



THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



The Cremation Society appoints new Council members

We are delighted to announce the appointment of two new **Cremation Society** Council members - Debbie Kerlake and Rick Powell.

More details on Debbie and Rick's appointment can be found on page 2.

Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

I was pleased to see so many of you at our recent joint organisations' one-day **Bereavement Services Seminar**.

I hope that those who attended found it useful both in terms of content of the speakers' presentations and as an opportunity to discuss the latest issues and developments from across the sector, with colleagues from other organisations.

If you haven't returned your feedback form, please do as we would find this useful for future events.

Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

The Council of The Cremation Society are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Council members, **Debbie Kerslake** and **Rick Powell**.

Both Debbie and Rick will bring with them a wealth of knowledge from their respective fields, in which they are both well-respected.

Miriam Deacon, Chief Executive of the Cremation Society, said: 'I am delighted that Debbie and Rick have accepted the offer to become Trustees of the Cremation Society. Their contribution to the Society will certainly complement the skills we already have in place. They are both highly regarded in the sector, having worked serving the bereaved for many years.'

You can read full details on Debbie and Rick on the '**About Us**' page of our website.





CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

CREMATION AND BURIAL COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION 'Pause, Reflect, Respond'

Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July 2019
Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton

CBCE 2019 provides the ideal opportunity to pause and reflect on what is happening within the sector and will equip delegates with an invaluable insight to respond to the changes taking place within their services. This will enable better planning for the continuing delivery of excellence.

As the bereavement sector continues to grow, this key annual event provides a unique opportunity to acquire the most up-to-date and relevant information. Keynote speakers will equip you with insights into the issues facing services, exhibitors will show you the latest services and products available and networking opportunities will provide the space to engage with fellow professionals.

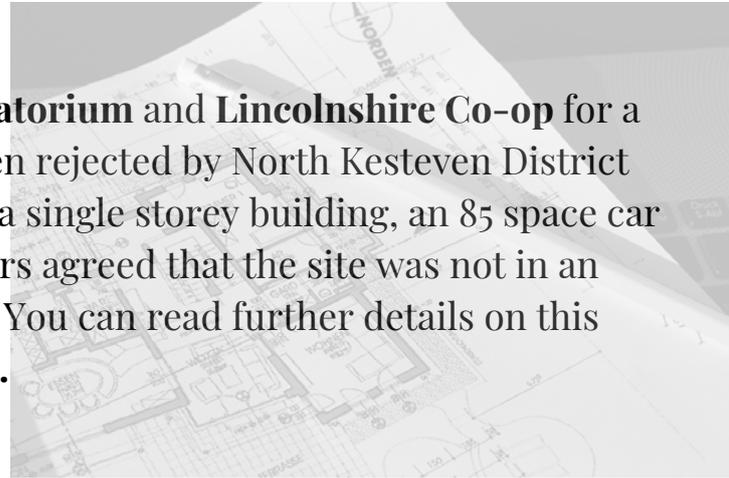
To register your place, please visit <http://cbce.org.uk/2019>



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans submitted by **South Lincolnshire Crematorium** and **Lincolnshire Co-op** for a new crematorium in **North Kesteven** have been rejected by North Kesteven District Council officers. The proposals had included a single storey building, an 85 space car park, gardens and landscaping. The councillors agreed that the site was not in an acceptable location and would 'create issues'. You can read further details on this latest development, on **the Lincolnite website**.



A planning application for a new crematorium with memory garden and parking for more than 100 vehicles at a four-acre site in **Weeting**, near Brandon has been submitted to Breckland Council, by **Dignity UK**. The planning statement adds that the site would feature a larger-than-average cremator and space to seat 100 people in its chapel. You can read more details in the **Thetford & Brandon Times article**.

Plans by **Mercia Crematoria Developments** for a new crematorium near Cotgrave have been rejected by **Rushcliffe Borough Council**, despite being previously recommended for approval. The Council commented that 'members of the Planning Committee did not consider that very special circumstances had been demonstrated to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt..' The full article can be read on the **Insider Media** website.



CREMATORIA NEWS

Leeds City Council have rejected plans submitted by **Westerleigh Group** for the development of a new crematorium on land at Garforth Golf Range, Barwick in Elmet. The Council's decision notice states that 'the development...encroaches into the countryside and would have a detrimental and harmful impact upon the character and openness of the Green Belt. No very special circumstances have been demonstrated that clearly outweigh the harm through inappropriateness and the other identified harm'. You can read the decision notice on the planning section of the **Leeds City Council website**.

An appeal has been launched by developers **H2Land** to overturn **Bromsgrove District Council's** rejection of plans for a new crematorium on land near the Waseley Hills. The plans were rejected having not demonstrated the 'very special circumstances' required to develop on Green Belt land. The appeal hearing is set for 11th June 2019. More details can be found in the **Bromsgrove Standard article**.

Plans have been submitted by **Mr and Mrs Clarehugh**, for a second crematorium to be developed in Northumberland. The plans submitted for the site near Felton include a single-storey building accommodating 80 people for use as a crematorium, plus parking for around 40 cars at **Northumbrian Woodland Burials**, Bockenfield. The application stated that 'the proposals would bring about wider social benefits in that the crematorium would provide families with an alternative option for saying goodbye to their loved ones'. Please read the **Northumberland Gazette** article for more on this application.

