

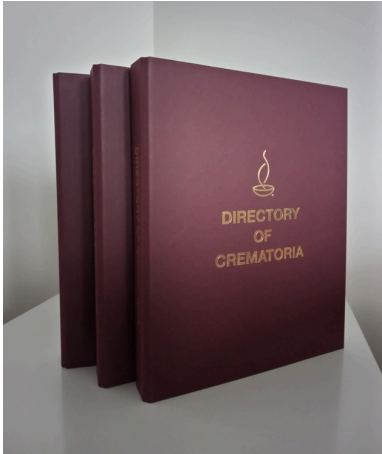


The Cremation Society

Rooted in history: committed to the future



We are pleased to bring you this month’s round-up of news articles from across the cremation sector. We will also shortly be publishing our annual Directory of Crematoria. Please visit our website for more information and to order your copy via our [online form](#).



News in this issue includes updates on:

- Plans for a crematorium on Thurrock green belt have been refused.
- Rewards recognition for a Hatfield crematorium.
- Construction work on Maldon's new crematorium complete.
- Malta’s first crematorium could be up and running within two years.

NEWS REVIEW

CREMATORIA NEWS



The Cremation Society

A Hatfield crematorium has been recognised with several awards and nominations in its first year. **Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery** opened its crematorium in September 2023, and was visited by the Mayor, cabinet members, and councillors on Wednesday, September 25th, to mark its one-year anniversary. It was announced on the tour that Oak Hill has already received several recognitions, including Highly Commended in the Best Public or Community Building category for the Central region at the LABC Building Excellence Awards. It was also Highly Commended in the Building Project of the Year for the Herts & Beds Club Constructing Excellence Awards. The Lawn Cemetery and memorial gardens have also received the Green Flag again this year, and a Bronze award at Anglia in Bloom. Councillor Jane Quinton, executive member for leisure and community, said: "Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium is a very special place for us to remember and honour our loved ones. I am thrilled that the beautiful gardens and Lawn Cemetery have achieved such high recognition this year. The crematorium is a vital facility for our local community, and it is fantastic to celebrate these prestigious accolades on its first anniversary." To read the article, please head to the: [Welwyn Hatfield Times website.](#)

Inverness Crematorium at Kilvean Cemetery needs to replace its two cremators, and Highland Council has taken a further step towards seeing this happen. A major consideration of the project group is ensuring the replacement work is done in a phased fashion so that cremations can continue at Kilvean. The council, which operates the crematorium, has lodged a special planning application called a Certificate of Lawfulness Application. Highland Council plans to replace the two existing gas-fired cremators with the installation of two new gas-fired cremators, and a small extension to the crematorium will be required to house them and a new filtration system known as an abatement plant. Latest from the council is that a project group is well established and is taking the work forward, the tender for the new cremator supplier is now closed, and the contract for the successful bidder is proceeding. A report to councillors said: "A key consideration of the project will be the phasing of the works to minimise any impact on the provision of cremations and services during the refurbishment works. This phased approach will allow the council to continue to provide cremations during the works." The council on 14th September 2023 approved a capital budget for the crematorium project of £1.2million with £50,000 allocated for 24/25 and £1.15million for 25/26. To read the full article, please head to the: [Strathspey & Herald website.](#)

Plans for a crematorium on **Thurrock** green belt have been refused for a second time. MMD Developments Ltd hoped to build a crematorium within borough boundaries behind Wick Place Cottage on the busy A128 Brentwood Road. Councillors on Thurrock's planning committee vetoed the plan on the grounds the crematorium would be in the wrong location and that a need for the service had not been established. It had been recommended for refusal by planning officers. Currently there is no crematorium within the borough, with the nearest being at Corbets Tye near Upminster in the west and Pitsea Crematorium in the east. Cllr Tom Kelly, Conservative councillor for Little Thurrock Rectory welcomed the application. He said: "I think this is a fantastic opportunity. I do think Thurrock does needs a crematorium. Other crematoriums are at full capacity. It's not fair more urban areas have to take all these developments." However, the council received 16 objections from residents, with concerns including the proposed development was too close to residential properties, in an unsustainable location with poor access to the site by foot, car, bicycle and public transport. A statement by Janet McShane, the chairman of Bulphan Village Community Forum, was read to the committee. It said: "I express our objection to the outline planning application for the crematorium project which represents inappropriate development within the green belt and would do significant harm to our local landscape and environment. The proposal raises a long list of technical concerns. The applicant has also failed to provide any credible evidence that there is a justified need for the facility in this location." To read the article fully, please go to the: **[Thurrock Nub News website.](#)**

