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The Journal Winter 2021

2021

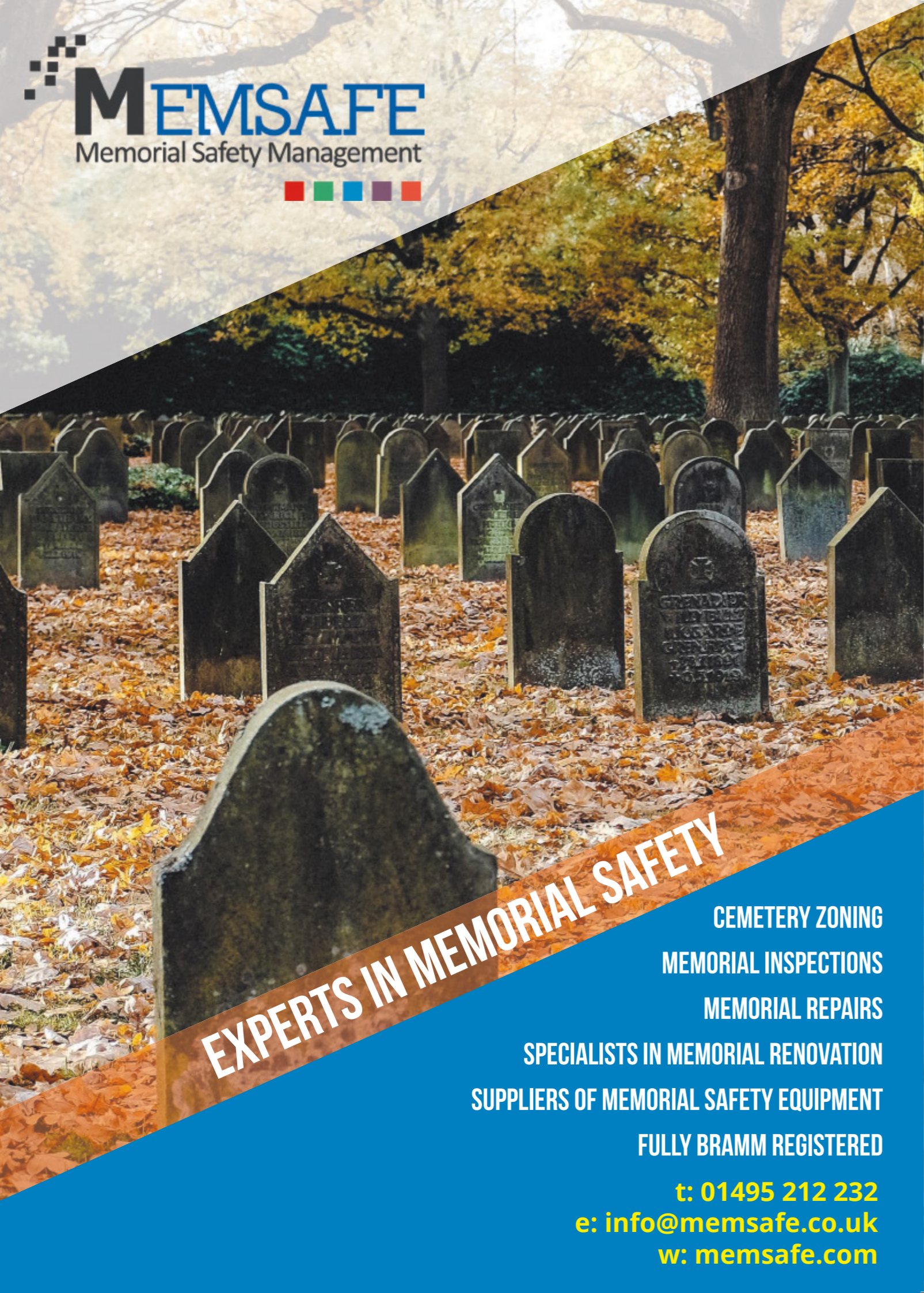
Winter

ICCM photographic competition 2021
Cemetery of the year award winners 2021
BRAMM memorial design award
Eastern branch meeting

The grave as a garden
Public health funerals
Pulpit: In a church in East Mersea, North Essex
It's ok to talk



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By Jeremy Lane, Trainee Cemeteries and Recreation Officer
at Fareham Borough Council.
Image of Crofton Cemetery, Fareham.

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editorial

Eat, Sleep, Work, Repeat.

Welcome to the Winter Journal.

What another strange and surreal year it has been. However, with the introduction of the vaccines, and ending of lockdown, life is starting to resemble something more like pre-covid days. I'm not sure if it's geographical, but as I do my weekly run to the supermarket, stop for a coffee, and maybe browse around the shops, mask wearing, hand sanitising and social distancing seem to be a thing of the past.

It's hard to believe we have all just lived through the strictest regimes, where these practices became second nature. I'm surprised how quickly we, as humans, revert back to type so quickly, despite death and transmission numbers still being high. We are certainly creatures of habit.

So, what does life look like post pandemic? That's a question people have been asking during this time. Yes, some things have changed – the way we work as a society, with more people working from home going forwards. The use of technology has shown us a different way in how we can connect with people all over the world. However, for our sector, and those working as key workers in other industries, working from home was not an option for those frontline staff.

The only thing that has changed is that we have just got busier, had little or no time off, and the stress levels have elevated to an all time high. It really has been a case of eat, sleep, work, repeat.

I have spoken to a lot of members, many of whom are tired and exhausted. They are continuing to deal with the bereaved in the same way they always have, but many have reported that they feel people are generally angrier and more abusive.

The delayed response from not being able to have the funeral they wanted or not having had a chance to say goodbye, has started to take its toll, and their anger and frustration is often channelled towards those working on the frontline. One thing for certain is we are seeing those workers now suffer from PTSD, anxiety, and depression, coupled with a huge backlog of work. Whilst the rest of the world may seem to be getting back to "normal" we need to ensure we look after those who have looked after us during this time.

With the ongoing investigations on how the government have handled the pandemic, we should all take the opportunity to see what lessons can be learnt, and what changes can be made for the better within our own organisations. We should take the positives from this experience and build on them.

We saw a lot of collaborative working with both local authorities and private companies. Friendships and support networks were established which hopefully will remain permanently. We saw a change environmentally, giving us a snapshot of how our actions do in fact affect the planet we live in. By all of us doing our little bit we can make a difference.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication. You perhaps didn't get the same recognition as the NHS but you are no less deserving. You should all be proud of yourselves.

Whilst I think it's important to look back and remember this time, I also think it's important to look ahead. I hope next year we will be able to see each other face to face, with a revival of branch meetings and of course, the annual learning convention.

I would like to wish you all seasonal greetings and a happy and healthy New Year.

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president's page

Hello everyone

As we head towards the winter, I hope you are all managing to stay well and if you have been lucky enough to get away that you have enjoyed your holidays.

I made it to my first event on the 29th July. Julie and I finally attended the re-opening of Greenacres Heatherley Wood. It was a lovely warm and dry afternoon, which meant we were able to wander around the beautiful grounds. They are so well managed and peaceful, it was easy to see why families have chosen this as the final resting place for their loved ones.



Everything is so natural, including the carved wooden benches and little gates. I had to admire the grasses that grew around the meandering paths and the gorgeous flowers in the more manicured areas. It was lovely to meet up with colleagues and enjoy the delicious canapés and drink 😊 always a bonus at any event.

So, let's move on to my second event. I joined Julie and Martin to attend the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Funerals and Bereavement's Annual Report Launch in the House of Commons on Monday 6 September. Admittance was by invitation only and we had to go through "security" removing all jewellery, belts etc etc – it was like a visit to the airport, when you get that guilty "what have I got in

my bag" feeling as it travels through the tunnel to be scanned. It was a really hot day, and as we entered the wonderful Westminster Hall with its impressive high ceilings, we were glad that it felt cool and we sat on one of the benches to admire the hammer-beam roof which was commissioned by Richard II in 1393 and incidentally is the largest medieval timber roof in Northern Europe. The hall was built in 1097 under William II (Rufus), the son of William the Conqueror and was completed two years later. He had conceived the project to impress his new subjects with his power and the majesty of his authority. (Amazing what you can discover on "google").

Sir John Hayes MP CBE gave a speech to officially launch the annual report and then introduced Simon Helliard-Moore and James Chorley. Simon told us how he almost become a Redcoat at Butlins at 15 when he went wanted to do his work experience with them after his GCSEs, but he found out he was too young, so he approached a local funeral directors instead and from then on he found his true vocation and finally opened his own premises, Crescent Funeral Services in Taunton, Somerset. He introduced James who had become the UK's youngest qualified funeral director after leaving Heathfield School at the age of 16 when he joined Simon at Crescent Funeral Services.

It was lovely to meet up with new and old colleagues and who can resist a "cream tea" 😊 (more food!!)

As I write this it will be Grandparents Day on Sunday 3rd October, so I thought I would share this poem with you, whether you are a grandparent yourself as I am, or for your own grandparents.



Grandparents

Grandparents are special people
 With wisdom and pride
 They are always offering love and kindness
 And are always there to guide.
 They often make you feel
 so confident and strong.
 Their arms are always open
 no matter what you did wrong
 They try to help in every way that they can.
 They love all their grandchildren the same whether your child, woman or man.
 They hold all their grandchildren in their hearts whether with wings or here on earth.
 They are always there to listen
 And to lend a helping hand.
 They show you respect
 And try to understand.
 They give their love, devotion and so much more
 It's easy to see.
 Grandparents,
 what perfect examples
 of the kind of person we should be.

Well I hope you are all managing to get petrol and avoid the roadblocks on the M25, as always, I send you all my love and please stay safe.

Heather White
ICCM President

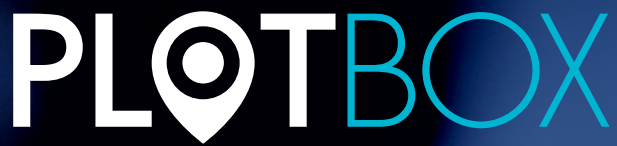
tales of a cemetery registrar

Where has that summer gone?
 It seems a long time since the spring bird song.
 The warm sunny days - with the warm sunny haze.

I brace myself now for thick socks,
 Boots with no holes and graves without rocks.

I remind myself - it's a short wait with summer around the corner
 Until then - I'll put on a brave face and just pretend its warmer.

By Anita Fish



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**"I look around, leaves are brown now
And the sky is a hazy shade of winter"**

from Hazy Shade of Winter by Paul Simon

And so, Autumn is turning into winter and we are approaching the end of 2021. By the time you receive this Journal in December we may well have already had some snow and freezing conditions. Will it be a white Christmas this year? The current odds are 4/1. A snowflake has fallen somewhere in the UK on Christmas Day 38 times in the past 52 years, meaning we can expect roughly three-quarters of all Christmases to be white.

But I won't be rushing to place a bet on 2021 being a white Christmas. With global warming leading to some freak weather conditions who knows what might happen? We could be in for a heat wave or a cold snap. We won't know whether to get out our Christmas jumpers or our Christmas tee shirts!

Behind this joviality lies a very serious issue, probably the most urgent and critical issue that we have ever faced, or are likely to face. The simple fact is that our current style of living is killing the planet, which in turn will kill us, along with many other plants and animals. It could be the end of life on earth as we know it. It is a worldwide issue, but solutions must start locally.

In the global scheme of things, the impact that the funeral sector has on the environment is probably relatively minor. There are different interpretations of which industries are causing the most damage, but they all include the fuel industry, mining, waste management, agriculture and food production, the fashion industry, construction, transport, and product manufacturing. Some serious top level action is needed to clean up these major polluting industries.

But that doesn't mean that lesser polluting industries shouldn't also do their bit. Or that every individual shouldn't make changes to how they live. Every small action taken collectively leads to big change. For example, if every person in the UK turned their TVs off rather than leaving them on standby, many thousands of watts of energy would be saved.

To extend this further, it is estimated that turning off home appliances can save a family up to £60.00 per year in money, but with an even greater environmental benefit. There are over 19 million families in the UK; If every household made this simple switch, imagine what an impact that would have.

The same is true of the funeral sector. Don't be put off by the enormity of the problem, and don't wait around for regulations to be imposed to force change. Take whatever small steps you can to improve your carbon footprint and lessen your impact on the environment.

It might be something as simple as making sure you and your colleagues turn your computers off at the end of the day and turn the lights out before leaving the office. Or it may be bigger steps such as banning the use of pesticides and reducing the frequency of grass cutting in your sites. Or it could be some type of financial incentive to encourage consumer change, such as the waiving of a cemetery memorial fee for memorials made from sustainable materials such as wood.

There is a lot of good practice already happening, and I'm sure that more will follow as we collectively respond to the climate emergency. With 600,000 funerals in the UK each year, and over 12.5 million worldwide, we have the potential to make significant changes through simple actions.



iccm photographic competition 2021

Those who entered the ICCM Photographic Competition 2021 gave the Board of Directors a very difficult job in choosing the winner! 40 people submitted 72 photos showing a vast range of subjects and styles. The variety and quality of the photos submitted this year were exceptionally high, and the ICCM would like to thank all those who took part.

All the photos entered were submitted to the Board anonymously, and each Director chose their favourite three. Following a second round of voting, the Board whittled the entrants down to four, and finally selected a winner. So close was the voting that the Board decided that the remaining three photos should be awarded a highly commended.

All the photos submitted were shown at the online ICCM AGM on 25th November, and the winner was announced there. The prize for winning is a certificate, a £50.00 gift voucher, and the honour of having the photograph printed on the front cover of the Journal. Those highly commended receive a certificate, and their photos may be used on the cover of future Journals.

The winner of the ICCM Photographic Competition 2021 is Jeremy Lane, pictured here holding his certificate. Jeremy is the Trainee Cemeteries and Recreation Officer at Fareham Borough Council. Also pictured is his winning photograph of Crofton Cemetery, Fareham, which also appears on the front cover of this Journal.



The winners of the three highly commended certificates, and their winning photos, are:

Rob Hoare, Senior Gravedigger, BCP Council, with his photograph of a jay at North Cemetery, Bournemouth.



Anita Fish, Bereavement Services Officer, Wyre Council, with her photograph of Wyre War Memorial Garden.



Aaron King, BCP Council, with his photograph of Wimborne Road Cemetery, Bournemouth.



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third quarter accredited COTS & CTTS candidates

Cemetery Operatives Training Scheme Courses July 2021 – September 2021

A - COTS 1 Health and Safety and the Burial Process **B - COTS 2 Excavator Operation**

C – COTS 3 Controlling Risks to Health & Safety in Cemeteries **F – Safe Use of Dumpers**

Robert Brundell **A**

Sam Colley **A**

Christopher Davey **A B**

Camron Docherty **A**

Neil Flack **A**

Jason Gardner **B**

Danny Giles **A B**

Andy Green **A B**

Mark Guerin **A**

Kristina Harris **A B**

Stephen Hill **A B**

Gareth Jones **A**

Holly Knell **A**

Mark McNally **A**

George Merry **A**

James Panrucker **A B**

Aleksandrs Pozdnisovs **A**

Darren Prettejohn **B**

Keith Richmond **A**

Ben Routledge **A**

Mark Rufus **B**

Robert Saunders **A**

David Taylor **B**

Chris Tucker **A**

Andrew Walsh **A**

Crematorium Technicians Training Scheme - July – September 2021

Carol Albison

Alison Brown

Phillip Castree

Jack Chandler

Daniel Freeman

Darren MacKay

Jonathan Mills

Mark Shapland

Lee Stevens

Jamie Sykes

Roxanne Wood

Congratulations to everyone who achieved COTS and CTTS qualifications in the last quarter.

With acknowledgement to all the local authorities and companies, listed below, who ensured that their employees, listed above, achieved recognised industry specific qualifications.

Cannock Chase Crematorium, City of Edinburgh Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Gateshead Council, Greenacres Group, Hull City Council, Leeds City Council, Mid Devon District Council, Norfolk Bluebell Wood Ltd, Pure Cremation Ltd, Rochdale Borough Council, Rochford District Council, Thornbury Town Council, Wealden District Council, Wellingborough Bereavement Services.



