



We are pleased to bring you the Cremation Society's news review for February 2025, which we hope will help you to stay abreast of news and developments from across the cremation sector. Looking ahead, 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 now also find The Cremation Society on [BlueSky](#).



News in this issue includes updates on:

- Major upgrade to Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium
- National building award for Lelley Fields Crematorium
- Work on a £9m crematorium and pet cemetery at Mepal could soon begin
- Birmingham Crematorium is set to begin an important upgrade project
- Worcester City Council submit proposal for “greenest crematorium in the West Midlands”.
- Third attempt to build crematorium in Thurrock is launched



CBCE 2025

Join sector leaders and key speakers at the Cremation and Burial Communication and Education (CBCE) 2025 conference, the premier event for professionals in the cremation and burial sector.

There is also an opportunity to grow your network and visit the exhibition to discuss the latest products and services with all the leading sector providers.

CBCE 2025 will take place in Southampton from Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th June 2025.

Flexible delegate packages are available to accommodate all budgets

Registration Open

Book your place today www.cbce.org.uk

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NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium is embarking on a major upgrade to enhance its facilities and significantly boost environmental sustainability. Work is set to begin early this year and involves the introduction of cutting-edge technology to improve energy efficiency and further reduce emissions. A key aspect of the project is the installation of a state-of-the-art cremator and an advanced filtration system, which will reduce gas consumption by 70%. These upgrades will allow the crematorium to maintain its high standards of care while significantly reducing its environmental footprint. The crematorium will remain fully operational throughout the upgrade process, with all services continuing as usual. Jayne Pearce, Business Leader at Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium, said: “Our priority has always been to provide compassionate care to the families we serve. I want to reassure everyone that all services will be unaffected, and all work will be carried out behind the scenes.” Alongside infrastructure improvements, Lancaster & Morecambe Crematorium continues to champion community-driven environmental initiatives. Recent projects include the installation of two working beehives in partnership with the North West Beekeepers Association, the planting of fruit trees to establish a small orchard, and the development of two wildflower gardens to promote local biodiversity. These projects contributed to the site’s recent Gold award at the North West Britain in Bloom competition, reflecting the crematorium’s long-term commitment to environmental responsibility. To read the full article, please go to the: [Lancashire Post’s website](#)

Lelley Fields Crematorium in Preston, Holderness, has won a national building award. Opened in February 2022, the £9.6m state-of-the-art crematorium was named the Best Public or Community Building at the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards, held in London. The prestigious annual awards honour the top public sector constructions and individuals in the UK, and the important role played by council building control teams. The award recognised Lelley Fields Crematorium for its surroundings, beautifully planted grounds, the natural materials used in its construction and for providing an ‘important service to the local rural community’. The awards highlight the key role of public sector building control teams in ensuring the safety, quality, and sustainability of building projects, showcasing the sector’s commitment to excellence and innovation. To read the complete article, please go to: www.eastriding.gov.uk

Work on a £9m crematorium and pet cemetery at **Mepal** near Chatteris could begin in June, East Cambridgeshire District Council has revealed. The council will now identify a “preferred supplier to refine the costs and opportunities for value engineering”. A report from **Isabel Edgar**, director of operations at East Cambs Council, says bringing in the preferred supplier early will also reduce the amount of risk contingency. Ms Edgar expects a final cost to be submitted by April 4th and she anticipates a start on site on June 16th. Currently, the final tendered costs are due to be considered by council on 22nd May 2025. The plan for Mepal covers the 32-acre site of the former Mepal Outdoor Centre and is described as a “district bereavement centre, consisting of a crematorium and modular function room with associated natural burial and pet cemetery facilities”. Construction must start by late October of 2025 otherwise planning permission will expire. To read the complete article, please head to: www.cambsnews.co.uk

Worcester City Council has submitted a proposal to build the “greenest crematorium in the West Midlands”. The application for a major refurbishment of Worcester Crematorium would see the Astwood Road site installed with two electric cremators and a heat recovery system, to re-use energy from the new cremators to warm the building. Other features include a new thermally-improved roof, a refurbishment of the chapel, a new chapel garden with a Japanese theme, landscaping improvements to boost biodiversity and electric charging points. The scheme is set to receive a £1.4 million grant awarded through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The application will be considered by Worcester City Council’s planning committee in the coming weeks. If planning permission is approved, the target start date for the refurbishment work will be August. It will last for around nine months, during which time the crematorium building will be closed.

