



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



ANNUAL SURVEY OF CREMATORIA

We have recently circulated our annual survey to all crematoria across the British Islands.

Crematoria data has proved to be invaluable throughout the pandemic and is certain to be crucial in future pandemic planning.

You will be able to view a selection of the 2020 data on [our website](#) and in our dedicated statistics issue of **Pharos International** once published.

2021 has, it is fair to say, started bleaker than we would have hoped and the milestone of 100,000 deaths was a sobering moment.

We continue to represent the voice of the cremation sector, alongside our fellow organisations, to ensure that this vital stage in the death care system is given the recognition it deserves.

We wish you a happier 2021 with more positive times ahead.

Wendy Buchan
Acting Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

COVID-19 - UPDATE

Deceased Management Advisory Group



We continue to hold twice-weekly meetings with representatives from Ministry of Justice, Welsh Government, Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive. You can view notes of all our meetings on the [DMAG website](#).

Funeral guidance is being updated on a very regular basis so please do ensure you are following the latest guidance. Links to funeral guidance from across the UK, are listed below:

UK Government : ['Guidance for arranging or attending a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic'](#) (last updated 22 January 2021)

Scottish Government : ['Guidance for funeral services'](#) (last updated 21 January 2021)

Welsh Government : ['Guidance on funerals'](#) (last updated 26 January 2021)

Northern Ireland Executive : ['Interim Guidance for Funeral Directors'](#) (last updated 22 December 2020)



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Increased demand and busy schedules have led an **Isle of Wight** funeral director to lodge plans to build a new crematorium. Currently, the only crematorium on the Island is in Whippingham and run by the Isle of Wight Council. Planning permission is now being sought by **William Hall Funeral Directors** to add crematorium facilities in a new service building at its Sunny Brow base on Winford Road, **Newchurch**. Planning permission was granted for the service building in 2016 but plans have since changed to move it further away from residential properties and be extended to facilitate two cremators. You can read more on this development on the [County Press website](#).

Building work has started on a new crematorium to the north of **Hinckley**. The project is due to be completed early next year. Currently, the nearest available facility is over the county border in Nuneaton. **Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council** has appointed Kier Group Plc to construct the facility. The £5 million building will include a ceremonial hall suitable for multi-faith services as well as space for crematorium plant and equipment, and offices for administration staff. You can read more on the [Leicestershire Live website](#).

A “call in” request has been made to decide an outline planning application to build a crematorium near **Caersws**, at **Powys County Council**’s planning committee. **Powys Crematorium Limited** intends to build a new crematorium at a 13.66 hectare site north of the B4568 road at Ael Y Bryn between Caersws and Aberhafesp. Councillor Les George said: “I have called it in. Some of the local residents have serious concerns.” Caersws Community Council has also asked for people’s opinions on the proposed development before it also discusses the planning application at a future meeting. You can find more details in the [County Times article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

People in Northern Ireland seeking to cremate their loved ones are travelling across the border due to increased demand in Northern Ireland's only crematorium. The owner of County Cavan based **Lakelands Funeral Home and Crematorium** has reported there has been a “surge” in cremations in recent months. Declan Finnegan said people from the north are opting to travel south due to increased demand at Roselawn crematorium in Belfast, which is owned by Belfast City Council. “The covid rate has increased dramatically but our numbers coming from Northern Ireland apart from that have increased in the last 12 months. There has been a surge in December and January due to Covid but our numbers were away up despite that.” Mr Finnegan stated that he believes lack of availability for cremations in the north has been responsible for business being redirected. For more on this story, please visit the [Irish News website](#).

Plans to build a new £9 million crematorium in a **Holderness** village have been put on hold pending an independent traffic review after a resident warned it could “exacerbate” congestion. **East Riding Council's Planning Committee** deferred plans for the crematorium after resident David Iles said it was the “right development in the wrong place”. Committee chair Councillor David Tucker said: “This is a very robust and needed application; residents in that area are crying out for a local crematorium. The review should put these issues to bed, and we as a committee can decide on the plans when we see its findings.” You can read the full story on the [Hull Live website](#).

A businessman behind controversial plans to build a crematorium on the outskirts of **Dundee** has defended his project. Arbroath butcher **Guthrie Batchelor** has applied to **Angus Council** to develop a crematorium at Burnside of Duntrune, on the north-east edge of the city. The plans previously upset nearby residents who claimed the crematorium would be their “worst nightmare”. The plans include parking for 66 cars and spaces for coaches to pull up and wait. Mr Batchelor said : “I believe a crematorium is desperately needed within the local authority primarily due to the waiting times to arrange a cremation at the existing ones.” More detail can be found in the [Evening Telegraph article](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

The first glimpse of what the proposed £6.5 million crematorium at **Mepal** could look like has been provided by **East Cambridgeshire District Council**. Artist impressions of the revamped and re-imagined former outdoor centre offer an insight into the Council's development proposals for the project. The plans include two chapels, a natural burial ground, a discretely located pet cemetery and an electric cremator powered largely by on-site generated renewable energy. To view the artist impression images and read the full detail of the proposal, please read the [Ely Standard article](#).

