

News Review



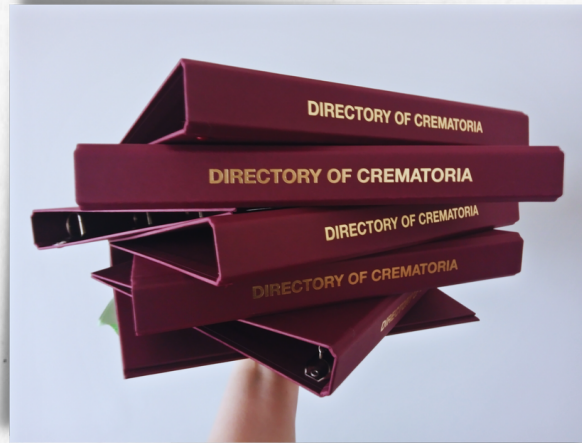
We are pleased to bring you **The Cremation Society's** news review for October.

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

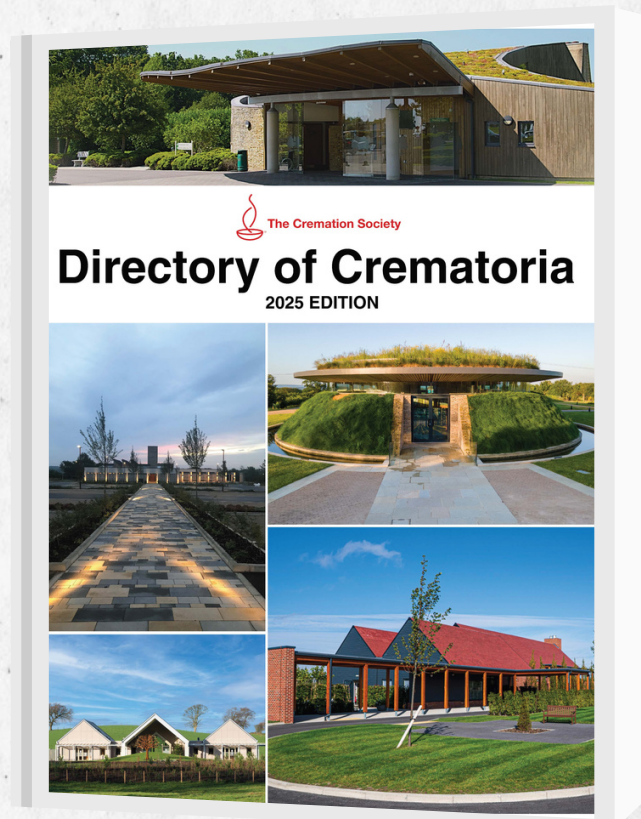
You can also follow regular Cremation Society updates on [LinkedIn](#).

THIS ISSUE'S NEWS UPDATES

- Derby City Council's cabinet has approved budget for new crematorium designs
- Horizon's proposed crematorium to meet 'pressing need' for new facility
- £350k crematorium upgrade follows AW Lymn takeover
- Scottish Govt's Senior Inspector of Funeral Directors, Burial and Cremation publishes annual report
- Maldon Fields Dedication Service
- New state-of-the-art crematorium opens in East Lothian
- Advertiser Spotlight : Benchmark Architects



The 2025 Directory of Crematoria is now available to purchase. It is available in hard copy or digital format and contains comprehensive details of all crematoria across the British Isles. For more details and to purchase this year's Directory, please [visit our website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Derby City Council's cabinet has approved proposals to allocate £889,501 for the design of a new crematorium at Markeaton.

