



# THE CREMATION SOCIETY

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



## **Miriam Deacon - Newsletter Editor Chief Executive of The Cremation Society**

It has been another busy month for us at The Cremation Society. We are about to publish the Autumn issue of our quarterly journal, ***Pharos International***, which includes the presentation given by Professor Douglas Davies at this year's CBCE. I am sure those who attended will agree it was a highly engaging and thought-provoking paper. If you would like to receive ***Pharos International***, please see page two for more details.

We are also pleased to announce that we are holding a **one-day seminar in Belfast** in November. We will be addressing a number of topical issues that face the burial and cremation sector in Northern Ireland. You can see details of the seminar on page three.

## Welcome to The Cremation Society's Monthly News Review

### CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS

We will shortly be publishing the Autumn issue of our quarterly journal, *Pharos International*. The Autumn issue includes:

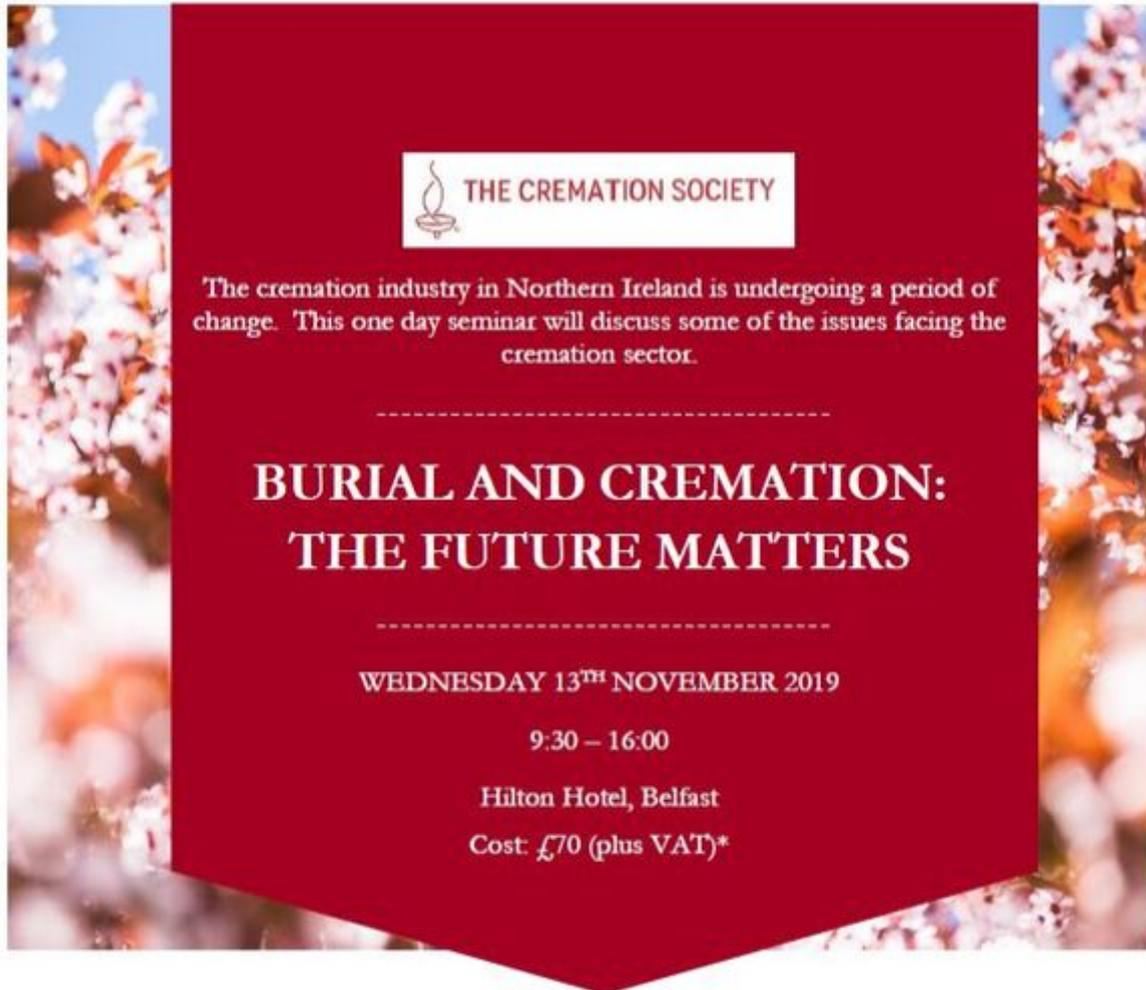
- 'Exploring the phenomenon of direct cremation' - article by Dr Brian Parsons
- 'Funeral Transformations: Processing Bodies, Marking Lives' - paper given by Professor Douglas Davies at CBCE 2019
- 'The Evolution of the British Funeral Industry in the 20th Century : from Undertaker to Funeral Director' - book review
- 'Cremation in Argentina: Past, Present and Future' - article by The Asociación de Crematorios de la República Argentina
- Cremation Society News
- Proposed crematoria updates
- Many more articles, book reviews and other updates