The Institute provides training and qualifications that are fully accredited by recognised accreditation bodies. Both CTTS and COTS training and qualifications receive outside scrutiny and quality assurance verification by City & Guilds, Pearson and SBS. Such training and qualifications are available to all staff at all levels.



Go to <http://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm> and click on 'Training' for further information or contact Julie Callender at the ICCM national office – email: julie.callender@iccm-uk.com or tel: 020 8989 4661

cemetery of the year award winners 2021



Despite a second year of coronavirus restrictions and in a year which has seen burial authorities under a lot of pressure and many cemetery managers working from home, the Cemetery of the Year Awards went ahead with a marked improvement in the scores, which again confirms that the competition is having a positive effect on promoting best practice.

The Parish, Town and Community Council category again attracted the largest number of entries and we have received many examples in all categories of how the questions and feedback have prompted positive changes to be made which will benefit everyone involved in the sector, and most importantly bereaved people.

**We are very pleased to announce the winners of the Cemetery of the Year 2021.
(When there are more than 2 x Silver winners in a category, this indicates a tied score)**

Large Burial Ground Category

Gold – Philips Park Cemetery
Silver – Ropery Lane Cemetery
Silver – Fallings Heath Cemetery
Silver – St Helens Cemetery

Small/Medium Burial Ground Category

Gold – Memoria Kirkleatham Cemetery and Crematorium
Silver – Moorside Cemetery
Silver – Tipton Cemetery

Parish, Town and Community Council Burial Ground Category

Gold – Forest Row Cemetery
Silver – Chesham Bois Burial Ground
Silver – Syston and District Cemetery
Silver – Cyngor Cymuned Llanrug Cemetery

Natural Burial Ground Category

Gold – Clandon Wood Nature Reserve and NBG
Silver – Old Park Meadow NBG
Silver – Hay Meadow BG

The Gold Awards winners in each category have received the following –

£1000 cash prize for their Cemetery.
Cemetery of the Year 2021 Gold Engraved Plaque.
Cemetery of the Year 2021 Gold Certificate
CYA Press release that can be used to promote their work and achievements.

The Silver Awards winners in each category have received the following –

Cemetery of the Year 2021 Silver Certificate.
CYA Press release that can be used to promote their work and achievements.

All entrants receive a copy of their respective scores as well as an average score for each question so that they can see how they compare with other entrants in their category.

They will also receive a summary report of the competition which includes information on Best Practice and Legislation from the supporting organisations. This allows the entrants to develop their cemeteries, improve standards and create environments and services that are safer, more user friendly and compliant with current legislation.

Many thanks to everyone who entered the competition and also to the supporting organisations.

- Memorial Awareness Board (MAB)
- Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)
- The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA)
- The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
- British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM)



memoria kirkleatham is awarded cemetery of the year 2021



After a brief hiatus the Cemetery of the Year awards returned in 2018 and Memoria, who have extensive burial options at eight of their 11 memorial parks and crematoria have collected their second award in four years when last month Memoria Kirkleatham was awarded gold and the title Cemetery of the Year 2021 following Memoria Cardiff and Glamorgan's silver success in 2020.

What makes the success at Memoria Kirkleatham even more remarkable is that the standards the team have achieved are against the backdrop of one of the worst worldwide pandemics the world has witnessed which has meant they have seen their busiest ever period yet have maintained and delivered exceptional standards of bereavement care.



This part of the country is steeped in tradition and many families still select burial and, despite the worsening of the covid-19 situation during the past year, Manager Gill Johnstone and her team have maintained exceptional standards across all elements of the memorial park. Local people have really appreciated the team, the facilities and the products at Memoria Kirkleatham with fantastic reviews of the site and the staff.

Being recognised in this category is not just about the length of the grass or how pretty the flower beds are but it is also about the level of service provided to the bereaved and Memoria's mission statement, which is behind all training and corporate policy.

These successful submissions mark their commitment to the teams across each of the 11 locations they have around the UK. Indeed, Memoria Barnby Moor

was recognised as the best provider of bereavement services in Nottinghamshire earlier this year while Memoria South Oxford was voted 'Crematorium of the Year' in 2018.

Freedom of choice is also another key factor that the Cemetery of the Year board looks for as well as consistency and quality across a cemetery. At Memoria Kirkleatham it prides itself on the high standards visible across the grounds and its surroundings, reflecting the very high level of care you will receive when you choose this location for the burial of a loved one.

As managers we can differ as to what is an essential element of required regulation and indeed what isn't and the public that use a particular site will have varying views. So, words like enforcement do not sit well when you are trying to deliver what is very clearly a very successful company mission statement in a way that allows a family to be personal yet maintain a standard of both safety and comfort at what is often the most difficult of times for many families.



The application and delivery of high-quality burial services at Memoria Kirkleatham takes commitment and passion. As we all know working in this sector often becomes a vocation as against just a job and the care and work ethic that Memoria's team at Kirkleatham have delivered is truly reflective in the very high quality of memorials and graves across this stunning location the team have the privilege of working in. Gill is rightly very proud of her team.



Whenever you see the surroundings that are a site like Memoria Kirkleatham you instantly know that you are going to be cared for by a team of people dedicated to what they do. Memoria's Mission statement is an idyllic piece of writing but it becomes much more than just that when a team of people embrace it, believe it and deliver it and even before you reach the office at this cemetery you will see all around you a place that is very special, cared for with a degree of pride that makes you feel that you are choosing the right location for a life long memorial to that very special loved one.

For more details on how Memoria at Kirkleatham can help you and details of the services and products they have at this beautiful location call them on (01642) 771041 or visit their website at www.kirkleathammemorial.co.uk

BRAMM memorial design award 2021 cemetery of the year awards



The British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) sponsored a new category in the Cemetery of the Year Awards 2021, 'The Memorial Design Award'.

The competition invited memorial masons to enter a free national competition and showcase their work. It was open to any Memorial already erected in a cemetery or churchyard within the last 5 years.

The memorials were marked on their innovation, personalisation and originality by a team of memorial masons and burial authority association board members from BRAMM.

The winning Gold entry was from Mackays Memorial Headstones in Scotland who were awarded the prize money of £1000.00 as well as a CYA Gold Certificate.



This beautiful memorial shows perfectly the skills of the Mason and the standard of design and craftsmanship available within the memorial industry today.

Many thanks to all the memorial masons who entered the competition and also to BRAMM for sponsoring this Award.

Cemetery of the Year Awards 2021 is endorsed by -

- Memorial Awareness Board (MAB)
- Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM)
- The Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA)
- The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)
- British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM)





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Sands winter update



Thank you to every member of the ICCM who has supported and fundraised for Sands. Since March of this year, you have supported the charity to:

- Answer 6,000 Helpline calls and emails
- Respond to 831 chats in Grief Chat
- Deliver 2,693 free Memory Boxes to maternity units and community services UK-wide
- Send 7,916 Bereavement Support Books
- Provide 10,179 Bereavement Support Packs
- Translate Bereavement Support Book into Urdu, Punjabi, Portuguese, Arabic, Mandarin and Bengali, which are all available electronically too

Sands exists to support anyone affected by the death of a baby, to improve the bereavement care received by parents and families, and to promote research to reduce the number of babies dying. Everything we do – the services we run, the public health messages we promote, the way we raise money – is focused around these three aims. If you would like to find out more about your donation and the difference it has made to families in your community, please get in touch. If you would like support, please visit <https://www.sands.org.uk/support-you>.

Bereavement in the Workplace Training and Support

Our bereavement training in the workplace and resources help organisations of all sizes to empower, encourage and support their colleagues, and ultimately, to thrive in their workplace. We understand that many of you will be working in emotionally heightened environments, and with members of the public and families who are bereaved – including from pregnancy loss and baby death.

Our training is delivered by counselling and bereavement specialists – to offer you support, communication tips and techniques, ways to support each other and members of the public, and how to protect yourself in emotional and challenging circumstances.

If you would like more information or to sign up, please visit [Bereavement in the Workplace | Sands - Stillbirth and neonatal death charity](#)

Baby Loss Awareness Week: reducing baby deaths

Sands estimates that had stillbirth and neonatal death rates for Black and Asian babies been the same as for White babies, 432 fewer babies would have died in 2019 in England and Wales.

This inequity is backed up by new analysis, released today by MBRRACE-UK, of the multidimensional effects of ethnicity, deprivation, and mother's age on baby deaths in 2019 in the UK, which shows that multiple risk factors can combine to magnify the risk, deepening inequalities for some families.

Compared with white babies, stillbirth rates for Black/Black British babies are twice as high and for Asian/Asian British babies, they are 1.6 times as high. In the most deprived areas, stillbirth rates are 1.7 times higher.

During Baby Loss Awareness Week this year, Sands called on the Government to urgently fund an enquiry into Asian and British Asian baby deaths in the UK, as they have already for Black and Black British baby deaths. We invite you to join us in this e-action.

Ask your MP to take action to reduce baby deaths | Sands | Actions

“Health inequalities in relation to maternity outcomes have been known for over 70 years, yet we still lack evidence-based interventions to reduce these risks. Today's statistics confirm the urgent need for action, and the government must set a target to reduce these clear inequalities in perinatal mortality.

This is a critical moment for maternity safety. Recent reports from the Health and Social Care Committee, the Ockenden Review of maternity services at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, and ongoing investigations at East Kent and Nottingham show just how much more must be done.

Funding a confidential enquiry into UK Asian baby deaths is a drop in the ocean financially when compared to the staggering £7.1 billion per year cost to the NHS of maternity compensation claims.

Despite recent improvements, the current trajectory in reducing the rate of stillbirths means the Government will be a long way off achieving their National Maternity Safety Ambition to reduce stillbirths and neonatal deaths by 50% by 2025.”

Clea Harmer,
Chief Executive of Sands



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Jim Walker: obituary

It was with great sadness that I learned Jim Walker had died on the 24th July 2021. Jim was the Manager of Bournemouth crematorium from 1983 until his retirement in 1997. He was an active member and chairman of the SW Branch. He attended many conferences with his wife Morag and on more than one occasion won the golf tournament, which in those days was part of the social element of conference. His wife Morag told me that there was one conference in particular that was held in Glasgow which they both very much enjoyed as the venue for the gala dinner kept the whisky flowing all evening!

Jim began his career as an apprentice joiner in the small village near Aberdeen where he had grown up. One of the first things he learned was how to make coffins as the company provided them for all the local funerals. Maybe it was this that started his interest in cremation. When he had completed his apprenticeship, he applied for a job as a cremator operator at Aberdeen crematorium where he was eventually promoted to Superintendent Registrar. He then moved to Glasgow as Superintendent Registrar of Daldowie crematorium and it was while he was in Glasgow that he met his wife Morag. Morag had family and friends in London, and



they found themselves spending weekends travelling the length of the country, so they eventually made the decision to move south. This meant that Jim took a job as manager of Immigration at Heathrow Airport. However, bereavement was Jim's passion and after a short while Morag was reading a paper when she saw the position of manager at Bournemouth crematorium advertised. So, in 1983 Jim returned to the industry he loved, and he and Morag moved to Ringwood where on top of taking on a new job he also took on the renovation and building work of what would become their family home.

During his time at Bournemouth Jim managed the installation of new cremators and the computerisation of the administration system. He also extended the floral court adding covered areas for mourners and perhaps his lasting memorial was bringing a little of Scotland to Bournemouth when he designed a Celtic Cross for the walkway which wraps around the fishpond and fountain.

Jim is remembered fondly by those who worked with him as a kind and fair boss who was happy to give advice when needed and was always ready to help anyone professionally or personally. He had a good sense of humour and I will always remember Jim's remedy for a common cold which he shared as a true Scotsman. Take an orange and place it at the end of the bed, pour a glass of whisky and drink it, then refill the glass and keep going until you can see two oranges. You might still have a cold, but you certainly won't be worried about it anymore!

Jim had a long and happy retirement. He was a very keen gardener and golfer and I know he and Morag spent many happy times touring the country in their camper van. He will be very sadly missed by his family and friends.

By Linda Barker

George Henry Nash: obituary



It was with deep sadness that I learned of the death of former ICCM member, SE Branch Secretary, and all-round good chap, George Nash. George was the manager at Hendon Crematorium for several years, before 'retiring' at the age 60 (but in reality, working as a consultant and continuing to write articles for the Journal and speaking at ICCM events).

I remember meeting George when I first started working on the periphery of the bereavement sector, as a research fellow at the University of York. I was struck by George's kindness, and his willingness to share his knowledge and experience so freely. I continued to meet George at various ICCM events as my career progressed, and those first impressions were very much reinforced. Anyone lucky enough to know George would undoubtedly have benefitted from his wisdom, knowledge, experience and sense of fun.

Some of the comments I received about George from fellow ICCM members include:

'I remember George well from when I worked in north London. He convened a group in the area to discuss and prepare for the legislation that brought forth abatement. Such was George's sense of humour he named it the North London Syndicate.'

'George was always an active ICCM member, and always cheerful.'

'The cemetery that I worked in had a lemon tree in a sheltered corner. George had worked there in the past and knew of this. Each autumn he asked me to pick some of the (very small) lemons for his gin and tonic. I'll never forget that one.'

'George was a personal friend as well as a colleague. I have many memories of visiting his office at Hendon where he had a huge old dining table piled sky high with papers but where he could find everything. There wasn't much he didn't know about cemeteries and could recount many great stories of experiences he had at Carpenters Park and Hendon over the years. He was thorough, steadfast and capable and did a great deal of good work.'

'Most of all he was a real gentleman with a wonderful dry sense of humour and kind spirit.'

These comments all show how much George was liked and respected by his peers and colleagues. Outside of work George had a busy life as a devoted husband to Phyl, father to Susan, Anna and Peter, and grandfather to Elliot, Chloe and Cailin, as well as somehow finding time to teach, firstly DIY and then antique restoration. He also took on a role as a workshop technician at Barnet College, showing the tutors old style skills. George had acquired these skills in his apprenticeship as a painter and decorator, during which he worked at Buckingham Palace, the Guildhall and the Cabinet Rooms.

After a period working for an insurance company, George found his calling in cemeteries and crematoria, where he worked his way through the ranks to become the manager at Hendon. He had a particular interest in wildlife and was proud that his cemetery had a greater variety of flora and fauna than the local nature reserve! George gained several horticultural qualifications, and also became an expert on air and groundwater pollution. He wrote several articles for the Journal on these topics, as well as speaking at the ICCM corporate seminar.

As a young child George developed a passion for cycling, which remained with him throughout his life. At the tender age of 5 he would cycle from Tottenham to Chelmsford to visit his brother who was evacuated there, a distance of 30 miles. Later he became a member of the Lion Road Club, and he became Captain at the age of 19 years. He continued to cycle throughout his life, including taking part in the London to Brighton Bike Race when he was 60. On this ride George thought he was behind his Brighton cemetery colleagues, so he pedalled hard to catch them up, only to find that he was actually ahead of them by nearly an hour. In his retirement article in the Journal, George stated "steer clear, I'm a maniac when riding my bike'. Very true!

In a final nod to George's amazing personality, he chose to be cremated at Enfield crematorium because it was one place he had never worked at.

The ICCM would like to extend its grateful thanks to George for all that he contributed to the sector during his career.

Thanks to George's daughter Anna for sharing stories about her dad.

Julie Dunk
ICCM Chief Executive

eastern branch meeting event

We meet again...



Peterborough Crematorium

My understanding is that we have held the first face-to-face branch meeting since March 2020 when Covid-19 hit us and brought the country to a near standstill. It felt so good to be able to organise an event where we could see and touch people (those that wanted a hug)! I think we can all agree that you just don't know how much it means to have something in your life, until it's taken away – we at Nene Valley crematorium have so missed these types of events.

We had had this event provisionally penciled in for Spring 2020. So, we just picked up from where we had left off, and arranged for a typical crematorium visit to be at Peterborough in Cambridgeshire, who kindly agreed to host the event on Saturday 16th October at 10.00 am.

Aware of our supporting the carbon footprint, it was agreed at a weekly brief on Friday morning that minimum vehicles would be used to transport the full Nene Valley team, (in just three vehicles) what a turnout – a huge well-done shout-out from a very proud manager. The team arrived within 20 minutes of each other in the car park, where the good feeling of the day started to ripple through us, as we made our way to the crematorium's restroom. A very hospitable welcome was actively conveyed by Danny and Tina, team members of the crematorium – who immediately provided hot drinks as we gathered, chatting away – noting we gathered to receive a hot drink.

