



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



## **CMA UPDATE**

The Ministry of Justice has published its response to the Competition and Markets Authority's report following its Funerals Market Investigation.

The CMA has also launched a consultation on its draft Order.

For more on this, please see page 6.

Spring marches on and there is no shortage of news from across the funeral and bereavement sector.

In this month's news review, we have covered a wide range of subjects from medical examiner news to funeral guidance updates.

We hope you find this month's issue informative and please do encourage others to subscribe to future issues via our website.

**Wendy Buchan**  
**Executive Officer & Secretary to**  
**The Cremation Society**



## CBCE UPDATE

We are looking forward to bringing you our online CBCE 2021 on Wednesday 23 June 2021.

We are delighted that our sponsorship opportunities have now all been booked and we would like to thank the following for sponsoring this event. You can **find more on each sponsor by clicking on their logo**:

- CDS Group
- Obitus
- OpusXenta
- Plotbox
- The Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries
- The Columbaria Company
- The London Cremation Company

There are still exhibition opportunities available and you can find more by visiting the [CBCE website](#).

Further details on registration and speaker programme will be available on the [CBCE website](#) or follow [CBCE on Twitter](#) to keep up to date with news on the event.



Obitus

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PLOTBOX



THE  
LONDON  
CREMATION  
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Federation and Cremation Society

Joint Conference

# Deceased Management Advisory Group

The Cremation Society, as part of the Deceased Management Advisory Group, continues to meet regularly with Government representatives from across the UK, with recent discussions focused around the easing of restrictions and accompanying revised funeral guidance.

Please do visit the [DMAG website](#) or our own Cremation Society [dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#) to read the latest news and updates.

Some of the latest published guidance includes:

- 27.04.2021 Scottish Government publishes updated [guidance for funeral services](#)
- 27.04.2021 Scottish Government publishes updated [guidance for burial and cremation authorities](#)
- 27.04.2021 Scottish Government publishes updated [guidance for funeral directors](#)
- 13.04.2021 Public Health England and the Department of Health & Social Care issues updated '[COVID-19: guidance for arranging and attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#)'
- 13.04.2021 Public Health England and the Department of Health & Social Care issues updated [long form 'COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic'](#)
- 13.04.2021 Northern Ireland's Department of Health issues updated '[Guidance for handling the infection risks when caring for the deceased and managing funerals](#)' during the period of restrictions effective from 12 April 2021



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

The inquiry into controversial plans for a crematorium in the Norfolk countryside is under way. The planning inspector opened the virtual public inquiry to develop 10 acres of farmland off Brandon Road, **Weeting**, for a crematorium, accompanying memorial garden, car park and vehicle access. The inquiry is scheduled for four days, concluding on Friday, April 30. The appeal by **Dignity** Funerals will challenge the decision made by Breckland District Council on June 23, 2020, to refuse the application. You can read further details on the [Eastern Daily Press website](#).

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A new 'state of the art' crematorium has opened on the edge of **Cannock Chase**. Cannock Chase Crematorium is the second facility to be opened by **Horizon Cremation**, with the first being based in Glasgow, Scotland. The new crematorium in Heath Hayes, opened on Monday, April 19 and is set in 12 acres of land. The manager, Jo Walker, said: "We offer a refreshingly different service. A funeral is, after all, a celebration of life so families need to have comfort, space, the technology needed to bring a service to life and the detailed attention of a dedicated team who care". You can read more on the new crematorium on the [Staffordshire Live website](#).

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Controversial plans to build two crematoriums on the outskirts of Wolverhampton have been given the green light by the Secretary of State. Plans for the sites in Broad Lane, **Essington**, and Holyhead Road in **Wergs** were hit by a string of legal challenges, forcing the proposals to be put on hold. A week-long public inquiry at South Staffordshire Council took place in January 2019. Now plans for both sites (lodged by Westerleigh Group and Dignity) have been allowed on appeal. The Secretary of State determined the appeals following the quashing of a previous appeal relating to both crematorium plans. In both cases, it was determined that the harm to the Green Belt was outweighed by the need for new facilities, with the Minister concluding that there is an "overall shortage of facilities across the West Midlands conurbation which is only likely to get worse". You can read more details on the [Business Desk website](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

**Classic Lodges Limited** has lodged another fresh application for a new crematorium facility on the site of the former Duhallow Park Hotel in **Kanturk**. The application has been lodged after a previous one was deemed invalid by council planners, who said it did not fully comply with the requirements of the 2001 Planning and Development Regulations Act on a number of technicalities. A previous application was rejected by planners over concerns about its potential impact on the surrounding environment. That decision was upheld by An Bord Pleanála. The council has said a decision is due on the latest application by May 17, with the deadline for submissions on the proposal set for April 26. You can read more on the [The Corkman website](#).