For information on **how to subscribe to *Pharos International*** or to purchase a single issue, please visit our website.





## CREMATION SOCIETY NEWS



Funerals are changing dramatically, and Northern Ireland is not immune to this. Increased demands for greater choice, a gradual movement away from the ‘traditional’ ceremony, and the growing debate around the environmental impact of funerals will influence burial and cremation here in the future. As calls increase for cremation to be more widely available, we will discuss both the challenges and opportunities that this presents.

The **one-day seminar** will also cover new methods of bodily disposal entering the funeral scene; new technologies; and will address the green burial debate.

For more details on the speakers and to book your place, please **visit our website**.

## NEWS REVIEW

### CREMATORIA NEWS

Plans for the demolition and rebuilding of **Oakworth Crematorium** have been approved. The plans for the site will see over £2.75 million spent on upgrading the crematorium including installing more environmentally friendly cremator equipment, a 'winter garden' area and an improved layout. Bradford Council said the designs are expected to be completed later this year and construction will go out for tender before Christmas. For more details, please read the **Telegraph & Argus article**.

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Plans for a new crematorium in **Lathockar, St Andrews, Fife**, submitted by **BLF Properties**, have been approved by Fife Council. Full details of the plans can be found on Fife Council's website by searching under the application number 19/00546/FULL

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**Mortonhall Crematorium**, run by Edinburgh City Council, have launched a virtual tour of their building, in order to de-mystify the process of cremation. Viewers can also view the tour using their own virtual reality goggles. Robbie Beattie, Scientific Bereavement and Registration Services Senior Manager, said: 'There are quite a few misconceptions about funerals and cremations, and we want to demystify that'. You can read more on this service, on the **Edinburgh News website**.

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Proposals to build a new crematorium have been unveiled by **Hambleton District Council** leaders. Leader of the Council, Councillor Mark Robson, said that approval for the scheme will be sought from members in September. For more details, please read the **Minster FM article**.

## CREMATORIA NEWS

**Cornwall Council** have responded to a pre-application advice request for a proposed crematorium facility at land near Poundstock, Bude. The request, submitted by Mr Howard Smith, received the Council's response which includes a number of issues that require the provision of demonstrable evidence, including quantitative and qualitative need. For more information and to see details of how you can view the full application, please see the **Bude and Beyond website**.

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**Watford Borough Council** is seeking a team to design a £5 million crematorium at Bunkers Hill in Hemel Hempstead. The crematorium will be constructed on a rural greenfield plot next to the Bunkers Park Open Space and will feature a 100-120 seat single-storey chapel, a music room, reception, a waiting room, and parking for up to 120 vehicles. For more details on how to submit a bid, please visit the **Architects Journal website**.