First impressions were noted of how big the crematorium building appeared, with much land, including woodland and several types of established memorials. This contrasts with the landscape of Nene Valley's new Garden of Remembrance, home to young planting and awaiting memorials to provide a home for loved one's ashes.

Guests began to arrive, who were equally welcomed with offers of tea, coffee with biscuits, croissants and pastries. Chatting amongst us all continued over refreshments and once everyone was fed and watered, we were taken on a tour of the crematorium and grounds, led by Danny. First, we saw the media room and connecting vestry – a large space, which houses their media equipment, with a connecting door into a vestry for ceremony leaders to prepare for services. It was interesting to hear about how we work differently, despite delivering the same outcome, namely funerals. At Nene Valley crematorium the media room is smaller and music is sent through automatically overnight before a service. This allows funeral directors an opportunity to change any music – the media is controlled from our media room by our chapel

attendant; it can be controlled via a screen attached to the lectern and the celebrants can operate it themselves using the touch screen. The adjacent chapel had a church feel to it, with traditional pews and etched-glass windows in comparison to the same space at Nene Valley, which is naturally modern, being a new build - yet warm and welcoming with individual seating. The similarity between the two is a large glass window, a garden view at Peterborough, and a view of the valley's landscape at Nene Valley, both of which I suspect and know respectively that those in attendance like.



Dennis Millington

The tour moved from the chapel to the crematory, ("crem room") where three 'double-ended' cremators are in place, with a plant room adjacent to the crem room. Many of us hadn't seen 'double enders' before and it was therefore interesting to hear how the coffin entered and ashes leave the cremator. Whilst interesting, this felt very alien to me because at Nene Valley there is one 'single-ended' cremator, where I am used to placing the coffin into and 'ashing out' of the cremator through the same opening – also it was noted that coffins are placed in the cremator manually where as Nene Valley an automatic bier is used.

During the tour, personally for me, the Book of Remembrance impressed. This room provided a home for three books with a separate children's book encased in a lovely carved case

adorned by a teddy on the front. A very good system is in place for those who commemorate via an entry into the books, who are allocated a remembrance vase for the placing of flowers next to the book. The three large books are housed in cases that when this room is locked, can be rotated to enable viewing from outside through a window.

The tour continued through the Garden of Remembrance, which includes a dedicated area for babies and children - a lovely carved rabbit provides an entrance to the children's garden, which was donated by SANDS. Families can visit an undercover pagoda where they are able to leave hearts and teddies in memory of their baby. While talking to some of the other guests we tried to stress to them how important it is to have special places for all ages to visit. We also shared that a veteran's garden is something we have on our wish list. Peterborough had a lot of memorial types from plaques on walls to vaults where they can inter their loved one's ashes. Many traditional rose gardens are in place that Danny told us are being phased out because they need a lot of attention to keep them looking good.



Marian Millington



Chair of the Meeting

After the tour, a very nice lunch in the form of individually packed bags, consciously created by us to support covid-19 control measures, was consumed over a networking opportunity. This lunch that included some morish cupcakes, was kindly sponsored by the keynote speaker, Dennis Millington, Director of sales for Greenbridge Designs.

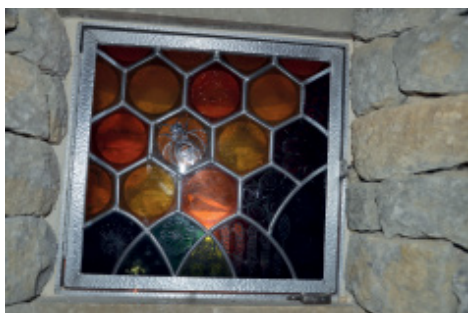
After lunch we relocated back to the chapel to be welcomed by our very own Phill Castree, who kindly agreed, with a little persuasion from our manager to step in to chair the meeting! He was a natural and I'm sure he will agree to accept the offer to chair for the Eastern Branch on a permanent basis. Phill opened the meeting, we listened to the keynote speaker, Dennis who provided an informative talk about how Greenbridge are doing their very best to support climate change and to help customers with requests for a "green" product. It was noted that most of their granite is provided from China and that Greenbridge have their own factories there. We also gleaned that the cost of transporting products from China to the UK has risen significantly, with costs continuing to rise, and the negative impact on global warming. Therefore it was pleasing to hear that Greenbridge is ahead of the game and is working to provide alternative UK sourced products. It was also very impressive to hear how Greenbridge is working hard with

vigorous testing of new choices before bringing these products to market to ensure that they can withstand all types of weather conditions. With different types of fit-for-purpose finishes, complemented by an aesthetically pleasing end-product to offer bereaved people. We heard that products will be brought into a modern age of memorial products - a fitting environment at Nene Valley exists to provide a home for such products - we are very excited about this. Dennis answered questions and everyone enjoyed his talk very much.

Phill thanked Dennis for his informative talk and for sponsoring the well consumed lunch! Phill then introduced the ICCM's vice president Marian Millington (néé Webb) who provided an address. Marian spoke from the heart with an insight to her past travelling to the present. We digested that Marian had been in the profession of "cems and crems" for a long time because she shared the many changes she had experienced. Marian made me feel that I was part of a caring and passionate family that were all about serving bereaved people. Whilst listening to Marian I could have been listening to my own manager, Tracy Lawrence, because most of what Marian said was like hearing an echo in my ears. Sometimes when we hear Tracy repeatedly making a point, (with a passion of course) some of us sometimes question her oh-so bereavement-led ethos, but what was clear to me on listening to Marian, is that we are all like-minded people, in the wider family that Tracy always advocates that the ICCM members are – an extension of our own family environment at Nene Valley. Marian and others saying the very same things make you realise just how much we are all in the same mind set. After Marian's address we then heard from the ICCM's CEO, Julie Dunk. Julie provided an introduction into how she discovered 'cems and crems – from exhuming bodies from the ground as an archeologist, to then burying them! It was interesting to hear how during covid the ICCM have managed to continue with all of their education programs, via Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Julie provided information on burials, electric cremators and resomation. New team members present welcome such information because of them being in the middle of building a new crematorium. The Branch meeting was then closed by Phill, in the usual way, with a vote of thanks to all speakers, the branch secretary for arranging the event and to all of those in attendance for coming.



Attendees at the Barrow



Personalised stained glass niche cover in the Barrow

As an extra treat we then left the crematorium for the usual topical visit. This visit was to the Sacred Stones Barrow at St Neots. The barrow was a very different way to lay your loved one to rest. This barrow is stone-built, with each stone laid onto each other and no cement used. Inside the barrow saw many niche shelves, open and closed for ashes to be placed in each niche, with an opportunity to personalise each space with glass/stone etching. The guardian of the barrow works very closely with bereaved people to help and guide each niche to be unique to what they need/like - people are empowered to design their own stained-glass doors for the niche shelves, and handmade urns for the ashes to be retained in. The barrow has no electricity and is lit by candles to provide a poignant environment. It was a very interesting visit to see that there are alternatives to place your loved one to rest in.

That brought our day out to the eastern branch meeting to a close, a great day. Everyone who attended learnt something new, whether you had been in the profession for many years, if you were just starting out, or building a new crematorium, it was clear that chatting was the order of the day, which was great to talk to everyone and glean new information. I am now looking forward to being part of organising the next meeting for springtime, the visit will be to Huntingdon Crematorium who have kindly agreed to host the meeting at their new facility. We hope to welcome new members and reconnect with many existing members. The actual date, keynote speaker, and topical visit will be confirmed. **In summary, a great day was had by all, until the next day – hope to see you there.**

Kathleen Walker
Nene Valley Crematorium
Event and Commemorations Assistant

iccm recycling of metals scheme



The Recycling of metals scheme shared out funds totalling £1,230,000 in November 2020. This took the total funds donated by the scheme since its inception to over £10 million.



Recycling of Metals - press releases and information from charities that were nominated in the December – May 2021 round

West Lindsey District Council – Lincolnshire Hospice

St Andrew's Children's Hospice has received a £10,000 charitable donation from Lea Fields Crematorium to provide much needed care and support.

The charity, which supports families from West Lindsey is the second organisation to receive a cheque from the crematorium. As previously reported, West Lindsey District Council opened the crematorium in January 2020 and signed up to a national metal recycling scheme to help give something back to the community.

The money donated will help the hospice to provide care and support for more than 500 patients, both adults and children, and their families, friends and over 200 carers.

Christina Cook, Communications and Marketing Manager at St Andrew's Hospice thanked said the crematorium for the generous donation. She said: "We'd like to thank Lea Fields crematorium so much for their incredible support. It will make a huge difference to our patients, bringing them more opportunities to receive the specialist care they need whilst having fun and making important memories too."

Andy's, the children's and young person's service, delivers care to those aged from birth to 25 years old who live in Northern Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire, Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

St Andrew's also delivers care to people aged 18 and above with a life-limiting illness who live in Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Immingham and surrounding areas.

Chairman of West Lindsey District Council, Cllr Steve England selected St Andrew's to receive the donation as part of the scheme.

He said: "St Andrew's Hospice does such incredible work in Lincolnshire providing free care for people of all ages living with a progressive life-limiting conditions, like cancer, Motor Neurone Disease, cardio-vascular diseases, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

"They have a difficult job offering care to children who are very poorly while comforting parents and carers.

"It is an honour to be able to provide them with some extra financial help especially in the current conditions when fund raising for many organisations due to COVID-19 has made things challenging.

"We must not forget special thanks to the bereaved who gave their consent to be part of the scheme for without them we would not have been able to give back to the local community in this way."

Cllr Anne Welburn, Deputy Leader of the Council praised the scheme. She said: "This is the second cheque, we as an authority have been able to award to much-needed charities that support families from West Lindsey. The first was awarded to St Barnabas Hospice for £10,000 and now this cheque of £10,000 to Andrews Hospice.

"This has all been made possible thanks to the consent from families who have allowed the metals recovered during cremation to be recycled and any money raised is used to give back to bereavement related charities."

Deborah Balsdon, Crematorium Manager at Lea Fields crematorium said joining the national scheme was a great way to support local good causes.

She said: "At Lea Fields we always ensure families give their full approval to be part of the process and while making funeral arrangements they are given the choice about whether they wish to authorise the sensitive recycling of any metals remaining after the cremation."

To find out more about Lea Fields Crematorium please visit: <https://www.leafieldscrematorium.co.uk/>
To find out more about St Andrew's please visit: <https://www.standrewshospice.com/>



Bereaved Salford families provide £10,000 boost for Broughton House

Bereaved families in Salford have helped to raise £10,000 for Broughton House Veteran Care Village.

The money has been raised through a charitable scheme operated by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), of which Salford Council Bereavement Services is a member.

Under the scheme, with the consent of the family of the deceased, metal from medical implants is recycled after cremation and members of the scheme nominate charities which support and care for local people.

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett said: "The money raised will be used to go to Broughton House – a truly fantastic local charity which provides invaluable care and support to veterans.

"The process of recycling the left-over metals is done with great dignity and with the wishes of family members of the deceased. We have been part of the scheme for some years now and have made several donations to local charities over these years totalling over £50,000.

"We are extremely grateful that, at a time of grief, families have allowed us to help others."

Broughton House chief executive Karen Miller said: "The support of Salford Bereavement Services, particularly during these challenging times, is greatly appreciated and we are delighted to receive this fantastic donation.

"It will really make a huge difference. Donations such as this enable us to continue to care for and support veterans in both our care village and the local community. We are extremely grateful to Salford Bereavement Services for their kindness and generous assistance."

Broughton House is currently undergoing a £13m transformation to create the UK's first Veteran Care Village. The first stage of the redevelopment was completed in September 2020, when veterans moved into a new three-storey building comprising 32 residential and nursing care beds over two floors.

The next stage of the scheme is nearing completion and will feature 32 residential care and residential dementia care beds and six independent living apartments alongside an Armed Forces Support Hub.

Broughton House is currently welcoming new residents in line with its expansion – veterans who have served for any period of time in the armed forces, as well as their partners.

In July, Salford Council successfully progressed its 2020 Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award to Gold for its outstanding commitment to supporting defence services within its organisation and the wider armed forces community across the city.



Pictured left to right are: Commodore Phil Waterhouse, the chairman of Broughton House, Salford City Council bereavement services officer Luke Smith, Broughton House chief executive Karen Miller, Salford City Council bereavement services manager Barry Ellis and Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett.

The media contact for Broughton House Veteran Care Village is Kevin Feddy Media. You can contact Kevin via kevin@kevinfeddymedia.co.uk or 0161 300 8543 or 07770 543112. For further information on this story, contact public.relations@salford.gov.uk

Maidstone Crematorium has donated £10,000 to Mid Kent Mind through its Metal Recycling Scheme.

Maidstone Borough Council who owns the Vinters Park crematorium first gain written consent from bereaved families, then following a cremation any metals retrieved are stored safely and collected quarterly. They are then taken to Sheffield for separation, sorting and smelting and a high percentage of the higher-grade cobalt steel is sent to two companies that manufacture new orthopaedic implants. Any lower graded metal is traditionally recycled.

Mid Kent Mind are thrilled with the donation, Tom Fishenden, their Community Engagement Officer said:

“Thank you for facilitating this donation and making it possible. This is a wonderful scheme which I personally wasn't aware of before being contacted by The Council, but I hope that knowing the difference this money makes to local organisations helps to bring some positive closure to families involved in the scheme.”

Cllr Daniel Rose, Chair of the Communities, Housing and Environment Committee added:

“We really appreciate how difficult a decision it must be for any bereaved family to consent to orthopaedic implants such as knee and hip replacement joints being removed from the ashes. However, we are extremely grateful they do, as it is making such a huge difference to our local charities.”



Bath - SOBS

Bath & North East Somerset Council has donated £10,000, raised from the recycling of metals reclaimed from Bath's Haycombe Crematorium, to a Bath charity which offers a support group for adults who have been affected by a suicide loss.

Bath Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SoBS) provides a safe and comforting space for adults to share their feelings with others who have had the same experience.

Ann, a volunteer with the group, said: “We are delighted to be awarded a grant from the ICCM Recycling Scheme which ensures our group can continue and helps us plan ahead for how we can best support people.”

Councillor Dine Romero, cabinet member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture said: “I'm delighted we have been able to support Bath SoBS. It's incredibly traumatic to lose someone to suicide and the experience has a long-lasting effect on mental wellbeing. Knowing you are not alone and sharing your feelings with others who have been through the same experience can help people cope better.”

The not-for-profit Recycling of Metals Scheme is run by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management of which Bath & North East Somerset Council is a member. Members of the scheme collect the metal from the cremators and the money raised from recycling is divided between ICCM members for distribution among charities.

Councillor David Wood, cabinet member for Neighbourhood Services said: “We always respectfully retrieve the cremated remains of a loved one, but metal items used as part of surgery are often recovered from the cremator. The most responsible way to dispose of them is to recycle them. We feel it's only right the money raised goes to support bereavement charities and I hope people who are bereaved take comfort from that.”

To qualify for donations from the scheme, charities are selected on the basis they have to assist the bereaved or those who are terminally ill.



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redevelopment of Highgate Cemetery, London. mitigating the potential impact of removal of ash (*fraxinus excelsior* L.).

Silviculture in a changing world - a case study.

1. Current situation

Highgate Cemetery, in the London borough of Camden, was established in 1839 and in 1855 was approximately doubled in size to its current area of 14.8 hectares. In common with other historic cemeteries, Highgate today is regarded as delivering multiple values: it is an active burial ground containing some 53,000 graves and hosting up to 70 new interments a year; it is a site of cultural importance, listed as a Grade 1 Park by English Heritage; it is a tourist attraction drawing approximately 100,000 visitors a year who contribute more than £1 million in entrance fees and donations annually; and it is a green space designated a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMNIC).