Construction work on Maldon's new crematorium has been completed with the first funerals to be held on site later this year. Maldon Fields, which will serve Maldon and the surrounding areas, will hold its first funerals in December. Plans for the new crematorium opposite St Margaret's Church were approved by the district council back in February 2023. Construction began back in January and is now complete, with work underway to decorate the chapel. Richard Evans, managing director of Maldon Fields, said: "I am sure that the extra time and the tranquil setting will result in families feeling more assured about funeral services. This crematorium will be much quieter, providing space and time for people to gather together to mourn someone they have loved and hold a dignified, personal event." Maldon Fields is expected to relieve the pressure on Chelmsford, Colchester, and Basildon crematoria by providing more time for families to hold services. For the full article, please go to the: **[Maldon Standard website.](#)**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Malta's first crematorium could be up and running within two years, according to a funeral director with plans to build and operate one in Paola. **Johann Camilleri** told Times of Malta his team was revising plans submitted three years ago to conform with planning rules for crematoriums approved by the government last month. He said his company Active Group Limited was having to downsize its original plans for a 700-square-metre site to one of 500 square metres – the maximum allowed by the new policy – but remained committed to the project. Camilleri said his company was aiming to submit revised plans to the PA by the end of next month and was hoping to offer cremation within the next two years. In 2021, his company Active Group Limited applied to build a crematorium on private land close to the Addolorata cemetery, a location Camilleri described as “ideal” for the facility. Addolorata is Malta's main cemetery and has been in use since the 1860s, although evidence suggests the Tal-Ħorr hill it was built on has been in use for burial purposes since prehistoric times. Malta legalised cremation in 2019, permitting cremation services to be offered at existing cemeteries, and in 2022 introduced the Cremation Act, legalising standalone crematoriums. But it would be another two years until a policy for the development of such facilities was approved, with Planning Minister Clint Camilleri rubber-stamping the final guidelines last month, paving the way for companies to turn their ideas into tangible proposals. Malta legalised cremation in 2019, permitting cremation services to be offered at existing cemeteries, and in 2022 introduced the Cremation Act, legalising standalone crematoriums. But it would be another two years until a policy for the development of such facilities was approved, with Planning Minister Clint Camilleri rubber-stamping the final guidelines last month, paving the way for companies to turn their ideas into tangible proposals. Times of Malta understands that at least one other company also has plans to open a crematorium within the next years. Until now, families wishing to cremate their loved ones had to send the body to Sicily or the UK, a service costing around €4,500. For more information, please head to the: **[Times of Malta website.](#)**

Burial and Cremation consultation events

The Law Commission's consultation on Burial and Cremation began on 3rd October 2024 and runs for 13 weeks until **9th January 2025**. The consultation considers, among other things, the proposed reuse of old graves, regulation of burial grounds, and issues in cremation law like what should be done regarding sets of ashes left uncollected at funeral directors' premises.

As part of the consultation we are holding in-person events across the country (these events will not include a hybrid/virtual option). These events will be an opportunity to:

- hear about our provisional proposals for reform from Professor Nick Hopkins, the Commissioner for Property, Family and Trust Law, and his team; and
- ask your questions about the Law commission's provisional proposals and the issues raised in the Consultation Paper.

Please see below for the schedule of events. Full details of each event are available at the links provided. We are very grateful to the Universities of York, Cardiff, Birmingham and Bath for kindly hosting the events in those cities.

