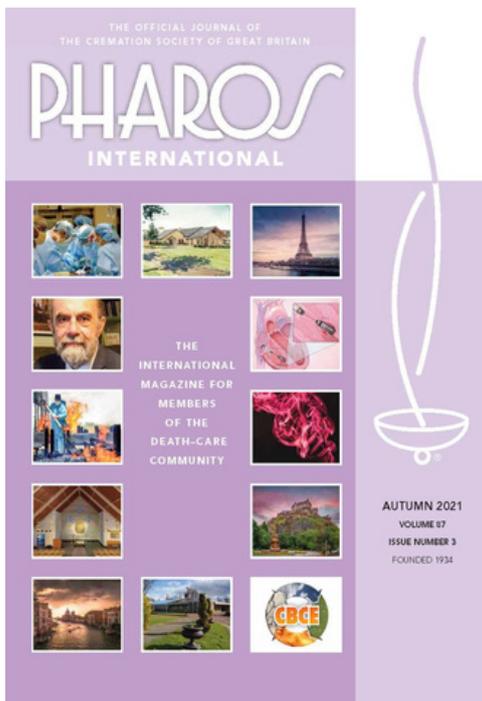




A monthly review of news and events from within the bereavement sector



The year presses on and it hardly seems possible that we are publishing our autumn issue of **Pharos International**. The latest issue includes contributions and reflections on the COVID pandemic from our international colleagues, as well as presentations from our virtual CBCE event earlier in the year. If you do not already subscribe, please do [visit our website](#) for more details.

Wendy Buchan
Executive Officer & Secretary to
The Cremation Society

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

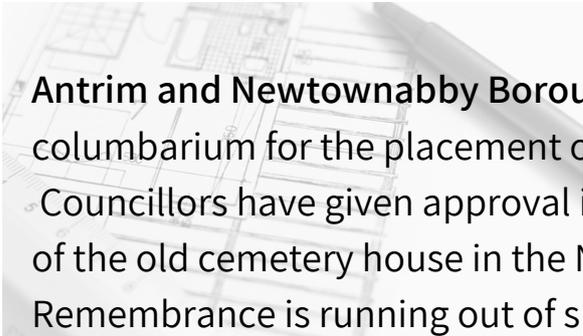
PLANS to build a crematorium near **Caersws** will be decided by a Welsh Government minister. After months of waiting, it has been confirmed that plans for a crematorium and garden of remembrance at a 13.66-hectare site near the B4568 at Ael Y Bryn between Caersws and Aberhafesp will be decided in Cardiff. The application, from Powys Crematorium Ltd, will now be decided by Minister for Climate Change Julie James MS. In a letter to the applicants and local authority, Welsh Government head of planning decisions, Lewis Thomas, lists 13 issues with the site according to those who wanted to see the proposal called in. Some of these include the site being “remote”, an “inadequate assessment of traffic impact” and that the application is a “significant departure” from Powys’ Local Development Plan (LDP). For more on this development, please visit the [County Times article](#).

The new **Bierton Crematorium**, which opened in April 2019, has been awarded a RIBA South Award 2021. RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects) has been recognising design work for the past 180 years. Councillor Nick Naylor said: "It took us a long time to get to the final opening of the crematorium and there were some considerable hurdles to overcome, not least a High Court challenge, but now open it provides the same well-regarded service to residents as we provide at our Chilterns Crematorium in Amersham." A spokesperson for Havestock, the architect company responsible for the crematorium design, said: “It was with great pleasure we were able to nominate this building for an RIBA award. Set on slightly elevated ground north of Aylesbury and the village of Bierton, the design of this new crematorium demonstrates a considered approach to the traditional layout whilst incorporating different cultural needs and providing a respectful setting. You can read more on this story on the [Bucks Herald website](#).



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council is considering the provision of a columbarium for the placement of cremated remains at **Carnmoney Cemetery**. Councillors have given approval in principle for the facility to be established on the site of the old cemetery house in the Newtownabbey graveyard as the Garden of Remembrance is running out of space. A columbarium is to be included in plans for the new £5m crematorium development which is to be located at Doagh Road, opposite Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre in Newtownabbey. Pricing for future cremations in Antrim and Newtownabbey has already been approved. For more on this story, please visit the [Newtownabbey Times website](#).

RESOMATION NEWS



PLANS to develop a ‘resomation’ facility to provide an environmentally-friendly process to dispose of human remains have been submitted to **Durham County Council**. **Prism Planning** has prepared the planning application for the proposed change of use of Unit F4, Morton Park Way, Morton Park, Darlington to provide a resomation facility with associated training centre, being a first for the Tees Valley. The planning application is submitted in full on behalf of Mr J.M. Atkinson, Kindly Earth Ltd. The premises would operate on a dual-purpose basis, the disposal of deceased persons in the resomatoria and the training of both on-site staff and staff from other facilities around the country, some of which could be accommodated in funeral directors’ chapels of rest. For more on this development, please read the [Northern Echo article](#).



