



# THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



## **Funerals market study**

The Competition and Markets Authority has published its working paper on its approach to profitability and financial analysis with respect to its funerals market investigation.

For more details, see page 5.



## **Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society**

It hardly seems possible that we are in the midst of summer holidays - how quickly the year is passing!

This month has seen the publication of our first dedicated 'statistics issue' of ***Pharos International***. Thank you to all who have given such positive feedback on this new publication. We are very grateful to all 295 crematoria who provided information that has been used as part of the statistics produced.

You can find more details on how to subscribe to ***Pharos International***, on page 2.

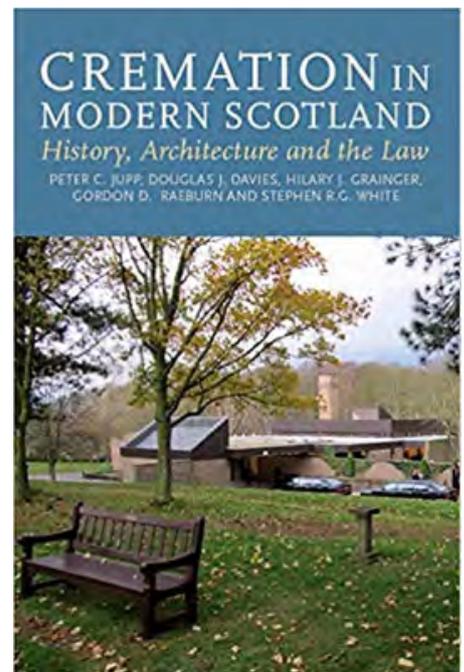


## Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

As many of you will know, we offer a number of publications on our website, including *Cremation in Modern Scotland : History, Architecture and the Law*. The book's authors include past and present Cremation Society Council members and explore the history of cremation in Scotland, including cultural and social changes. We are pleased to be able to offer this publication at a **discounted price of £25 (inclusive of P&P)**.

To take advantage of this discounted offer, **please visit our website** and order your copy.

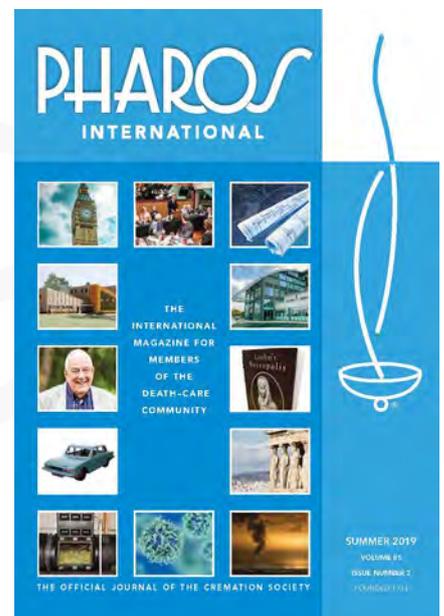


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*Pharos International* is the official journal of The Cremation Society and the International Cremation Federation.

Our readership includes most crematoria personnel in the UK, private and public sector management, manufacturers, funeral directors, libraries - in fact, everyone involved, or just interested in cremation, both nationally and internationally.

For more details on how to subscribe to *Pharos International* please **visit our website**.



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Following a lengthy planning process and successfully securing planning permission for a new crematorium on land at **Waseley Hills**, the developers **H2Land** have now put the land up for sale for housing. H2Land Director, Mark Donald, said the decision to market the site is a commercial one and may result in the site being sold, or retained and operated by his company. You can read more on this development on the **Bromsgrove Standard website**.

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**Arun District Council** has rejected an application for the development of a new crematorium in **Climping** whilst requesting a further road safety audit on another application for a new crematorium in nearby **Yapton**. The planning committee rejected Southern Co-op's application but deferred the application by Landlink Estates pending a new road safety audit. Members agreed the need for a new crematorium but were not willing to approve the application as it stood. For more details, please read the **Littlehampton Gazette article**.

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Plans for a major improvement scheme at **Distington Hall Crematorium** have been approved by **Copeland Council's** planning team. The plans were produced following consultation with funeral directors, celebrants, members of the clergy and elected representatives. Work is scheduled to commence in October and will take around six months to complete. You can read details of the scheme on the **Copeland Council website**.



