



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



Thank you to all those who have provided us with positive feedback following the publication of our statistics issue of **Pharos International**.

We were pleased to see the statistics used as part of the BBC's '**Recent claims about cremations and vaccines fact-checked**' article which you can [find online](#).

We are now in the process of compiling our annual **Directory of Crematoria**. It is interesting to see how the Directory has changed since its first edition in 1970! We are looking at how we can improve the publication of the Directory in the future, with our environmental responsibilities in mind. You can find more information on our Directory of Crematoria [on our website](#). Thank you to all those crematoria who have returned their updated details. If you have received a form from us and are yet to return it, please do get in touch in order that we can ensure we publish your latest details.

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to The Cremation Society

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

The public is being asked to give feedback on proposals to transform **Roselawn Crematorium** as part of an £18m investment programme. Under the proposals, it will be able to accommodate around 4,500 cremations – with two ceremony rooms, each seating up to 200 people – each year. The new building is being designed to the latest BREEAM ‘Very Good’ standard – a leading sustainability assessment method for infrastructure and buildings – and will include extensive use of daylighting and natural ventilation. The building is due to open in late 2024 and the listed crematorium building will be refurbished to provide complementary amenities to the existing Roselawn Cemetery. You can read more on the proposals in the [Belfast Telegraph article](#).

Memoria Limited, based in Bicester, has been on a mission to seek out greener alternatives. The firm’s first electric cremator - which is said to be the first in the UK on a green tariff - is located at the North Oxfordshire Crematorium and Memorial Park near Tackley. Director Jamieson Hodgson says the move paves the way for the whole cremation industry to make significant environmental progress. He said: “Since the beginning of time, mankind has chosen to either bury or cremate their loved ones. However, we need to change the cremation process to ensure we can meet our environmental obligations. By using heat from the cremation process to heat buildings and any excesses, it’s possible to make crematoria carbon neutral. That is something we should be aiming to achieve.” For more details on North Oxfordshire Crematorium and Memorial Park's operations, please visit the [Oxford Mail article](#).

Preston Crematorium will temporarily close from next week for repairs to one of its two cremators. The site will be shut from August 19 until September 5, with cremations set to resume the next day. The closure follows recent urgent repair work undertaken on the other cremator – at the **Preston City Council**-run facility on Longridge Road. Routine maintenance had identified that the brick chamber within the structure was at the point of collapse – and it was ordered to be taken out of service immediately to avoid “catastrophic damage”, according to papers to be presented to a meeting of the authority’s cabinet on Wednesday. For more details, please read the [LancsLive article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

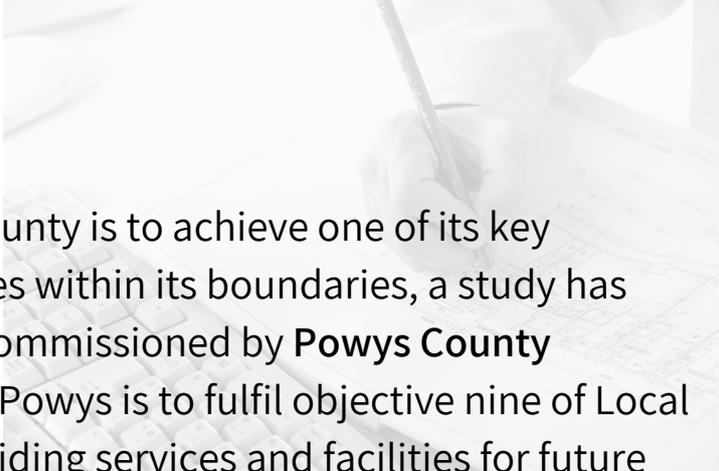
A planning application by **East Cambridgeshire District Council**, for a controversial £6.5 million crematorium in **Mepal** - which could hold 1,300 cremations a year - has been submitted. The crematorium is proposed on land which was previously used by Mepal Outdoor Centre. The submission of the planning application follows a public survey which was undertaken at the start of 2021, inviting residents' thoughts about the proposed plans. As part of the planning application, a formal consultation process will now take place. The application includes a main chapel, a small side chapel and an electric cremator emitting significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than other crematoria in the East of England. You can read more on this proposal in the [Ely Standard article](#).