NEWS REVIEW

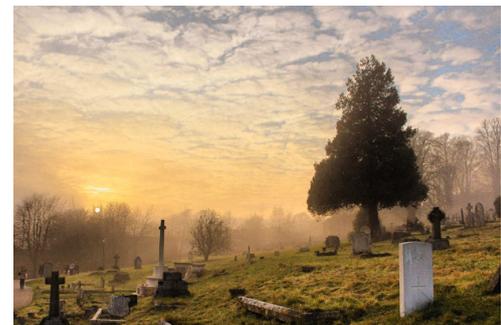
CREMATORIA NEWS

Eden's first and only crematorium has been opened by a South Cumbrian family bringing state-of-the-art funeral facilities to the area. The **Eden Valley Crematorium** at Temple Sowerby includes an 160-seat chapel — with additional standing room — cremation facilities, offices and a large car park. Located on the Winderwath Estate, the 1.1-hectare site was developed from a group of disused farm buildings which were renovated and connected with purpose-built facilities. The crematorium will be run by the **Fishwick** family, who own several sites across South Cumbria, although services will be run by independent funeral directors. You can read more in the **Cumberland and Westmorland Herald** article.

A crematorium on the north coast could be extended with alternative burial arrangements in an area of quiet woodland. **Cromer Town Council** has applied to North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) to build a new graveyard immediately to the west of the existing **Cromer** cemetery. The proposal also includes plans for a draught lobby and glazed doors to the crematorium chapel, a shelter for charging electric buggies next to the cemetery, an orientation building and toilet in the woodland, and 14 additional car parking spaces. You can read more on the proposal on the **Norfolk News** website.

BEREAVEMENT NEWS

The **UK Commission on Bereavement** is an independent commission set up to review the experiences of, and support available for, people affected by bereavement, and to make recommendations to key decision-makers. The commission is independent of government and supported by a steering group of charity partners. To help inform its ongoing work, the Commission has launched a call for evidence for both individuals affected by bereavement, and from professionals and organisations working in areas relevant to the inquiry. More information can be found here: **Taking part - UK Commission on Bereavement**

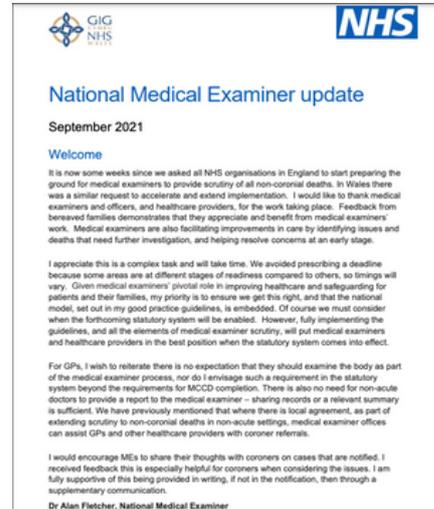


NEWS REVIEW

NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINERS UPDATE

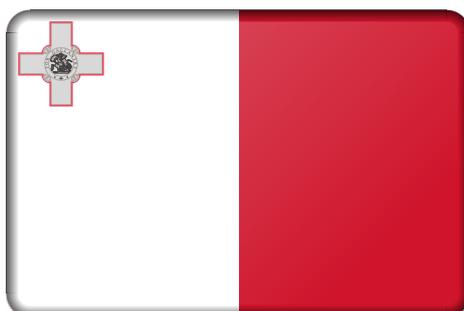
Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner, has published his latest September update. Included in the update are: Health and Care Bill • GPs discuss the benefits of the medical examiner system • Good Practice Series • Resources for extending medical examiner scrutiny to all non-coronial deaths – England • Implementation in Wales.

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



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The Environmental Health Directorate in Malta has objected to the development of a crematorium proposed on a site adjacent to the national Addolorata cemetery, on the grounds that there are currently no rules that can regulate the way crematoriums in Malta will work, and legislation regulating the actual operations of crematoriums “is not yet in force”. Malta approved a law allowing cremation in May 2019, but regulations governing the actual operations of such facilities, including rules on the type of fuel which can be used, still have to be approved. The Paola local council, through its architect Jesmond Mugliett, is also objecting to the development, describing it as “premature”. For more on this story, please visit the [MaltaToday article](#).



NEWS REVIEW

APPG NEWS

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Funerals and Bereavement launched its inaugural Annual Report on Monday 6 September in the House of Commons. Representatives from The Cremation Society attended as one member of the Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG). Also present at the launch were representatives from faith communities, bereavement charities and Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum. Chair of the APPG, Sir John Hayes CBE MP, thanked those working in the sector for their compassion, dedication and resilience over the past eighteen months. Sir John acknowledged the funeral and bereavement sector's response to the pandemic and highlighted some key issues the APPG will be focusing on throughout the year. You can read the report on the [APPG website](https://www.appgfunerals.co.uk).



APPG Chair - Sir John Hayes CBE MP



Sir John Hayes MP with members of DMAG



Colin Rickman (Cremation Society), Fleur Anderson MP, Julie Dunk (ICCM)



Wendy Buchan (Cremation Society) and Robert Goodwill MP

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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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