



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



Scotland's Inspector of Cremation Annual Report

Scotland's Inspector of Cremation, Robert Swanson QPM, has published his annual report for the year to 31 March 2020.

You can see more detail on page six.

Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

Whilst life is far from resembling normal, some aspects of life have picked up again and as a result, there is plenty of news to bring you this month.

We hope you will find the contents of our latest news review of interest to you. You can keep up to date with COVID-19 news via our dedicated [COVID-19 webpage](#). Do take a look.

In the meantime, do continue to keep safe and take care.

COVID-19 - UPDATE

Deceased Management Advisory Group



There have been a number of updates in guidance issued since our last news review and we mention below some of the more significant updates issued:-

- 14.09.2020 Welsh Government updates its guidance on face coverings (includes mandatory wearing of face coverings in funeral homes and funeral services)
- 04.09.2020 Public Health England updates its 'COVID-19: guidance for managing a funeral during the coronavirus pandemic'
- 01.09.2020 Human Tissue Authority updates its 'Guidance on consent and licensing for removing samples from the deceased'
- 28.08.2020 Northern Ireland Department of Health issues updated COVID guidance for funeral directors
- 22.08.2020 Welsh Government updates its 'Guidance to local authorities, approved premises and places of worship on marriages and civil partnerships: coronavirus'

Don't forget, you can view all notes of our meetings, on the DMAG website.



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans to build a new crematorium and dining hall on the existing grounds of the Anoopam Mission, Swaminarayan Hindu Temple, in **Denham**, will not be going ahead having been rejected by the **South Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee**. Committee members went back and forth for almost two hours on the “very difficult application”. But they determined the temple’s plans would constitute an “inappropriate development” resulting in “loss of openness and encroachment into the Green Belt” – and that the “very special circumstances” presented by the applicant did not outweigh potential harms to the surrounding area. To read more on the Committee's decision, read the [Bucks Free Press article](#).

Plans to build a new crematorium in **Heaton** have been approved by **Bradford Council** - but it will be up to the Government to make the final decision as to whether it goes ahead. Members of Bradford Council's Regulatory and Appeals Committee approved the plans at a meeting this morning, and heard from some of the numerous objectors to the development. Although the committee approved the plans it will still have to go to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government due to the application being on Green Belt land. It will be up to him to decide whether to "call in" the decision or allow it to proceed. You can read more on the [Telegraph & Argus website](#).

Corby is one step closer to having its own crematorium after early plans for a state-of-the-art facility went on show. Currently those in the town and its surrounding villages who say their final goodbyes at a cremation service have to travel to Kettering or further afield. But that could soon change after **Dignity Funerals** - who operate 46 crematoria in the UK including at Milton Malsor near Northampton - outlined their vision for a new site just outside Corby. A spokesman for Dignity said: "We believe there is a requirement for a crematorium in the area and that the land is suitable for development. If approved, this development would provide a crematorium within a 30 minute drive for more than 19,000 residents." You can read more details on the consultation on the [Northamptonshire Telegraph website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans for the development of a new crematorium on land off Byers Lane, **South Godstone** have been refused by **Tandridge District Council's** Planning Committee. In refusing the application by **Southern Co-operative Properties**, the Council confirmed that the proposal would 'constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt causing significant harm to the openness and visual amenities of the Green Belt. No very special circumstances exist to clearly outweigh the harm by reasons of inappropriateness and other identified harm'. You can read the decision notice on the [Tandridge District Council website](#).

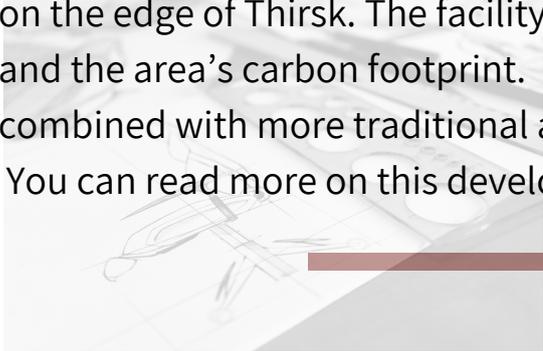
Huntingdon's pioneering crematorium and cemetery has moved a step closer after its entrance gates and fencing were granted planning permission. Work is already under way on the £7m **Huntingdon Town Council** scheme which is building the crematorium at Sapley Road, Kings Ripton. The scheme includes a range of green technologies, including the first all-electric carbon neutral cremator, the recycling of waste heat into the depot, rainwater harvesting, solar panels and composting of plant materials. Huntingdonshire District Council has now given the go-ahead to a planning application for the entrance gate to the site and estate fencing. Read more on this development on the [Hunts Post website](#).

