



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



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

Cremation statistics

We are extremely grateful to all those crematoria who have returned their annual questionnaires.

We appreciate it is a difficult time but we also rely on this critical information to provide to Government departments, when requested, as we have recently.

If you could please return the forms to us as soon as possible, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our sector is facing an unprecedented challenge and it is encouraging to see organisations working together to provide support where it is required. We are also working closely with our colleagues in fellow organisations and associations, as well as government agencies.

We know many of you will be working harder and longer than normal and we are sending you our thoughts at this challenging time.

COVID-19 UPDATES

We have recently added joint guidance and statements concerning the COVID-19 outbreak. The links to these are shown below but please do either keep a regular check on our website or follow us on Twitter or LinkedIn, in order to see any future updates, as and when they are issued.

Please could we remind crematoria in England and Wales and in Scotland that there is provision in the respective statutory cremation regulations, to receive electronically submitted cremation forms. This will greatly assist in reducing the need for physical interaction and unnecessary journeys. You can find the links to the [regulations here](#).

Our latest joint guidance and statements:

- [25.03.2020 Scottish Government updates specific measures for funerals](#)
- [24.03.2020 Deceased Management Advisory Group formed](#)
- [24.03.2020 Joint guidance issued on coffin handling](#)
- [20.03.2020 - Ministry of Justice update on the Coronavirus Bill provisions relating to the deceased and bereaved](#)
- [19.03.2020 - Joint guidance on Government advice for cemeteries and crematoria](#)
- [18.03.2020 - Joint statement from representatives of the British funeral sector](#)
- [17.03.2020 - Department of Health & Social Care - Coronavirus Bill to be introduced to Parliament](#)

Government websites:

- [Gov.uk - COVID-19 : Govt response](#)
- [NHS - Coronavirus](#)



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

A public hearing over whether to allow a new crematorium to be built between Shrewsbury and Oswestry opened on 11 March 2020. **Westerleigh Group** hopes to overturn a **Shropshire Council** planning committee decision to refuse permission for the facility to be constructed near **Nesscliffe**. The hearing is now currently on hold due to the coronavirus outbreak. You can read the opening news on the [Oswestry and Border Counties Advertiser website](#) and we will update on this news story as and when it progresses.

Plans to build a crematorium can now move forward after district councillors gave their approval. The unanimous backing of **New Forest District Council**'s planning committee means land east of Stem Lane and north of Great Woar Copse, **New Milton**, will be developed with a single chapel building, by the **Westerleigh Group**. You can read more on the [Advertiser and Times website](#).

The Planning Inspectorate has refused an appeal submitted by **Westerleigh Group** against a refusal of planning permission for a crematorium planned at **Garforth Golf Range**, Garforth, Leeds. You can find the full details on the [Planning Inspectorate's website](#).

Groundworks have begun on a £4.9m crematorium to be built outside Hinckley. Malcolm Evans, estates and assets manager for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, is managing the project. He said previously: "The project will deliver a modern, fit-for-purpose crematorium facility that meets the growing need for the population of Hinckley and Bosworth and surrounding areas." For more details, please visit the [Leicestershire Live website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans to build a new crematorium in **Oxted** have been announced by **Horizon Cremation**. Director Stephen Byfield said, “If we get planning permission, we will be able to give people a far better service than they have at present. Horizon allows people one hour for a cremation service, significantly more than anywhere else locally and, of course, our facility will be brand new, carefully designed with plenty of parking and built in a lovely landscaped setting.” You can read more on this story on the [Surrey Live website](#).

A plan to undertake major improvements to Southend’s crematorium have been given the green light by council leaders. The work that will include rebuilding the chimney, replacing three cremators, building a new multi-faith viewing room and making repairs is set to cost the council £2.7 million. You can read more on the [Yellow Advertiser website](#).

