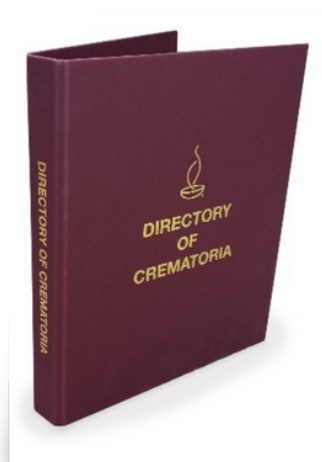




A monthly review of news and events from within the bereavement sector



We are pleased to bring you this month's monthly news review. We hope you will find it of interest.



We have two publications which will be available in the coming weeks - the winter issue of our journal **Pharos International**, and our annual **Directory of Crematoria**.

Both are available to purchase via our website - they are both excellent resources for anyone working in the cremation sector.

**Wendy Buchan**  
**Executive Officer & Secretary to**  
**The Cremation Society**



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Disruption is expected at **Greenock Crematorium** for several months to allow for a £1.6 million upgrade project. Work to replace cremators began in early October and is expected to last through until next year. The project also includes an extension to the building and other associated upgrades. It means no cremations taking place on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays until further notice, but services will still take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Councillor **Michael McCormick**, Inverclyde Council's **convener of environment and regeneration**, said: "The current cremators were installed 26 years ago and now need replacing. The new cremators will also be kinder to the environment by using less energy. This is a vital project to make much-needed improvements to the crematorium with a huge investment from the council. It is inevitable with such large-scale projects that there will unfortunately be some disruption. However, our staff have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to minimise the impact as much as possible. I'd like to thank funeral directors, arrangers, clergy and, of course, our bereaved families for their patience and understanding while these important works take place." To read the article, please visit the [Inverclyde Now website](#).

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**Waseley Hills Crematorium** is going green with the introduction of vegan Books of Remembrance. The new, 'greener' Books of Remembrance use a vegan-friendly cactus alternative as opposed to the traditional leather and sheep vellum materials previously used. **Westerleigh Group** is rolling out its new books at three of its UK sites including Waseley Hills. **Matthew Brook**, head of memorialisation for Westerleigh Group, said: "Books of Remembrance are a very traditional form of memorial, with beautifully handcrafted books which last for hundreds of years. Our partnership with **FG Marshall** is the perfect blend of traditional trades and modern values. Not only are our new books vegan in nature, but they are all being digitised too, so that people who are not able to visit our crematoria to view them in person will be able to view them from the comfort of their own homes, online." To read this article, please visit: the [Bromsgrove Advertiser website](#)



## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans for a crematorium which will cost around £6.5 million have been approved. The plans, submitted by **East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC)** cover a 32-acre area on the same site as the former **Mepal Outdoor Centre**, which closed in 2017. As well as a crematorium, a flower court, natural burial grounds, pet cemetery and a car park for 123 cars are included. **Councillor Bill Hunt**, chairman of ECDC's **planning committee**, said the trend in the number of people wishing to be cremated has grown, whilst planning consultant **Oliver Bell** told councillors that the plans "will improve the character of the area relative to previous buildings that were on site." In a report to the planning committee, land to the north of the former Mepal Outdoor Centre buildings would be retained for activities such as bird watching. Local councillors **Lorna Dupré** and **Mark Inskip**, in the report, said that the crematorium plans would mean "the potential for meaningful outdoor leisure will be lost at the site." A statement of community involvement found 85.4% of respondents opposed the plans, with 13% in support. Cllr Hunt said the site was let out for a peppercorn rent per year, but "various operators had returned the keys." **Cllr Lis Every**, in favour of the plans, said: "This has been a torturous process. But I think we will look back on this and say this was something we can be proud of." For more on this story, please visit: the [Ely Standard website](#).

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**Aberdeenshire Council** has been presented with plans for a separate hall and crematorium at the **Elsick Estate near Stonehaven**. Part of the wider Chapelton masterplan - the proposals are led by **WCP Architects** as part of the rural business diversification strategy by the county estate wedding venue. Replacing a redundant swimming pool adjacent to a walled garden, the proposal by **Southesk Farms** splits its functions between a traditional gabled 12-seat timber hall in brilliant white, contrasting with a discreet sheet metal and timber clad crematorium tucked alongside. This arrangement permits the hall to be utilised for community gatherings and celebrations and not solely as a crematorium. In their design statement, the architects wrote: "The hall entrance is sliced to create a welcoming entrance that opens up from all three approaches to invite visitors into the building." Through views will establish a visual connection between Elsick House and the developing new town, retaining mature woodland. For the full article, please visit the [Urban Realm website](#).

## NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER NEWS

The latest update by **Dr Alan Fletcher**, National Medical Examiner has been published and can be read on the [NHS England website](#). Topics covered in the update include:

- Guidance for Medical Examiners
- Community rollout in England
- Implementation in Wales
- Quarterly reporting in England
- Training and events
- Contact details



You can read the latest update on the [NHS website](#)

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## RESEARCH NEWS

Please visit the **Centre for Death & Society's (CDAS)** website for previous editions of their newsletters, plus further details of all CDAS related research, news and events:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/research-centres/centre-for-death-society/>.

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



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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.



**EDGE IT Systems** are market leaders in the supply of cloud based software solutions. Our Epitaph software with digital mapping is specifically designed for cemetery and crematorium facilities management.

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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**

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



**PlotBox**

**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**

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



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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](mailto:info@cremation.org.uk)



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