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Work on the new multi-million pound **Hambleton Crematorium** on the outskirts of **Thirsk** is progressing well with the steel framework now in position, council officials say. Work began on the council-led crematorium in November, with the development work now very much underway despite challenging conditions at times, due to snowy and wet weather in January and February. The 22-acre site which will be named Maple Park, is close to both the A1 and A19 and will include a service hall to accommodate approximately 120 mourners plus additional room for standing. You can follow news on this development on the [Hambleton Today website](#).

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### NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER NEWS

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner, has published his first report for 2020. The report describes 'progress and next steps, building the foundations of a medical examiner system that will facilitate reflection, learning and improvement across the entire health system.' You can [read the report here](#).



## NEWS REVIEW

### COMPETITION AND MARKETS AUTHORITY NEWS

The **Ministry of Justice** has published its response to the Competition and Markets Authority's Funerals Market Investigation report. In publishing its response, the Ministry of Justice acknowledged the dedicated work of the funeral sector: 'The government recognises the hard work of the funeral sector, and further appreciates its dedication through the particular challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.' The response commits the government to:

- work with the sector to ensure effective co-regulation, developing a set of quality standards for funeral directors
- evaluating and reviewing the effectiveness of this co-regulation model

You can read the Government's full response on the [Gov.uk website](#).

The CMA has launched its formal consultation on its draft funerals order, including publishing the draft 'Funerals Market Investigation Order 2021'. Responses to the consultation should reach the CMA by 5pm on 17 May 2021 and you can read the consultation documents on the [CMA webpage](#).



### LAW COMMISSION NEWS

The Law Commission has launched a consultation on its 14th Programme of Law Reform. As part of its announcement, the Law Commission confirmed that the 'A Modern Framework for Disposing of the Dead' project that was included in its 13th Programme but was not completed, will be rolled over into the 14th Programme. You can find more details on the latest announcement on the [Law Commission website](#).

## NEWS REVIEW

### SECTOR NEWS

The Environmental Stewardship Group will continue with its second series of round table meetings, gathering together parties from across the funeral sector, to collect the thoughts and opinions on the environmental challenges facing the sector. You can read more on the work of the Environmental Stewardship Group and attend future round table meetings, by visiting the [ESG website](#).



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### PODCAST NEWS

We have recently listened to a number of podcasts available that cover a wide range of subjects from across the funeral and bereavement professions. You may find the following of interest:

**Memoria - the loss of a loved one** - a mini series produced by Memoria with industry professionals dealing with unexpected loss, funeral diversity, and the profound impact of losing a much loved family member or close friend.

**The Times - Stories of our times** - Britain's overflowing cemeteries: How to solve a grave problem

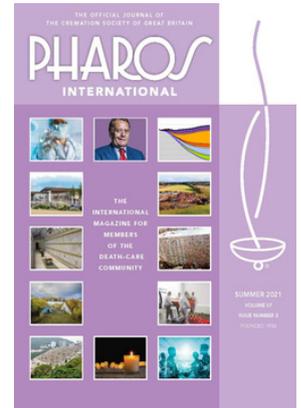
**Golden Charter - The Partnership Podcast** - looking at the changing face of the UK funeral profession.



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

The summer issue of our official journal, **Pharos International**, will soon be available to purchase. The journal is available to purchase as a single issue or as part of an annual subscription. For more details, please [visit our website](#) and order through our online order form.



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### APPG FOR FUNERALS AND BEREAVEMENT

The APPG for Funerals and Bereavement continues to highlight issues facing the funeral profession. Sir John Hayes, Chair of the APPG, has recently drawn attention to the need to ensure that funeral restrictions do not become more restrictive than other public activities, as UK Government follows its easing of restrictions in line with the published roadmap. You can keep up to date with [APPG news on its website](#).



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### RESEARCH NEWS

The Church of England has published a report into the impact of the pandemic on mourners. People aged between 18 and 29 years old have been worst affected by bereavement since the first lockdown last year, with 51% reporting they lost someone close to them during this period compared to 31% of people aged 60 or above, a survey commissioned by the Church of England has shown. You can read the full report on [the Church of England website](#).



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The **CDS Group** offer our 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** - 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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## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



Obitus

**Obitus** - provider of bereavement technology services, delivering music, webcast and tributes for families, funeral directors and leading funeral venues throughout the UK.



OrthoMetals.

**OrthoMetals** - a family owned and operated business, recycling metals remaining after cremation.



PlotBox

**PlotBox** is an international death care management solution that facilitates cemeteries and crematoria in operating to world-class standards through integrated software and georectified mapping modules.



Treske

**Treske** - one of the UK's leading makers and suppliers of bespoke crematorium furniture and soft furnishings.



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**Welters** - interment and memorial specialists.

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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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You can contact us at:

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

01622 688292/3  
[info@cremation.org.uk](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)  
[www.cremation.org.uk](http://www.cremation.org.uk)



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