The Labour-run council said equipment and the building at the existing crematorium - which opened in 1956 - were either "reaching or were beyond the end of their lifespan". Councillor Paul Hezelgrave said: "We do need to have this facility, a city of this size should be able to have an attractive place for people to say their last goodbye to their dear ones." Derby City Council said it looked at the option of refurbishing the current building but concluded it would cause a "high level" of disruption to services. Council documents added the "most urgent" concern was that the site's cremators were beyond "end of life and at risk of failure". The authority said developing a new crematorium, on the land next to the existing building, was the "most effective" way to secure a long-term service. To read the full article, head to: www.bbcnews.co.uk

Proposed crematorium to meet 'pressing need' for new facility

Specialist crematorium provider, Horizon, has revealed pre-application plans for a new crematorium off Methley Lane in Oulton, Leeds. It will complement Leeds City Council's own crematoria - which currently serve the north, west and south of the city - and is intended to meet both the current and future need for crematoria in the area. The proposal includes 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: "Nearly 85 per cent of families choose cremation over burial and there is now a pressing need for new facilities in Leeds which will only increase over the coming years. "We believe our proposal represents the best option to serve the south and east of the city. "The crematorium will be well-situated, is easily accessible by car and public transport, is beautifully designed and has been carefully integrated into the landscape to minimise visual impact." A planning application will be submitted to Leeds City Council soon. To read the full article, head to: www.thebusinessdesk.com

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Wilford Hill Crematorium: £1.3m investment needed or service could close by 2027

A report going before Nottingham City Council's Commissioning and Procurement Executive Committee will ask councillors to decide whether to continue offering cremation services at Wilford Hill Crematorium by replacing its ageing equipment — or to end the service altogether when new national regulations come into force in 2027. The committee will consider whether to replace the cremators, decommission the old equipment, and invest in new FTIII cremators and cooling systems — or to cease providing a cremation service once the current equipment can no longer legally or safely operate. If councillors back the replacement plan, a total budget of £1.36 million would be allocated to the project, funded through £918,765 in reserves and £444,735 from capital, with an additional £150,000 contingency for slippage or unforeseen costs. The new cremators would be installed in phases to allow services to continue without interruption. Wilford Hill is one of Nottingham's key cremation sites and forms part of the city's wider Bereavement Services, which also manages public health funerals and cemeteries. To read the full article, head to: www.westbridgfordwire.com

£350k crematorium upgrade follows funeral firm takeover

A funeral firm has invested £350,000 into the facilities and grounds of a Lichfield crematorium site it purchased last year. Upgrades and improvements follow the acquisition of Chase and District Crematorium and Memorial Park by A.W. Lymn The Family Funeral Service with the site being rebranded as Hammerwich Crematorium and Cemetery. Improvements have included a complete chapel refurbishment including new doors and ceiling, brand new air conditioning throughout, a new state-of-the-art audio/visual system, a new canopy for vehicles pulling up and leaving the site and a complete re-tarmac of the whole site. Work has also been undertaken to increase the amount of car parking space available from 19 spaces to 52. The number of cremations being conducted at the site had doubled before the refurbishment work was completed. Hammerwich Crematorium and Cemetery Manager Jane Baker said: "It's incredibly exciting to witness this level of care and investment being brought into the site. A.W. Lymn's vision for Hammerwich aligns perfectly with our hopes for the future and the improvements already taking shape show just how committed our new owners are to local families." To read the full article, head to: www.daily-focus.co.uk

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Maldon Fields Dedication Service

An official service of dedication has taken place for the new crematorium at Maldon Fields, which opened in December last year. The Bishop of Bradwell, the Rt Rev Adam Atkinson, led the service, alongside a host of local dignitaries and representatives from across the faith spectrum.

Maldon Fields Crematorium is situated off the Maldon Road at Woodham Mortimer, nestled behind a copse. Throughout the service of dedication, speakers complimented the unobtrusive building in its landscaped countryside setting.

Cllr Kevin Lagan, Mayor of Maldon District Council, spoke of “The absolute beauty of the idea behind it, the location, the care – I would use the word love - of how it has been built. I know that every single Councillor who represents the district of Maldon is proud to have this beautiful facility.”

Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Essex Dr. James Bettley read from the Bible, as did Father Jerold Terrance of Assumption of Our Lady, Maldon’s Roman Catholic Church. Kate Milner, a local civil celebrant who led one of the first funerals at Maldon Fields, spoke of how the new crematorium allowed people to tell their own story.

Reverend Peter Begley, the Area Dean of Maldon and Dengie summed up the day with the words: “This is more than a crematorium, its Maldon Fields.”

To read more details of on the dedication service, head over to:

www.maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

New state-of-the-art crematorium opens in East Lothian

Scotland's newest crematorium has officially opened on the outskirts of Musselburgh.

The privately-run East Lothian Crematorium & Memorial Gardens has a chapel with seating for up to 112 people and additional standing space provided by the entrance lobby and the chapel's canopy. It also boasts state-of-the-art technology which the operators say allows uniquely personalised funeral services, with projections onto the full wall at the front of the chapel with accompanying soundscapes and lighting. Details of the service will be displayed on the chapel's welcome screens and the waiting room has been fitted with a digital photo gallery to show loved ones' images.

East Lothian Crematorium & Memorial Gardens is part of Westerleigh Group, one of the UK's largest independent owners and operators of crematoria and cemeteries, with 42 sites in England, Scotland and Wales. Manager David Lees said: "Now that we are open, we are able to start supporting local families with the exceptional care and standards of service that Westerleigh Group is well-known for. We're particularly pleased to be the first crematorium in Scotland to have this incredible technology which takes the funeral experience to a whole new level."

The crematorium, on Old Craighall Road, also has technology which the operators say makes it one of the most environmentally-friendly facilities of its kind in the country. A zonal heating system and the use of low-energy lighting will help reduce the crematorium's dependency on external sources of energy. There are 106 parking spaces, an overflow car park, six accessible parking spaces and electric car-charging facilities. To read the full article, head to: www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com



NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Crematorium dispute to be heard in November

A legal challenge over a proposed crematorium in Aspropyrgos, west of **Athens**, is set to be heard on November 18 at the Piraeus Administrative Court of Appeal. The case was filed by Crem Services SA after the municipal council cancelled a preliminary building permit last year, citing environmental concerns and local opposition.

The mayor of Aspropyrgos said the facility would threaten the quality of life for more than 200 families and emphasized that burial is closely tied to local religious traditions, which “they do not wish to disrupt.”

Crem Services argues that the site is zoned for wholesale commercial use, not residential, and that the objections concern minor plot issues rather than neighborhood presence.

Six years after Greece’s first crematorium opened in Ritsona, north of Athens, the expansion of cremation facilities nationwide has largely stalled. While a public crematorium project in Thessaloniki is progressing, plans in Athens, in the area of Elaionas, and Patra remain on hold.

The Ritsona facility performs around 5,000 cremations annually and serves as a model for future developments. To read the full article, head over to www.ekathimerini.com

NEWS REVIEW

The Inspector of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors in Scotland Annual report



The Scottish Government's Senior Inspector of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors has published his annual report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The report covers the inspection of 32 out of the now 34 crematoria in Scotland and includes:

- A summary of the duties performed by the Senior Inspector
- News on the challenges faced by crematoria and funeral directors during the reporting year
- An anonymised summary of a selection of the various complaints and enquiries dealt with by the Senior Inspector
- A round-up of the year covered by the report.'

You can read the full report on the Scottish Government website:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/inspector-burial-cremation-funeral-directors-2024-25-annual-report/pages/1/>

NEWS REVIEW

SECTOR NEWS

City's Festival of the Dead seeks to break taboos

People in **Bradford** are being encouraged to break the taboo of talking about death by taking part in a festival in the city focusing on the subject. During the **Festival of the Dead**, free workshops will be held throughout October and November for people to discuss death and reflect on how the dead are remembered, with a commemorative lantern parade also planned for next month.