CREMATORIA NEWS

Revised plans for a crematorium, funeral chapel and car park at **Ribble Valley Remembrance Park** have been approved by Ribble Valley Borough Council. The Council's planning officer, Adam Birkett, commented that the revised plans submitted by **Buildings of Remembrance International Limited** showed that the revised site layout would not require disturbance of burials at the site. An application has now been made by the Archdeacon of Blackburn to the Bishop of Blackburn, for the land to be deconsecrated, where appropriate. You can read the application papers on the **Diocese of Blackburn website**.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR NEWS

The National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF) has appointed its first Scottish funeral director as its new President in over 20 years. **Jim Auld**, of James Auld Funeral Services was installed as National President of SAIF on 31st March 2019 during their AGM Banquet Weekend. Terry Tennens, Chief Executive of SAIF, said: 'I'm very much looking forward to working with Jim over the coming 12 months in what is going to be a period of challenge and opportunity for our profession'. You can read more on the **Helensburgh Advertiser website**.





NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

The **Scottish Government's** Burial and Cremation Team has published a number of guidance documents following the come into force of the **Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016** and the various accompanying regulations, on 4th April 2019. You can find these on the **Latest News page** of our website.

You can also now find the new statutory **cremation forms** to be used for applications for cremation in Scotland, on the **Scottish Government's website**.

NEWS FROM IRELAND

A former mortician is planning to open the first Irish facility offering water cremations. **Elizabeth Oakes** plans to open the revolutionary 'Aquamation Centre' which will offer water-based cremation. Elizabeth explained that “**Aquamation** is eco-friendly and uses 95% water mixed with 5% alkaline solution. The alkaline, when mixed with water naturally heats up and dissolves the body skin, tissue and muscle, leaving only the bones behind. The bones are then processed in a cremulator and people get 30% more of their loved ones back as the smaller bones tend to totally disintegrate in traditional flame cremation.” Elizabeth is in discussions about a possible location for the Aquamation Crematorium along the Meath/Dublin border and hopes to be able to offer the service next year. For more details, read the **Irish Examiner article**.

NEWS FROM WALES

Port Talbot's **Margam Crematorium** will celebrate its 50th anniversary of opening, on 25th April 2019, having undertaken over 65,000 cremations. An ecumenical service will be held on 25th April 2019 with contributions from all faiths/non faiths who undertake services at the crematorium. Councillor Ted Latham, Chair of the Margam Joint Crematorium Committee, said: “Margam Crematorium is important to a lot of people, and is the place where we come together to share memories and celebrate life. The team at the Crematorium provide the very highest standards of compassionate customer care and service choice”. For more details, read the **West Wales Chronicle article**.



GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Competition and Markets Authority** has announced it will conduct a full market investigation into the **funerals market**. The CMA's press release confirmed that the investigation will focus on the supply of services by funeral directors and the supply of crematoria services. The CMA has published its administrative timetable, terms of reference for the investigation and an issues statement, detailing how the CMA proposes to go about its work and some of the measures (described as 'remedies') that might be put in place if it was to find that there are competition problems that need to be addressed. You can find full details of the CMA's statements and reports on the CMA page of the **Gov.uk website**.

The **Ministry of Justice** and the **Department of Health and Social Care** has announced a joint consultation on the **coronial investigation of stillbirths**. The consultation, which closes on 18th June 2019, will seek views on proposals for introducing coronial investigations of stillbirth cases in England and Wales. You can submit your views on the **Ministry of Justice website**.

The **Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government** has released its response to the **review of crematoria provision and facilities**, originally launched in March 2016. The Government's Press Release confirmed that 'a package of measures to update crematoria to reflect the needs of different cultures and faiths in modern Britain' would be introduced. Amongst the measures would be consultation to revise national guidance on the siting and design of crematoria, and an offer of support to community groups interested in operating their own crematoria. You can read the Press Release and the full report on the **Gov.uk website**.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The first private crematorium in **Greece** has received the environmental license required in order to begin operating and is expected to be ready to open in early autumn, according to the President of the **Cremation Society of Greece**, Mr Antonis Alakiotis. The facility located in Ritsona, North-East Attica, near Halkida, will hold an opening ceremony which will be attended by members of the International Cremation Federation (ICF). More details on the developments in Greece, can be found in the **Keep Talking Greece** article.



Laws to legalise cremation in **Malta** continue to be debated during the second reading in Parliament of the Private Member's Bill introduced by Labour MP **Rosianne Cutajar**. It is proposed that the law which will not only create a regulatory framework, will also create a registry whereby those wishing to be cremated, can register their intention. It is envisaged that this will not be legally binding but would encourage people to consider their family members' intentions when organising funeral arrangements. The consultation period continues. You can read more details on the **Malta Today** website.



BEREAVEMENT NEWS

Six funeral firms have now joined forces with **East Ayrshire Council** to be able to offer '**Respectful Funerals**' to residents in the area. The partnership has been formed in a bid to to make savings on the average cost of a funeral in Scotland.

The 'Respectful Funerals' scheme was launched two years ago and it is estimated that people using the scheme over that time have saved approximately £280,000.

Council leader Douglas Reid said: "The team, with their funeral director partners, created a dignified and respectful funeral package that offered significant savings on the Scottish average and in just two short years have doubled the number of funeral directors involved in the scheme. We entered into this partnership hoping that we would make a difference to the lives of our residents and provide support to our communities during the hardest of times". You can read more details in the **Daily Record article**.

AND FINALLY...

The ashes of Luke Perry, the actor best known for his roles in 90210 and Riverdale, have reportedly been scattered on his farm in Vanleer, Tennessee. The actor died at the age of 52 earlier this month, days after suffering a stroke. In an article on the **Evening Standard website**, sources close to Perry's family are reported to have confirmed that his ashes were scattered on the 380 acre farm, where he is thought to have lived on and off since the mid 90s.



If you have any news you would like us to consider for future newsletters, please do contact us at info@cremation.org.uk



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