The original design of the cemetery was that of an ornamental garden, with specimen trees punctuating a largely open landscape that furnished visitors with views south over London and towards the River Thames. Today those views are no longer accessible since, above ground, the site has in the past half century become dense, semi-naturalised broadleaved woodland. This woodland is dominated by young ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.) which since the 1960s have been allowed to regenerate across the majority of the site. They are now suppressing the remaining historic trees, which include cedar, yew, horse chestnut, ash, sycamore, false acacia, lime, London plane, horse chestnut, oak, and cherry. The shade and density of woodland, and ubiquity of ivy on monuments and trees, have contributed to the cemetery's reputation as a place of seclusion and romantic decay.

Current silvicultural work emphasises maintenance and removal only where necessary (e.g. of dead wood, hazardous trees, in cases of ash dieback *Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*, and when grave owners request removal of trees that are damaging graves). Arisings have in the past been taken away by tree surgeons, occasionally offered to visitors as firewood, or donated to a local educational group to make artefacts. At the time of writing there was no site-wide plan for succession planting.

But this holding pattern, described as "reactive ... as little as possible, as much as is necessary" is set to begin to change substantially within the next 5 years.

2. The changing context

The site owners, Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust (FoHCT), have initiated a process that is likely to lead to

much more intervention in the cemetery's built environment, landscape and vegetation. A combination of factors has led to this point, but salient in the Trust's communications have been a desire to recover space to accommodate more burials and to more actively manage the tree stock for safety, succession and diversity. The Trust considers that "romantic decay" has tipped over into dereliction and that "ecological variety is in fact constrained...by a lack of variety in the planting".

A conservation plan commissioned in 2017 and published in 2019 sets out agreed objectives, and policies, and a range of recommended actions regarding the landscape and built and biological features. In mid-2021 the Trust appointed landscape designers Gustafson Porter + Bowman, and architects Hopkins Architects, to operationalise the conservation plan. A parliamentary bill would allow for old burial plots to be reused for new interments. Redevelopment is likely to involve significant disturbance over several years, with a change to the woodland structure central to the transformation.

3. Impact of the changing context

Historic cemeteries are known to be capable of providing habitats to important flora and fauna that may otherwise be deficient in an urban setting. Birds, bats and spiders, for example, make use of cemetery woodland; and reptiles, mosses and lichens can use the stone surfaces of monuments and buildings therein. Löki et al cite evidence that the biodiversity conservation value of old churchyards and cemeteries can be attributed at least in part to low levels of anthropogenic disturbance over many years; and that frequent logging and invasive species can be major threats to the flora and fauna of such sites.

As managers of sites of cultural, economic and biological significance, cemetery authorities face choices over which values to prioritise. Abney Park cemetery in the London borough of Hackney bears many similarities to Highgate cemetery: they are of similar age and size, both enjoy SMINC designations and since being laid out as garden parks, both have become semi-naturalised woodland in densely populated urban areas. Abney, however, is no longer an active burial ground and is managed primarily as a local green space and conservation area. To illustrate: rather than being removed, fallen or structurally unsound trees are left in situ for their habitat value (Abney Park is nationally important for fungi) and it is people who are kept out on days when wind damage is a risk.

The owners of Highgate cemetery, meanwhile, are seeking to enhance the biodiversity value of their site while ramping up its economic and amenity value. The Trust describes Gustafson Porter + Bowman's approach to planting and trees as aiming for resilience, protection against disease, and widening the range of ecological systems.

In this context it is important to consider the potential impacts on the site's fauna that might result from the main silvicultural interventions to the existing tree stock that seem likely to emerge - namely, removal of ash and ivy - and to propose mitigation measures.

Ash dominates the eastern half of Highgate cemetery in particular. Here in some parcels of land, Baxter finds ash accounts for as much as 95% of the canopy. For many individual and groups of ash trees, the draft schedule of works recommends remedial work and phased removal in order to reduce hazard, allow for diversification of species composition, open the canopy, mitigate against risk of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus*), and to prevent further damage to monuments. It can be assumed that reclamation of existing graves for new burial sites in future will also necessitate some stump removal.

Substantial reduction in the presence of ash, if unmitigated, could have an impact on bats, birds, invertebrates, lichens, bryophytes and fungi.

Bats: Semi-natural woodland is understood to be favoured by bats for foraging, commuting and roosting. Using records from Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) and London Bat Group, reports that nine species of bat were recorded, in 2013-15, either using Highgate cemetery for foraging or commuting, or within 1 km of the site. These were: serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*, Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*, Natterer's *Myotis nattereri*, Leisler's *Nyctalus leisleri*, noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*, Nathusius's pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*, brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and an unidentified *Myotis* sp. Of those nine species, the following six have been identified as having a strong association with ash woodland: for roosting, Daubenton's, Natterer's, Leisler's, soprano pipistrelle; and for foraging Nathusius's pipistrelle, and brown long-eared bat. Therefore, unmitigated significant reduction in ash at Highgate might have an impact on roosting and foraging habitat for these species of bat, which have been recorded at or near the site. The soprano pipistrelle and brown long-eared bat both appear on the list of species covered by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for England.

Birds: Baxter reports the presence of 13 Red-listed species of bird at Highgate Cemetery. These include wren

Troglodyte troglodytes and spotted flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*. Both have been identified as more abundant in ash-dominated woods, the wren as a "partial" user of ash woodland (i.e. it would use this habitat more if more were available), and a user of dead wood of ash. A significant reduction in ash (whether dead or alive) from Highgate cemetery might therefore have an impact on the habitat of wren and spotted flycatcher at this location. The wren is regarded as of least concern and increasing; and spotted flycatcher is of least concern but decreasing and appears among species under the UK BAP for England.

Invertebrates: Baxter reports that numerous invertebrate species of principal importance and local species of conservation concern have been recorded within 1 km of Highgate cemetery. Of these, one is strongly associated with ash or its dead wood - namely the stag beetle *Lucanus cervus*, which is classed as nationally notable on the red list. It could be assumed that a richer population of invertebrates is present at the site than is detailed in Baxter's survey.

Lichens: Mitchell et al (2014b) identify more than 540 species of lichen as associated with ash woodland. Of these, Baxter's ecological survey identifies *Xanthoria parietina* by name as an "example" of the lichens present in Highgate cemetery. This species is classified by Mitchell et al (2014b) as a "partial" user of ash woodland habitat and/or substratum.

Bryophytes and fungi: Mitchell et al (2014b) identify 57 bryophytes and 67 fungi as associated with ash woodland. Ash has been shown to be an important phorophyte in a range of exposed and sheltered woodland habitats.

None of the species recorded at Highgate cemetery are identified in Mitchell et al (2014) as ash obligates (i.e. relying only on ash). However, as set out above, several species associated with the site are known to be partial users of ash woodland, and the invertebrates, lichens, bryophytes and fungi recorded by Baxter might not represent a comprehensive picture of the species at the site. So, it is worth mapping out what tree species might be encouraged or planted to replace the habitat ash provides.

4. Silvicultural practice that might help mitigate the effects of the changing context

Using the spreadsheet of ash-associated biodiversity, tree species have been identified that are understood to have a strong association with birds, bats and lichen that are also of interest at Highgate cemetery, and that also might be used as alternatives to ash.

Table 1: Ash surrogates associated* with birds and bats of importance to Highgate cemetery.

| Target fauna | | Alternatives to ash (tree species) | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Latin name | Common name | Latin name | Common name |
| Birds | | | |
| <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | Spotted flycatcher | <i>Betula pubescens/pendula</i> | Birch sp (silver and downy) |
| | | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Beech |
| | | <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> | Scots pine |
| | | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| | | <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Troglodyte troglodytes</i> | Wren | <i>Betula pubescens/pendula</i> | Birch sp (silver and downy) |
| | | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Beech |
| | | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| Bats | | | |
| <i>Myotis nattererii</i> | Natterer's bat | <i>Acer campestre</i> | Field maple |
| | | <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Horse chestnut |
| | | <i>Betula pubescens/pendula</i> | Birch sp (silver and downy) |
| | | <i>Castanea sativa</i> | Sweet chestnut |
| | | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Beech |
| | | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| | | <i>Salix caprea</i> | Goat willow |
| | | <i>Salix cinerea</i> | Grey willow |
| <i>Myotis daubentonii</i> | Daubenton's bat | <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| | | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Beech |
| | | <i>Salix caprea</i> | Goat willow |
| | | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| | | <i>Salix cinerea</i> | Grey willow |
| | | <i>Tilia cordata</i> | Small leaved lime |
| <i>Nyctalus noctula</i> | Common noctule | <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | Hornbeam |
| | | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| | | <i>Tilia cordata</i> | Small leaved lime |
| <i>Nyctalus leisleri</i> | Leisler's bat | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| | | <i>Tilia cordata</i> | Small leaved lime |
| <i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i> | Common pipistrelle | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| <i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i> | Soprano pipistrelle | <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |

*Mitchell et al grade the degree of certainty with which the association with ash woodland can be stated as: known - i.e. the target species (in this case the birds and bats) are known to use the tree species; known not to use it; thought likely to use it; have occasionally been recorded as using it; and unknown as to whether there is an association. The selection in this table is based solely on "known" - i.e. the highest degree of certainty of association between the target species and *Fraxinus excelsior* L.

Table 2: Alternatives to ash strongly associated with the lichen *Xanthoria parietina***

*Mitchell et al grade the degree of certainty with which the association with ash woodland can be stated as: known - i.e. the target species (in this case the lichen) are known to use the tree species; known not to use it; thought likely to use it; have occasionally been recorded as using it; and unknown as to whether there is an association. The selection in this table is based solely on "known" - i.e. the highest degree of certainty of association between the target species and *Fraxinus excelsior* L.

To identify species with potential to compensate for functional traits lost when ash is removed, Hill et al (2019) took species abundance, bark pH, and height as indicators of ecological function. Assuming Highgate cemetery approximates to woodland sub-types W8 in the National Vegetation Classification, the Hill approach produces the following list of recommended species: alder *Alnus glutinosa*, aspen *Populus tremula*, bird cherry *Prunus padus*, downy birch *Betula pubescens*, field maple *Acer campestre*, oak - pedunculate/sessile *Quercus robur/petraea*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. Of these, Hill et al note that sycamores may respond well to changing climate conditions in the future.

It is understood that no single species can replace all of the traits and functions associated with ash, and that therefore a mixture of species will be the most effective way to compensate for its removal.

Baxter provides a list of 22 tree species "suitable for use in Highgate cemetery" as "a basis on which to build a display, which accommodates the significances [sic] of the designed and natural landscape". Table 3 illustrates the commonalities between that list and those generated through interpretation of Mitchell and Hill respectively (i.e. Tables 1 and 2; and Hill et al 2019). Green shading highlights species common to all three; yellow shading highlights where a species is only present in two lists. In sum, this represents the species that an implementation programme at Highgate should consider - through maintenance of existing stock, natural regeneration or planting - as a mix specifically to mitigate substantial reduction of ash on the site. It supports the options indicated by Baxter, indicates priority species among them, and adds sycamore, alder, aspen and birch as worthy of further consideration.

| Latin name | Common name |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Acer campestre</i> | Field maple |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |
| <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Horse chestnut |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| <i>Betula pubescens/pendula</i> | Birch sp (silver and downy) |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | Hornbeam |
| <i>Castanea sativa</i> | Sweet chestnut |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Beech |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | Holly |
| <i>Juglans nigra</i> | Black walnut |
| <i>Juglans regia</i> | Common walnut |
| <i>Larix decidua</i> | European larch |
| <i>Ligustrum vulgare</i> | Privet |
| <i>Malus sylvestris</i> | Crab apple |
| <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> | Scots pine |
| <i>Platanus x hybrid</i> | Plane sp |
| <i>Populus nigra</i> | Black poplar |
| <i>Populus tremula</i> | Aspen |
| <i>Prunus avium</i> | Wild cherry |
| <i>Prunus padus</i> | Bird cherry |
| <i>Prunus spinosa</i> | Blackthorn |
| <i>Quercus robur/petraea</i> | Oak (sessile and pedunculate) |
| <i>Sorbus aria</i> | Whitebeam |
| <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> | Rowan |
| <i>Taxus baccata</i> | Yew |
| <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> | Large leaved lime |
| <i>Ulmus procera/glabra</i> | Wych & English elm |

Table 3: Priority tree species to mitigate potential impacts of ash removal at Highgate cemetery

| Species | Derived from: | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| | Baxter 2019 | Mitchell et al 2014b | Hill et al 2019 |
| Bird cherry | Green | Green | Green |
| Rowan | Green | Green | Green |
| Field maple | Green | Green | Green |
| Oak (pedunculate/sessile) | Green | Green | Green |
| Plane sp. | Yellow | Yellow | White |
| Wild cherry | Yellow | Yellow | White |
| Whitebeam | Yellow | Yellow | White |
| Yew | Yellow | Yellow | White |
| Beech | Yellow | Yellow | White |
| Alder | White | Yellow | Yellow |
| Sycamore | White | Yellow | Yellow |
| Aspen | White | Yellow | Yellow |
| Birch | White | Yellow | Yellow |

Ash maintenance and succession schedule

The following principles (based on Baxter 2019; Hill et al 2019; Kowarik et al 2016; Forest Commission 2021; Tree Council 2021) could be considered for the management of ash succession:

- Immediate and ongoing remedial work to continue prevention of hazards and promote tree health.
- Immediate and continuous monitoring for signs of ash dieback.
- Maintenance of older, viable ash for their ecological value.
- Attention should be paid to the contiguity of ash woodland habitat, where this is important to foraging and commuting bats, for example.
- Planting of replacement species (Table 3) as soon as possible.
- Since there are numerous oak trees of a range of ages on site, new planting of quercus is likely to be necessary only if the incidence of oak processionary moth *Thaumetopoea processionea* increases significantly.
- Some sycamore is present on the site. Its anticipated resilience to climate change impacts suggests it would be prudent to ensure this species is well established as soon as possible.

Managing arisings from ash

Increased intervention at the site is likely to lead to a greater volume of ash being removed annually for some years. Much of this will be aged up to around 60 years and will measure less than 60cm diameter at breast height (DBH). (Some older standing ash specimens over 70cm DBH seem likely to be retained). Small diameter cuts may be appropriate for artefacts, tool handles, and sports equipment such as hockey sticks. There is also a market for ash, especially if figured, in musical instrument-making. The potential market for Highgate cemetery-branded ash among boutique instrument makers might be worth exploring.

Barriers and risks

- Given the owners' aim to reuse a substantial number of burial plots and to achieve a mixed landscape of habitats (developing the understorey, more open space and grassland) the area allocated to trees is likely to shrink even while a richer mix of planting is envisaged. There might therefore be a trade-off between achieving the most effective surrogate mix for ash and other ecological and economic values.
- Further advance of ash dieback might impose additional conditions on removal of ash arisings from the site and constrain attempts to find alternative (e.g. artisanal) uses for the timber.
- Increased incidence of oak processionary moth might impose new demands on the tree species mixture to mitigate a reduced presence of oak.
- Substantial clearance of ivy *Hedera helix* as envisaged in the conservation plan is not directly a barrier to the silvicultural approach to mitigating for ash removal. It could, however, represent a major change to food and shelter available to birds, bats and invertebrates especially in winter. As such, removal of ivy could place another demand on the tree species mix to provide

winter nectar and shelter, representing another potential trade-off. Since ivy has been shown to support temperature control on buildings and is found to be popular aesthetically, planting/replanting of ivy on the buildings could be considered as mitigation for removal of ivy as habitat in wooded areas.

