



The Cremation Society

Rooted in history: committed to the future

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



CBCE 2023 News

We are very pleased to be working with our colleagues again at the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA) to bring you this year's CBCE joint conference. We will be announcing speakers very soon and in the meantime, do follow CBCE on [Twitter](#) to keep updated on news of the event.

Please see page 3 for more details.

Welcome to the first news review of 2023 and the year has certainly started off at full speed.

We are pleased to hear that the Law Commission has launched its project to look at the laws surrounding the 'disposal' of the dead - which has been long-awaited and is much-needed. More details can be found in this news review.

We look forward to continuing to bring you news updates from across the death care sector throughout the year.

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

As we start a new year, it is time for the completion of our annual cremation survey. We have emailed the questionnaire to all crematoria in the British Isles and we are so pleased that many have been returned already. If you have not received your email, please do let us know. We look forward to compiling the information provided into our statistics publication of Pharos International, as soon as all the surveys have been returned.



**The Cremation Society
of Great Britain**

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NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS 2022

Name of Crematorium: _____ Number: _____

NUMBER OF CREMATIONS

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31st December 2022 (a) _____

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register as at 31st December 2021 (b) _____

TOTAL CREMATIONS for the year 2022 [(a) – (b)] _____

How many of the total cremations for 2022 were unattended (direct) cremations?
(That is no mourners, no service and the body brought straight to the crematorium for disposal)
If none, please indicate whether **not offered** (N/O) or **not recorded** (N/R) _____

DISPOSAL OF CREMATED REMAINS FOR THE YEAR 2022 (excluding NVF figures)

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 2022
(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 2022 _____

2. The **number of shared coffins / containers** holding fetal remains that were cremated at your crematorium during the year ended 31 December 2022 _____

3. The **total number** of individual fetuses (if known) that were cremated **within** the shared coffins / containers (Question 2) that you carried out at your crematorium in the year ended 31 December 2022 _____

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): _____

Email address and telephone number in case of any queries: _____



Cremation and Burial Communication and Education 2023

Following last year's highly successful joint conference, we are delighted to announce that we will be returning to the Hilton Ageas Bowl, Southampton for this year's Cremation & Burial Communication & Education (CBCE) event.

CBCE 2023 will take place from Monday 26th June to Wednesday 28th June 2023.

To register your interest, please email info@cbce.org.uk and follow us on Twitter [@CBCEevent](https://twitter.com/CBCEevent). More news will follow on the CBCE website: www.cbce.org.uk



26 -28TH
JUNE
2023



CREMATORIA NEWS

A crematorium and natural burial grounds could be on the cards for **Thurrock**. The council is drawing up a ten-year burial strategy to ensure a high standard of service for residents, whilst a public consultation carried out last summer showed “strong support” for a crematorium to be built in the borough. The consultation was accessed by 500 people and 88 completed a survey after it was extended by a week, whilst residents also indicated they would like to see more trees in cemeteries and memorial benches along with natural burial grounds. While the cash-strapped council tackles a £469 million deficit and is prevented from spending any new money on anything other than statutory services after declaring it can no longer balance its' books, it is unclear where the money would be found for a crematorium. However, a report to cabinet said: “The strategy outlines plans for the future development of burial facilities in the borough. All proposed developments will be subject to the approval of full business cases prior to progressing. The aim is to provide cemeteries for Thurrock residents that are beautiful, peaceful and well used, and to offer burial spaces that support a diverse range of cultural and individual needs.” To read the full article, please visit: yourthurrock.com.

Hemel Hempstead's newest crematorium will open in spring this year, according to an update from **Watford Borough Council**. The crematorium site is on land next to the new **Poppy Fields** cemetery at Bedmond Road. The exterior of the building is almost finished, with the internal work and landscaping left to complete. The crematorium will serve the needs of residents in **West Hertfordshire** and is the sister-site to a crematorium in Garston. The crematorium is being delivered by the **West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee**, including representatives from Watford, Three Rivers, St Albans, Hertsmere and Dacorum councils. **David Major**, chair of the West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee, said: “The facility will be a valuable addition to the community, offering a beautiful and peaceful place for saying goodbye to loved ones.” Once finished, it will offer residents more choice when arranging a funeral and provide increased service times up to 60 minutes for individual ceremonies. For more on this story, please visit: the [Hemel Today website](#).

