



# News Review



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

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

You can also follow regular Cremation Society updates on [LinkedIn](#).

## THIS ISSUE'S NEWS UPDATES

- CBCE 2026
- Leeds City Council to decide on plans for crematorium and chapel
- Funeral directors back plans to build new crematorium near Congleton
- Scottish Government rejects crematorium bid appeal
- BCP Council to seek new operator for Poole Crematorium
- Council lodges plans to extend and alter Falkirk crematorium
- ICF Save the Date 2026
- Scottish Government introduces new regulations

## **NEWS REVIEW**

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

# **CBCE 2026**

**We are delighted to be returning to the Hilton Utilita Bowl, Southampton for next year's CBCE.**

**With our joint conference hosts, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities, we will be bringing delegates another first-class conference programme.**

**We look forward to welcoming delegates, speakers and exhibitors to Southampton.**

**Please save the dates and keep an eye on announcements for registration openings.**



**23rd - 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026**



**[www.cbce.org.uk](http://www.cbce.org.uk)**



**CBCE (Cremation & Burial Communication & Education)**



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Leeds City Council to decide on plans for crematorium and chapel**

Specialist crematorium provider, Horizon, has submitted plans to **Leeds City Council** for a modern crematorium off Methley Lane in Oulton, following a public consultation. **Horizon** says its proposed facility will complement the council's existing crematoria – which currently serve the north, west and south of the city – and help meet both current and future needs for cremation services in the area. The plans include a chapel with space for more than 100 visitors, car parking, and memorial gardens, all set within landscaped grounds.

Stephen Byfield, director at Horizon Cremation, said: "We're very grateful to everyone who took part in our public consultation and shared their feedback. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with many respondents recognising the clear need for a new, high-quality cremation facility at this site off Methley Lane to serve the south and east of Leeds. We're pleased to have now submitted our planning application and look forward to a decision from Leeds City Council in due course." To read the full article, head to: [www.thebusinessdesk.com](http://www.thebusinessdesk.com)

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#### **Funeral directors back plans to build new crematorium near Congleton**

Emery Planning, on behalf of Congleton Crematorium Limited, has applied for permission to construct a crematorium on land off the A534 in Brereton. The plans have received the support of 11 local funeral directors, including Congleton-based Alan Finneron. He said: "I have worked in the funeral directing profession in the Congleton area for the past 35 years and believe that this is a much-needed facility and will significantly improve the welfare of bereaved families."

Crematorium developer Elegy say the plans put forward would provide a 'less hurried, more local' option. Following a public exhibition held back in May, Elegy has been working to improve its proposals, including the addition of a cycle path and new bus stops at the entrance. The proposed chapel would seat 100 people and hold just four funerals per day. Furthermore, a sustainability assessment has confirmed that the crematorium's emissions will be net zero from the first year of operation with an estimated added benefit of a saving of 70 Tonnes Co2 each year by road users no longer having to travel to a crematorium further away. To read the full article, head to: [www.congleton.nub.news](http://www.congleton.nub.news)

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Scottish government rejects crematorium bid appeal**

The Scottish government has turned down an appeal after plans for a crematorium were rejected by **Aberdeenshire** councillors. Businessman **Fraser Milne** lost his bid to construct the facility at Daviot near Inverurie earlier this year. He said it would help meet growing demand, but a local business objected to the plans. Mr Milne later appealed to the Scottish government's planning department. In a written recommendation to ministers, its reporter said the crematorium would go against planning policies over the change of land use, as well as noise and transport considerations. Aberdeenshire Council's Garioch area committee agreed with planning officials' view that it should go ahead. However, the Formartine area committee voted against it and was backed by the Infrastructure Services Committee (ISC) at a later meeting.

In his statement of appeal Mr Milne's solicitors said the council acted unreasonably in refusing the application without giving reasons for doing so. They argued that the council had been inconsistent when considering other applications for crematoria. In its response to the Scottish government reporter, Aberdeenshire Council said the decision taken by the ISC provided sufficiently clear and precise reasons for refusal. To read the full article, head to:

**[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)**

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#### **BCP Council to seek new operator for Poole Crematorium**

Cabinet is set to approve plans to look for a new operator for cremation services in Poole five years after they stopped. BCP Council stopped operations at Poole Crematorium on Gravel Hill in 2020 because of equipment failure. Since then, families have been able to hold ceremonial services at Halo Hall, but the actual cremations have taken place in Bournemouth.

In February 2024, a Prior Information Notice (PIN) was published by BCP procurement which received nine formal responses. There are four options outlined in the report. The recommendation is for the cabinet to approve finding a new operator to run services at Poole Crematorium with the Director of Environment and the Cabinet Member for Communities to write the details of the contract and select a provider. The recommendation also wants the cabinet to note the feedback of the Early Market Engagement and to agree to a future report will come back to cabinet with the results of bids and if appropriate for members to approve the contract. Councillor Sandra Moore, BCP Council Portfolio Holder for Communities, said, "Many of us have always wanted to see Poole Crematorium fully operational again despite the financial pressures on our budget; we are committed to exploring all options for possible investment which might bring cremations back in Poole. To read the full article, head to:

**[www.bournemouthcho.co.uk](http://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk)**



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

#### **Council lodges plans to extend and alter Falkirk crematorium**

Falkirk Council lodged an application with its own planners on Wednesday, November 5, looking for the go ahead to extend and alter the crematorium facilities in Dorrator Road, Camelon. Last month council members looked at proposals to take over a former football pitch as a cemetery extension and plans to create new cemeteries across the district as space for burial lairs has become scarce.