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Adam Bradbury

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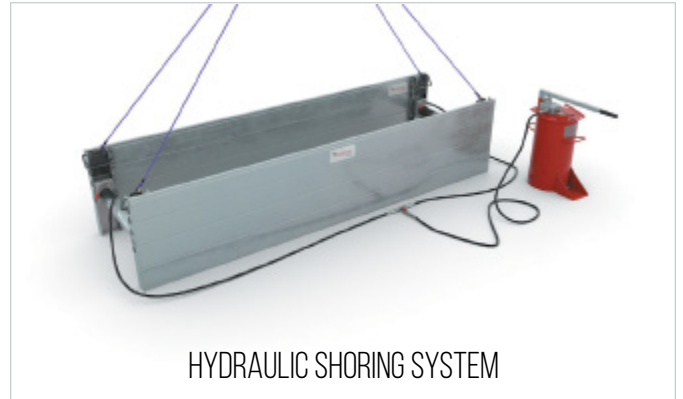
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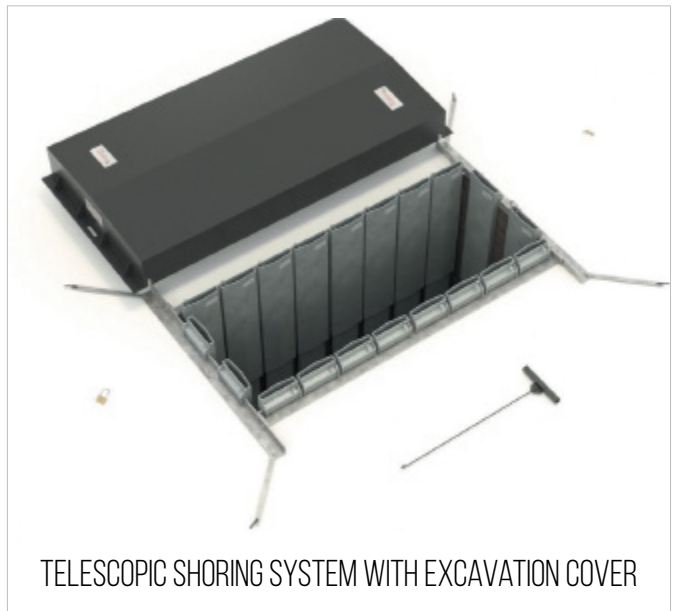
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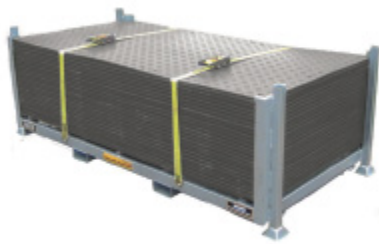
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grief cafe provides valuable support to hampshire community

A free grief café has been providing valuable support and connections to local residents in Hampshire, after it opened last month.



The Good Grief Café at GreenAcres Heatherley Wood, in partnership with The Good Grief Trust

The Good Grief Café is held at award-winning cemetery and ceremonial park, GreenAcres Heatherley Wood, and has been launched in partnership with leading bereavement charity, The Good Grief Trust.

Following an unprecedented 18 months when people from all walks of life have been affected by loss, a recent survey from GreenAcres found that nearly a third (29%) of people in the South East have discussed death and their funeral preferences more frequently with loved ones compared to before the coronavirus pandemic - highlighting the importance of enabling open conversations about grief and end of life.

Designed to offer an umbrella of support to people in Hampshire, the Good Grief Café takes place on the first Saturday of every month and is run by Good Grief Trust volunteers who have all been bereaved themselves, alongside trained members of the team from GreenAcres, to connect and signpost people to services across the region and help them find a way forward.

Commenting on the success of the café, Rebecca Pointeau, part of the support team at GreenAcres Heatherley Wood, said: "It is already clear that families and our surrounding community are having a really positive experience from this initiative.

"At our last Café, we were able to introduce three young widows to each other, all about a year apart in their grief journey. They have since met up and gone for drinks. Bringing people together and watching them bond and support each other through their experiences is what we have hoped to do at the Cafés so it's great that this has already been possible so early on."

Andy Tait, CEO at GreenAcres, commented:

"Our recent survey findings highlighted that nearly half (44%) of people in the South East talk to those close to them about death, which is encouraging to hear. We're





Linda Magistris

committed to doing all we can to help normalise these conversations and provide people with the support they need when faced with moments of grief and loss, and our Cafés allow us to offer these crucial services to the local community in their time of need."

The Good Grief Trust was founded in 2016 by Linda Magistris, to help all those affected by grief in the UK. It is the country's leading bereavement network, bringing together over 800 charities and support services.

Linda added: "Grief can be complicated, but access to support should never be. Our vision is to ensure that no-one grieving feels alone and that they know where to find tailored help from day one.

"By hosting monthly Good Grief Cafés across GreenAcres' parks, we will be able to extend our reach for the bereaved and continue to build strong local networks that will enable people to access peer-to-peer support alongside professional guidance and services."

The Good Grief Café at GreenAcres Heatherley Wood Park takes place on the first Saturday of every month.

Originally opened in 2015 and recently extended, GreenAcres Heatherley Wood Park is set in 12 acres of woodland and wildflower meadows, and offers a unique location for memorial services, cremation services and burials.

To find out more visit Pop Up Good Grief Cafes – The Good Grief Trust and to register a place email: hello@thegoodgrieftrust.org.uk.

- GreenAcres is a member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), Society of Allied Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF), National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) and Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA), and as such is independently assessed by national organisations that monitor the industry standards.
- Survey source: GreenAcres Group September 2021, YouGov UK population.



Julie Dunk, Heather White and Linda Magistris

About The Good Grief Trust

- The Good Grief Trust was founded by Linda Magistris in 2016 and exists to help all those affected by grief in the UK.
- The Trust aims to find the bereaved, acknowledge their grief and provide reassurance, a virtual hand of friendship and ongoing support.
- The Trust's vision is to bring all bereavement services together around the country, to ensure that everyone receives the support they need to move forward with their lives.

For more information visit www.thegoodgrieftrust.org

Rebecca James,
Engagements Relationship Manager

new crematorium for the people of Hampshire

A brand new, state-of-the-art, crematorium is being built near Hampshire's New Forest national park to serve the people of New Milton, Bournemouth, Christchurch and surrounding areas.



New Forest Crematorium is being developed by Westerleigh Group, the UK's largest independent owner and operator of crematoria and cemeteries, with 35 other sites across England, Scotland and Wales, all set within beautifully-landscaped gardens of remembrance which provide pleasant, peaceful places for people to visit and reflect.

The new facility is expected to open in March 2022.

Upon entering the site, a vista will open across the parkland landscape to the modern design chapel building. Its design and scale will provide a focus for the site without compromising the important backdrop of the Great Woor Copse.

The chapel building will enjoy views to the adjacent woodland, providing a beautiful and peaceful setting for services and serving mourners during their contemplations.

Mourners will leave the chapel and be led to a covered floral tribute area.

The chapel is being fitted with a modern media system and a tribute screen, enabling it to provide live webcasts, visual tributes and an almost unlimited music library which means services can be highly personalised.

The chapel will seat 117 mourners, with further standing space available.

As with all Westerleigh Group's crematoria, the chapel building will be surrounded by beautifully landscaped Gardens of Remembrance which will provide a tranquil, serene, setting suitable for a range of memorials.

Bill Scott, Regional Manager of the Westerleigh Group, said: "New Forest Crematorium will reduce journey times for mourners, as well as offer the bereaved a wider choice of where to celebrate the lives of their loved ones.

"The exceptional care for all aspects of our work, including the support provided to the families in our care, the funeral service itself, the management of ashes and the maintenance of our grounds, will ensure that families are able to mourn and remember their loved one in a way that is uniquely personal.

For more information about the development, please visit www.newforestcrematorium.co.uk



Development in Progress – March 2021

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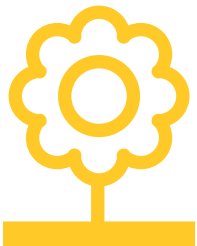
CDS are with you every step of the way from Feasibility Studies, Landscape and Concept Design through to Planning, Construction and Delivery, ensuring a seamless experience from inception to completion.

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and thoughtfully constructed developments. Ones that have distinctive spatial qualities but that also offer excellent commercial value, and that are low-maintenance environments with minimal operational costs.

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EDGE are delighted to have been awarded a place on the Everything ICT procurement framework to supply Epitaph to the public sector.

The Everything ICT framework is focused towards providing public sector organisations with innovative, future proofed solutions which synergises perfectly with the core values of EDGE.

Everything ICT is OJEU pre-tendered which removes the need for lengthy competitions and instead provides a fully compliant route to make a direct award to Everything ICT for our Epitaph cemetery and crematoria solution.

The framework specialises in cloud products and related services, and has spent 5 years developing and refining a service that allows public sector organisations to save time and money on tendering.

EDGE underwent a rigorous application and vetting process, modelled on public procurement best practice which covered all the usual questions concerning mandatory and discretionary exclusion from public contracts. Our application was reviewed independently by a committee of Everything ICT Directors and the CEO

of E2BN (the framework contracting authority). Having successfully passed the application, EDGE are bound to supply in accordance with the full terms and conditions of the Everything ICT framework.

As EDGE is now the framework's recommended partner for cemetery and crematoria management software, we are committed to providing cutting edge solutions in order to push innovation and maintain our approved status on the framework.

Full details can be downloaded from **www.edgeITsystems.com/procurement-framework**

Please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange an online demonstration and a proposal to migrate you to Epitaph with the security of the Everything ICT framework.



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environmental stewardship group

Where now?

De-carbonising funerals is going to be a challenge. Yet, the way we dispose of the dead must change. The fact is that neither burial nor cremation has fundamentally altered much since Victorian times. Gas cremation was always disastrous for the environment. Similarly, the lawn graves introduced since the war to 'modernise' burial, also have a high carbon footprint. Now is the time to recognise that the Church of England had an efficient low carbon process for well over a thousand years, the reusable churchyard.

Had natural burial not been developed 31 years ago, it is doubtful that reusable coffins and eco coffins would have been introduced. However, at that time we were more concerned with saving the planet's resources rather than global warming. At least, that period generated the ICCM Charter for the Bereaved, the Assessment Process and grave re-use. The ICCM must congratulate itself as the only organisation focussed on environmental issues over three decades.

The market response to both eco coffins and reusable coffins (coffin covers) was muted. Fortunately, emerging green funeral directors and those who opened natural burial sites, created sufficient impetus to promote product development. However, after decades of prevarication, the evident sensitivity of bereavement is now secondary to the global crisis. The living are now more important than the dead.

Perhaps the first need is to define the purpose of the ESG, the Environmental Stewardship Group. This was formed in late 2020 in response to the climate emergency declarations, and the recognition that the sector has a substantial part to play in addressing the environmental concerns affecting the UK. Cremation has to be the major concern because it releases all the carbon in the body (16%), and in the coffin and the gas used. Electric cremation may appear a better option than gas but is still a form of incineration that releases carbon. But, we need to be pragmatic. The government is unlikely to do more than set overall targets. Without specific legislation, all we can do is to change the hearts and minds of the bereaved, and of our culture. Cremation is the wrong choice.

We must assume that a carbon tax for the use of all fossil fuels in crematoria and cemeteries is introduced. In parallel, there must also be a carbon tax applied for the release of carbon from the body, applicable to cremation alone. As this may take time, we can immediately promote the ICCM Burial & Cremation Educational Trust scheme for the environmental operation of cremators. By holding over coffins and using a single cremator for a minimum 12 hours, gas usage can be cut by 40% to 70%.

As the changes are introduced, the alternatives to cremation must be promoted. They must include burial so the government would need to draft the necessary legislation to allow for grave re-use. Those old graves are in urban centres, adjacent to where people live. Cemeteries must then maintain all re-used graves as Urban Natural Burial, with low maintenance regimes. This utilises existing grave plans to create approximate 16' wild strips between memorials which will be planted with native shrubs, wildflowers and bulbs. The model for this planting can be seen at Sissinghurst Castle Garden. The memorials, ideally in wood, would be placed on a pathside, at the foot end, facing each other. If native hazel (as coppice stools) is grown in the strips, this could provide wood for crafts or biofuel. New lawn graves will need to be phased out entirely.

With law reform on the horizon, we must ensure that it is not done in isolation? For instance, reducing burial depth is essential to assist the decomposition of bodies and facilitate grave re-use. That apart, how do we convince both councils and the private sector to reduce gas cremations, their income lifeblood? How do we convince memorial masons to stop using stone, embalmers to stop embalming, florists from using air freighted flowers? Each of these elements must sort out their contribution to the problem. As for vehicles and heating systems, I am assuming separate government actions on those fronts. In conclusion, I anticipate the ESG will create a staged improvement, in three 5 year phases from 2022 to 2036. These could be:

STAGED REDUCTION IN CARBON & EMISSIONS TO AIR CREMATION

Short Term – 2022 – 2026 – Set targets for the staged adoption of the environmental cremation process developed by the ICCM Burial & Cremation Educational Trust as a means to reduce energy usage (40% – 70%) and reduce emissions. This requires minimum 12 hour cremation shifts (8 x cycles) with the holding over of coffins where sufficient daily numbers do not occur. The target could be a 50% reduction in energy use and associated carbon and other emissions by the end of 2026. The promotional policy would be to 'red' rate cremation as a means of disposal so the bereaved understand the damage they are causing to the planet. A carbon tax should apply by 2026. The preferred alternatives to cremation should be highlighted.

Medium Term – 2027– 2031 - Agree mix of disposal options in order to reduce total cremations by 200,000 by 2031. Of total deaths, the target to be cremation (200,000 = 33%), Resomation, perhaps at transitioning crematoria (90,000 =15%), natural burial (90,000 = 15%), low maintenance burial (180,000 = 30%), composting, perhaps at transitioning crematoria (42,000 = 7%).

Long Term – 2032 – 2036 – Agree mix of disposal options in order to reduce total cremations by further 188,000 by 2036. Of total deaths, the target to be cremation (12,000 = 2% (Hindu/Sikh)), Resomation (150,000 =25%), natural burial (150,000 = 25%), low maintenance burial (204,000 = 34%), composting (84,000 = 14%).

COFFINS

Short Term – 2022 – 2026 – A rating scheme should be introduced for all coffins highlighting carbon and other emissions. Coffin covers reduce the coffin mass to be incinerated and these should be promoted.

Medium Term – 2027– 2031 - Identify annual target for 100% of all coffins to meet emission standard for cremation and burial.

Long Term – 2032 – 2036 – N/A

NATURAL BURIAL

Short Term– 2022 – 2026 – Set promotional targets to increase this ‘carbon sink’ option to 15%. It sequesters all the carbon in the body and coffin in year one. Additionally, whether graves are under meadow (turf) or a tree, further carbon is locked up each and every year and this can be added to the annual carbon reduction. Delete any carbon cost of gravedigging.

Medium Term – 2027– 2031 – Target 15%. Seek legislation to reduce depth of natural burial/conventional burial. Identify planning roadblocks in order to facilitate new natural burial sites.

Long Term – 2032 – 2036 – Target 25%

REWILDING

Short Term – 2022 – 2026 – Set targets for re-wilding old grave areas. These are also potential carbon sinks as regards turf and/or new trees and can be counted annually for an agreed period.

Medium Term – 2027– 2031 – Revise targets for 100% re-wilding old grave areas as carbon sinks.

Long Term – 2032 – 2036 – N/A

MEMORIALS

Short Term – 2022 – 2026 – Agree a promotional policy for reduction in use of imported and local stone for cremation and burial memorials, including bronze. Identify options for low carbon alternatives e.g. wood. Devise policy on re-cycling existing old memorial stone into new memorials.

Medium Term – 2027– 2031 – Revise targets for reduction in memorials using imported and local stone and high carbon metals. Likewise, increase targets for low carbon alternatives e.g. wood and memorials made of recycled stone.

Long Term – 2032 – 2036 – Set date for total ban on all imported and local stone for cremation and burial memorials including bronze.

FLOWERS

Short Term – 2022 – 2026 – Agree a promotional policy to dissuade use of all air freighted flowers, and wreaths in general. All wreaths to be entirely compostable by 2026.

MISCELLANEOUS**MEDIUM TERM – 2027– 2031**

GARDENS OR REMEMBRANCE - Devise rules to ensure all new G of R to be designed by 2031 without formal lawns and intensive maintenance. Set targets to phase out all peat for annual bedding in existing G of R and all cemeteries.

CONCRETE BURIAL CHAMBERS – Phase out all new above ground mausoleum and concrete grave chambers by 2031.

BURIAL – Set target for all new lawn graves to cease by 2031.

CONCLUSION

Many members might see these changes as unattainable. However, I would remind them that it took cremation 51 years to attain 2% of all deaths, in 1936. We need to return to that position by 2039, in just 18 years. In 1961, when I began work at Shrewsbury Crematorium, the cremation rate was still only 37.5%. All the coffins were made of wood, with no plastics or chipboard. The Book of Remembrance was often the only memorial. There were no stone or bronze plaques.