Campaigners opposed to proposals for a new crematorium in the leafy northern reaches of Surrey say it will erode the green gap with London and result in the loss of treasured countryside. **Mercia Crematoria** expects to submit a planning application for a Green Belt site in **Farleigh**, near Warlingham, to **Tandridge District Council** within the next month. It is the latest to join the race to build a new crematorium in Tandridge. Two separate plans – one near Oxted and another near Blindley Heath – were put forward earlier this year (see article above). To read more on this proposal, please read the [Surrey Live article](#).

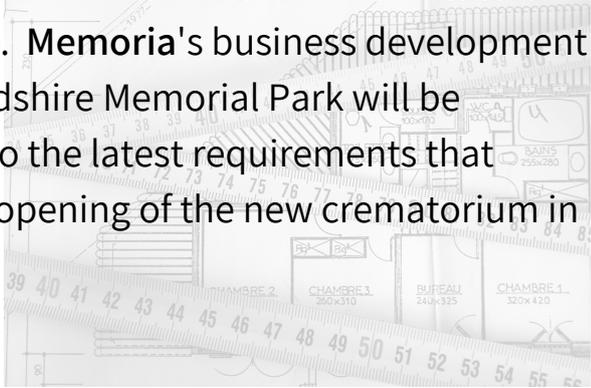
NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Work on constructing **Hambleton's** state-of-the-art crematorium is expected to begin in November. The District Council project will see the new multi million pound facility built on the edge of Thirsk. The facility will feature an electric cremator to reduce emissions and the area's carbon footprint. "Our new crematorium will offer state of the art facilities combined with more traditional aspects," said Council leader, Councillor Mark Robson. You can read more on this development on the [Hambleton Today website](#).

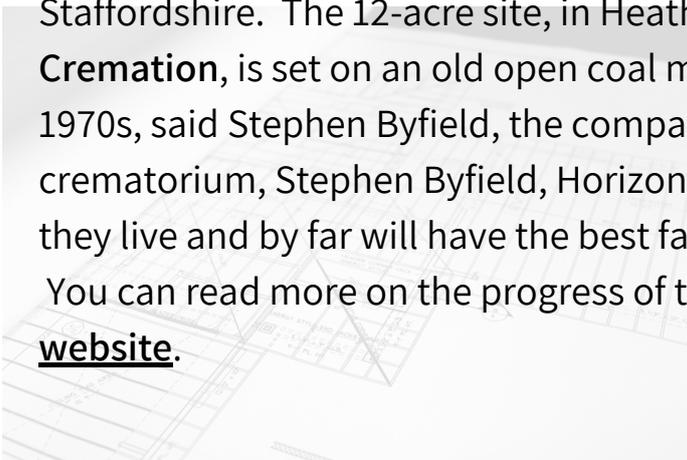


A PIONEERING 'state-of-the-art' crematorium fuelled by almost 100 per cent green electricity is set to open its doors in Oxfordshire. Set to open on Monday, October 19, **North Oxfordshire Crematorium and Memorial Park** will feature a brand-new state-of-the-art chapel with seating for more than 130 people. **Memoria's** business development director Jamieson Hodgson explained: "North Oxfordshire Memorial Park will be introducing significant new innovations to respond to the latest requirements that families are requesting.". You can read more on the opening of the new crematorium in the [Oxford Mail article](#).



A new £5 million crematorium which will offer state-of-the-art services is taking shape in Staffordshire. The 12-acre site, in Heath Hayes, **Cannock**, which will be run by **Horizon Cremation**, is set on an old open coal mine workings which were filled in during the 1970s, said Stephen Byfield, the company's director. Outlining the benefits of the new crematorium, Stephen Byfield, Horizon's director, said: "It will be close to people where they live and by far will have the best facilities of existing crematoriums in the area."