- York: 11th November, 3.30pm-5pm. [Click here for the link.](#)
- Cardiff: 12th November 3.30-5pm. [Click here for the link.](#)
- London: 18th November 3-4.30pm. [Click here for the link.](#)
- Birmingham: 25th November 3.30pm-5pm. [Click here for the link.](#)
- Bath: 26th November 3.30-5pm. [Click here for the link.](#)





The Scottish Government's Burial and Cremation Team has confirmed that **an amendment** to the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 (Prohibition on Disposal of a Body without Authorisation) **Regulations** 2015 ('the 2015 Regulations') has been laid in the Scottish Parliament, which came into effect on 16th October 2024. This change will apply to all burials or cremations which took place on 16th October 2024 onwards. This follows a review of the 2015 Regulations to consider whether coroner authorisation should be accepted in Scotland to enable burial or cremation here where the death is subject to an ongoing coronial investigation in another part of the UK and where no certificate of registration of death is yet available. The change to the 2015 Regulations will ensure that Scotland recognises the coroner procedures in other UK jurisdictions and avoids unnecessary delays in such cases to bereaved families arranging funerals.

Death in England or Wales:

Any burial or cremation in Scotland where the death occurred in England or Wales must not take place without:

1. A Certificate of Registration of Death from the Registrar and a Coroner's certificate authorising removal of the body out of England or Wales,

or

1. a Coroner's certificate authorising the burial of the body,

or

1. a Coroner's certificate authorising the cremation of the body.

Death in Northern Ireland:

Any burial or cremation in Scotland where the death occurred in Northern Ireland must not take place without:

1. A Certificate of Registration of Death from the Registrar or a Coroner's certificate authorising the burial or cremation of the body,

and

1. A Coroner's certificate authorising removal of the body out of Northern Ireland.



Survey on the use of chemicals when handling the deceased

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) are conducting a public survey around the use of biocidal chemicals when handling the deceased and would welcome anyone whose work involves using chemicals such as embalming fluids and disinfectants when handling the deceased and/or body parts and tissue samples to participate. The insights provided by the survey will allow HSE to continue to develop policies which consider the industries that they relate to.

The survey closes on **Sunday 8th December 2024** and you can find it at:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSE_biocides.

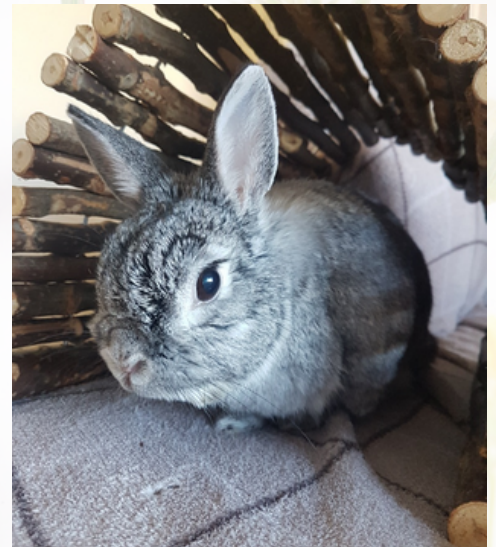
For more information, visit:
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/consultations.htm>





Ashes to Blooms take some of the ashes of a loved one, whether a beloved person or a special companion animal, and combines them with a combination of UK native wildflower seeds and other natural ingredients to create bespoke seed balls. Families can also choose the flower varieties used, or choose from a range of specially-selected seed mixes. Customers can then give these to friends and family (or keep for themselves) to scatter in a special place and watch their wildflower memorial grow. The service has since been expanded to offer wildflower funeral favours. Our bespoke animal service is also set to launch later in 2024, Pet Ashes to Blooms

To find out more about Ashes to Blooms and how they were inspired by a beautiful Netherland Dwarf rabbit, who would later become known as Lucy, please head to the [**Ashes to Blooms website.**](#)



David Holmes, a lawyer by profession, is the founder of Ashes to Blooms, Sussex Seed Balls & Pet Ashes to Blooms, eco businesses based in Worthing, West Sussex, next to the South Downs National Park.

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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.



DRM Technic is one of the UK's leading suppliers of gas analysis and conditioning equipment and services. We are also a renowned manufacturer of Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS)



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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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.



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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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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