



We are delighted to be welcoming delegates to Southampton again for this year's CBCE. We have an excellent programme of speakers which will provide opportunity for delegates to access expert knowledge, as well as learning more about legislative changes and crematoria working practices. Accommodation is fast reaching capacity so please do not delay booking on via the CBCE website www.cbce.org.uk/2025

News in this issue includes updates on:

- Crematorium proposed for Leeds and Wakefield.
- New crematorium opens in Collooney, Co. Sligo.
- New crematorium bid for Hindu and Sikh funerals turned down.
- Donegal's first crematorium granted planning permission.
- Company news - PlotBox



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



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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](https://www.cbce.org.uk)

A new modern crematorium has been proposed to give bereaved families in and around Leeds and Wakefield more choice, longer service times, and greater opportunities for personalised funeral services, all delivered with exceptional care. Plus, for the first time locally, it will also offer the increasingly popular option of a natural burial. The plans have been drawn up by **Westerleigh Group**, one of the UK's largest independent owners and operators of crematoria and cemeteries. Westerleigh Group wishes to build a modern crematorium and natural burial ground on a 20-acre site in **Oulton**, six miles southeast of Leeds and five miles north of Wakefield, bringing the exceptional care it has built its reputation on to local communities. Ian McArdle, Westerleigh Group's chief property officer, said: "There is presently no provision on the eastern side of Leeds. We believe those communities, along with those in the surrounding areas, would benefit from having the choice of a new modern crematorium and natural burial ground." For the full article, please go to: www.leeds-live.co.uk.

Mayo undertakers David McGowan and his daughter Bridín have completed the opening of a new crematorium in **Collooney, Co. Sligo** - the first of its type in the west of Ireland. Eleven cremations have taken place at the facility since it opened over two weeks ago. The crematorium is operated by well known Sligo funeral undertaking firm, **Foley and McGowan**. The new facility is one that is faithful to the traditions of how grieving families say farewell to their loved ones in a most peaceful setting. David, who also has an undertaking business in Ballina, decided to convert a storeroom into a very tasteful crematorium that can cater for up to 120 mourners who can say goodbye to their loved ones in a warm homely setting. "The crematorium is in line with our ethos which is connecting nature to death," he told The Sligo Champion. To read the article, please head to: [The Connaught Telegraph's website](#).

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



A bid to create a new crematorium for Hindu and Sikh funerals has been turned down by councillors. Applicants **CDS Group** applied for planning permission to demolish a late 19th century farmhouse and outbuildings in **East Scraftoft**. The application, planned for Scraftoft Lodge Farm in Keyham Lane, attracted 56 letters of support and 30 objections, the Local Democracy Reporting Service said. But the proposal was refused by a planning committee at Harborough District Council on the grounds that the development would be too large and not fit in with the surrounding area. CDS's application included two chapels, which would have held six ceremonies a day between them. Supporters of the bid said it would foster inclusivity, but opponents raised objections about the design, parking and any extra traffic funeral processions would create. To read the full article, please go to: **[the BBC News website.](#)**

Donegal's first crematorium has been granted planning permission. Donegal County Council has given the green light to Michael Morning for the construction of the facility in **Letterkenny**. Mr Morning is planning to build a crematorium within a proposed funeral home at **Carnamuggagh**. Plans for the funeral home were previously granted planning permission and in December a fresh application was lodged to add a crematorium to the facility. Mr Morning, who owns the nearby Eternal Light Chapel of Rest, has been granted planning permission, subject to 20 conditions laid down by the Council. The local authority has sought information regarding the training proposals for operational staff and the arrangements for the disposal of waste arising. It has also asked for a detailed monitoring programme for stakeholders emissions. Various assessments and reports are also required by the Council before construction of the facility can begin. The applicant is to use 'best practicable means' to prevent or minimise noise and dust emissions during the construction and the operational phases of the development. Construction can only take place between 7am-7pm Monday-Friday, 8am-2pm on Saturdays and not at all on Sundays or public holidays. The hours of operation will be between 9.30am-6pm seven days a week. For the full story, please head to: **www.donegallive.ie**.

NEWS REVIEW

COMPANY NEWS

SERENT CAPITAL INVESTS IN PLOTBOX TO ACCELERATE INNOVATION IN DEATHCARE TECHNOLOGY

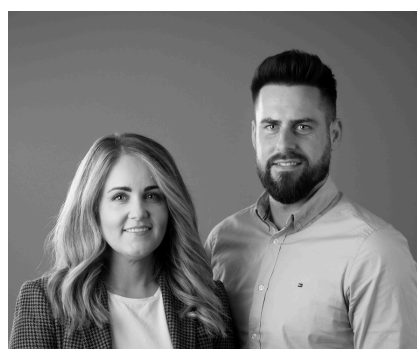
Serent Capital, a growth-focused private equity firm, announced on April 22nd that it has made a strategic investment in PlotBox, a leading cloud-based provider of end-to-end cemetery, crematorium, and funeral home management solutions.

The partnership will help to fuel PlotBox's expansion, drive continued innovation, and enhance customer outcomes across North America, the UK, Ireland, and APAC. Founded by Chief Executive Officer **Sean McAllister** and Chief Commercial Officer **Leona McAllister**, PlotBox has revolutionised the deathcare industry with its innovative, cloud-based platform that streamlines cemetery, crematorium, and funeral home operations. Serent's investment is expected to help accelerate product innovation, elevate customer support, and expand PlotBox's global footprint - fuelling growth while continuing to serve and support long-standing customers.

Serent Capital, which specialises in investing in high-growth technology companies, saw PlotBox as a natural fit. PlotBox's innovative platform integrates digital mapping, records management, financial management, and operational workflows, providing cemeteries, crematoria and funeral homes with a modern, efficient solution to manage their operations.

The investment also follows strategic partnerships PlotBox has secured with some of the largest consolidators in the United States. It underscores PlotBox's ability to serve sophisticated, large-scale operators while demonstrating the scalability needed to support the complex needs of multi-location providers of all sizes.

Serent's investment marks a major step forward in PlotBox's mission to bring cutting-edge technology to the global deathcare industry.



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Benchmark Architects is an innovative architecture and design studio, we are a passionate and personable team who enjoy working on projects to create, challenge and innovate.



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.



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



FG 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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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.



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

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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.



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



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



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