



The Cremation Society

Rooted in history: committed to the future



The annual table of cremations for 2023 covering all crematoria across the UK, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, is now available to view on [our website](#). Thank you to all those who provided this information. The full results of our annual crematoria survey will be published in the dedicated statistics issue of **Pharos International** which can be purchased via our [website](#).

News in this issue includes updates on:

- The Scottish Governments’ inspection of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors Consultation Analysis Report
- National Medical Examiner Update
- The closure of Linn Crematorium for renovation
- Improvements at Houndwood Crematorium
- Dedication service at Mercia Forest Crematorium

TABLE OF CREMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE BRITISH ISLANDS 2023						
Crematorium	2023		Total Sites Opening	Cremations Total 2023	January 2023	February 2023
	Jan 2023	Dec 2023				
ENGLAND	1,060	1,245	10,476	60,075	6,000	6,000
London	1,060	1,245	10,476	60,075	6,000	6,000
SCOTLAND	2,324	2,290	18,708	62,023	6,000	6,000
Glasgow	1,768	1,770	16,900	57,000	5,800	5,800
Edinburgh	1,372	1,270	10,300	47,000	4,800	4,800
Other Scotland (Inverclyde)	1,884	2,490	11,508	42,023	4,400	4,400
WALES	1,260	1,280	10,200	41,000	4,000	4,000
Cardiff	1,260	1,280	10,200	41,000	4,000	4,000
ISLE OF MAN	1,000	1,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
CHANNEL ISLANDS	1,000	1,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Guernsey	1,000	1,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Jersey	1,000	1,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
TOTAL	6,644	7,810	69,584	223,101	22,000	22,000





CBCE 2024



We were delighted to welcome delegates, exhibitors and sponsors to this year's CBCE at The Winter Gardens in Blackpool, with our joint conference colleagues at the FBCA. We welcomed international delegates who added an extra element of interest to the speaker programme and we were pleased to be able to provide the true Blackpool 'experience' with a trip to the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Another successful CBCE and we look forward to bringing you news of next year's event very soon.





We were delighted to be able to support Child Bereavement UK at this year's CBCE Banquet charity raffle. Thanks to our generous banquet attendees and thanks to Westerleigh Group, we raised a marvellous £3,000. Thanks to all who generously donated!

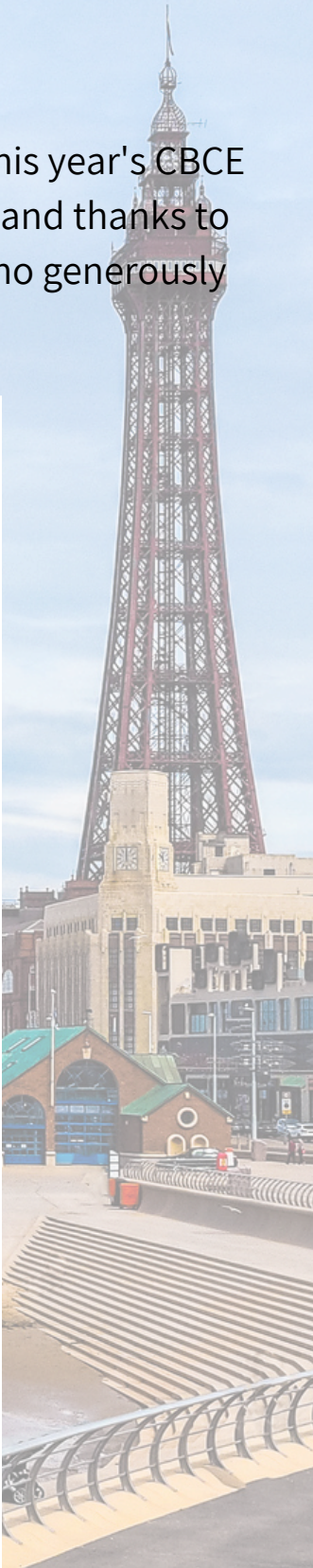
Thank you!

CBCE Conference
for raising
£3,000.00
In aid of Child Bereavement UK

Your support helps us to be there for bereaved families for as long as they need it.