NEWS REVIEW



CREMATORIA NEWS

A new crematorium could be created in **Fife** if plans are approved by councillors. The major project was unveiled in a proposal of application notice (PAN) to **Fife Council** last week. It was subsequently approved, marking the first step of the planning process. The PAN was lodged by Glasgow based **DO-Architecture** to develop a crematorium and construction of a skills academy and manufacturing facility on land at Whitworth Road, at **Southfield Industrial Estate, Glenrothes**. The details will now go to public consultation with two events planned. The proposed crematorium, to be run by **Dignity Funerals**, would be sited along the north edge of the estate, within a designed and "significant planted soft landscape". It would include memorial gardens, parking and the possible addition of an adjacent pavilion space. The second part of the development is a new construction skills academy for **First Endeavour LLP** with adjoining head office accommodation and associated timber frame manufacturing plant to the south of the site. The academy is intended to develop construction and manufacturing skills to feed the local house building market and to provide training and employment for more than 120 people. A planning statement said the two developments complemented each other. To read this article, please visit: the [Fife Today website](#).

Work is continuing in all weathers on a new crematorium, which will be situated in a site lying off **Broad Lane** in what **Westerleigh Group** has described as a "peaceful and tranquil setting", around four miles to the north of **Walsall** and seven miles east of **Wolverhampton**, in an area on the way towards **Bloxwich**. The existing woodland is to be opened up to provide a glade for the building and car park, with pockets created for memorial areas within the trees, the woodland being supplemented with shrub and native tree planting. Once completed, it will be a single storey building and will house a 112-seat chapel, a waiting room, accessible public toilets, administrative offices and crematorium. There will also be a covered floral tribute walkway included in the design to protect families from the weather conditions as they leave the chapel and also provide a space for reflection after the service. **Westerleigh Group** says the site would provide much-needed facilities and would not take away from the landscape around it. To read the full article, please visit: the [Express & Star website](#).

CREMATORIA NEWS

A NEW crematorium could be built between **Fareham and Gosport** as an existing one reaches capacity. The new facility is set to overtake the **Portchester Crematorium** due to an increasing population, death and cremation rates. A **Mercia Crematorium Developments Limited (MCD)** spokesperson said: ‘Whilst Portchester remains a highly respected facility, it is nearly 65 years old and incapable of expansion or alteration to continue to meet such increasing demands in future years. Having searched for an appropriate site for the facility we are delighted to have secured **six acres** of land on the corner of **Broom Way** with **Brune Lane** just south of the **Peel Common** roundabout. The site offers a pleasant, wooded backdrop, is available for development (subject to planning permission) and meets all the relevant siting criteria for new crematoria. The site plan constitutes our initial proposal for a low profile, sedum-roofed single chapel crematorium, sited in the south-east part of the site, and surrounded by both landscaped and natural grounds including a memorial garden and an area for the scattering of ashes. We have received widespread support from the vast majority of funeral directors in the area to our plans, and now look forward to meeting the local community, and thereafter working together to provide a unique community facility to alleviate pressure on Portchester – which will remain operationally viable – and offer real choice and enhanced funeral services to the residents of Fareham and Gosport over future years.’ To read this story please visit: the [Portsmouth News website](#).

Inspectors have praised **Aberdeen Crematorium** for providing “a first class service” to the local community. **Robert Swanson QPM**, a senior inspector of burial, cremation and funeral directors visited the Skene Road facility in October. Mr Swanson said: “The inspection found there to be no shortcomings to any aspect of the cremation process, with good practice observed throughout the different stages.” Crematorium staff were praised for their work throughout the pandemic to ensure services could still be carried out under tight restrictions. He said: “Staff are to be commended for their handling of issues relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly during the early stages when the country was operating at different tier levels and attendance numbers were severely restricted. “The Cremation Authority are very fortunate in having such an experienced, loyal and enthusiastic team, collectively providing a first class service to the local community and beyond.” The facility’s management plan was also praised with the inspector saying it was “one of the most detailed” crematorium plans he had seen. For more on this story, please visit: the [Aberdeen Live website](#).

GOVERNMENT NEWS



The Law Commission of England and Wales has begun a new project that will review the ancient laws that govern the process of dealing with the remains of the deceased – bringing them into line with modern needs.

The Law Commission’s new project on the processes, methods and rights concerning the disposal of the deceased will begin with a scoping phase. This will identify the issues that will be covered in the review, in order to agree terms of reference with the Government. After agreeing the scope, the Commission will then set out its plans for the review.

Additionally, the Commission’s review is expected to explore changes to the legal status of a person’s wishes about what happens to their body following death – along with the rules governing the rights of others to make decisions over the methods of disposal used.

Commenting on the launch of the review, **Professor Nick Hopkins**, Family Law Commissioner at the Law Commission, said: “Ensuring that our loved ones are treated with dignity and respect after they pass away is something that matters to everyone, whatever their background, culture or belief. It’s therefore important that the laws which govern the disposal of the deceased work for all. Current laws are outdated, unclear, and do not protect the wishes of those who have passed away. Our review will consider the merits of a new framework that provides greater legal clarity, and is more responsive to the needs of modern society.”

For more details on the project, please visit the [Law Commission website](#).



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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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