Falkirk Council's first ever Bereavement Strategy states the Falkirk area will run out of new burial lairs in 13 years time unless action is taken quickly. To extend the area's largest cemetery in Camelon, officers propose an extension on land at Stirling Road. Previously used as a football pitch, it is anticipated it would provide space for over 1800 new lairs and should provide capacity in the cemetery for an additional 36 years. Consultants are currently working on plans which, if agreed, could see the new extension in use within three years. To read the full article, head to: [\*\*www.falkirkherald.co.uk\*\*](http://www.falkirkherald.co.uk)

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#### **New £5m Angus crematorium back on track after Court of Session ruling in farmer's favour**

Scotland's highest civil court has cleared the way for a new Angus crematorium after rejecting a campaigner's challenge against planning approval for the Duntrune development. It is the second time farmer Guthrie Batchelor's scheme has been before the Court of Session in Edinburgh. In a ruling issued on Tuesday 25 November, a panel led by the country's most senior judge said Angus Council's planning appeal committee had given "adequate and intelligible" reasons for greenlighting the proposal in August 2024. It followed a previous Court of Session case brought by local campaigner Paul Dixon.

In the latest judgment, the Lord President, Lord Pentland said there was "no merit" in any of Mr Dixon's arguments. "The DMRC were entitled to differ from the delegated officer and to use their own experience and judgement. The DMRC's reasons were adequate and intelligible. They left the informed reader in no doubt as to the grounds for the decision and the basis on which all the main points had been disposed of."

Mr Batchelor expressed "massive relief" at the outcome: "I'm delighted we can now push on with the project. I would thank Angus Council for defending the appeal at the Court of Session." Stop Duntrune crematorium lead campaigner Ian Robertson said: "Personally, I am very disappointed in this judgment." He intends to pursue the matter with the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman. To read the full article, head to: [\*\*www.thecourier.co.uk\*\*](http://www.thecourier.co.uk)

## NEWS REVIEW

### SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

#### **Scottish Government Introduces New Regulations Under the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016**

The Scottish Government laid the Burial and Cremation (Applications and Registers) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 in the Scottish Parliament on 24 November 2025.

These Regulations amend the Cremation (Scotland) Regulations 2019 (“the Cremation Regulations”) and the Burial (Applications and Register) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 (“the Burial Applications Regulations”). This is partly in response to feedback on the forms and suggestions from the funeral sector and others.

If approved by the Scottish Parliament these regulations will come into force on 2 March 2026.

The full draft regulations are now available to view on [legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk) at:

[The Burial and Cremation \(Applications and Registers\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2025](#)

- The regulations update the burial and cremation application forms in the Burial Applications Regulations and the Cremation Regulations, improving usability, removing guidance notes from the cremation application forms and ensuring the forms reflect current practice.
- The regulations also update the cremation register requirements by removing the need for a prescribed form for the register and instead specifying the data that must be recorded.

We encourage all burial authorities, cremation authorities, and funeral directors to review the draft regulations. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact the Scottish Government at [burialandcremation@gov.scot](mailto:burialandcremation@gov.scot).

Scottish Government - Burial and Cremation

25 November 2025

## NEWS REVIEW

### INTERNATIONAL CREMATION FEDERATION NEWS

#### INTERNATIONAL CREMATION FEDERATION – SAVE THE DATE

As we approach the end of this year, we are delighted to have started organising next year's ICF meeting. The 2026 ICF General Council Meeting (GCM) will take place in Germany! To be held on Friday afternoon 5<sup>th</sup> June as part of the BEFA FORUM in Düsseldorf.

The international trade fair BEFA FORUM 2026 (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> June) brings together around 230 national and international companies in the funeral industry and technology, exhibiting at the Messe Düsseldorf on an area of 25,000 m<sup>2</sup>. It is expected to be a great success, as in previous editions, with more than 10.000 trade visitors from over 40 countries worldwide.

Next year, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cremation in Germany will be celebrated. The choice for the venue of the ICF GCM was also made to mark and honour this milestone, in the midst of celebrating the anniversary years of modern cremation throughout Europe. We hope to see many of you at the event to celebrate with us.

We will soon share further information with you. If you already intend to attend our 2026 ICF GCM in Düsseldorf, then please let me know. There will be several evening events organised by the exhibition company and it will be our pleasure to secure tickets for ICF members. We look much forward to seeing you next year!

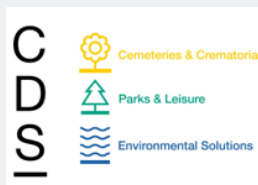
#### ICF OFFICE



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# PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

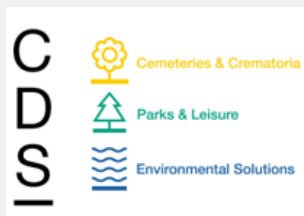
## ADVERTISERS



**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.

If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please **click here** for a media pack. We offer attractive discounted rates for 5 issues - available upon request for new advertisers. 10% Agency Discount.

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## ADVERTISERS



**Facultatieve Technologies**, have over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.



**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

## Contribute to our newsletter

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



01622 688292/3



[Info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:Info@cremation.org.uk)



[www.cremation.org.uk](http://www.cremation.org.uk)



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

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