawing up the forms of certification for cremation and these were later adopted as the basis for the first Cremation Act in 1902.

### **Our Aims**

Since the Society's formation we have worked tirelessly to promote and establish the practice of cremation, aiding both private enterprise and local authorities in the setting up of new crematoria, and pressing Government departments on ongoing developments in the law. As a direct result of the Society's activities, cremation now accounts for approximately 77% of all funerals in Great Britain.

The Society also works to promote the process known as Resomation which the Society regards as a viable adjunct to cremation due to its number of environmental advantages.

## **Our Activities**

Just some of our work over the last twelve months includes:

- the publication of *Pharos International*, the official quarterly journal of the Cremation Society and the International Cremation Federation (ICF)
- the collation of annual statistics both from around the UK and internationally
- the publication of our annual *Directory of Crematoria* which provides essential information to the bereavement sector
- jointly hosting the annual Cremation and Burial Communication Event (CBCE) with the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities, attracting high-quality speakers, exhibitors and delegates from the various areas within the bereavement sector (publications of a number of the papers presented will appear in future issues of *Pharos International*)
- at the request of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China to meet with representatives of the Chinese Government who wished to learn about all aspects of cremation in the UK, the Chairman and Secretary gave a presentation to Chinese delegates at the University of West London
- the Society was asked to organise a guided tour of Golders Green Crematorium for a small party of Japanese architects. The Chairman and Chief Executive of the Society accompanied the group on the tour
- being involved in a joint organisations' one-day Bereavement Services Seminar

## **CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS**

The Council of the Cremation Society, with our expanding role and activities, are pleased to confirm that Miriam Deacon now holds the office of Chief Executive.

The Council is encouraged by the many new opportunities for our work in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and we are delighted to have Miriam leading us forward as Chief Executive.



## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

The Scottish Government's Inspector of Funeral Directors, Natalie McKail, released her first report covering the period from July 2017 to July 2018. The report received wide press coverage and will make for interesting reading, particularly for our colleagues in Scotland. To read the full report, please visit the **dedicated webpage** on the Scottish Government's website.

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation to ask for views on **draft statutory guidance on funeral costs**. This is part of the Scottish Government's Funeral Costs Plan which is aimed at addressing funeral poverty. The closing date for responses is 8 November 2018 and the consultation document can be found on the Scottish Government's website by **clicking here**.

The Scottish Government has announced, in their programme for 2018-2019, the removal of all burial and cremation fees for children under the age of 18 by the end of 2018. Their report **'Delivering for Today, Investing for Tomorrow'** can be read here.

## CREMATION LAW

### Deganwy woman denies cremation charge

A 56 year old woman appeared in court accused of procuring the cremation of her mother's remains by making a false representation.

Helen Daltry, of Tan y Berllan, Deganwy, denied the offence and elected Crown Court trial. She was bailed until a hearing next month.

Gareth Parry, prosecuting at Llandudno Magistrates' Court, alleged she failed to tell her brother of the mother's death and proposed cremation.

The allegation is under the Cremation Act.

To read the original article, please follow this link to the **North Wales Pioneer website**

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

**Westerleigh Group** has opened its **Babworth Crematorium** in the Bassetlaw area of Nottinghamshire, providing a 'a natural place for families to hold the dignified service of their choice.'

The crematorium features the UK's first instalment of Facultatieve Technologies' NOx abatement technology, reducing NOx emissions by more than two thirds. Westerleigh's Managing Director, Richard Evans, said: 'Babworth crematorium sets a standard for other newly built crematoria to follow. The Westerleigh Group is committed to raising environmental standards and we will ensure that our new crematoria have the best available abatement equipment'.

Services will be held hourly with the chapel able to seat 96 people. The new crematorium is fitted with a digital media system as well as webcasts for mourners unable to attend ceremonies.

**Horizon Cremation** have unveiled plans for a new crematorium in the **Cannock Chase** district. London-based Horizon Cremation revealed the plans for a one-storey building, including a chapel for 90 people, together with 70 car parking spaces. Cannock Chase Council already owns a site which has existing planning permission for a cemetery and have revealed their intention to build a crematorium as well as a cemetery on the site. Details of Horizon's plans can be viewed on their website at [www.cannockcrematorium.co.uk](http://www.cannockcrematorium.co.uk)

**Northern Ireland** could see its second crematorium built after plans for a new facility in **Newtownabbey** were approved. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is now considering the options and is in discussion with Belfast City Council over a possible collaboration.

You can read more on the **Newtownabbey Times website**

**Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council** will consider plans for a new council-run crematorium outside Hinckley, Leicestershire. Plans have been submitted and if approved, work could start in Spring 2019 with the crematorium opening in 2020. The cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £4.6 million. For more details, please visit the **article online**.

**The 'Death Surface'** a digital mapping tool for the location of new crematoria, has been created by property services company, Carter Jonas. The software has been developed by a team of geospatial mappers and data analysts, working with Carter Jonas, to find the best places for crematoria to be built. To read more, see the article on the **News Statesman website**

## **RESOMATION NEWS**

The work of Scotland-based company **Resomation Limited** received coverage in the latest issue of the *Funeral Service Times*.

Howard Pickard, Managing Director of Resomation Limited spoke to *Funeral Service Times* about the work they are carrying out to promote Resomation within the funeral industry, in order to raise awareness of the process. You can read the full article on the ***Funeral Services Times website***.