You can read more on the progress of this new development, on the [Express and Star website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government** has issued non-statutory guidance for local authorities in England and Wales on **public health funerals**. The Ministry commented: 'While local differences mean that not all sections will apply to all local authorities, it is important that all arrangements for public health funerals are delivered respectfully and with care.' You can read the guidance on the [GOV.UK website](#).



SCOTTISH NEWS

Scotland's Inspector of Cremation, Robert Swanson, has published his latest annual report for the year ended 31 March 2020. During the course of the past year the Inspector carried out an inspection of all 31 crematoria. Physical visits to crematoria were suspended in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and for the remainder of the period, the Inspector continued to liaise remotely with staff and other stakeholders. You can read the report on the [Scottish Government's website](#).

Scottish Government has issued an update to remind funeral directors that the cremation application supplementary form, introduced in April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to be an option, but should only be used where completely necessary. The supplementary form is not intended to be the default position for all applications. You can read the update on the [Scottish Government's website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

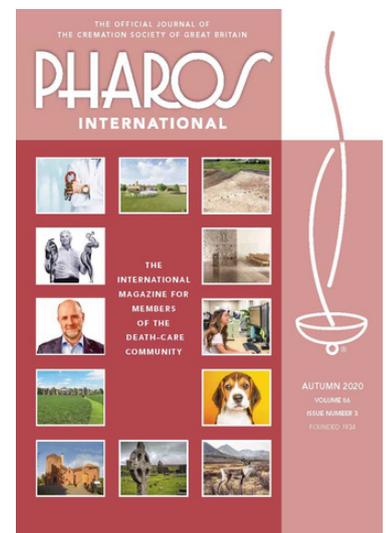
Our colleague Julie Forrest has left the Cremation Society, following 20 years working with us. Many of you will have dealt with Julie over the years and we are sure you will join with us in wishing her a long and happy retirement!

PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

The Autumn issue of our journal Pharos International, is now available to purchase, either as a subscription or as a single issue.

You can order the publication online [via our website](#).

If you are interested in advertising in future issues of Pharos International, please [see our Media Pack](#).



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cremation in **Lithuania**, a predominantly Roman Catholic country, is becoming more acceptable to change-wary Lithuanians. K2 LT, the operator of Lithuania's only crematorium in Kedainiai in central Lithuania said it plans to invest up to €2m into its expansion. Almost 4,000 cremations were carried out in the first half of this year, up 67% from last year. Lithuania's first-ever crematorium in Kedainiai has been operating since 2012. Until then, Lithuanians had to travel to Latvia and Poland for cremation services. You can read more on this development, on the [BNE IntelliNews website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

COMPANY NEWS

Aspiring artists, school children, retired people and creative folk of all ages throughout the UK are being given a chance to have their names etched in history. They are being invited to make their mark on the stone centre-piece obelisks of new COVID-19 memorial gardens which are being created all over the country. **Westerleigh Group** is building memorials in tranquil gardens at over 30 of its crematoria across the UK with members of the public invited to contribute to their design. Roger Mclaughlan, Chief Executive Officer of the Westerleigh Group, said: "Everyone has been affected by the pandemic this year and we wanted to create permanent and lasting memorials in each of those communities. We wanted to enable people to get involved and help us with the design." To find out more, please visit the [Westerleigh Group website](#).



NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER UPDATE

National Medical Examiner, Dr Alan Fletcher, has issued his update for August 2020. Included in his update are :

- Deaths of people with a learning disability in England
- Medical examiner funding and reporting in England
- Implementation in Wales



You can [read the latest update here](#).

RESEARCH NEWS

The Centre for Death & Society (based at the University of Bath) has published its latest newsletter. It features COVID-19 news and resources, Call for Papers, as well as details on many future events.

You can visit the [CDAS website](#) or [view the newsletter here](#).

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



Capital Refractories specialises in supplying refractory linings and associated products to metal melting, foundry and cement industries around the world.



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.

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 Discount 10%

No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of claims made by advertisers or for the sustainability or standard of goods so advertised

Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



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).



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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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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