



## CBCE 2024

With the new statutory medical examiner system, the updating of the revised Process Guidance notes and the review of burial and cremation law by the Law Commission, there are many changes to keep abreast of. We are delighted that we will have speakers from the **Ministry of Justice, the Environment Agency, and the Law Commission** speaking at this year's CBCE joint conference. If you haven't already booked to attend, please do join us and book via the CBCE website where you can find the full programme [www.cbce.org.uk/2024](http://www.cbce.org.uk/2024)



News in this issue includes updates on:

- Proposed new crematorium in Maidenhead.
- Improvements at Portchester Crematorium.
- Commendation for Hemel Hempstead Crematorium
- Oakfield Gardens Crematorium open.
- Ministry of Justice update.
- The Farewell Flowers Directory



# CBCE 2024

This year's Cremation & Burial Communication & Education event will be held at **Winter Gardens, Blackpool** and will take place from Monday 24th June to Wednesday 26th June 2024.

To register please visit the **CBCE website** and book online. For any queries please contact that CBCE Administration team at [info@cbce.org.uk](mailto:info@cbce.org.uk) or call on 01543 439 714.

Follow **CBCE on X** and **LinkedIn** for further up-dates on speakers, exhibitors and more.

See you there!



## NEWS REVIEW

## CREMATORIA NEWS



The Cremation Society

Plans to build a crematorium, a construction skills academy and a manufacturing facility in an industrial estate in **Glenrothes** have been unanimously refused. Fife Council's west and central planning committee turned down the proposal which the developers said would create 140 jobs. **Respect Developments (Scotland) Ltd** and **Dignity Funerals Ltd** jointly put forward plans to create a crematorium, a construction skills academy and a manufacturing facility at Southfield Industrial Estate site. There was general agreement that both the construction skills academy and the manufacturing facility would be considered acceptable at Southfield, but the crematorium ultimately tipped the scales. Planning officers explained that the site is considered to be dedicated employment land - meaning new developments should aim to create up to 70 jobs per hectare. In this case, the crematorium aspect would use nearly three hectares, but only create about 15 jobs. Councillors and planners were also concerned about "general compatibility" of a crematorium within an industrial estate. Cllr Beare acknowledged that Glenrothes does not have its' own cemetery or crematorium, but suggested that the council can look at that issue as part of its next Local Development Plan. To read the full article, please head to: [fifetoday.co.uk](http://fifetoday.co.uk)

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Plans are being unveiled for a new crematorium on the northern edge of **Maidenhead** to serve bereaved families in the area. Developers say the crematorium would provide a less hurried, more local option. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead does not have a crematorium of its own with bereaved residents having to travel to Slough Crematorium or further afield to Amersham for The Chilterns crematorium. The developers are set to consult with local residents on their plans to build in a secluded spot off Switchback Road North at Long Lane. 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, with a minimum of an hour allowed for each service. Elogy is led by **Richard Evans** who said: "There is an urgent need to provide a new purpose-built crematorium to serve families living in the Maidenhead area. Our aim is to relieve pressure on existing facilities and to offer a quieter, more dignified setting for local families to hold a personal service closer to home." The crematorium has been "sensitively designed" to match the local character. For the complete article, please go to: [www.sloughobserver.co.uk](http://www.sloughobserver.co.uk)

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS



The Cremation Society

Work has begun on a huge project to make improvements at **Portchester Crematorium**. The £4.5M project was approved in 2022 by Fareham Borough Council's Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee and will include the replacement of six cremators. The joint committee assures this will not disrupt services in any way and all the work will be completed outside of the crematorium service hours. The six cremators will be replaced by four new natural-gas cremators which will improve efficiency and consistency, as well as reducing carbon footprint. The work, which began on Friday, May 3rd, is expected to last two years and will be completed in two phases. To read the complete article, please head to: [www.portsmouth.co.uk](http://www.portsmouth.co.uk).