A proposed new £18 million crematorium in **Belfast**, close to the current building at **Roselawn cemetery**, will be able to hold up to 160 people for services. The plan for two new chapels at Ballygowan Road was approved by elected representatives at **Belfast Council**'s recent remote meeting of its Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The current building at Roselawn is Northern Ireland's only crematorium. A council officer told the Belfast committee: "We have been working on a detailed design with the design team and they put forward three different options. There is a recognition that a 200-seater chapel is actually quite big, and that there needed to be a way to be more sympathetic in the design to services which are smaller in number." You can read more details on the proposal on the [Belfast Telegraph website](#).

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Competition and Markets Authority** has published its timetable for the implementation of the remedies included in the recent final report as part of its **Funerals Market Investigation**. The statutory deadline for implementation of the remedies is 17 June 2021. You can view the timetable on the [CMA's Gov.uk webpage](#).

NEWS REVIEW

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

Scottish Government's Burial and Cremation Team has issued a reminder concerning the use of the **supplementary form for cremation applications**, where it is not possible to obtain signatures of applicants. Funeral directors are reminded that they should never sign the cremation application form itself. They should use the supplementary form instead, stating in the relevant section why it has been used. Cremation authorities should anticipate an increase in use of the supplementary form in the coming weeks. For full details, please read the [Burial and Cremation Team's blog post](#).

Scottish Government's Burial and Cremation Team is keen to hear from members of the funeral industry who operate small, independent, or rural funeral director businesses, as part of the Team's work on the draft '**Funeral Director : Code of Practice**'. There will be online forums held on 1st, 2nd and 3rd March 2021 and you can find full details of how to take part on the [Scottish Government website](#).



COMPANY NEWS

SunLife has published its annual '**Cost of Dying Report 2021**'. You can view and download the full report on the [SunLife website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS - ANNUAL SURVEY

We have recently circulated our **annual survey of crematoria**. We are conscious of the pressure crematoria staff are under and if you have any query on the survey, please do not hesitate to contact us. The data provided by crematoria is crucial for us to be able to follow trends in cremation practice and has proved particularly useful during the pandemic. Thank you to all who have already returned their questionnaires.


**THE CREMATION SOCIETY
OF GREAT BRITAIN**
Brecon House (1st Floor), 16 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent ME14 5DZ
Tel: (01622) 688292/3 Fax: (01622) 686498 E-mail: info@cremation.org.uk Web: www.cremation.org.uk

NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS 2020

Name of Crematorium: «crematorium» Number: «number»

NUMBER OF CREMATIONS

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31st December 2020 (a) _____

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31st December 2019 (b) _____

TOTAL CREMATIONS for the year 2020 [(a) – (b)] _____

How many of the cremations for 2020 were unattended (direct) cremations?
(That is no mourners, no service and the body brought straight to the crematorium for disposal) _____

DISPOSAL OF CREMATED REMAINS FOR THE YEAR 2020

1. Scattered in the grounds of this crematorium

2. Interred in the grounds of this crematorium

3. Placed above ground at this crematorium

4. Removed from this crematorium

5. No collectable remains obtained

6. Awaiting instructions for disposal

TOTAL [Should agree with above]

OTHER CREMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR 2020
(Not to be included in the above figures)

1. The number of individual fetal cremations that you carried out at your crematorium during the year ended 31 December 2020 _____

2. The number of shared coffins containing fetal remains that were cremated at your crematorium during the year ended 31 December 2020 _____

3. The total number of individual fetuses (if known) that were contained within the shared cremations (Question 2) that you carried out at your crematorium in the year ended 31 December 2020 _____

This is essential for us to be able to accurately record the number of fetal remains cremated each year and to compare this figure with the total fetal losses occurring in the UK during the same period.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name and position of Signatory (**BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE**): _____

Telephone number in case of any queries: _____

ASDS NEWS - CALL FOR PAPERS

The Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS) has issued a call for papers for its 15th Annual Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal: Diversity and Decolonisation. You can find full details on the Conference theme on the [ASDS website](#).

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Canfly Marketing produce beautifully designed presentation bags suitable for Urns, Caskets, Scatter Tubes and Cremation Ash Boxes.



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



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).



The MazWell Group Ltd - Exclusive Manufacturer and Distributor of Dodge® Products

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Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



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



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
www.cremation.org.uk



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