More than a hundred people attended a public consultation event for **Hambleton** district’s proposed new crematorium on land near Skipton on Swale. “The feedback was very positive. When completed, the new crematorium will offer state-of-the-art facilities combined with more traditional aspects.” said leader of Hambleton District Council, Councillor Mark Robson. It is hoped that a planning application will be submitted in April with work to start in Autumn 2020 and open towards the end of 2021. Further details can be read on the [Hambleton Today website](#).

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

Over the past few weeks, we have been delighted to celebrate significant anniversaries with two of our loyal members of staff, who will be familiar with many of you.

Julie Forrest, the sub-editor of our journal, *Pharos International*, has worked for us for 20 years. Sue Jackson, PA to our Chief Executive, has worked for The Cremation Society for 30 years.

We are very lucky to have both Sue and Julie with their breadth of knowledge of both The Cremation Society and the sector more widely, and we would like to publicly thank them for all their hard work and loyalty over the years.



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.



GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Competition and Markets Authority** has extended the statutory deadline for the funerals market investigation by 6 months and the revised reference period deadline will expire on 27 March 2021. The CMA updated their webpage on 25 March 2020 confirming: 'Although we continue to welcome submissions to our investigation, we do not currently intend to publish any additional documents, or to update the inquiry timetable, until the situation has become clearer.' You can read all updates on the [CMA's Funerals market investigate webpage](#).



A [Government Press release](#) on 6 March 2020 confirmed that parents grieving the tragic loss of a child have used a government fund to cover the costs of their burial or cremation more than 1,000 times since the scheme's inception last July. The **Children's Funeral Fund for England (CFF)** provides bereaved parents with valuable practical support at a very difficult time. The scheme aims to reduce the financial burden for families by reimbursing burial and cremation authorities, and funeral directors directly.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND NEWS

The company behind the proposed development of a crematorium in **Kanturk** has said that there would be no impact on air quality, the environment, or to public health, should the development go ahead. **Classic Lodges (Ireland) Ltd** has appealed the refusal of planning permission by Cork County Council to An Bord Pleanala. The planning appeals board will now rule on whether the development can proceed. You can read more on the [Echo Live website](#).

FUNERAL DIRECTOR NEWS

HM Treasury has issued its response to the consultation on the regulation of **pre-paid funeral plans**. You can read the response on the [Gov.uk website](#).



COMPANY NEWS

The **Council of British Funeral Services** has announced the launch of their new website. The Council of British Funeral Services is a forum of representatives open to every organisation connected with the funeral profession. Its objective and purpose is to provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange information within the funeral sector. You can find the [new website here](#).

Westerleigh Group's interim CEO James Willis has announced the appointment of **Roger Mclaughlan** as CEO of Westerleigh Group with effect from 24 March. James Willis commented that: 'Roger is a highly experienced Chief Executive, having led a number of significant businesses'. Westerleigh also welcome **Kate Davidson** as their new Commercial Director, with Westerleigh commenting in their announcement: 'Kate has a wealth of experience in the sector and has assumed responsibility for the day-to-day running of our operation'.



FSCSR UPDATE

The **Funeral Service Consumer Standards Review** has launched the second stage of its consultation. This stage of the consultation focuses on improving transparency of information within the funeral sector, and considers ways in which funeral directing businesses could present information about their services and pricing in order to improve outcomes for consumers. You can read the update on the [FSCSR website](#).



CHARITY NEWS

More than 50 funeral directors and other bereavement professionals recently attended an educational seminar hosted by the **Child Funeral Charity (CFC)** entitled 'Paying for Child and Baby Funerals'.

The day was arranged by Anne Barber and Mary and Kevin Tomes, CFC co-founders and trustees of the charity and the event focused on how to help families access funding to pay for funerals after the death of a baby or child.



ROYAL COLLEGE OF PATHOLOGY NEWS

The National Medical Examiner update has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The Royal College of Pathologists has published guidance about care of the deceased during the COVID-19 pandemic, produced with the Association for Anatomical Pathology Technology in conjunction with Public Health England. You can [read the guidance 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.

If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please [click here](#) for a media pack. Attractive discounted rates for 4 issues available upon request for new advertisers. Agency

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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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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



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