## GOVERNMENT NEWS



The **Competition and Markets Authority** has published and updated the responses to the statement of scope relating to its market study into the funerals market in the UK. You can view the updated responses on the Government's website by following [www.gov.uk/cma-cases/funerals-market-study](http://www.gov.uk/cma-cases/funerals-market-study)

## CO-OP BEREAVEMENT STUDY

Did you take part in the 'UK's biggest ever survey into death and bereavement'? Co-op Funeralcare released the findings of the UK's biggest ever survey into death, dying and bereavement in its report : *Making Peace with Death*

You can read their full report by visiting their [website here](#).

*“Grief is just a word, until an emotion becomes attached to it, and then when it’s experienced, it gives death a different meaning.”*  
*Professor Douglas Davies,  
Honorary Vice-President of the  
Cremation Society and Director  
of the Centre for Death and Life  
Studies, Durham University*

## CALL FOR REGULATION OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

A man has admitted breaking into a funeral directors in Rochester, Kent and removing his mother-in-law's body after being unable to contact the undertaker about funeral arrangements. The grieving relative took matters into his own hands, hiring a van and moving the body to a different funeral parlour. The actions have come to light after bailiffs moved in to repossess the parlour and found 16 urns of ashes. For details of the full story, please visit the [BBC news article](#).

## PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

*Pharos International* is the official Journal of the Cremation Society of Great Britain and the International Cremation Federation (ICF)

*Pharos International*, founded in 1934, publishes:

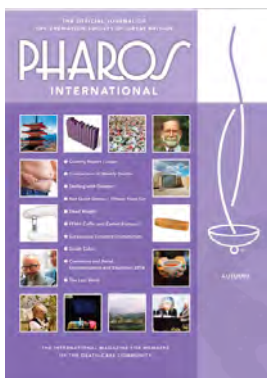
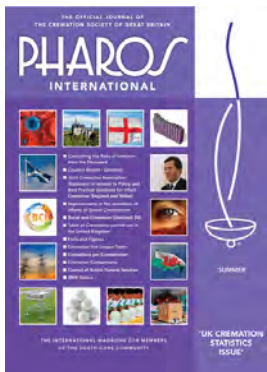
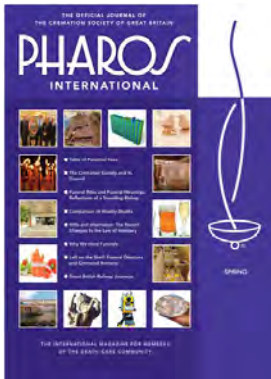
- Event papers
- UK cremation statistics
- International cremation statistics
- Latest events/issues/legislation
- Detailed reports
- News from all areas and aspects of the cremation industry
- Everything from technical, legislative and statistical, to features of general interest
- ICF News

To sign up to an annual subscription (published quarterly), please use the order form available from our website. The cost of an annual subscription is £36 (incl P&P) or you can buy an individual issue for £10 (incl P&P).

The **Autumn** issue of *Pharos International* is available to purchase now and includes:

- Dr Heather Conway's presentation on '**Reforming the Law and the Dead**' given at CBCE 2018
- '**Evolving Medical Technology and Challenges within the Funeral Service**' by Kevin Sinclair of G T Embalming Service Ltd

If you have any queries, please do contact Julie Forrest at The Cremation Society at [pharos.international@cremation.org.uk](mailto:pharos.international@cremation.org.uk)







## **TWEET, TWEET...**

Did you know you can follow us on Twitter at **@cremsoc**  
You can keep up to date on daily news articles, Government announcements, crematoria news, open days etc.



## **FINAL WORD...**

**Sir Bruce Forsyth's** ashes have been laid to rest under the stage at the London Palladium.

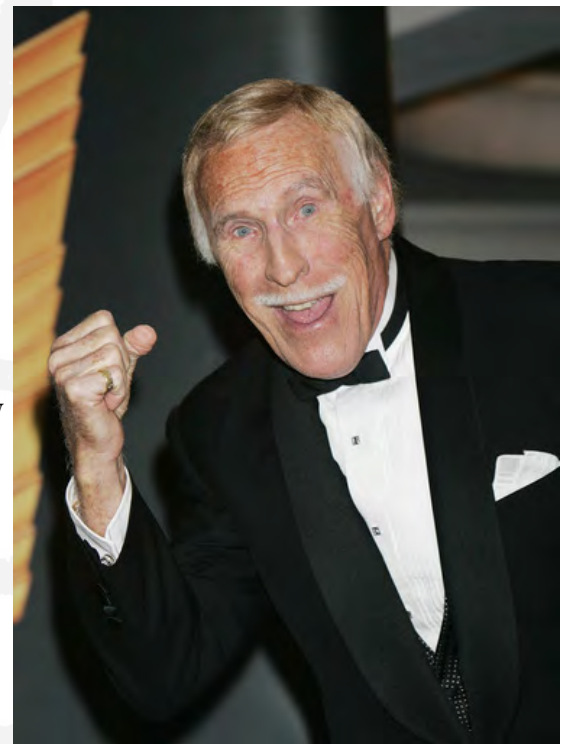
The entertainer's wife and six children gathered at the famous theatre for a private ceremony on Saturday, exactly a year after he passed away.

A blue plaque on the wall below the stage says Sir Bruce first hosted Sunday Night At The London Palladium in 1958, and performed his one man show there for the last time in 2015.

It adds that he was "without question the UK's greatest entertainer".

The plaque concludes: "He rests in peace within the sound of music, laughter and dancing... exactly where he would want to be."

The full article can be found at **Sky News, August 2018**



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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