



THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



Funeral Expenses Payment increase

The Government has announced the first increase in the Funeral Expenses Payment since 2003. For more details, please see page six.

Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society

This month saw many of you hosting or taking part in Remembrance services to acknowledge and remember the lives of those lost in conflicts over the years. Thank you to all those individuals, organisations and crematoria who organised and held services to enable the public to show their respect.





CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

We are pleased to announce that you are now able to order any of our **publications** via our website, using our **new online order form**. We hope that this will make the process easier for anyone wishing to order from us.

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DIRECTORY OF CREMATORIA 2019 EDITION

Our annual **Directory of Crematoria** is now available to **purchase**. Please **click here to order your copy online**.

The Directory is considered to be the 'go-to' source of information on crematoria in Great Britain.

The Directory contains:

- full details on crematoria in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland including details of ownership, full contact details, chapel capacity, largest acceptable coffin sizes, disabled facilities etc.
- statistics on the progress of cremation in the United Kingdom since 1885
- proposed crematoria (whether public or private)
- facts and figures; cremation comparisons
- table of cremations (showing number of cremations carried out in each crematorium for previous year and since opening)
- building cost, architects information
- guidance on the siting and planning of crematoria

The Directory comes in a choice of red, blue or black binder or as an insert only. Over 100 pages of information checked and updated annually, this publication is invaluable for anyone associated with or interested in the cremation movement.

Price: £37.00 each incl. red, black or blue binder and p+p; £33.00 each insert only incl. p+p; £8.00 binder only incl. p+p



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS

A reserved matters application for plans to build a new crematorium on green belt land in **New Milton** has been submitted to New Forest District Council by **Westerleigh Group**. New Milton Town Council's Planning Committee will discuss the application in a public meeting on 21st November 2019. Westerleigh Group commented that its vision is 'to provide a high-quality crematorium', adding: 'Its development has been driven by the desire to create a building which has been designed to complement and enhance the character of the local area'. For more on this development, please read the **Advertiser & Times article**.

Breckland Council's planning department has requested further information before deciding on an application for a new crematorium on land in **Weeting**. Despite concerns about the build, the applicant **Dignity** has said the new facilities are 'much-needed' and would be closer for 110,000 mourners than the existing crematorium in Bury St Edmunds. For more on this development, please visit the **Thetford and Brandon Times website**.

Bradford Council has unveiled plans for its proposed new £9.1 million crematorium on land at **Heaton**. The crematorium will replace the existing Nab Wood Crematorium which the Council says is operating beyond its working life. The Council also confirmed that they were proceeding with a compulsory purchase order for land near Northcliffe Golf Club. It is anticipated that the planning application will be submitted in around three months time. For more on this development, please read the **Telegraph & Argus article**.





CREMATORIA NEWS

An appeal has been lodged by **Westerleigh Group** following **Shropshire Council's** refusal of an application for planning permission to develop a new crematorium on land between **Shrewsbury** and **Oswestry**. The application was refused at a meeting of the Council's Planning Committee in July. The appeal will now be considered by the Planning Inspectorate. For more details on the appeal, please read the **Shropshire Star article**.

The construction of **West Lindsey District Council's** new crematorium in **Lea**, near Gainsborough, is almost complete. **Lea Fields Crematorium** is in the final stages of construction and is on track to open its doors in the New Year. The Crematorium's Manager, Deborah Balsdon, who was recruited earlier this year said: "It's lovely to see this bespoke building coming together, which we know will offer comfort to local people." You can read more on the new crematorium on the **Gainsborough Standard website**.

A temporary chapel has been proposed for **Lincoln's** 50-year-old crematorium while the site undergoes a multi-million pound refurbishment of its main building and grounds. The temporary chapel will consist of a large service hall with associated entry, waiting, coffin, vestry and music rooms. Temporary cabins outside the main marquee will provide reception, office, storage, toilets and a book of remembrance. Funeral services will be held in the temporary chapel during this time with access and parking remaining the same. For more information, please read the **Lincolnite article**.

CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans for a new crematorium in **Dunmow**, Essex have been approved (with conditions) by **Uttlesford District Council**. The application by **Michael Walsh** of Blatches Farmhouse includes a single chapel, 57 parking spaces and cremator with full abatement equipment. You can view the planning documents and decision notice on the **Uttlesford District Council website**.

GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Government has announced an increase in the amount paid under its **Funeral Expenses Payments** scheme. From Spring 2020, the maximum amount families can claim will increase from £700 to £1,000, the first increase since 2003. Announcing the change, Minister for Welfare Delivery, Will Quince said: 'Planning a funeral can be incredibly distressing, and this payment will help lighten the financial burden on families during a difficult time'. You can read the full Press Release on the **Gov.uk website**.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR NEWS

UK funeral directors are being urged to ensure the coffins they supply are formally accredited in a bid to protect the public from potentially inferior products. Alun Tucker, Chief Executive of the **Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association (FFMA)**, said the growing range of online and direct sales meant families couldn't always be certain of coffins meeting the requirements of crematoria.

The FFMA has developed a universally-recognised accreditation scheme, the Test Protocol, and ensures coffins are accepted at sites across the UK. From 1st January 2020, City of Belfast Crematorium will only accept FFMA-accredited coffins. The FFMA hope that other sites will follow their practice.





INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Following years of delay, the construction of **Faro's** long-awaited crematorium, has finally begun. It is expected that the crematorium could be operational by September 2020. The crematorium involves a €1.1 million investment covered in full by funeral agency Servilusa. For more information on this development, please read the **Portugal Resident article**.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Cremation Society Council member and former Chairman, **Reverend Dr Peter Jupp** has been given a lifetime achievement award by the **Association for the Study of Death in Society (ASDS)**. His award for 'Outstanding Career Contributions to the Social Sciences in the Field of Death Studies' was conferred during the 14th international conference on The Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal (the DDD conference) in September. The award was presented by President of the ASDS and recently-appointed Chair of The Cremation Society, Professor Hilary Grainger OBE. To read the full article, please visit the **School of Divinity article**.



STOP PRESS...!

Bob Tomes, senior account manager at Oxfordshire-based Colourful Coffins, has been elected President of the **Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association** (FFMA). The election took place at the group's AGM on Friday November 15 and sees Bob replace Adam Masters, who has held the FFMA Presidency for the past two years.

Bob's Presidential year is underway and during his time in office, he aims to continue the reforming work of his predecessor. He said: "I aim to continue Adam's work, growing the membership and ensuring the FFMA goes from strength to strength in its role of representing funeral profession suppliers by showcasing best practice. We also want to help members to meet the challenges of a changing profession in areas such as regulation, the environment, and funeral trends."

For more news on this appointment, please visit the **FFMA website**.



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