



The Cremation Society

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



Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

Funerals Market Investigation Update

The Competition and Markets Authority has published a number of working papers and research papers as part of their ongoing Funerals Market investigation.

You can read more details on page 5.

Thank you again to all the crematoria who have returned their cremation questionnaires. We look forward to hearing from those who have not yet responded. We do appreciate the time taken in providing the information to us.

There have been quite a number of developments over the last month across the funeral sector, so we hope you will find this issue a useful tool for bringing yourself up to date with the latest news.

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

CBCE 2020 - BOOKING NOW OPEN!!!



We are delighted to announce that booking is now open to exhibitors and delegates for this year's CBCE, our annual conference held with the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities.

CBCE 2020 takes place at the Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton between 29 June – 1 July. As the result of an excellent deal working with our partners at the Hilton we are able to hold the cost for the 4th year at £440 + VAT.

You can find more details and book your place, on the [CBCE website](#)

Please also follow CBCE on Facebook and Twitter [@CBCEevent](#) to get all the latest updates.



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Work to build a new “state-of-the-art” crematorium in Pontllanfraith is now underway. **Sirhowy Valley Crematorium** will be based on a four-hectare site on land off Sirhowy Enterprise Way and is expected to serve more than 150,000 people as their nearest facility. Kevin Davies, regional manager of Westerleigh Group, which is behind the plans, said: “We are delighted to be developing this new crematorium as we believe that it will provide local families with a wider choice of funeral services.” For more details, please read the [Caerphilly Observer article](#).

Work on an extension to **Weston-super-Mare Crematorium** site has been completed, with a memorial garden, burial ground and additional car parking having been provided at the site. Acting for **The Crematorium & Memorial Group**, property consultancy Harris Lamb secured planning permission for the extension at the cemetery and crematorium in Worle, before being tasked with managing the project through to completion. Peter Evans of The Crematorium & Memorial Group said: “We are delighted to have completed the second phase of the extension at Worle crematorium.” The extension is expected to be formally opened in the spring. You can read more on the [Commercial News Media website](#).

Horizon Cremation is due to formally submit plans to Doncaster Council for the development of a new crematorium on a site off the Sheffield/Doncaster Road near **Conisbrough**. The plans include a one-storey structure with a chapel seating 120 along with a car park with 100 spaces. If approved, it will be Horizon’s fourth crematorium after Largs and Glasgow in Scotland and Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. For more details, please read the [Doncaster Free Press article](#).

CREMATORIA NEWS

Birtley Crematorium will close for six months while its outdated equipment is upgraded. The cremator, which has been operation for more than 30 years, needs replacing and the Council is taking advantage of the closure to improve the facilities at the crematorium. From 16 March, all cremations in Gateshead will take place at Saltwell Crematorium. It is hoped the chapel at Birtley will open before the cremator works are complete so services can still be held there before the cremation is carried out at Saltwell. For more details, please read the [Gateshead Council news article](#).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND NEWS

Cork County Council has refused planning permission for a crematorium on the site of the old **Duhallow Lodge** on the Mallow to Killarney Road after local protests against the development. Local Fine Gael Councillor John Paul O'Shea was among those who lodged an observation with the planners, commenting that the council had failed to consult the public to an appropriate level before the planning permission application was lodged. For more details, please visit the [CorkBe website](#).

An appeal has been lodged following the granting of planning permission for a new crematorium in **Dundalk**. Last month, **Louth County Council** approved **Gerard Hughes'** application for the new development at Dowdallshill. However, this has now been appealed to An Bord Pleanála by Fred O'Hagan and others. An Bord Pleanála are due to decide on the case by 10th June 2020. For more details, please read the [Talk of the Town article](#).

SCOTLAND NEWS

The **Scottish Government** has announced an increase to its **Funeral Support Payment** from £700 to £1,000 with effect from 1 April 2020. Around 5,000 people are expected to be supported annually by the payment. For more details, please read the [Scottish Government's news announcement](#).

