



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



FUNERAL GUIDANCE

There continue to be regular changes to Government guidance on arranging and attending funerals.

You will find the latest updates included in our **Deceased Management Advisory Group** news on page two.

We will endeavour to bring you all the latest updates as soon as they are released.

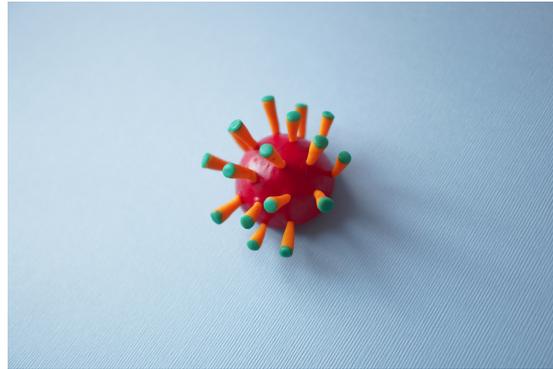
We are grateful for your continued dedication in continuing to support the bereaved at this very difficult time.

It is heartening to see so many crematoria taking the decision to broadcast their annual Christmas carol and memorial services online so they can continue to bring the bereaved together remotely. If you are holding a service online, do let us know so that we can promote that via our social media channels.

The Council of The Cremation Society

COVID-19 - UPDATE

Deceased Management Advisory Group



We continue to meet twice-weekly with Government representatives and you can keep abreast of our latest discussions by reading the minutes which are regularly uploaded to the [DMAG website](#).

There have been updates on guidance for managing a funeral both in England and Scotland and you can find the current guidance below. Welsh Government are expected to publish updated guidance shortly so please do follow us on [Twitter](#) or on the [Cremation Society's dedicated COVID-19 news page](#) to keep up to date with any developments.

- 05.11.2020 Public Health England and the Department of Health & Social Care issues updated '[COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic](#)'
- 30.10.2020 Scottish Government updates its 3 main guidance documents for the funeral industry: [the funeral director guidance](#); [funeral services guidance](#); and [burial and cremation authorities guidance](#)



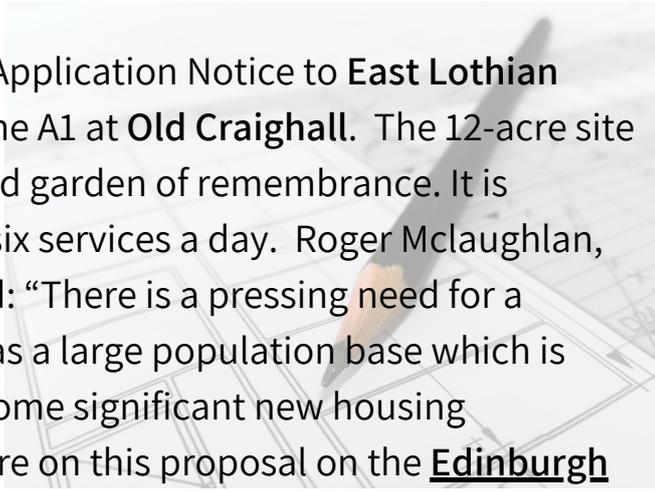
NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Memoria Ltd has submitted plans to build a £6 million crematorium on the outskirts of **Faversham**. Memoria wants to construct a new base on farmland off the Thanet Way at Staple Street, where it will conduct almost 1,000 services a year. Memoria stated: "The provision of a crematorium in the proposed location would provide both ease of access from the wider road network, reduce the long distances currently travelled by the surrounding population to existing crematoria, and be accessible by sustainable transport modes." You can read more on this proposal on the [Kent Online](#) website.



A new crematorium could be built on farm land near **Caersws** after a pre-planning process was launched. **Powys Crematorium Limited** intends to apply for full planning permission for a new crematorium at **Ael Y Bryn** – and has embarked on a pre-planning consultation period. A design and access statement by agent Alan Southerby explains the proposal: "The design successfully blends the essential characteristics of the site with the state-of-the-art facility. Within this context, it can be seen how the proposed development will both maintain and enhance the existing characteristics of the locality, responding positively to its location and setting." You can read more on this story in the [County Times article](#).