The two-month festival was organised by the University of Bradford and other local organisations as part of the City of Culture year. Prof Karina Croucher, from the university, said it was intended "not to be sad, but actually to encourage people to celebrate life and enjoy life and make the most of what we have got". Prof Croucher, whose research in archaeology looks at differences in how the dead have been treated through time and across the world, said: "Death is universal, but people still find it really difficult to talk about. But talking about it doesn't make it happen."

Attendees would be able to make their own commemorative paper lanterns at weekly workshops at the City Library, with their creations used as part of the parade in Shipley's Northcliffe Park on 16 November, organisers said. The workshops would be a "safe and open space to talk about death", Prof Croucher said. "Just because someone is dead, that's not the end of their significance in our lives. They are still important to us and it's OK to acknowledge that."

To read the full article, head to: www.bbc.co.uk



NEWS REVIEW

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Shaping End-of-Life Architecture Across the UK and Beyond

At **Benchmark Architects**, we are redefining how end-of-life architecture serves communities by creating exceptional spaces that honour life, memory, and community. We believe in designs that respect tradition, embrace sustainability, and deliver serene environments for remembrance and reflection.

Sector-Leading Expertise in Crematoria Design

Benchmark Architects has become synonymous with designing sensitive and reflective multi-faith spaces. Our sector-leading experience in crematoria and end-of-life architecture combines technical expertise with deep empathy, allowing us to create buildings that support communities through every stage of remembrance. We specialize in collaborating with local authorities and private clients across the UK and internationally, ensuring our thoughtfully designed environments honour diverse traditions and needs.

Our comprehensive experience spans from early feasibility and planning through to delivery on site. Working across the UK and internationally, each project is shaped by its setting, whether within a rural landscape, suburban edge or urban context, to ensure every design harmonises with its surroundings and purpose.

A Commitment to Sustainability and Architectural Distinction

Sustainability and community are central to our work. We design with longevity and atmosphere in mind, from material selection and energy efficiency to the integration of natural light, water, and landscape. Our goal is always to reduce environmental impact while enhancing the human experience.



NEWS REVIEW

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This commitment is demonstrated through recent award-winning projects like Maple Park in Thirsk, Rushcliffe Oaks in Nottinghamshire, and Huntingdon Crematorium, as well as the forthcoming East Cambridgeshire Crematorium. These schemes showcase our dedication to dignity, sustainability, and architectural distinction, prioritising accessibility, landscape integration, and long-term environmental performance.

Driving the Future of End-of-Life Design

With four new crematoria completed in the past three years and several more underway, including an international commission in Cyprus, Benchmark continues to shape the future of end-of-life architecture. Our mission, driven by an ethos of Momentum, Invention, and Collaboration, consistently pushes boundaries to discover the exceptional. We design with compassion and innovation, creating buildings that bring comfort, meaning, and timeless value to the communities they serve.

Let's Work Together

We would be delighted to collaborate with you on your next crematorium, refurbishment, or end-of-life design project.

At **Benchmark Architects**, we bring together experience, creativity, and care to deliver buildings that are environmentally responsible, operationally efficient, and architecturally distinguished.

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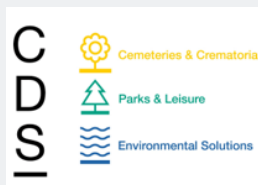
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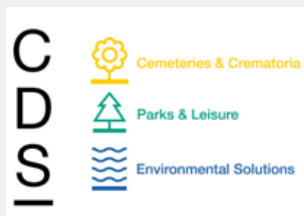
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Benchmark Architects, are an innovative architecture and design studio, with a passionate and personable team who enjoy working on creative, challenging, and innovative projects.



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.



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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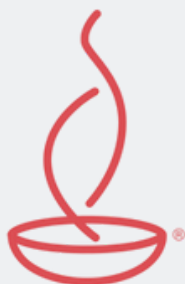
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Info@cremation.org.uk



www.cremation.org.uk



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

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