GOVERNMENT NEWS

Parents who suffer the loss of a child will be entitled to 2 weeks' statutory leave under a new law being laid before Parliament. '**Jack's Law**' named in memory of Jack Herd, whose mother Lucy campaigned on this issue, will provide a statutory right to 2 weeks' leave for any employed parent whose child dies under the age of 18 or for a mother who suffers a stillbirth from 24 weeks of pregnancy. The **Parental Bereavement Leave and Pay Regulations** are set to take effect in April. For full details, please read the [Government's Press Release](#).

The **Competition and Markets Authority** has published a large number of papers as part of its **Funerals Market investigation**. The latest update sees the publication of various working papers and research papers, along with interviews with independent funeral directors and hearing summaries. Parties wishing to comment on the papers must submit their comments to the CMA by 27 February 2020. You can view all the latest updates on the CMA's [Funeral Markets investigation page](#).



NORTHERN IRELAND NEWS

Laws allowing parents in Northern Ireland to take paid time off after the loss of a child will be passed as soon as possible, Stormont's economy minister has said. The announcement comes after the introduction to Westminster of new regulations allowing for the paid leave but the regulations do not apply to Northern Ireland. The Department for the Economy has said it cannot give a timescale as to when the legislation could be brought to the assembly. A public consultation will need to be carried out first. For more details, please read the [BBC News article](#).



NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER NEWS

The National Medical Examiner, Dr Alan Fletcher, has published his latest update which includes news on the funding of the new medical examiner scheme, details of medical examiner and medical officer training and the implementation of the scheme in Wales. You can read the update [here](#).



NHS England and NHS Improvement have published **Medical Examiner good practice guidelines** which set out how the National Medical Examiner expects medical examiner offices to operate during the current non-statutory phase of the programme. You can read the guidelines [here](#).



The Royal College of Pathologists and the Chief Coroner's Office have developed joint training for coroners and medical examiners. A number of one-day training days are being held and you can find further details on the course venues available, via the [RCP website](#).

FSCSR UPDATE

The Funeral Service Consumer Standards Review has launched the first stage of its consultation, focussing on standards within the funeral sector, and considering the key principles within a draft industry Code of Practice. The deadline for responding to the consultation is midnight on 1 March 2020. You can read the update on the [FSCSR website](#).



CENTRE FOR DEATH AND SOCIETY NEWS

The Centre for Death and Society's 2020 Annual Conference will focus on Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality. The CDAS Conference will take place from Friday 26th - Saturday 27th June 2020. The call for papers is now open and the deadline for submissions is Friday 28th February 2020. For more details, please visit the [CDAS website](#).



HIGHGATE CEMETERY BILL

A Private Member's bill has been introduced to the House of Lords, which would enable the **Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust** 'to extinguish rights of burial in grave spaces, and to disturb and reinter human remains in graves in order to increase the space for further interments in such graves'. The cemetery, which now has 53,000 graves holding 170,000 people, was established by a Private Member's bill in 1836, so an Act of Parliament is required if it is to be granted new powers. Only long-abandoned graves, where the last burial was more than 75 years ago, would be considered for renewal. Notices would be placed in the press, on the internet, at the cemetery entrance and on the grave. Attempts would be made to contact the grave owner. If a relative objected, no renewal would be considered for a further 25 years. For more details on this story, please read [The Guardian article](#).

RESEARCH NEWS

Dr Julie Rugg and Dr Sarah Jones have published their findings from the first part of their research into whether a good or poor funeral experience has consequences for the long-term wellbeing of the bereaved. You can read their report: 'Funeral experts by experience: what matters to them' [here](#).

Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



Cemetery Development Services - Cemetery Development Services is recognised as a leading international brand in cemetery, crematorium and mausoleum design and development.



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.



Facultatieve Technologies - over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.

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Fordingbridge - designers, manufacturers and installers of innovative canopies and walkways.



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.



Matthews Environmental Solutions - a manufacturer of combustion technology, including waste incineration, human and animal cremation and emission abatement systems. They are a part of the Matthews Family of Companies (MATW).



Dodge is now under new ownership with a new name, but will be maintaining the same team and the same respected products

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



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



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



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



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