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**Hemel Hempstead Crematorium** has been 'Highly Commended' by the **Civic Trust Awards**, a ceremony which celebrates outstanding eco-friendly, architectural and design achievements worldwide. This recognition has been achieved against 320 submitted projects from across the world, of which 68 were presented with National/International Awards or were Highly Commended. It marks a significant acknowledgment of the Crematorium's exceptional attributes, including its unique design elements and commitment to providing a serene and inclusive space for mourners. The 770m<sup>2</sup> facility is situated within the picturesque green belt south of Hemel Hempstead and boasts a design that maximises natural light and scenic views, utilising the surrounding landscape as a poignant backdrop for the 140-person capacity chapel and the separate pavilion for memorials. Hemel Hempstead Crematorium is owned and managed by **West Herts Crematorium Joint Committee**, which comprises Watford Borough Council, Dacorum Borough Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, St Albans City & District Council, and Three Rivers District Council. The judges' comments on the awards were: "This is a high quality and well-crafted building, and it was obvious from our visit that there had been a strong working relationship between architect and client." To read the complete article, please go to: [www.watford.gov.uk](http://www.watford.gov.uk).

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS



**Central Bedfordshire Council** began using **Oakfield Gardens Crematorium** in Steppingley on 16th May. Plans were first submitted for the crematorium in 2019. It is the first crematorium in the authority area. People living in Central Bedfordshire have previously had to use crematoriums in Bedford, Luton or Hertfordshire. **John Baker**, executive member for finance at the council, said: "Everything has been designed and built with meticulous attention to detail, from the use of sustainable materials in the furniture to the solar panels used to help power the building." He also praised "landscaping designed to improve biodiversity and provide a peaceful environment for remembrance and reflection". The site includes a chapel and grounds with a wildflower garden. A memorial garden is also being made where people can place a plaque to commemorate a loved one. To read the full article, please go to: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

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Works for a new cemetery at **Rainsbrook Crematorium** are underway. Once complete, the new Rainsbrook Cemetery in **Rugby** will include 3,500 grave plots. Works started on May 13th and are set to last until September. Rugby Borough Council has warned that during the works, visitors will face restricted access to the site, but access to the rest of the crematorium grounds and Diamond Wood will remain open. The new cemetery has been part of a long-term plan for the crematorium site and while the crematorium opened a decade ago, the council said it decided to postpone work on the cemetery until the council's cemeteries at Clifton Road, Croop Hill, Watts Lane and Whinfield were nearer to full capacity. Councillor **Derek Poole**, cabinet member for regulation and safety at the council, said "We aim to minimise the disruption to visitors to the crematorium grounds and Diamond Wood during the site works, but appreciate everyone's patience and understanding while we build a new cemetery to serve the borough for the future." The council has sole responsibility for the operation of Rainsbrook Cemetery, and owns all burial plots. To read the full article, please head to: [www.coventrytelegraph.net](http://www.coventrytelegraph.net)

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS



A scheme to make a crematorium more environmentally friendly by replacing gas cremators is set to progress. The current cremators at **Astwood Crematorium**, in Worcester, were installed in 1997 and are reaching the end of their operational life. Councillors will consider a report which suggests replacing the technology with two electric alternatives. If approved, the annual carbon saving could be equivalent to nearly 300 petrol powered cars. That figure would represent an 18% reduction of the council's calculated carbon footprint. Electricity purchased by the council is certified as zero-emission and from renewable sources. The council claims it will save an estimated £20,000 per year in energy costs by switching the crematorium to electric cremators supported by a new heating system that is also included in the proposals. The scheme is possible after the authority successfully bid for nearly £1.5m from the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**. The grant will be set off against the £5.5m capital cost of the scheme. To read the full story, please go to: [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

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### GOVERNMENT NEWS



Ministry  
of Justice

The Ministry of Justice has announced that the Cremation, Coroners and Notification of Deaths (England and Wales) (amendment) Regulations 2024 were laid before Parliament on 21st May 2024. These regulations – like the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death Regulations 2024 and The Medical Examiners (England) Regulations 2024 that were laid on 15th April 2024 – will come into effect on **9th September 2024**.

New guidance and new cremation forms will be published on 9th September at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cremation-forms-and-guidance>. Welsh versions of this guidance will be available through this link. As part of stakeholder engagement, the **Royal College of Pathologists** will be holding an information event on **11th June 2024**. Registration is now open for the free online event and you can register at: <https://www.rcpath.org/event/death-certification-reforms-legislation-update.html>

## GOVERNMENT NEWS



The Scottish Government launched a collection of public consultations on 25th August 2023 with proposals on different aspects of regulation of the funeral sector:

- Alkaline hydrolysis ('water cremation')
- Burial
- Inspection of burial, cremation and funeral directors
- Licensing of funeral directors.