## CREMATORIA NEWS

**Stockton's** new crematorium is almost ready for business and the public are being welcomed to have a look around before it officially opens next month. Speaking ahead of the opening days, Stockton Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, Mike Smith, said: "More families are choosing cremation over burial than ever before in Stockton, so I am pleased that we are now able to meet the needs of bereaved families in their own community." For full details, please visit the **Teesside Live website**.

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**North East Lincolnshire Council** has revealed plans to abolish the former funeral fines imposed at its **Grimsby Crematorium** after facing recent criticism. From 1st September a new system will see funeral directors being asked to sign up to a good practice guide. Those who sign up will pay £705 per service, which is the current price, but those that do not will have to pay an extra £200. Members will also be held to a point system, where they will be penalised for every rule in the good practice guide that has been breached. For full details, read the **Grimsby Live article**.

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**Westerleigh Group** has held a reception to celebrate the 30th anniversary of **West Suffolk Crematorium**. Guests included local funeral directors, clergy, celebrants together with a number of VIP guests representing the funeral service industry. The occasion also marked the 30th anniversary of service by the crematorium's manager, Royna. Our congratulations to all at West Suffolk Crematorium on reaching this milestone.





## GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Competition and Markets Authority** has published its working paper on its approach to profitability and financial analysis with respect to its funeral markets investigation. You can read the working paper and previous updates on the **CMA webpage**.



## MEDICAL EXAMINER NEWS

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner, has released his latest update on the introduction of the medical examiner scheme. The update includes news of the latest appointment of the lead medical examiner for Wales, as well as regional medical examiners for each of the seven NHS regions across England. You can read the update on the **NHS Improvement's national medical examiner page**.



### National Medical Examiner update

August 2019

#### Welcome

We have continued to make good progress since the last bulletin. I am particularly pleased to have appointed excellent medical examiners for each region in England, and the lead medical examiner for Wales (details below). We will all be meeting in September to start planning regional implementation. I am very grateful to everyone who applied for these important roles.

We have also started recruitment for seven regional medical examiner officers in England and the lead medical examiner officer for Wales, to provide vital support, co-ordination and guidance for regions and local offices. You can find more details of these roles below – and please pass on to anyone you think may be interested.

I was pleased that so many people came to our medical examiner workshop at the Patient Safety Congress in Manchester on 2 July 2019 where NHS Improvement and NHS England launched the **NHS Patient Safety Strategy**. There is clearly enthusiasm across the country for implementing the medical examiner system, and we had a lively discussion around some key principles to bear in mind as we implement it. Firstly, medical examiners need to carry out genuinely independent scrutiny to give families and carers confidence that all concerns are considered carefully. Although medical examiners will be employed by trusts in England or health boards in Wales, they will have a separate line of accountability to regional/lead medical examiners. Secondly, it is really important that we fully engage patients, their families and carers as our work progresses.

Of course, people also want to understand the practical details about medical examiners, such as how the system will operate. We are finalising details now before writing to medical directors. Our next bulletin will be out in September.

Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner

NHS England and NHS Improvement



## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

**Clyde Coast & Garnock Valley Crematorium** has been named the 'Best Crematorium in Scotland' at the recent **2019 Scottish Funeral Awards**. The Awards are an independent platform celebrating the diverse range of people and organisations within the funeral sector. Jeremy Hamilton, one of the founding directors of Clyde Coast & Garnock Valley Crematorium said: 'To be named the Best Crematorium in Scotland is a great achievement and we feel very proud and humbled'. You can read more on this story on the **Clyde Crematorium website**.



## BEREAVEMENT NEWS

**Renfrewshire Council** has launched a new funeral services package, designed to 'remove any unnecessary pressures after the loss of a loved one'. The 'Respectful Funeral Service' is reported to offer savings of up to 63% on the Scottish average cost of a funeral. For more details on this development, please read the article on the **Renfrewshire Council's website**.



## FUNERAL DIRECTOR NEWS

**The Funeral Service Consumer Standards Review (FSCSR)** has begun work on a first draft of a new, industry-wide code of practice for the funeral directing profession in the UK. The FSCSR's 'Working Group A', chaired by Natalie McKail, met at the end of July to review monitoring and inspection standards within the funeral sector. For more information on the ongoing work of the FSCSR, **please visit their website**.



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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