A crematorium could be built on an industrial site off one of **Bradford's** busiest roads if new plans are approved. A planning application for a new crematorium to be based in an industrial building at Fellmongers' Yard - between Valley Road and Canal Road on the edge of Bradford city centre, has been submitted to Bradford Council. The plans, by Hull-based **Funeral Support Services**, say the aim is to create an "affordable funeral service that is both respectful and dignified." The company has said it would not be a public crematorium - funeral services would be held off site, and the coffins later transported to the cremator, which would be behind a number of Canal Road's car dealerships. A decision on the application is expected in October. You can find more details on this proposal in the [Yorkshire Live article](#).

Construction has begun on a new 'state-of-art' crematorium in Doncaster following the approval of planning permission submitted by **Memoria**, earlier this year. The site, located off Armthorpe Lane in **Barnby Dun**, will feature an electric cremator powered by renewable energy as well as landscaped memorial gardens. The build is anticipated to take around nine months, with the facility aiming to be open by the summer of 2022. Director Jamieson Hodgson said: "We are really looking forward to commencing the build on our site in Doncaster and helping to relieve some of the pressures on existing services in the area." You can read more in the [Doncaster Free Press article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



A crematorium in **Powys** is needed if the county is to achieve one of its key objectives of providing services and facilities within its boundaries, a study has found. A feasibility study written in 2019, commissioned by **Powys County Council**, shows a crematorium is needed if Powys is to fulfil objective nine of Local Development Plan's which focuses on providing services and facilities for future generations. Plans for a crematorium near Caersws have been backed by Powys Council's planners, but that decision will only become binding if the Welsh Government declines to call in the application. For more on this development, please visit the [County Times website](#).

Poor ground conditions and issues obtaining labour have hampered a project to build a crematorium outside **Hinckley**. Building work began earlier this year on the **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council**-led project but little progress has been made since then. A spokesperson for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council said: "Initial construction works began on the site in the spring; however ground conditions on the site have been far from ideal. That, combined with the ongoing national issues with obtaining labour and materials, have made making the desired progress extremely challenging, despite the best endeavours of the project and construction teams." You can read more in the [Leicester Mercury article](#).

Work is set to begin within weeks on creating what will be Northern Ireland's second-only crematorium. The new facility will be on the rural outskirts of Newtownabbey and will be an alternative to Roselawn in south Belfast, which itself is currently subject to expansion plans. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's most recent planning committee meeting saw a minor amendment to the plans (altering a traffic turning point) approved. "Plans are that the Crematorium will be completed around December 2022/January 2023, and it will accommodate in the region of 840 cremations per annum," the Council said. For more on this development, please read the [NewsLetter article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

South Tyneside Council is proposing to extend the chapel at South Shields Crematorium into the existing internal courtyard. The development of the 1960s facility in John Reid Road would also involve rearranging pews to provide better sight lines for those paying their final respects. A proposed partition between the existing chapel and extension would be used when required for smaller services. The chapel would also be fully refurbished to provide a modern facility for services. A planning application has been submitted for the scheme and if granted, work could start on site by the end of the year. Construction is expected to take up to 38 weeks to complete and scheduled to ensure that the crematorium can continue providing funeral services while work takes place. For more on this proposal, please read the [Shields Gazette article](#).

SECTOR NEWS

A site where Sikhs and Hindus can scatter the ashes of loved ones has been officially opened in **south Wales**. It is traditional in both religions for bodies to be cremated and their ashes scattered into flowing water to be carried out to sea. The site at Llandaff Rowing Club in Cardiff, on the River Taff, is the first of its kind in Wales. The platform was officially opened at a ceremony attended by members of Cardiff Council and First Minister Mark Drakeford. The Antim Sanskar Group Wales (ASGW) has spent several years looking for a suitable spot for people to perform the last rites of dead family and friends, with the rowing club eventually agreed with Cardiff Council. Anyone who wishes to scatter ashes there can book to use the site - a pontoon shared with the rowing club - close to Llandaff Weir. For more on this story, please read the [BBC News article](#).



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