The consultations closed on Friday 17 November 2023.

The consultations analysis reports for Alkaline hydrolysis and licensing of funeral directors are now available to view online.

- **[Regulation of Alkaline Hydrolysis in Scotland \(Water Cremation\)](#)**
- **[Funeral director licensing scheme for Scotland](#)**

The analyses of the consultations on inspection and burial will be published as soon as they are finalised.

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## CHARITY NEWS



**Down to Earth** is a UK-wide funeral costs support service. Thousands of individuals each year access our digital resources, designed to help people plan a meaningful funeral that is as affordable as possible. Meanwhile, we give one-to-one support to those in the greatest need.

After a year of development, the Down to Earth team are delighted to present the first online eligibility checker for the **Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment**.

**Funeral Expenses Payment Eligibility Checker**

Our new digital eligibility checker helps you quickly determine if you qualify for the Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment.

Visit our website to access the checker and get the support you need.

[quakersocialaction.org.uk/we-can-help/helping-funerals/down-earth](https://quakersocialaction.org.uk/we-can-help/helping-funerals/down-earth)

**NEW**

**DOWN TO EARTH**  
Practical support for people struggling with funeral costs

The graphic is a purple rectangular box with a teal triangle in the top right corner containing the word "NEW" in white. It features a central icon of a computer monitor with a checkmark on the screen. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for "DOWN TO EARTH" with a stylized figure of a person.

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Child Bereavement UK are offering free online training on bereavement awareness for crematorium staff and funeral directors. The training aims to provide valuable insights and practical strategies for supporting grieving families and equipping crematoria staff with the skills and confidence to offer compassionate and effective support. The one-hour training will take place online on the following dates:

Tuesday 25th June at 9am  
Thursday 18th July at 1pm



If you wish to participate, please sign up here:

**[Eventbrite-Bereavement Awareness Training for Crematorium Staff and Funeral Directors](#)**

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**The Farewell Flowers Directory**, the first online listing service to connect people to independent funeral florists offering natural, beautiful and compostable floral arrangements across the UK, was launched to coincide with **Dying Matters Awareness Week (6th-13th May)**. A positive, practical response to the huge issue of plastic waste in funeral floristry, The Farewell Flowers Directory is on a mission to change the world of funeral flowers one compostable arrangement at a time. By demonstrating just how beautiful naturally designed funeral flowers can be without the use of floral foam or single use plastic, The Farewell Flowers Directory aims to change perceptions of funeral floristry and get the plastic out of funeral flowers for good.

**The Farewell Flowers Directory** is the brainchild of **Gill Hodgson** of Fieldhouse Flowers in Yorkshire and founder of **Flowers from the Farm** and of florist and funeral floristry tutor, **Carole Patilla** of **Tuckshop Flowers** in Birmingham. Shocked by the levels of waste single-use plastics and floral foam cleared every year from UK cemeteries, they have set about making positive change happen. Every florist listed in The Farewell Flowers Directory and wanting to be part of the change commits to offering the option of fully compostable funeral flowers, incorporating an element of British-grown material into their designs, being transparent about the provenance of their cut material and showcasing their compostable designs on a dedicated funeral flowers page on their website.

For more information, please visit:

[www.farewellflowers.co.uk](http://www.farewellflowers.co.uk)



## Current advertisers in **Pharos International**



**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.



**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.



**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.



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

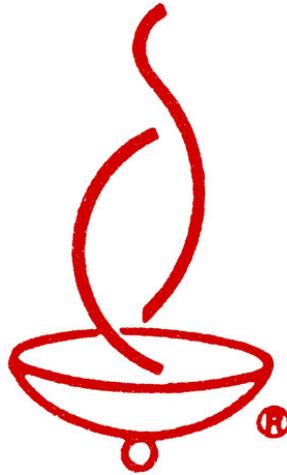
 A large, faint watermark of a crematorium bowl is visible in the background. The anniversary logo features the number "150" in a large, bold, black font, with a small red flame icon inside the zero. Below the number is a horizontal line, and underneath that is the year "1874-2024" in a smaller, black font.

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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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