For the full article, please visit: www.thebusinessdesk.com.

East London Crematorium is set to embark on an important improvement project at the end of this month. The planned project will focus on the installation of advanced filtration systems to reduce emissions and gas consumption by up to 70%, reinforcing the crematorium’s commitment to environmentally responsible practices. The work will ensure long-term sustainability and will be implemented behind the scenes to ensure no disruption to services. East London Crematorium is part of Dignity, and this environmental upgrade forms a key part of Dignity’s nationwide initiative to enhance sustainability while upholding the highest standards of care. To read the full article, please head to: www.londonworld.com

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



The Cremation Society

Plans have been unveiled to build a crematorium in **Thurrock** - the third attempt in recent years. In October last year an application to build one behind Wick Place Cottage on the A128 Brentwood Road near Orsett, submitted by MMD Developments Ltd, was rejected by Thurrock Council's planning committee. And, in October 2021 a bid to incorporate a crematorium alongside a private hospital, GP surgery and a specialist family care facility in Bulphan was also vetoed. Hoping to make it third time lucky with an application on green belt land in Orsett is crematoria operator **Elegy Limited**. Thurrock doesn't currently have a crematorium and bereaved families have to travel to Basildon or South Essex Crematorium near Upminster. Elegy will be consulting with residents on their plans to build at a location that "meets stringent national requirements for crematoria". The chapel would seat 100 people and hold just four to five funerals per day, enabling better spacing between services and a less rushed experience for bereaved families. A minimum of one hour will be allowed for each service in "state-of-the-art facilities". The proposals include extensive new planting of trees, flowers, hedgerows, shrubs and a wildflower meadow." For the complete article, please go to: www.thurrock.nub.news.

Birmingham Crematorium is set to begin an important upgrade project this month, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability while continuing to deliver the highest standards of care to the community. The project will introduce cutting-edge cremation technology to enhance energy efficiency, with key upgrades including a new cremator and an advanced filtration system. These improvements will reduce gas consumption by up to 70%, further supporting the crematorium's dedication to sustainable operations. The upgrades will take place behind the scenes, ensuring that all services continue as normal with no disruption. **Leon Evans**, Business Leader at Birmingham Crematorium, said: "These planned improvements are not just about sustainability—they're about ensuring that we continue to provide families with the support and care they expect from us, now and in the future. We're working hard to implement the changes with minimal disruption, and I'd like to reassure everyone that our services will remain unaffected throughout the process." Birmingham Crematorium is one of 45 crematoria in the Dignity network undergoing similar projects. To read the complete article, please go to: www.birminghamworld.co.uk

NEWS REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



The first presentation of 2025 went to Margam Crematorium, the first in Wales to receive the Trusted Crematorium GGFS Bronze Award. Clive Phillips, Superintendent and Registrar and the team have been doing fantastic work to deliver a more sustainable service to their local community. A key initiative has been to work with their cremator supplier, Facultatieve Technologies, developing and adopting the latest products to reduce gas consumption, resulting in a decrease in the production of carbon and saving in fuel costs.

For further information contact Brendan@ggfs.co.uk



COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025

A UK-wide Day of Reflection will take place on Sunday 9th March 2025

The COVID-19 Day of Reflection is one of the ten recommendations set out by the UK Commission on Covid Commemoration.

To mark the fifth anniversary of the pandemic, people across the UK are invited to come together to remember and reflect on this unique period of our history as well as their own experiences.