Siblings Calayla, Nathan, Ismael and Carmine were supported by Child Bereavement UK after their mother died.

www.childbereavementuk.org



NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



The Cremation Society

Linn Crematorium, operated by Glasgow City Council, will shut to the public on July 15th to allow renovation work to start. More services will be held each day at the council's other crematorium, Daldowie, during the closure. Cllr Ruairi Kelly, SNP, convener for neighbourhood services and assets, said the council is "very sorry for any inconvenience" caused by the work." He said memorial gardens — which can't be accessed while the refurbishment is carried out — will be protected. The crematorium is expected to reopen in October, although some work on other parts of the complex will continue. Electrical and heating systems within the B-listed building will be upgraded, while St Mungo's and St Giles' chapels and public areas are set to be redecorated. Books of Remembrance will still be available for viewing at the office for Linn Cemetery. The number of daily services at Daldowie — which recently underwent renovation — will be increased to help manage the closure of Linn, and funeral directors have been advised of the change. Cllr Kelly said: "These are essential works that will make a significant difference to the quality of the facilities at Linn Crematorium. Facilities at our Daldowie Crematorium have been greatly improved by recent renovation work and we are confident we will see a similar improvement at Linn Crematorium once these works are complete." To read the complete article, please head to: [the Glasgow Times website.](#)

A £5.5 million scheme to upgrade Worcester's crematorium has been backed by the city council. Councillors voted unanimously to replace **Astwood Crematorium's** three gas-powered cremators with two modern electric furnaces at a full council meeting on July 9th. Cllr Louis Stephen said the current cremators are 27 years old and won't comply with environmental legislation if they are not replaced and are "a major cause of CO2 emissions". The works are set to start in **May 2025** and will take around nine months to finish, during which time the crematorium will be closed - although the cemetery as a whole will remain open. Cllr Jabba Riaz said it was a "huge investment" in the city and was not only a big step towards the "elusive net zero" but showed the council's commitment to bereavement services. He said the cemetery will remain open for burials, adding: "It will just be a slightly different way of working. The key for us is managing that user experience while the cremating facility is down so that visitors have access to their loved ones to pay their respects in a dignified manner." For the full article, please go to: [the Worcester News website.](#)

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



A new crematorium could be built at a 9 acre site just west of Eastington. One of the UK's largest independent owners and operators of crematoria and cemeteries proposes to build a brand-new facility in Stroud district. Westerleigh Group, which operates 40 sites in England, Scotland and Wales, says it intends to submit a planning application to Stroud District Council in the coming weeks for a new crematorium on a 9.2-acre site just west of Eastington, Stroud, and south of Gloucester, along the A38. A spokesperson for the company said: "The site has been carefully chosen to be accessible to families within Stroud and the wider Gloucestershire area while at the same time providing a beautiful, secluded, and tranquil setting. The location of the site and the design of the modest chapel building, coupled with its natural screening, minimises any visual impact of the proposal on the local communities." The development has been designed with the environment and sustainability in mind and the proposed crematorium will be one of the most environmentally friendly crematoria in the UK. To read the full article, please go to: [**the Wilts & Gloucestershire website.**](#)

A planning application submitted to **Scottish Borders Council** (SBC) for a series of improvements at **Houndwood Crematorium** has now been rubber-stamped. The crematorium is located within the category B-listed former Houndwood Church, at Houndwood in East Berwickshire. The application sought planning permission to install new 1,400mm high coolers within the fenced enclosure to the rear of the listed building. The work will involve the installation of a new filtration system, the replacement of external coolers and alterations to a wall to allow the new filtration system the space to function. Houndwood Crematorium opened to the public in March 2015 and now has its own Garden of Remembrance where visitors can enjoy the solitude and reflect. Facilities also include a chapel with seating for 120 people. A report with the application said the proposed changes were "essential in the businesses function and statutory obligations to meet standards". To read the article, please visit: [**the Border Telegraph website.**](#)

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



Building work on the new **Maldon Fields crematorium** is progressing smoothly, with the foundations now set and internal roads laid. While Maldon Fields will provide the choice of direct cremation, its Managing Director Richard Evans wants to make holding a dignified funeral and cremation service the natural choice for the bereaved: "Families need to be given the chance to have a traditional funeral service again – where they can individually design the funeral in a place where there is space, time and a beautiful setting close to home, surrounded by friends and family." The proposals for the crematorium include a two-storey crematorium building with a ceremonial hall, memorial garden and access from the A14. Results of a survey carried out by Elegy in 2021 indicated that over nine out of ten residents believe there is a need for a new crematorium to serve the district. To read the full article, please go to: [the Maldon Nub News website](#)

A special service has taken place to formally dedicate one of the most environmentally-friendly crematoriums in the country to the communities it serves. **Mercia Forest Crematorium** opened in July 2023 to serve the communities of Walsall, Wolverhampton, Cannock and surrounding areas. Westerleigh Group's tradition is to dedicate a new crematorium to its community in the presence of funeral directors, celebrants, members of the clergy and senior representatives from many organisations within the bereavement sector, usually about 12 months after its opening. Mercia Forest Crematorium Manager **Joanne Taylor** said: "We're very pleased to have hosted this special event and dedicated our beautiful crematorium to the communities we serve."



NATIONAL MEDICAL EXAMINER UPDATE



The latest update by National Medical Examiner, **Dr Alan Fletcher**, has been published and can be read on the [NHS England website](#).