Westerleigh Group has submitted a Proposal of Application Notice to **East Lothian Council** to build a crematorium on land just off the A1 at **Old Craighall**. The 12-acre site would include a chapel, parking and a landscaped garden of remembrance. It is expected to accommodate an average of five or six services a day. Roger McLaughlan, Chief Executive Officer of Westerleigh Group, said: "There is a pressing need for a crematorium in East Lothian; this area already has a large population base which is going to grow further in the coming years, with some significant new housing developments being planned." You can read more on this proposal on the [Edinburgh Evening News website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans for a new crematorium in **North Cornwall**, with views over the Atlantic Ocean and designs inspired by ancient burial mounds, have been unveiled. The **Atlantic View Crematorium and Memorial Garden** proposal is for a single storey building, surrounded by wildflower gardens, ponds and woodland, set into the landscape near **Bude**. Howard Smith of the **Atlantic View Crematorium Consortium**, said: "This crematorium would greatly reduce funeral journeys at a time of loss and grief and prevent people from having to travel long distances to say goodbye to their loved one, thereby reducing the emotional turmoil this creates". The consultation runs until Sunday 29th November. To read more about this proposal, please read the [Bude & Beyond article](#).



Councils in west Hertfordshire are set to consider the funding of a new £8 million crematorium in **Hemel Hempstead**. The proposed single-storey crematorium – with remembrance chapel and gardens – would sit within an ‘extensive landscape’ on land adjacent to the new cemetery in Bunkers Park. Plans for the new facility have already been submitted to **Dacorum Borough Council**, by the **West Herts Cematorium Joint Committee** – which is made-up of representatives from Watford, Three Rivers, St Albans, Hertsmere and Dacorum councils. Now each individual council is to be asked to underwrite a share of the £6 million loan that’s required so the project could go ahead. For more on this development, please visit the [Hemel Today website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans have been discussed to create a new **Melton** cemetery on land off Nottingham Road with the possibility of building a crematorium on the site as well. This is one of the two options put forward in a report addressing the need to provide more plots soon with the existing Thorpe Road graveyard nearing capacity. **Melton Borough Council** backed the findings of the study at a meeting, as a framework for further discussions on the issue, with a decision being needed on which site to pursue by next year. You can read full details on the [Melton Times website](#).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND NEWS

An Bord Pleanála have given the go ahead for a new crematorium in **Dundalk**. In January Gerard Hughes was granted conditional planning permission by **Louth County Council** for what would be the town's first crematorium at **Dowdallshill** on the Racecourse Road. However, this was subsequently appealed to An Bord Pleanála by Fred O'Hagan and others. An Bord Pleanála have now decided to give the development the go ahead subject to revised conditions. You can read the full story in the [Talk of the Town article](#).

RESEARCH NEWS

The Centre for Death & Society (CDAS) is an internationally recognised research centre focusing on the interdisciplinary social aspects of death, dying and bereavement. Their newsletter for November is now available to view on their [website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

Social Security Scotland has paid out £8.7 million to people who have lost a loved one, since it started making **Funeral Support Payments** last September. Eligible applicants currently receive an average of £1,761 to help with the costs of a burial or cremation and expenses such as travel and flowers. Social Security Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said: "Coping with the death of a loved one is one of the most difficult events any of us can face – it's even harder when there's extra stress trying to find the money to pay for a funeral. It's important that we support people at key times like this. We want to do what we can to stop those who are dealing with grief having to get into debt too." You can read more on the [Scottish Government website](#).



The **Scottish Government** is running a short project to improve their **COVID-19 guidance**. To inform this work, they are specifically seeking views from people who use their sector-specific guidance. In order to get your valuable feedback, a short survey has been launched which runs until midnight on **Sunday 29 November**. Do take a few minutes and give them your thoughts by completing the [online survey here](#).

FEDERATION OF BURIAL AND CREMATION AUTHORITIES

Councillor David Marren has been appointed as the Federation President for 2020-21. The Cremation Society would like to congratulate Councillor Marren on his appointment and wish him every success in his new role.



FBCA
Federation of Burial
& Cremation Authorities

NEWS REVIEW

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Competition and Markets Authority** has published responses received to its Provision Decision Report as part of its **Funerals Market Investigation**. You can read the responses on the [CMA website](#).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Hindus in Malta are urging the government to subsidise cremations abroad until a crematorium is available in Malta. Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, President of Universal Society of Hinduism, said in a statement: "Malta, not having a mechanism for the cremation of deceased Hindus, is forcing the community to bury their loved ones in contradiction of their long-held beliefs that burial hindered soul's journey". The Hindu community said cremation abroad comes to around €5,000, but added options can raise the cost. Many non-Hindus now also prefer cremation over burial. You can read more on this story on the [Times of Malta website](#).



CORRECTION

In the September edition of the Newsletter it was reported that Julie Forrest had retired from her post with The Cremation Society of Great Britain when in fact she had resigned.

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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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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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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).



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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



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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