Since then, natural burial, a return to nature, destroys the argument for cremation. Already, some woodland graves are now being sold as carbon offsets. Forward thinking perhaps, but offsetting is not a way forward. This suggests that we do need an independent source of data specific to the disposal of the dead. Carbon assessments are complex and an academic study would seem ideal. A university willing to do this work needs to be identified.

Whatever, we need to be ambitious. The oceans are rising and will not stop until carbon is reduced. The dead must not drown the living.



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deputy president attends the society of local council clerks conference 2021

The pandemic had a seismic impact on in-person meetings and events, requiring organisers and attendees to adjust to a whole new reality.

The aftermath could prove even trickier, creating a hybrid audience, with some people attending virtually and others in the flesh.

I was honoured to be invited to my first conference in two years!

As we emerge from the era of social distancing, many people are asking what events will look like, and how they'll work.

- What should the virtual experience be like? How can it be blended successfully with the experience for people there in person?
- Do people really want to sit in a ballroom listening to sessions, or will they want to interact and socialise with their peers after two years in seclusion?
- What types of health and safety precautions will need to be taken?
- How will this new hybrid world change the business and finances of events?
- Will people still be willing to travel long distances to big events?

One of the greatest benefits of attending a conference is meeting new people, connecting with colleagues from across the country and building on current relationships. This is made easier, in my opinion, when doing this face to face rather than virtually.



- ☑ Granite Towers
- ☑ Memorial Kerbs
- ☑ Ash Vaults
- ☑ Columbariums
- ☑ Benches
- ☑ Plaques
- ☑ Carvings

“Granart have been creating bespoke memorialisation schemes for more than 30 years.”

The ICCM has worked with the SLCC for many years, and to be able to continue this relationship and to be part of this year's conference has highlighted how many have missed the in-person connections with others. Attendees were on good form! Simply enjoying being together again.

Thank you to the organisers for putting together this year's conference, and congratulations to the incoming president Philip Peacock PSLCC for what was an enjoyable evening.

It was a joy to meet everyone. I look forward to attending our own Learning Convention again next year, all being well!



Marian Millington
ICCM Deputy President

NEW CATALOGUE ATLANTIS MEMORIALS



This October, Funeral Products will present its new Atlantis Memorials catalogue. A special catalogue that showcases the extensive, complete memorial jewellery collection. The company was one of the first to enter the market for memorial jewellery back in 2000. With subtly designed jewellery pieces, in which a symbolic amount of ashes could be carried discretely. Nowadays, the perfect finish with an eye for design and detail is still the company's focal point.

Following their new catalogue, Atlantis Memorials has further expanded their wide collection with new, stylish pieces of memorial jewellery. One of the new additions is a special jewellery line that find its inspiration in various different sports. Ash pendants shaped like a basketball, American football, soccer ball or boxing glove are just a few examples from this new, special collection. Jewellery that keeps the special memories alive, in a personal manner. To them who lived for their sport and their passion.



For more information please visit our website: uk.funeralproducts.eu

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deceased online


Deceased Online is the only national database dedicated to statutory burial and cremation records. Millions of burial and cremation records are available for the general public to search on www.deceasedonline.com, supplied from local authorities and private cemeteries and crematoria from all over the UK - and we can help you.

- Deceased Online handles the complete service of scanning, digitisation, indexing, uploading, and hosting of cremation and burial records on its own website.
- Our website has registered users in 95 countries in all 7 continents, and revenue is generated 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Deceased Online works with data from any information management system.
- All bereavement services staff for each of the contributing authorities/data owners are able to access records on the DOL website free of charge 24/7, making it convenient and easy to access your historic records.
- All website hosting, development, updates, regulation compliance, enquiries, payment and refunds management are managed by Deceased Online.

Hosting your records in Deceased Online is beneficial in a number of ways. You'll generate revenue from your records. Your records are digitised and therefore preserved. The data we provide from your records is suitable for use in any management system, or even just in spreadsheet format. Providing 24/7 online access for your records to the public will save your staff time. We have unrivalled specialist knowledge and experience to sensitively interpret burial and cremation records, including all aspects of data protection compliance.

No Budget? No Problem!

Deceased Online are currently offering earn out schemes, whereby Deceased Online will recover the amount of the quoted cost of the project through the pay per view revenue until the amount is paid, from which date the owner of the records will begin to receive revenue. Get in touch to find out more.



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in touch - up north



"Daddy is he going to fire that cannon?"

"No Peppa, that would be crazy!"

Apart from the fact it's fantastic, why am I quoting the Peppa Pig's episode the Castle? It'll all make sense shortly. Firstly, as 2021 draws to an end, I hope we can look forward to a happy Christmas and maybe something of a better New Year than last year. Its Plan A still when I'm writing this in October, so I apologise in advance if things have gone downhill again.

Secondly, it's been another year that has been, shall we say, a little bit trying and difficult for virtually everyone. So please remember you need to look after yourself. Talk to your family, friends and anyone else you want to and don't suffer stress alone. There are people that can and want to help you. So please, please at this time of year if you're not feeling great then reach out and feel better.

On a different note, back to Peppa Pig.

The quote in question is about Mr Rabbit firing a canon and the reality of what could happen. Now taking the idea of things being crazy, lets imagine in many years' time, someone looks back on our industry. Honestly, I reckon you'd hear, "That would be crazy" quoted a lot!

We've got a lot of strange burial and cremation things to look at over history. We know that people have been burying the dead for 130,000 years, from Neanderthal times and that also there were ancient cremations. As tree felling was a lot less in those days, it was probably a lot more sustainable to chop a few down and then make a pyre and burn the old tribe chief - I am assuming they were already dead at this point.

So, less people, more space and more sustainable. Then we started to get funeral barrows popping up in the Bronze Age in the UK, Europe and other places to store the ashes and sometime later larger grave goods. People have been cremated and then ashes interred, but it's still manageable and probably sustainable. They probably looked after the sites. It's not as if anyone's doing anything really different.

Of course, the bronze age in the UK runs slap bang to the time the Egyptians started building pyramids! They considered the Pharaoh was a god and so not long after a new ruler began they decided that they needed a tomb to remember them and their deeds – this is about 3000BC.

Imagine if every new Prime Minister's first act was to build their own tomb? I think we'd question that now, but they didn't in Egypt and the sheer scale and materials used by them to do that for nearly 900 years, would now seem to be maybe, a tad excessive.

These are of course our modern eyes looking back on older ideas – the world of hindsight.

The up-keep on them would have made today's Exclusive Right of Burial fees pale in comparison – a perpetual lease on the great pyramid of Giza? That'll cost you a lot of gold! Luckily the Pharaohs were buried with it and as Channel 5's documentary series "Secrets of Egypt" revealed a few years ago, when the

new Pharaoh was a bit short of money, they were the original grave robbers and would raid the old Pharaoh's tombs for the stuff. Reuse and recycling in operation back then.

The issue of paying for memorials for the dead has probably been an issue for thousands of years, just as it is now for our cemeteries.

So fast forwarding a lot, we've got burial spaces for the dead still that aren't just ashes and take a lot of looking after and this big change came about in the 14 - 16th century.

Gravestones as markers of burial are a UK tradition that dates right back to circa 2,000 BC in the UK, with Stonehenge being one of the most renowned ancient gravesites in the world. Through the plague decades burials were moved to designated sites outside towns, with the poor using wooden crosses instead of stone. But again, the tradition of carved headstones dates back to Victorian times.

Humm, we're back to the wealthy spending money to remember their ancestors.

Where are we at today? – we spend anywhere between £250 - £1200 (and more!) for a coffin, depending on what it's made of and then the majority are cremated.

We can also spend in excess of £1,000 for a headstone to mark where we might have just buried our £1,000 coffin, as well as having paid for the grave itself and then we leave it to be looked after.

Let's also think that we do seem to import a lot of material for coffins and memorials – like the ancient Egyptians and Britons, we'll move huge quantity of material vast distances (for the times we live in) for the process of remembering the dead.

Or if we're more mindful, we'll choose a natural burial, still not cheap, but it'll be less maintenance in the future, although this isn't necessarily the option for everyone.

Well, we might not want to look after a grave and so we'll pay probably less in total, to have it cremated and burn our investment and use a lot of fossil fuel.

Please consider I'm not having a go at the industry - I'm not that mad! If, however, you imagine a future when a child is talking to their Dad and looking back at the world, what we're doing in the face of rising costs, temperatures, global warming -then it's just possible in the words of Daddy Pig when things are being explained.

Daddy - did they really do all of those things back then?

"No that would be crazy!"

Again, it might be hindsight for them, but maybe, just maybe a little Daddy Pig logic might be good for us in 2022 and beyond??

Wishing you all Seasonal greetings and a happy New Year.

Trevor Robson
ICCM Finance and IT Manager

westerleigh group supports baby loss awareness week

From creating dedicated memorial gardens for babies to illuminating a chapel in blue and pink lights, Westerleigh Group's crematoria marked Baby Loss Awareness Week in a variety of ways.

The first Baby Loss Awareness Day took place on October 15 2002 in the UK but now takes the form of a whole week of events involving a wide range of charities.

Baby Loss Awareness Week 2021 ran between October 9 and 15 and aims to raise awareness about pregnancy loss and baby loss, to drive improvements in care and support for anyone affected by it, and to support bereaved parents and families, encouraging them to unite with others across the world to commemorate their babies' lives and lost pregnancies, ensuring they know they are not alone.

A number of Westerleigh Group's crematoria organised activities as part of the week, demonstrating their commitment to supporting those in its local communities who have experienced pregnancy loss or baby loss.



West Berkshire Crematorium, in partnership with Royal Berkshire Hospital, opened a new Baby Garden within its grounds and also donated £3,000 in total to three local charities who support bereaved families. The money was raised through the crematorium's metal recycling scheme.

West Lancashire Cemetery and Crematorium marked Baby Loss Awareness Week by announcing it planned to create a Baby & Infant Memorial Garden in its grounds.

Vale Royal Crematorium in Cheshire bathed its chapel building in pink and blue lights, reflecting the colours of ribbons and pins sold to raise money for the many charities associated with Baby Loss Awareness Week.

Gedling Crematorium in Nottinghamshire bought pink and blue pins to wear in chapel and lit 21 candles to mark the 21 stillborn/baby and non-viable foetus cremations the site has conducted this year.

Parndon Wood Cemetery and Crematorium in Essex hosted a special Baby Loss Tribute Service on October 9 in its chapel building. This event was also streamed live over the internet for those unable to attend in person, and invited donations in aid of SANDS, the national Stillbirth and Neonatal Death charity.

Great Glen Crematorium, in Leicestershire, donated £3,000 to the Bodie Hodges Foundation, which supports families who have been bereaved of a child, and promotes organ donation. The money was raised through the crematorium's metal recycling scheme.

Similarly, Westerleigh Crematorium, just outside Bristol, has donated £3,000 to SANDS from its metal recycling scheme in recognition of Baby Loss Awareness Week.

Roger McLaughlan, Chief Executive Officer of Westerleigh Group, said: "The loss of any loved one is a difficult and distressing time for those they leave behind, but the loss of babies can be particularly heart-breaking and traumatic for everyone involved.

"Baby Loss Awareness Week gave us the chance to show our support for these families and also get behind the work of all the charities and organisations involved.

"We pride ourselves on providing exceptional care for families who use our facilities and on making positive contributions to our local communities, and our support for Baby Loss Awareness Week is another example of that commitment."

**Issued on behalf of the Westerleigh group
by Darren Bane, Empica**

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distington hall crematorium refurbishes its chapel of remembrance

Significant investment at Copeland Council's Distington Crematorium has seen a more tranquil space for remembrance, plus an increased commitment to the environment.

The complex's separate Chapel of Remembrance was extensively refurbished during Covid restrictions. As well as being a more modern, light and calm place for mourners, it now also houses a unique memorial tree sculpture.

Families can purchase a personalised, inscribed metal leaf to be hung on the custom-made wrought iron sculpture. They can also buy a weather-proof replica leaf to keep and display at home.

Sue Pringle, Copeland's Bereavement Services Manager, said: "We wanted something a bit different, that would be meaningful for families, and last longer than flowers.



Chapel of Remembrance interior

"The piece is unique and was created by a local artist. We think it fits nicely with the calm décor and quiet atmosphere of the chapel."



*Bereavement Services Manager
Sue Pringle & Mayor Mike Starkie*

Copeland's Elected Mayor, Mike Starkie, said: "As well as a wonderful interior refurbishment, the chapel also has an important new addition - a baby memorial book. This book is on a lectern in the chapel and it is there for anyone who has been touched by the loss of a baby to write their tributes in.

"We have been delighted with the improvements that have been made over lockdown. They will make a big difference to families. The Chapel of Remembrance is a calm, reflective environment for people to be with their thoughts, and there are some lovely new ways for them to commemorate their loved ones."

Another addition during lockdown was a new recycling and preparation area outside the Chapel of Remembrance. The wooden structure, simply built from reclaimed timbers, provides a place where the plastic and other wrappings from flowers can be removed and recycled.

sometimes it could end up as litter in the grounds, still there when the flowers inside had faded."

There are recycling containers for plastic, card, flowers, glass, metal and for general waste. There is also a shelf where people can unwrap their flowers.

The unwrapped flowers can then be placed into the chapel's new vases, which themselves are made from recycled plastic.

Mr Starkie said: "We are increasingly aware of our footprint in terms of the environment and, alongside bigger sustainability projects, small changes at our own facilities can make a difference."





Continuing the theme of improving the environment whilst serving residents, the council's parks and bereavement staff have come together to create an innovative project. A volunteer gardening scheme addresses wellbeing issues whilst bringing a neglected area of the crematorium grounds back to life.

The crematorium is in the grounds of a former mansion, and an attractive walled garden with beds and statuary has, over many years, fallen into disrepair.



Preparation and recycling area

Mrs Pringle said: "On the first Saturday of every month we invite volunteers to join us and we've already made great strides towards returning the garden to its former glory. People get to chat, meet new faces, and get fresh air, exercise, and invaluable gardening advice from our staff."

"We are starting to reveal the beautiful bones of this Victorian garden. We have plans to repair statuary and fountains, and hopefully create a quiet sitting area where people can have a cuppa while enjoying the wildlife and the quiet."

For more information about the crematorium or any of its services, email distinguonthalladmin@copeland.gov.uk or call 01946 830561.

Leila Cox

company news

Teleshore

Teleshore develops bespoke collection tray trolley to improve technician safety



In partnership with crematoria customers, Teleshore Group has designed and manufactured a solution for removing and transporting collection trays.

The bespoke metal trolley can transport up to six collection trays at a time, it is lightweight and on castors so it can be easily wheeled out of public gaze. The trolley is heat resistant and steered at hand height via a short handle to the side.

Barry Ellis, of Agecroft and Peel Green crematoria in Salford and Dave Jennings from Altrincham Crematorium, Trafford have introduced the trolleys into their crematoria and found them to be a useful tool. Barry comments:

"I think it's brilliant to be honest and a good weight for moving around the crematorium. One of the key things is that it removes the need for the operative to be carrying hot ashes. They can simply place them in the trolley then leave them to cool before placing them in the transfer station."

Peter Smith, Managing Director of Teleshore Group said:

"This trolley was developed in partnership with our crematoria customers to solve a problem they had identified when transporting hot ash in collection trays. Our solution facilitates transport in a safer and more user-friendly way than previous solutions.

Teleshore is committed to providing the best service for all of our crematoria customers and we welcome the opportunity to assist by developing bespoke products for our customers and solving problems with them."



company news

welters® organisation worldwide

We are pleased to confirm the completion of multi-material mausolea units within the Mausolea Village as shown in the image. These mausolea are available in a variety of full body interment options and incorporate stone, granite, stainless steel and hardwood. Further foundations are already laid for ongoing installation of additional interments within this beautiful area.



As we make our way through these winter months, we continue to offer our unique and bespoke products, systems and services to the industry throughout the UK and look forward to developing each project with our customers.

Please visit our website (www.welters-worldwide.com) for further information on our products and services and request the specific philosophy and conceptual structure in relation to our Partnership Programme opportunities.



welters®
ORGANISATION
WORLDWIDE

Edge IT Systems

EDGE IT Systems are delighted to announce that Peter Linsell (Managing Director of Peter Linsell Management Consultants) joined our team as Product Consultant on 31st August.