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A service of dedication of **The Vale Crematorium**, Pershore took place on Tuesday 10th September and was well attended by local funeral directors, clergy, funeral celebrants and senior representatives of professional organisations from the bereavement sector. The service of dedication was led by The Right Reverend Robert Paterson, Honorary Assistant Bishop of Worcester. James Willis, the CEO of the Westerleigh Group thanked all those involved in the planning and development over the past four years and made special mention of the dedicated staff at the Crematorium.



## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

The Scottish Government has published a report by the outgoing **Inspector of Funeral Directors, Natalie McKail**, on the **introduction of a regulatory model, including Progressive Licensing Scheme** for funeral directors in Scotland. Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing, Joe FitzPatrick said: 'The Scottish Government understands that the public want reassurance that their loved ones continue to receive respectful and dignified care after death in an environment that is fit-for-purpose. Standards may already be high in many funeral directors' businesses, but the introduction of regulation for the first time, such as licensing and a statutory code of practice, will ensure bereaved families have peace of mind whichever business they choose.' You can access the report on the **Scottish Government website**.

Report to Scottish Ministers  
on the introduction of a  
regulatory model including  
Progressive Licensing scheme  
for Funeral Directors in  
Scotland

August 2019



A new benefit aimed at providing financial support to help with bereavement costs, will be made available from 16 September 2019. The Scottish Government announced that its new **Funeral Support Payment** will replace the DWP Funeral Expense Payment for people living in Scotland. People will be able to apply over the phone, by post or online for the first time. And, once Social Security Scotland is fully operational, face-to-face pre-application support will be available across the country. For more details on the benefit and what it will cover, please read the **Scottish Government's Press release**.

## FUNERAL DIRECTOR NEWS

Scotland's first not-for-profit funeral directors, **Caledonia Cremation**, have announced that they have reached a milestone of saving Scottish families £500,000 in funeral costs. The social enterprise was launched in February 2018. Paul McColgan, CEO, said: 'Since launching, we have assisted families the length and breadth of Scotland and I'm delighted to say that many of those clients have been prevented from facing the additional strain of debt at one of the most difficult times they will ever face.' For more on this story, please visit the **North Edinburgh News website**.

Co-op Funeralcare have published a report on the changing face of funeral arrangements. In their report, '**Burying Traditions: The Changing Face of UK Funerals**', they 'look at the ways UK mourners are saying goodbye to the traditional funeral and turning towards more personalised ways of celebrating the lives of their loved ones'. There are some interesting statistics and the Press coverage of the report will undoubtedly prompt more discussions amongst the public on the subject of funeral arrangements. You can read the **full report on the Co-op website**.

## RESOMATION NEWS

**Resomation** are holding an open day on **Thursday 26 September 2019**. To find out more information on the process, view a Resomation system and find out the latest about water cremation in the UK, please visit the **Resomation website**.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Labour MP Rosianne Cutajar**, who spearheaded the passing of cremation law in **Malta**, has said people are 'already pulling themselves out of promise of sale agreements on graves because they saw a viable alternative in cremation.' She added that the construction of the crematorium would be likely to cost the government no more than €1.5 million. Other ancillary services such as the mortuary would add up to that expense. Cutajar announced that various consultants were being hired by the government to propose the best way forward in the construction of the crematorium. The cabinet will eventually scrutinise the findings of the consultants and move ahead with either a public-private partnership form or by issuing tenders. You can read more on the **Malta Today website**.



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**County Louth** could see the development of its first crematorium after plans were submitted to Louth County Council. The plans propose the new development on the Racecourse Road, Dowdallshill in Dundalk. The development will include a ceremonial space, viewing area, cold rooms and a car park. You can read the article on the **LMFM News website**.



## DIRECTORY OF CREMATORIA 2019 EDITION

Our annual **Directory of Crematoria** is now available to pre-order.

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 crematoria for previous year and since opening)
- building cost, architects information
- guidance on the siting and planning of crematoria

The 2019 edition of the **Directory of Crematoria** will be available from the end of October. The Directory is produced in a clear, concise, easy-to-use A4 hard-copy format. It 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.

Please **click here to email us** for more details or to **pre-order your copy now**.



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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