The day will be an opportunity for the public to remember and commemorate those who lost their lives during the pandemic, reflect on the sacrifices made and the impact on our daily lives, and pay tribute to the work of health and social care staff, frontline workers, researchers and all those who volunteered and showed acts of kindness during this unprecedented time.

The UK Commission on Covid Commemoration, headed by Baroness Morgan of Cotes, worked with bereaved families to find appropriate ways to remember those who lost their lives during the pandemic. It presented its recommendations in September 2023, including that an annual UK-wide Day of Reflection should be established.

For more information, please visit <https://dayofreflection.campaign.gov.uk/>



NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thessaloniki is set to host the second crematorium in the country following the publication of the relevant presidential decree in the Government Gazette authorizing its construction.

The degree provides for the establishment of a crematorium and associated facilities in the city's first cemetery

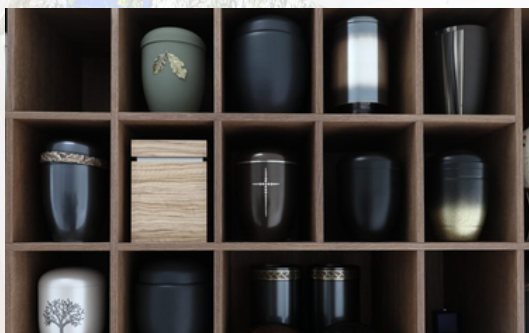
“The publication in the Government Gazette of the approval of the zoning plan for the location of the crematorium frees our hands to immediately carry out all the necessary procedures required and proceed as soon as possible with the issuing of the expression of interest for the construction of the crematorium,” Thessaloniki Mayor Stelios Angeloudis said.

The mayor added that after “years of stagnation,” the city was “taking the first and most decisive step to secure the – self-evident – right of every person of make a free choice” as regards burial or cremation.

In 2019, the country's first crematorium opened in Ritsona, in Viotia, 15 years after cremations were legalized in Greece.

Cremation is opposed by the Orthodox Church of Greece, which says the practice equates to the “desecration of the dead.”

To read the full article, please go to: www.ekathimerini.com



NEWS REVIEW

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The first crematorium in Cyprus is set to open in Paphos by 2026. According to a press release, Golden Leaves Cyprus Crematorium Limited will construct the €4 million facility in the Agia Varvara area, offering cremation services from €900, excluding funeral home fees and additional services.

The 17,575-square-metre site will include a 1,012-square-metre facility featuring two service chapels with capacity for up to 200 people, memorial gardens, and columbaria.

The project, which has received environmental approval, will use modern European cremation technology with minimal emissions, continuous monitoring systems, and eco-friendly management options including biodegradable urns.

The two-storey facility will incorporate solar technology and rainwater harvesting systems. The ground floor will house reception areas, offices, and wake facilities, whilst the basement will contain preparation rooms, cremators, and an ashes chapel.

UK-based Benchmark Architects and local firm Vefeades & Vefeades architects will design the facility, using local materials and construction specialists.

The crematorium aims to address practical challenges in Cyprus, where burial space is limited and traditional funeral costs are rising. It will also serve the expatriate community, who currently must travel abroad for cremation services.

Cyprus passed legislation permitting cremation in April 2016. Golden Leaves Ltd, the parent company established in 1984, brings extensive funeral sector experience to the project.

To read the full article, please go to: <https://in-cyprus.philenews.com/>



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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.



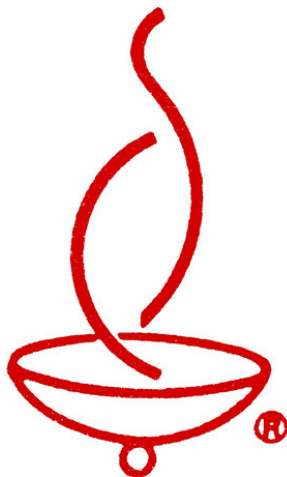
Treske - one of the UK's leading makers and suppliers of bespoke crematorium furniture and soft furnishings.

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