

**Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee**  
**The Central Durham Crematorium**

Clerk to the Committee  
17 Claypath  
DURHAM  
DH1 1RH

Telephone: 0191 301 8867  
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My Ref: CS

15 January 2008

To: **The Chairman and Members of the  
Central Durham Crematorium  
Joint Committee:**  
(Cllrs R G Dickie, D E Jackson, Mrs S J Pitts,  
F. Reynolds, D J Southwell, A L Thomson,  
N Van Zwanenberg, Ms C A Woods **together with**  
Cllrs J Marr, F Walker and Mrs J L Wood  
of Spennymoor Town Council).

Miss E Hall, Treasurer to Joint Committee  
Mr A S José, Superintendent and Registrar  
Mrs P Wilson, Town Clerk, Spennymoor Town Council

Dear Sir/Madam

A Meeting of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee will be held on **Wednesday 23 January, 2008, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Spennymoor, commencing at 5.30 p.m.**

Refreshments will be available from 5.00 pm in the Committee Room.

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 October 2007
2. Apologies
3. Report of the Clerk
4. Report of Superintendent and Registrar  
**In Private Report**
5. Report of Treasurer

Yours faithfully

Clerk to the Joint Committee

# CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

23 January 2008

## REPORT OF THE CLERK

1. **CYCLE OF MEETINGS**

(Minute No 1958, 16 July 2003, refers)

Members are asked to confirm the following meeting dates:

Wednesday 23 July, 2008, at Durham (AGM)

Wednesday 22 October, 2008, at Durham

Wednesday 21 January, 2009, at Durham

Wednesday 25 March, 2009, at Spennymoor

**Recommended:** Meetings to be held as outlined above.

2. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**FEDERATION OF BURIAL & CREMATION AUTHORITIES**

Members are asked to note that at an Executive Committee meeting of the Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities on the 12 November, 2007, the resignation of Councillor Dennis Southwell was accepted and for Councillor Carol Woods to be co-opted in his place.

**Recommended:** For Members' information

*Background Papers*

- *E-mail dated the 20 November 2007 from the Superintendent and Registrar*

# CENTRAL DURHAM CREMATORIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

23 January 2008

## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT & REGISTRAR

### **1 CREMATIONS**

I have to report, for your information, the following statistics relating to the Crematorium for the period 1 September 2007 to 31 December 2007 inclusive.

	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
OCTOBER	181 + 2*	227 + 4*	199 + 5*	195 + 10*	177 + 3*	222
		+ 11**				
NOVEMBER	214	194 + 7*	194 + 6*	193 + 4*	193 + 5*	200 + 3*
			+ 10**			
DECEMBER	206 + 4*	219 + 2*	194 + 5*	216 + 4*	183 + 1*	200 + 4*
			+ 1**			
TOTAL	601 + 6*	640 + 13*	587 + 16*	604 + 18*	553 + 9*	622 + 7*
		+ 11**	+ 11**			

\* = NVF

\*\* = STs

\*\*\* = BODY PARTS

Durham 188  
Outside Area 434 (Listed at Appendix A)

Total 622 + 7nvf

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

### **2 MEMORIAL GARDEN - SALE OF VASE BLOCKS AND PLAQUES**

I would wish to advise the Committee that during the period 1 October 2007 and 31 December 2007, the following Vase Blocks and Memorial Plaques have been sold:

Vase Blocks 8  
Large Plaques 17  
Small Plaques 13

**Total 38**

#### Financial Information (Net of V.A.T.)

Vase Blocks 2,331.30  
Large Plaques 4,892.19  
Small Plaques 2,198.76

**Total 9,422.25**

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

### **3 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC - PLANNING**

(Minute Nos 2083 (26<sup>th</sup> April 2006) 2104 (19<sup>th</sup> July 2006) 2121 (25<sup>th</sup> October 2006) 2136 (17<sup>th</sup> January 2007) 2166 (25<sup>th</sup> July 2007) and 2178 (31<sup>st</sup> October 2007) refer)

Training for Cremator Operation began on 15 November 2007 and, since that date, each of the four candidates has received on the job training at the Crematorium once a week.

It is hoped that the candidates will be able to take the required examination in April or May of this year. So far, each candidate has performed well.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

*Background papers: email to Superintendent & Registrar from Regional Epidemiologist 11<sup>th</sup> January 2006, email to Superintendent & Registrar from Epidemiologist 10<sup>th</sup> March 2006. Letter to Superintendent & Registrar from Mrs K. Callaghan 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Letter from Superintendent & Registrar to Mrs K. Callaghan 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Briefing Note to Superintendent & Registrar from Andrew Morkot (Darlington & Durham C.C.U. email 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006 to Superintendent & Registrar and Treasurer to Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee from Gaynor Young, Durham & Darlington C.C.U. 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006 & 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 & 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006. email to Gaynor Young from Superintendent & Registrar 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006 email to Superintendent & Registrar from Hazel Jackson 13<sup>th</sup> September 2006. email to Andrew Morkot from Superintendent & Registrar 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006. email to Superintendent & Registrar from Andrew Morkot 19<sup>th</sup> September 2006.*

#### **4 MEMORIAL GARDEN PHASE III**

(Minute Nos 2086 (26<sup>th</sup> April 2006) 2105 (19<sup>th</sup> July 2006) 2122 (25<sup>th</sup> October 2006) 2137 (17<sup>th</sup> January 2007) 2167 (25<sup>th</sup> July 2007) and 2179 (31<sup>st</sup> October 2007) refer)

The Memorial Garden Phase III building works were completed on schedule on 20 November 2007, and it is expected that the project will also have been completed within the budget.

Final details such as the drawing works for plaque spaces, the fitting of the wall numbers and a few minor details are in hand.

Arrangements are in progress for an Opening Ceremony, but a date has yet to be confirmed.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

*Background papers: Letter from Southern Green to Superintendent & Registrar 2.9.2006. email from Southern Green 14.07.2006. Letter to Superintendent & Registrar from Southern Green 25.7.2006. . Letter to Durham City Planning Control from Southern Green 01.08.2006, email to Superintendent & Registrar from Southern Green 17.09.2006. letter to Durham City Planning Development Control from Southern Green 26.09.2006. letter to Southern Green from Durham City Planning Development Control 28.09.2006. email to Superintendent & