

News Review



We are pleased to bring you **The Cremation Society's** news review for May.

We hope our newsletter will help you to stay informed of news and developments from across the cremation sector. To find out more about CBCE, the joint conference held with our colleagues from the FBCA, please visit the [CBCE website](#) and follow CBCE on [LinkedIn](#) or Twitter. You can also find The Cremation Society on [BlueSky](#).



THIS ISSUE'S NEWS UPDATES

- Dorset Crematorium installs solar farm.
- Gornal Wood crematorium to be refurbished.
- Plan to create new crematorium near Congleton.
- Planning permission for Letterkenny crematorium.
- Leeds cremations to resume.
- Worcester crematorium going electric.
- Mepal bereavement centre approved.
- Farewell Flowers Directory team strikes gold at Chelsea Flower Show.
- Cyprus Cremation Society launches.

23rd - 25th June 2025 - *Hilton Southampton - Utilita Bowl*

Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2025

Updates from

- Ministry of Justice
- Regional Medical Examiner
- Environment Agency
- Scottish Government
- Law Commission
- Local Government Association
- International Cremation Federation



Scan to register

As well as other experts from the burial and cremation sector discussing topics such as AI in the bereavement sector, sustainability in crematoria and the latest advice on cremator technology and efficiency.

MORE INFORMATION



CBCE.ORG.UK

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans to create new crematorium near Congleton unveiled.

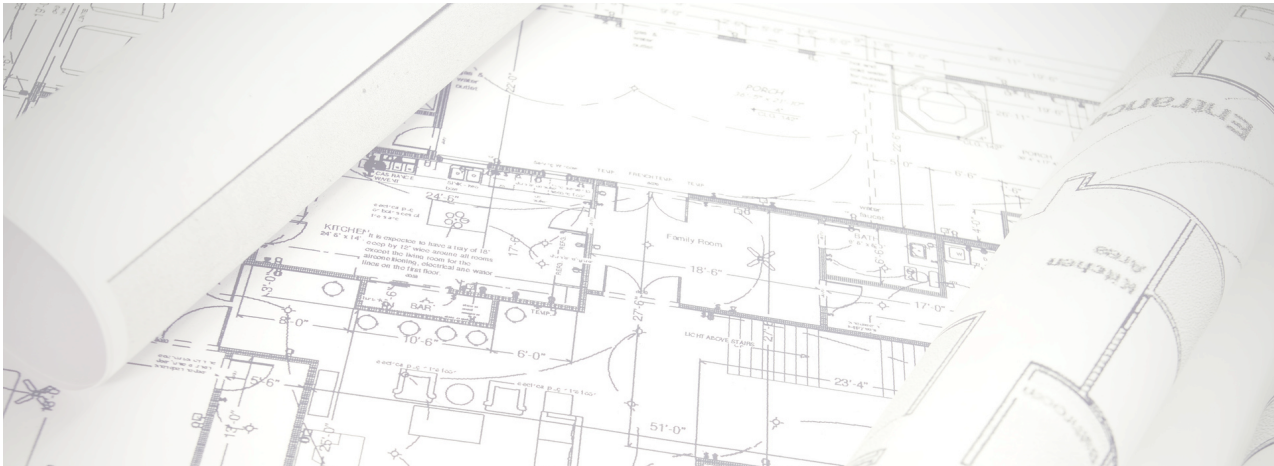
Plans are being unveiled for a new crematorium in a Cheshire village to serve bereaved families in the area. Developers say the crematorium in **Brereton**, on the western edge of Congleton, would provide a more local option. Local residents currently have to travel to Macclesfield Crematorium or further afield to Bradwell (Newcastle-under-Lyme), Crewe, Stoke or Northwich. This usually means a journey of 30 minutes or more for a funeral cortege. The new crematorium would be sited in a secluded spot off the A534. The chapel would seat 100 people and hold just four funerals per day, enabling better spacing between funeral services and a less rushed funeral experience for families than at present. A minimum of an hour will be allowed for each service. State-of-the-art facilities will enable each family to have a funeral of their choice, free from the pressure of others. The crematorium has been sensitively designed to match the local character and is in a tranquil, secluded spot accessible from the main road. To read the full article, head to: www.chesterstandard.co.uk.

Personalised canvas experiences added to world-first final farewell in 4D at Gedling Crematorium.

The bereaved can now remember and celebrate the lives of their loved ones even more uniquely, thanks to new personalised canvas experiences at **Gedling Crematorium**. In a world first, last autumn the crematorium on Catfoot Lane started offering families a chance to experience the funerals of the future, today, thanks to state-of-the-art technology. It meant services could be uniquely personalised, using the projection of dynamic theming, such as seasons, in the chapel, accompanied by harmoniously coordinated soundscapes and lighting. Now, families can take this experience even further thanks to personalised canvas experiences. The innovative experience is the result of a partnership between **Westerleigh Group**, which operates Gedling Crematorium, and the UK's leading audio-visual provider to the bereavement industry, **Obitus**. To read the full article, head to: www.gedlingeye.co.uk.

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



Full planning permission granted for Letterkenny crematorium.

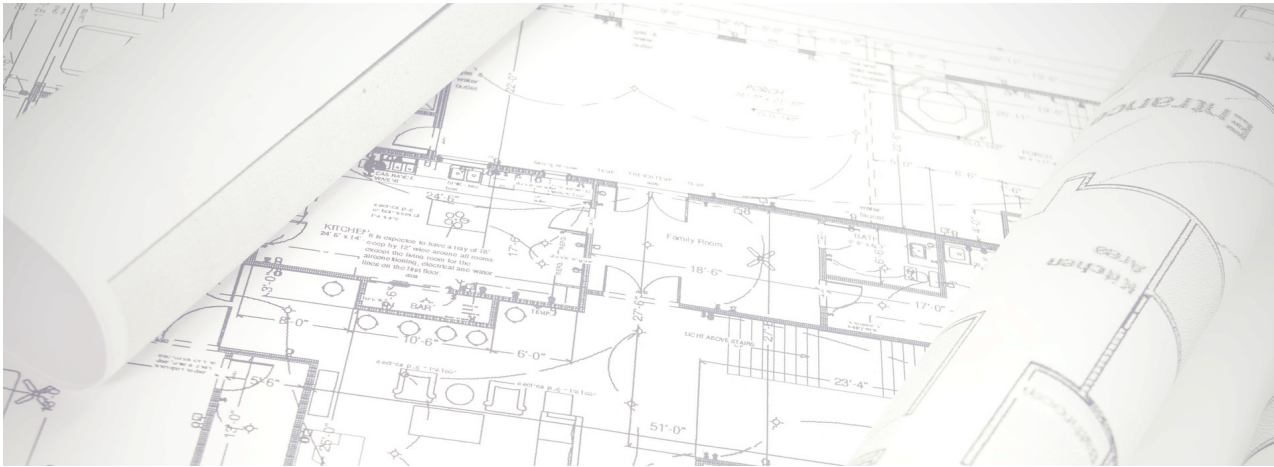
Full planning permission has been granted for the development of a crematorium in **Letterkenny**. The facility will be developed within a new funeral home in the **Carmamuggagh** area, subject to twenty conditions. They include the submission of a comprehensive waste management plan before the facility begins operating, and the carrying out of a detailed noise study and Air Quality Impact Assessment within three months of the beginning of operations. No appeals were made to An Bord Pleanála, and the final go ahead has now been confirmed. To read the full article, please go to: www.highlandradio.com.

Gornal Wood Crematorium to be refurbished.

Refurbishment work totalling more than £1 million will get underway at **Gornal Wood Crematorium** next month. Starting from 2nd June, the £1.1 million programme of work will mostly focus on the chapel and its' outside area, replacing some of the original 1960 decoration and furniture. There will be a complete shutdown period of 6 weeks from 7th July to 15th August, when most of the work is expected to be carried out, and during this time the facility will not be able to accommodate services. Stourbridge Crematorium will be open as normal throughout and Gornal Crematorium is expected to reopen for funerals from 18th August, with some restrictions expected initially. Work to the chapel will include internal and external decoration, the installation of air conditioning and improved heating, new carpets and lectern, new furniture and seating, increased capacity, an upgraded music media system, renovation to the toilets and the installation of another fire door. To read the full article, head to: www.councilnews.dudley.gov.uk

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



Final decision on long-awaited £6 million crematorium at Greenhill Cemetery.

A final decision on whether to build a long-awaited £6 million crematorium at **Greenhill Cemetery** in Omagh is expected to be made by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in 2026. Planning permission for the crematorium was first granted 13 years ago for a site at Greenhill on the Gortin Road. In December 2022, the council approved the development of a full business case, and the planning permission was renewed in March 2023. To read the full article, head to: www.wearetyrone.com.

Bristol gas cemetery cremators to be replaced.

The four aging gas cremators at **Canford cemetery** in north Bristol will be replaced with electric versions in a £350,000 project. A senior officer decision posted on the authority's website said the burners were 40 years old – 10 years more than their typical lifespan. It said that although the machines were legally compliant, an expected change in regulations over flue gas mercury levels would mean they were not. The report said: "The change from gas to lower carbon electric cremators and the installation of modern filtration equipment will require alterations to the existing crematoria building and energy supply." It also said that because the project had a "significant decarbonisation component", the design and development of the scheme would be done by City Leap, the council's 20-year partnership with private company Ameresco to deliver low carbon energy infrastructure projects. Canford Crematorium is Bristol City Council's single highest emitter of carbon. To read the full article, head to: www.bristolpost.co.uk.

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Chapel refurbishment at Grimsby Crematorium boosts capacity and comfort.

Grimsby Crematorium has reopened its chapel following a five-week refurbishment to improve capacity and visitor experience. The project involved a complete interior overhaul, including removing pews in favour of modern seating to increase occupancy. Additional upgrades include new flooring, carpeting, ceiling, thermal glazing, and automated window controls to enhance climate regulation. The renovation was carried out with minimal service disruption and completed on schedule by contractor Unibuild. The updated facility now hosts over 2,000 annual services in a brighter, more functional space, catering to over 200,000 visitors annually. The improvements are part of ongoing efforts to modernise bereavement services and better serve local families and funeral operators. To read the full article, head to: www.lincolnshiretoday.net.

Cremations are set to resume at a city funeral facility after a six-month pause.

Cremations are set to resume at a city funeral facility after a six-month pause while structural problems in the building were fixed. Operating restrictions at Lawnswood Crematorium were imposed by Leeds City Council after defects were found during a survey in November. Temporary arrangements meant funerals could still be held at the site on Otley Road, Adel, but bodies then had to be taken to crematoria in Rawdon or Cottingley. A council spokesperson said "We recognise that the temporary suspension of cremations at Lawnswood will have caused inconvenience and some extra worry for bereaved families and loved ones at an already difficult time." The suspension was put in place by the council after potential issues were found during a routine structural inspection in November. Following further detailed checks and remedial work that has provided additional support for the frame of the building, it has now been given a clean bill of health by a structural engineer." According to the Local Democracy Reporting Service, the spokesperson added that the council was "extremely grateful for the support and understanding of everyone who has been affected by the unavoidable disruption of the last few months". To read the full article, head to: www.bbcnews.co.uk

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

Middleton's cremator set to be repaired.

Works to repair the broken cremator at Middleton's **Boarshaw Cemetery** are set to be completed this summer. The cremator has been out of commission since November 2024. At a meeting of the council's cabinet committee on 11th February 2025, the leader of the council, Councillor Neil Emmott, confirmed that the proposal to mothball the cremator had been withdrawn following public feedback and urgent attention was being given to finding a way of bringing the cremator back into use. Now it has been confirmed that repair works, which are estimated to cost around £66,000, are scheduled to be carried out and completed during the week commencing 28th July 2025. This includes ensuring that Boarshaw complies with strict new national emissions rules proposed to come into effect in 2027. It is not possible for the current cremator to be retrofitted with this system, so a completely new replacement cremator will be required, along with extensive building alteration works to house the new equipment. As soon as repair works are completed, cremations will be available once again in Middleton, which provides approximately 400-450 cremations a year. In the meantime, funeral directors can continue to request cremations, following services at Boarshaw to be carried out at Rochdale crematorium. To read the full article, head to: www.rochdale.gov.uk

Go ahead given for new bereavement centre.

Councillors have paved the way for a new bereavement centre to be built on the grounds of a former outdoor activity site. The Mepal Outdoor Centre near Ely was closed following a fire in 2016. Members at the Conservative-controlled East Cambridgeshire District Council approved a business case for the bereavement centre at a meeting on Thursday. However, the project has been opposed by some residents and opposition Liberal Democrats who have criticised an increase in costs. The council says the centre will include a crematorium, natural burial area, pet cemetery, a function room for wakes, a memorial tributes walkway and a remembrance garden. It will be set within flower meadows and woodland walks, with views overlooking a lake. The site will be "skilfully developed to enhance the significant biodiversity and ecology" - the council says - and it is working with the Wildlife Trust because of a number of "endangered plants and animals" in the area. To read the full article, head to: www.bbcnews.co.uk.

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

Our Chair **Professor Hilary Grainger** OBE recently discussed crematoria and their role in the grieving process with **John Adams**, past President of **@NAFD_UK**

To watch, '**What If a Building Could Help You Grieve?**' head to:
<https://youtu.be/eyAW3RLjbvk?si=HYVZd7xdpmgIAGgl...>



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

A crematorium has installed a solar farm that generates more electricity than it needs. **Harbour View Crematorium**, in Lytchett Minster, put up the solar farm on the roofs of barns it built for Home Farm in the surrounding fields. The solar panels produce more electricity than the cremators require. Steven Tapper, director of Harbour View Crematorium, said: "Operating a crematorium can present many challenges for a company such as ours, that wants to minimise its carbon footprint and to be as environmentally friendly as possible. "Our new solar farm has taken us a huge step in the right direction. We believe we are the greenest crematorium in the UK." The crematorium already has a high standard of environmental credentials and the latest filtration system for its cremators. To read the full article, head to: www.bournemouthcho.co.uk

NEWS REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Farewell Flowers Directory team strikes gold at Chelsea Flower Show.

The Farewell Flowers Directory, which is based at Everingham in East Yorkshire, has won an RHS Gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show – making history as the first-ever display of sustainable funeral flowers in 112 years of the event. Queen Camilla visited the landmark exhibit and spoke with **Gill Hodgson** MBE, co-founder of the not-for-profit, which promotes personalised funeral tributes and aims to remove plastic floral foam and single-use plastic from funeral floristry. The spectacular display featured towering stems of British-grown flowers that burst out of a willow coffin and cascade into a grassy graveyard scene beneath, as a wirework man and his dog by artist Susan Nichols watch on. The winning design team included Gill Hodgson MBE of Fieldhouse Flowers in Everingham, Carole Patilla of Tuckshop Flowers in Birmingham, Georgie Newbery of Common Farm Flowers in Somerset and Nicola Hill of Gentle Blooms in Warwickshire. Carole Patilla, co-founder of The Farewell Flowers Directory, said: “We’re so delighted that we did the thing people told us we couldn’t do: we took funeral flowers and a coffin to RHS Chelsea and won Gold! Our display shows that flowers, thoughtfully and sustainably designed, can move people; they can reflect and celebrate a life; and they can tread lightly on the planet. We hope that our Gold medal exhibit will raise awareness of sustainable funeral flowers and help bring about change in the industry.” The ground-breaking installation was sponsored by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, Green Funeral Flowers Online Course by Tuckshop Flowers, New Covent Garden Flower Market and Workplace Bereavement. To read the full article, head to: www.yorkshirepost.co.uk



NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Cyprus Cremation Society launches to advocate for end-of-life choices.

A new organisation promoting cremation as an alternative to burial in Cyprus launched this month in **Larnaca**, advocating for a centrally-located crematorium by 2030.

The Cyprus Cremation Society, which opened free membership at its launch event, aims to address growing concerns about burial space limitations while offering more diverse end-of-life options. Cyprus remains one of only two EU countries without cremation facilities, despite an estimated 15% of its 1.8 million population preferring this option, according to the society.

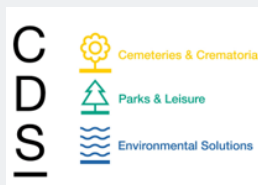
Dr Antonis Alexopoulos, president of the organisation, said: “We will do everything we can to fulfil the wishes of those who desire cremation. By joining the Society, you will be adding your voice to the call for the island to build a crematorium readily accessible and affordable to all.”

The society reports that approximately 1,000 grave spaces annually accommodate individuals who would choose cremation if available. With projections indicating deaths in Cyprus will rise from 9,400 to 14,400 by 2030, pressure on burial infrastructure continues to grow. The non-profit organisation has identified Larnaca as an optimal location for a future crematorium, citing its central position that would provide island-wide accessibility.

As part of its campaign, the society has launched a national survey on public attitudes toward cremation and established social media platforms offering information and resources. The organisation’s eight-member council will lead advocacy efforts funded by founding donors, with free membership now available for those seeking information about cremation options. To read the full article, head to: **www.in-cyprus.philenews.com**.

PHAROS INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISERS

We are proud to introduce our **Pharos International Journal** advertisers.



If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please [click here](#) for a media pack. We offer attractive discounted rates for 5 issues - available upon request for new advertisers. 10% Agency Discount. Continue reading to learn more about our advertisers.

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

PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

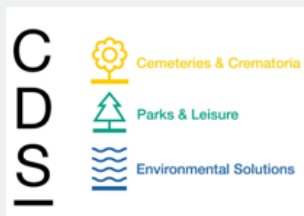
ADVERTISERS



Benchmark Architects, are an innovative architecture and design studio, with a passionate and personable team who enjoy working on creative, challenging, and innovative projects.



DRM Technic, is one of the UK's leading suppliers of gas analysis and conditioning equipment and services. They are also a renowned manufacturer of Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS).



The CDS Group, offer their 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, are 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. We offer attractive discounted rates for 5 issues - available upon request for new advertisers. 10% Agency Discount.

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

PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

ADVERTISERS



Facultatieve Technologies, have over 140 years of experience in the design, construction and maintenance of cremation and filtration equipment.



Fordingbridge, are 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.



Obitus, provide bereavement technology services, delivering music, webcast and tributes for families, funeral directors and leading funeral venues throughout the UK.



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

If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please **click here** for a media pack. We offer attractive discounted rates for 5 issues - available upon request for new advertisers. 10% Agency Discount.

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

PHAROS INTERNATIONAL

ADVERTISERS



PlotBox, is an international death care management solution. They facilitate cemeteries and crematoria in operating to world-class standards through integrated software and georectified mapping modules.



SK Environmental Ltd, is a UK manufacturer of instrumentation for measurement and control of combustion plants, specialising in environmental monitoring and control products.



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



If you would like to advertise in **Pharos International** please **click here** for a media pack. We offer attractive discounted rates for 5 issues - available upon request for new advertisers. 10% Agency Discount.

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



The Cremation Society

Rooted in history: committed to the future

Contribute to our newsletter

We love to receive news/press suggestions from our readers to include in future newsletters.

For any news you would like us to consider, please contact us at info@cremation.org.uk

Our contact details



01622 688292/3



Info@cremation.org.uk



www.cremation.org.uk



The Cremation Society,
Brecon House (1st Floor),
16 Albion Place,
Maidstone,
Kent, ME14 5DZ.

Find us on social media



If you do not wish to receive future newsletters from us, please email us at info@cremation.org.uk and simply type 'STOP' in the heading

The views expressed in the Editorial comments are those of the Editor and unless specifically stated otherwise, are not the official views of the Cremation Society. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of articles reproduced in this newsletter.