Topics covered in the update include:

- Receiving the new medical certificate of cause of death
- Change to the attending practitioner criteria for medical certificate of cause of death
- Good practice series – maternal deaths
- Access to patient records
- Communications



GOVERNMENT NEWS



Inspection of Burial, Cremation and Funeral Directors Consultation Analysis Report

The Scottish Government held a collection of public consultations between 25th August and 17th November 2023 on proposals for different aspects of regulation of the funeral sector. The consultation analysis report for the inspection of burial, cremation and funeral directors is now available to view online. More information and links to the alkaline hydrolysis ('water cremation'), licensing of funeral directors, and burial regulations reports, can be found by visiting this blog:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-governments-consultation-burial-authorities-cremation-authorities-funeral-directors-statutory-inspection-regime-scotland/>

More than 100 teddy bears have been donated by Swindon Borough Council staff to give out to children who have lost a close relative. The bears will be offered at funerals at **Kingsdown Crematorium** by the council's Bereavement Services team for the children to keep and take home with them.

The teddies will also be adorned with ribbons for **Wiltshire Treehouse**, a Swindon-based charity supporting childhood bereavement. The project follows the council's participation in Wiltshire Treehouse's 'Week to Remember' campaign as part of National Children's Grief Awareness Week last November. Throughout the week on social media, a teddy named Angel promoted various aspects of bereavement services to raise awareness of childhood bereavement.

After seeing the impact Angel had on children attending funerals at the time, Bereavement Services officer **Zoe Fennell** took the idea one step further. Zoe said: "The aim is to provide a bear for a child that is finding coming into the chapel emotionally overwhelming, in the hope this will give them something to focus their thoughts on and help them to sit through the service while cuddling their gift. The bear may also provide a great deal of comfort in the time that follows. After appealing to council colleagues, as well as friends and family, we finally have plenty of bears to launch the service and we hope it will be a big help to those children who have to go through a terrible loss."

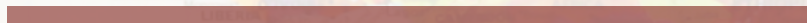
Cllr Chris Watts, Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport, said: "What Zoe and the team are doing in the team is amazing. I'm so proud to have such caring staff working at the Council and I can't thank them and those who donated the teddies enough. To read more, head to:

<https://swindonlink.com/news/bearsdonation/>





Brussels officials have unveiled a new crematorium in the north of the capital. Situated at the entrance of **Evere** and **Schaerbeek** cemeteries, opposite Brussels cemetery, the new facility adds to the previously limited offering solely provided by the Uccle crematorium in the south. The project was twenty years in the making and was finally completed after a three-year construction period. It required an investment of around €9.2 million, with €2.8 million subsidised by the Brussels Region. The new crematorium houses two furnaces in its basement that comply with energy conservation and pollution control standards. The building design allows for a third furnace to be installed if needed. Its' layout is designed to guide grieving families through each section in a logical sequence, to aid their mourning process. The ceremonial rooms, flooded with natural light, each open towards a secluded patio, maintaining the location's privacy. A large gathering hall, which can be combined with the reception into one space if need be, accommodates larger assemblies. On the conclusion of the ceremony, families have the option to exit the premises or go to a family area or cafeteria. A private lounge has been set up, as well as a more flexible room designed to provide a meeting place for the ceremony master to converse with families. The inauguration was attended by Brussels Minister-President Rudi Vervoort (PS), Brussels Minister of Local Authorities Bernard Clerfayt (DéFi), the Chairman of the Board of Cremabru intermunicipal company, Fabian Maingain (DéFi), and its management team. For the full article, please go to: the **Brussels Times website**.



Malta will be once again returning to the **London Design Biennale**, in 2025, with the selected project URNA, which will explore the fascinating and distinctive subject of cremation. URNA introduces a new ritual for handling human remains, anticipating the adoption of cremation in the Maltese Islands and envisioning it as a culturally significant process. “The project redefines the columbarium, ossuary, and wake to re-establish death as a significant ceremony, unburdened by unnecessary signifiers,” a spokesperson for Arts Council Malta said. The team of architects, designers, curators, and art directors use large, nondescript boulders to devise a geometrical construction. The spherical modules, universal in shape, incorporate cremated remains, “embodying the individual's connection to a broader cosmic reality and evolving through tactile interventions that invite various cultural interpretations.” The fifth London Design Biennale will be held in 2025 in historic **Somerset House**, one of the UK's finest and most beautiful 18th century buildings. The project URNA in 2025 shall be located in one of the internal rooms of Somerset house. To read the full article, head to: **the Malta Today website**.

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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.

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Discount 10%

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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.



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

A large, stylized logo for the 150th anniversary of The Cremation Society. It features the number "150" in a large, bold, black font, with a 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. The entire logo is set against a background of a large, faint, light gray outline of a crematorium urn.

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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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