Peter brings with him 27 years experience in the bereavement services sector, including ten years as manager of the cemeteries and crematoria at Kirklees Council, four as Technical Services Manager at the ICCM and the last thirteen years running his own consultancy business.

Peter's reputation in the bereavement sector is unparalleled, having built his company into the go-to service provider when burial and cremation authorities need consultancy advice and support on any aspect of their operation.

On his appointment, Peter commented "This arrangement allows me to join EDGE at a very exciting time for the business. When Chris Edge approached me about the position, it soon became clear that we are a perfect match in terms of our values, our commitment to customer service, and the need for agility and teamwork in delivering the service."

While the position importantly allows the scope for Peter to continue delivering and developing his own first-class consultancy business to the bereavement services sector, it is also seen as an important and appropriate opportunity to continue the fantastic work Ian Quance has been doing for EDGE since 2016.

"It is really sad that Ian has had to take a step back due to his health issues and it is my intention to take the baton and run with it and ensure we do all we can to continue his legacy", said Peter.

Ian welcomed Peter with "Peter could not be a better replacement for me. He was my first tutor when I started studying cemetery management with the ICCM and has been a friend ever since. I know he'll do a great job going forward."

Peter can be contacted via peter@edgeITsystems.com and via our Help Desk on 024 7666 7337.

If you have any queries in regards to this change, please do not hesitate to contact Chris Edge via chris@edgeITsystems.com

EDGE
IT Systems Ltd

company news

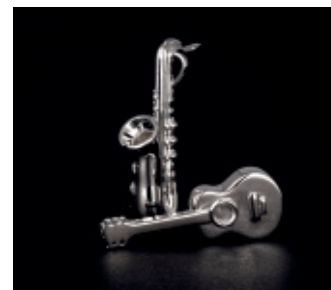
Funeral Products

Funeral Products presents their new Atlantis Memorials catalogue. This new catalogue features the complete, extensive Atlantis collection in commemorative jewellery, offering funeral homes a very practical means of promotion in order to reach out to and tend to their clients.

Atlantis Memorials can be considered a pioneer in the commemorative jewellery industry. The Dutch company was one of the first to enter the market for memorial jewellery in 2000. With subtly designed ashes chambers, a symbolic amount of ashes could be carried inconspicuously. Nowadays, the perfect finish with an eye for design and details is still central; always using materials of the highest quality, making it robust and heavy. Contemporary and timeless designs, with attention and care, so that relatives can carry their beautiful memories with them for as long as possible.

The company has further expanded their wide collection, with several new additions such as a special line of memorial jewellery that finds its inspiration within music. This new line consist of pendants shaped like music notes and instruments, such as a guitar, saxophone, violon and piano. A lasting memory to those musicians who left us, but whose music will forever echo in our hearts.

The new music pendants are now available. For more information please visit our website: uk.funeralproducts.eu



Plotbox

How PlotBox is Helping UK Local Authorities to Transform Bereavement Services

High speed advances in technology, coupled with the repercussions of COVID-19, mean that local council bereavement services are having to find new ways to adapt. In an industry where manual processing is often standard, many councils are looking for more efficient approaches. Something that cloud based death care management software provider PlotBox is helping to make a reality.

Modernising operations through digital transformation

Watford Council turned to PlotBox to help them transform the way their cemeteries were run, while also ensuring that all systems integrated smoothly with the council's wider digital processes.

Dovetailing with the council's existing data and maps, PlotBox's cloud computing system helped to ensure that staff were no longer confined to the office and no longer needed to pour over paper maps or visit cemeteries in person.

From manual operations to modern software at Falkirk

Modernising operations was a pressing need for Falkirk Council. PlotBox now helps the council to take care of tasks that were once done manually, including record keeping, plot management, finance, bookkeeping and reporting, as well as having set up mapping operations, using drones to produce aerial images of their cemeteries.

Transforming customer service for Wirral

Despite being in the middle of a pandemic, PlotBox and Wirral Council worked together to deliver a solution that transformed the council's customer service and freed up time for staff to deal with other important tasks.

With PlotBox's Funeral Director Module, Funeral Directors across the region can now log in online 24/7 and provisionally book slots for the dates and times they need, allowing staff more time to direct attention to other matters in the cemetery.

If you'd like to learn more about the ways that PlotBox are supporting bereavement services in UK Local Authorities, or how they could help you, please email info@plotbox.io or call 028 2582 1005.



the grave as a garden

Examining a unique type of cemetery memorial

Introduction

Styles and symbols are inextricably associated with periods of history. Whilst this is undoubtedly apparent in respect of architecture, it equally applies to memorials. The broken column, draped urn, upturned torch and clasped hands can be found on many eighteenth and nineteenth-century monuments. The uniform dimensions, lettering and stone of the Commonwealth War Grave and then the adoption of the lawn graves signify burial during the twentieth, whilst the contemporary period has seen more laissez-faire approach to commemoration in terms of elaborate memorials in a variety of materials, secular symbolism, lengthy inscriptions and occasionally adjoining benches.

During the interwar years (1919-1939) masons offered two styles of memorial that represented the spirit of the age. The first was a range of designs that embraced Art Deco, while the second was the 'garden memorial' where the grave space portrayed the suburban front garden. Drawing from memorial catalogues and other literature, this article examines the style and rationale behind the 'garden memorial'.

The Grave as a Garden

The 'garden memorial' comprises kerbing using rectangular granite or stone blocks, with the centre of the grave infilled with 'crazy paving'. Sometimes these would be laid to resemble a winding path. A feature would invariably be a bird bath, a circular flower bowl on a pedestal or vases; gaps sometimes remained in the kerbing for planting shrubs. Some designs would be marked out by small boulders, not dissimilar to those used on an ornamental rockery. A stone block set into the foot of the kerb, a low wall at the head end of the grave or on a rock boulder would contain a short inscription.



Five examples of an interwar 'garden memorial' in London cemeteries.



Three examples of 'garden memorials' from Maile's promotion literature

G Maile & Sons was one firm that made this type of memorial their speciality. Founded in 1785 and claiming to be 'London's oldest firm of sculptors', by 1930s they had showrooms at 367 Euston Road and also in Eastbourne, East Sussex. Leaflets and colour brochures depicted their range of memorials along with lists detailing where their memorials had been erected including the name of the cemetery, the client, a brief description of the memorial and the date. One for the Bristol area gives installations in churchyards such as Alveston and Kingswood along with the cemeteries at Canford, Arnos Vale, Greenbank and Avon View. Such a strategy would hopefully encourage the prospective purchaser to see a memorial in situ prior to placing an order. Advertisements appearing in *The Times* indicate the firm's nationwide distribution network.

Maile's brochure explained the rationale of this new type of memorial:

Of recent years Bird Baths, Sundials and Flower Vases (with an Enclosure formed of Natural Random Walling Stones) have come to be used as an Inspiration for the Design of Churchyards and Cemetery Garden of Remembrance Memorials. They are adaptable in many individual ways and suggest association direct with Nature's Peaceful Living Beauty, as well as being a release from the more conventional stereotyped form of memorial so often seen in the past.

Planting of the grave was also suggested:

A very charming natural garden effect can be obtained if small rock plants are grown in the crevices and pockets of the walling enclosure and random paving.

A list of recommended plants included: Alyssum, Arabis, Aubrietia, Cupressus, Dianthus, Erica (heather), Lavender, Marjoram, rock roses, Rosemary, Saxifrage, Sedum, Speedwell, Stonecrop, Thyme. For the 'Passion Flower' design, Maile & Son would provide four dwarf Cupressus trees for an additional 25 shillings.

Although Maile's illustrated literature depicts a number of different designs other masons supplied similar types of memorial. In his study of ceramic memorials, Colin Fenn (2018: 18) provides an illustration of a particularly complex design which was not part of the range offered by Maile & Co. A survey of memorials in London cemeteries reveals those with miniature garden-type items, such as metal gates, a lych gate and a bench. One design enabled the memorial to be positioned lengthways adjacent to a path or road with the inscription tablet on the side rather than at the head end.



An example of a large 'garden memorial' erected in 1939 by Maile & Co in Islington St Pancras Cemetery.



A 'garden memorial' with the inscription tablet on the side.

Explaining the 'Grave as a Garden'

The 'garden memorial' was a marked departure from established nineteenth century designs with their overt symbols of mortality. Maile's approach towards commemoration was explained in their literature:

Every memorial is a Symbol of Memory, a Symbol of Personality, and constitutes a Living Inlay in the Mosaic of the World, being a personal chapter in the history of our day, keeping alive the influence of the ideas that rise Eternal from the lives that have lived and whose influence still lives.

A Memorial is innately a work of Beauty, since it is beautiful in intent and application, it is Beautiful in its Significance.

A Memorial is a pledge of Devotion, a reminder and an Inspiration indicating Love and Hope, till Time shall be no more.

Maile employed the phrase 'nature's peaceful living beauty' in their marketing material, the 'living' being encouraged by the planting of flowers along with water receptacles to attract bird life.

The overall inspiration for the design comes from the front garden of the suburban house constructed during the 1920s and 1930s. Here could be found a winding crazy-paved path with the destination being a pond, sundial or rockery. These memorials provided familiarity to the bereaved through replication of their own garden.

The interwar period fostered an interest in gardening, as explained by the twentieth century historian, Juliet Gardiner:

Front gardens were only for looking at. Gardening had become an increasingly popular leisure activity in the 1930s; newspapers and magazines published regular gardening columns, part works and gardening encyclopaedias filled book shops. Mr (CH) Middleton's gardening talks were among the BBC's most popular programmes, a number of them being published in book form....Flowerbeds might flank the path or cut in a half-moon shape under the window, full of indiscriminately coloured bedding plants, or a more austere flare of feathery pampas grass. There might be a rockery, the 'rocks' a useful final resting place for builders rubble, sheltering a range of small alpine plants....with perhaps a cast stone birdbath. (Gardiner 2011: 312).

In *Semi-Detached London*, Alan A Jackson notes that the introduction in 1916 of 'Daylight Saving' (summer-time) together with the reduction in working hours post-1919 which gave the opportunity to invest in this new activity:

'Well-groomed gardens were seen everywhere in the new suburbs, an outlet for creative drives suppressed in the routines of office life; many of the new house owners devoted almost all their leisure daylight hours to them...' (Jackson 1991: 124)

The layout was then described:

'...boundaries were established by low walls of up to six courses of bricks or crazy stones...' (Jackson 1991: 125)

The 'Remembrance Memorial' and the language of evasion

Maile's promotional literature reveals a complete absence of any words directly associated with mortality. The words 'died', 'death' and 'grave' are avoided whilst 'gravestone' is largely replaced by 'remembrance memorial'. Similarly, example inscriptions simply give the terminal dates thus dispensing with 'born' and 'died'. As noted above, emphasis is placed on words such as 'memory', 'beauty' and 'nature'. The names and poetic descriptions given to Maile's designs reflect these attributes: 'The Myrtle: Symbol of Love, Constancy and Immortality', 'The Passion Flower: The Symbol of Christ's Passion', 'The Rose: Symbol of Beauty and Perfection' and 'The Oak: Symbol of Strength, Glory and Honour'. Suggested epitaphs include 'In happy memory', 'Into the Sunshine of God's Love', 'In Love Remember', 'The Time of the Singing of Birds is Come' and simply, 'Remember'.

The language focusing on nature and flowers is well illustrated by the introduction to one leaflet entitled 'Symbolism and Beauty':

Nature speaks in Symbols and in Signs

The language of flowers can express with beautiful significance the Immortality of Love. For those who may be thinking of erecting a memorial, a leaflet of exceptional interest and illustrated in colour, has just been published, giving the emblematical meaning of many well-known flowers such as Crocus (pleasures of hope); daffodil (desire – regard); hyacinth (peace); tulip (charity); lily (purity); violet (modesty).

Elsewhere the brochures contains phrases such as: 'Memory is a garden that has many fragrant flowers', 'Here all the flowers and trees do chose to wear the garlands of repose', 'Out of the shadows into the light', 'The time of the singing of birds is come' and 'In the garden of beautiful memory there can be but – sunshine.' One design is prefaced by a quote from John Gerard (c.1545-1612), author of the substantial text on botany entitled *Herball, or Generall Historie of Plantes* (1597):

Flowers through their beautie, varitie of colours and exquisite form doe bring to a liberal and gentlemanly minde the remembrance of honestie, comeliness and all kinds of virtues.

Illustrations in Maile & Co's publicity material always depicted the memorial against a background of daffodils with swooping or chirping blackbirds. Scenes were watercolours rather than photographs giving an idyllic air to the setting.



A sundial and a birdbath from the 'A Garden of Love and Remembrance' range offered by G Maile & Co.

'Garden of Remembrance Memorials' and Cremation

Despite the proportion of cremation only increasing from 0.34 per cent in 1920 to 3.5 per cent in 1939 (although the number of crematoria went from 14 to 54 in the same timeframe), by the latter date this nevertheless accounted for over 19,000 cremations. Research indicates that following the first cremation in March 1885 until around the mid-1920s, most ashes were either placed in an urn for retention in a columbarium or buried in a family grave. With the scale of cremations rising, the scattering of ashes in a Garden of Remembrance attached to a crematorium became increasingly popular; by 1936 this was the choice in 62 per cent of cremations (*The Undertakers' Journal* 1937 February p61). Maile's response was to offer a range of commemorative memorials. Their brochure entitled *A Garden of Love and Remembrance* contained four designs of 'Garden of Remembrance Memorials'. Two show a sundial, while the third is a birdbath and the fourth a kerb 'garden memorial' but with a small pedestal birdbath in a corner. It is presumed that the first three were for placing near the location where ashes were buried or scattered in a private garden, including those specifically for ashes such as Stoke Poges (Parsons 2005) rather than crematoria gardens. As with Maile's other publicity material, mortality-evasive vocabulary accompanied the promotion of the sundial and birdbath by making no reference to death or cremation.

Today, examples of 'garden memorials' can be found in many English cemeteries with condition reflecting their age as the contemporary photographs accompanying this article indicate.

All images from the author's collection: www.brianparsons.org.uk

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pulpit: in a church and churchyard in East Mersea, North Essex

The Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould was born into a wealthy land-owning family in Devon.

Wikipedia describes him thus:-

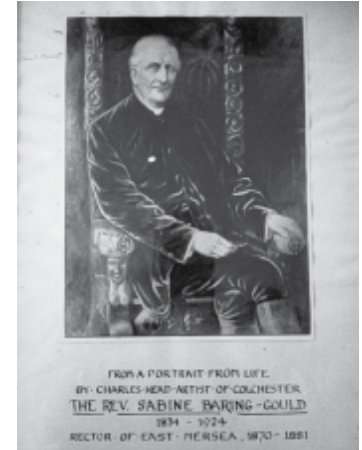
"He was born in Lew Trenchard in Devon, England. He became an Anglican priest, hagiographer, antiquarian, novelist, folk song collector and eclectic scholar. His bibliography consists of more than 1,240 publications, though this list continues to grow. His family home, the manor house of Lew Trenchard, near Okehampton, Devon, has been preserved as he had it rebuilt and is now a hotel. He is remembered particularly as a writer of hymns, the best-known being "Onward, Christian Soldiers," "Sing Lullaby," and "Now the Day Is Over". He also translated the carol "Gabriel's Message" from the Basque language to English."

The family spent much of his childhood travelling in Europe which meant that most of

his education was with private tutors, although he did spend a couple of years in English schools.

In 1852 he was admitted to Cambridge University and

received B.A. and M.A. degrees from Clare College. He took Holy Orders in 1864 and became the curate of Horbury Bridge in West Yorkshire. It was here that, amazingly, he met and fell in love with 14 year old Grace Taylor, the daughter of a mill hand, and at the other end of the class system to himself! Their marriage lasted for 48 years until Grace's death. They had 15 children and all but one of them lived to enjoy adult life.



Lew Trenchard House in Devon

In 1851 he became the rector of East Mersea in Essex, just about 60 minutes from where I now live in Great Waltham. Mersea is an

island and very popular for holiday-makers and those seeking sea-food and shell fish specialities. He remained in post for just over ten years when suddenly, his life changed for good! In 1872 his father died and he inherited the 3,000-acre (12 km²) family estates of Lew Trenchard in Devon, which included the gift of the Ecclesiastical living of Lew Trenchard parish. When the living became vacant in 1881, he was able to appoint himself to it, becoming parson as well as squire. I have a little joke with myself, wondering if he advertised the post and short-listed other clergy and interviewed them, before finally selecting himself and taking up the living for the rest of his life! Good old days?



The church has several interesting features. Near the main door, I saw a little leaflet titled "Sarah Wrench was not a witch!"

The grave of Sarah Wrench (1833-1848), is unusual for an English grave because it is covered by a "mortsafe" which is a protective cage used at the time in Scotland to protect corpses from graverobbers. Richard Jones, in *Myths of Britain and Ireland*, refers to popular speculation that Sarah Wrench was a witch, and that the cage was designed to keep her from escaping her grave after death. Although East Anglia was at one time known for witch trials, this was in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, not the mid-nineteenth. There is speculation that 15 year old Sarah was unfortunate to become pregnant by an unknown male and went away to have the baby. However, there is no record of her baby and it is possible that both she and the baby died in the course of childbirth.



The Parish Church of St. Edmund, King and Martyr in East Mersea.



The voice of a mother concerned about her son was also found in the church and it is typical of such prayers to God for help. We may not be able to imagine whether Charlie was sick or had, indeed, died. His mum Kayleigh seems to be reaching out seeking help and support for her sadness or was it grief?

Many churches give space and voice to those suffering from loss or grief and have challenging problems.

In the churchyard, we were pleased to come across a man laying a new headstone He introduced himself as Ben Jones, and described his work as a Letter carver, Sundial maker and a Stone and wood carver. We were very impressed by the stone he was putting into the grave. It



looked pristine in colour and dignified in shape and overall appearance.

Our conversation continued for quite a few minutes and Ben was full of experiences and of which he was only too willing to share with others.

Ben is based in Topsham, in Devon and so he was clearly well away from home but was also clear that his expertise was widely known and he was happy to travel all the way, a journey of almost 250 miles taking at least 4 and a half hours.



One of the larger monuments in the church is a moving joint grave to the William Hinleys, father and son who both died at the age of 26, although in different centuries. Father William was born in 1683 and died in 1709. His son was born in 1708 and died in 1734, also aged 26. Strange process, life and death!

Born on Christmas Day 841 AD, Edmund succeeded to the throne of East Anglia in 856. Brought up as a Christian, he fought alongside King Alfred of Wessex against the pagan Viking and Norse invaders (the Great Heathen Army) until 869/70 when his forces were defeated and Edmund was captured by the Vikings and killed in captivity. He was the original Patron Saint of England.



The Statue of St. Edmund in East Mersea church.

And so we now see how Sabine Baring-Gould became a man of substantial wealth, a land-owner, and vicar and to my astonishment, he is credited with writing over 1000 books of various kinds, as well as poetry, novels, histories and so on. He wrote many novels, including *The Broom-Squire* set in the Devil's Punch Bowl (1896), *Mehalah: a story of the salt marshes* (1880) *Guavas the Tinner* (1897) the 16-volume *The Lives of the Saints*, and the biography of the eccentric poet-vicar of Morwenstow, Robert Stephen Hawker. He also published nearly 200 short stories in assorted magazines and periodicals. Many of these short stories were collected together and republished as anthologies, such as his *Book of Ghosts* (1904), *Dartmoor Idylls* (1896), and *In a Quiet Village* (1900).

His folkloric studies resulted in *The Book of Were-Wolves* (1865), one of the most frequently cited studies of lycanthropy. He habitually wrote while standing, and his desk can be seen in the manor. One of his most enduringly popular works was *Curious Myths of the Middle Ages*, first published in two parts during 1866 and 1868, and republished in many other editions since then. "Each of the book's twenty-four chapters deals with a particular medieval superstition and its variants and antecedents," H. P. Lovecraft termed it "that curious body of medieval lore which the late Mr. Baring-Gould so effectively assembled in book form". Baring-Gould served as president of the Royal Institution of Cornwall for ten years.

And, as a long-standing singer in church choirs, I must recommend some of his words. He wrote "Onward Christian Soldiers, Marching as to war" which whilst not being the cup of tea for many people today, became famous when set to music by Arthur Sullivan. (1842-1900.) He wrote it whilst a curate in Horbury, Yorkshire.

Well, I anticipate that you will be reading this edition of The Journal in the Christmas season, and I thought you might like to read the following? It was translated by Sabine Baring-Gould from a poem written in the Basque language and there is a traditional Basque tune to which it is most frequently sung.

1. Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now reclining,
sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant king.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
over the place where he is lying:
sing lullaby!

2. Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping,
sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant king.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
soon will come bitter grief and weeping:
sing lullaby!

3 Sing lullaby!

Lullaby baby, now a-dozing:
sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the infant king.
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
then in the grave at last reposing:
Sing lullaby!

4. Sing lullaby!

Lullaby! is the baby awaking?
sing lullaby.
Hush, do not stir the infant king.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
conquering death, its bondage breaking:
sing lullaby!



*Two remarkable people
For very different reasons!
Sabine had the Latin motto
"Dimidium Animae Meae"
put on Grace's headstone...
"Half my soul."*



The Parish Church of St. Peter, Lew Trenchard

public health funerals

Notifying family and friends

In our last article (ICCM Journal Autumn 2021) we looked at funerals arranged under s.46 Public Health Act and asked “*What is a funeral?*” We noted that Councils’ statutory duty under s.46 is to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died or been found dead in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the authority.

We identified that there is no requirement under s.46 to notify next of kin or anyone else that the person has passed away, or that the funeral is taking place – even though to do so somehow seems respectful to the deceased. Indeed, some councils take a very limited approach to locating family or friends of the deceased, preferring simply to carry out the funeral as cost-effectively as possible and at the most convenient time. This might be because councils’ bereavement services teams are at full stretch and resources aren’t available to make enquiries into the whereabouts of next of kin.

But contrast the position with more-or-less any funeral arranged other than under s.46 PHA where friends and family have the opportunity to attend and pay their respects – whether they show up on the day is a matter for them, but no-one could be criticised for not having informed them of the deceased’s death or of the funeral.

The purpose of next of kin enquiries is twofold: to give the families of the deceased the opportunity to attend and pay their respects and, of course, to enable them to take on the funeral arrangements themselves and take the funeral out of s.46. However, neither is conditional upon the other – regardless of whether the family take on the funeral, it seems hard to argue that they should not be informed of the death of their relative before the funeral takes place and have the opportunity to be there.

Some councils do as much as can reasonably be done to locate next of kin, saying that there is a value to the families of the deceased in being notified of the death and having the opportunity to go to the funeral, regardless of estrangement or distance (whether in terms of relationship or geography); they take the view that they do not want any s.46 PHA funeral to take place until reasonable enquiries to locate next of kin have been made. This seems consistent with the notion of the council operating with the benefit of their citizenry in mind.

Experience of countless cases shows clearly that even where friends or neighbours of a given deceased confidently assert that “... they have no relatives...” they almost always do – it’s just a question of identifying them and locating them.

Councils tend not to have the resources in-house to trace next of kin if they don’t know who or where they are and, increasingly, are reaching out to the private sector for help. The fact is that for a tracing agency with the right attitude, tools and resources, tracing next of kin is often a quick and straightforward exercise, enabling family members to attend the funeral if they wish. After all, if you were a family member of such a deceased, wouldn’t you prefer to know before rather than after the funeral that your relative had passed away, and to have the opportunity to attend?

Nick Beetham
Business Development Manager , Fraser & Fraser

Member interaction is the Institute's lifeblood. Why not facilitate a branch meeting?

iccm branch secretaries, contact details

Northern: Graham Harrison

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Eastern: Tracy Lawrence

Email: TLawrence@nenevalleycrematorium.co.uk T: 01933 229 660 or 07904 457 372

South East: Heather White

Email: heather.white@southampton.gov.uk T: 023 8076 6405

Midlands and Mid Wales: Michael Birkinshaw

Email: bereavement@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk T: 01527 62174

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Sam Rees AICCM

Bereavement Services Manager, Southwark (Honor Oak)

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it's ok to talk

David Jennings discusses the Andy's Man Club support club

Its 7pm on Monday night and normally I would be at Altrincham Football Club for the weekly meeting of Andy's Man Club. However, it is bank holiday and this is the only time we do not meet. However much you feel you don't need the support, the weeks without a meeting show you how important a part of the week it is.

At the beginning of February there was an advert on the club website to say that a peer to peer support group for men was opening at the club and after much deliberation I decided to give it a go. I have since gone on to become a facilitator and hope my contributions assist others taking the decision to walk through the door.

Andy's Man Club came into being almost five years ago when, without the slightest warning and at just 23 years old, family man Andrew Roberts took his own life. It was April 2016, and soon after, in a selfless act prompted by the inner turmoil he had kept hidden, his brother in law Luke Ambler helped set up a support group in his memory, calling it Andy's Man Club and holding the inaugural meeting in the family's home town of Halifax. It attracted nine local men, all grateful for the chance to unburden themselves in the company of fellow-sufferers. A week later, 15 turned up for the second meeting, and the numbers have continued to rise since, to the extent that hundreds of men now gather on a weekly basis at groups the length and breadth of England, Scotland and Wales. Weekly sessions are aimed at encouraging men aged 18-plus to share their worries or anxieties with others and help reduce stigma about the condition. A cordial welcome awaits all at these free weekly sessions every Monday from 7pm until 9pm. For further information or to book a place, please email info@andysmanclub.co.uk.



Across in Tameside Tuesday nights sees Mike Gurney attend The Anthony Seddon Centre in Ashton-u-Lyne to offer support, guidance and a listening ear to anyone who is bereaved or struggling. Like Andy's Man Club, this was set up in the wake of someone dying by suicide and the need to provide somewhere for people to go and talk about issues that are affecting their mental health and wellbeing in their daily lives. Again, this is a support network where people are helping each other on different levels from bereavement to family groups.

Just over a year after Anthony died, Donna and Brian set up The Anthony Seddon Fund in July 2014. They were passionate about supporting others with mental health issues. They wanted to help those going through similar situations to themselves and to raise awareness of mental health issues to the wider population. This passion has ensued and they have thrived as a charity!



Successful fundraising led to the decision to set up a shop base and so came about the very first Anthony Seddon Fund Shop. The shop was more than just somewhere to drop off donations and buy, it rapidly became a place where people would come to talk and share their experiences whilst they browsed. It was a place of caring and support for the community. It also gave somewhere to display information about other organisations in Tameside. As the charity and its customer base grew, the number of people looking for information, support or just someone to talk to outgrew what the shop could cope with. This was when they decided to attain another property to provide a supportive environment for people with mental health worries. The centre allows a space to provide a safe environment for anyone. Information about other local mental health services can be displayed and shared and also offer facilities to chat comfortably about anything. It is also the base where the activities and projects take place.

"Little did we know the impact Anthony's death would have on us as a family, but we are so proud to deliver our services in Anthony's name."

We both get as much out of our respective groups as we put in and have become a very important part of our own mental

health checks. On top of this we also hold weekly meetings with the other Greater Manchester managers where we can share experiences and vent our frustrations but more importantly, we can check on each other. Having suffered from depression and anxiety issues with low self-esteem throughout my life, the stresses of the last 18 months have not helped but I have come out the other side in one piece and proud of the work we have achieved both within Trafford but also across Greater Manchester and also with the other organisations I have found myself working with. I now have a network of people across the industry who regularly check in with me and who I can ring and talk to and know that without those links I do not know whether I would have come through the last eighteen months.



Whilst we have had a strong managers group in Greater Manchester, the last 18 months has really brought us together more as friends than colleagues. We have all suffered under the stresses of the challenges we have faced and been there to pick each other up. Fortunately quite early on during our weekly meeting, Mike asked if anyone else was stressed and struggling and this opened the door for some honest discussions and enabled us all to talk honestly about how we were. I think this was key to us all being able to work through some of the toughest and strangest months of our careers. Just knowing you can pick up the phone and talk to someone who fully understood what we were going through made things easier to cope with. No-one judged you and there was no guilt in unburdening and it was the same for us all.

We are all going through our own struggles and in a world where everyone posts an idyllic life on Facebook it becomes harder to open up. We take enough of an emotional battering through our work but that seems to be the way we are as people in this industry, we soak it up and are there for everyone but occasionally we need to step back and offload.

Speaking with Mike last week we were discussing our roles within our respective groups and the positive results we got by attending the groups we got onto the wider subject of support networks and what we offer to our customers. We rarely get to speak to families before a service and often only if they have a query, discuss the purchase of a memorial or attend a scattering. Our main link is either via a memorial pack and follow up letter following a service or the website. This feels very inadequate. Funeral directors have the first chance to talk to families but this is normally to arrange a funeral and often tends to be on a more business like level. The biggest role played in understanding a family's needs is played by the officiant. They have access to the inner feelings and are open to talk to in a way that other service providers can't. The role of the local church within the community meant that the minister was one of the first people to be contacted upon a death. This led to the minister approaching the family and providing pastoral care before and after the service. Today, the vast amount of services are led by Humanists or celebrants who whilst providing a more personal service are often not heard of by the family after the final goodbye at the crematorium or cemetery. From that point on, families are on their own and often don't know what is available to them in terms of support and are reluctant to go to their GP.

The Anthony Seddon Fund
Supporting mental wellbeing in our community

Bereavement Group

**Our Bereavement Group is on
the 1st Tuesday of the month
5:30pm - 7:00pm
&
the 3rd Thursday of the month
10:30am - 12noon**

**The group is suitable for those who
have suffered a bereavement.**

**Please book via reception: 0161 376 4439
reception@tasfund.org.uk**

Even if people are not church goers, the church should be available to support them at their time of need. Attending a Sunday service should provide a friendly welcome and an introduction into a community that can help. There has always been a need for support within the community and the place where this was once found, is no longer the focal point it once was so people are setting up initiatives to fill the gaps.

Walking through the door at Andy's Man Club or The Anthony Seddon Centre or countless other charity groups across the UK provides the same thing. A community willing to offer support wherever possible.

David Jennings
Bereavement Services Manager, Altrincham Crematorium

appg for funerals and bereavement launch annual report in parliament



The APPG Annual Report 2021

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Funerals and Bereavement launched its inaugural Annual Report on Monday 6 September in the House of Commons. In attendance were ICCM President Heather White, ICCM Chair of the Board of Directors Martin Birch, ICCM Director Mohamed Omer, and ICCM Chief Executive Julie Dunk. The ICCM are members of the Deceased Management Advisory Group (DMAG), an umbrella organisation representing those within the funeral and deathcare sector, and supporters of the APPG. Also present at the launch were representatives from faith communities, bereavement charities and Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum.

Chair of the APPG, Sir John Hayes CBE MP, thanked those working in the sector for their compassion, dedication and resilience over the past eighteen months. Sir John acknowledged the funeral and bereavement sector's response to the pandemic and highlighted some key issues the APPG will be focusing on throughout the year.

James Chorley, the youngest funeral director in the UK, and his mentor, lead funeral director at Crescent Funeral Services Simon Helliar-Moore, addressed Parliamentarians and reflected on their experiences throughout the pandemic. James, who was inspired to join the profession to follow in the footsteps of his late father, graduated from the Independent Funeral Director's (IFD) College in 2020.

COMMENTING Sir John Hayes MP said:

"Our Annual Report examines the sector's response to COVID-19, in its role as a critical responder, but also explores the need to address outdated laws and regulations, brought to the fore by the pandemic. This will allow the sector to better respond to future national emergencies".

"The ICCM and DMAG said the report also shines a light on the impact of COVID-19 on bereaved people, and the isolation felt by many families. Moving forward, we will use this report to further engage with Parliamentarians to advance our policy priorities".



Sir John Hayes launches the report

A copy of the APPG Annual Report for 2021 can be found on the ICCM website at <https://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/APPG-2020-2021-Annual-Report.pdf>.



DMAG representatives with APPG Chair, Sir John Hayes

iccm board of directors

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the journal

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**The ICCM Directors and Officers would like to
wish you all Season's Greetings and best wishes
for a happy and healthy 2022**

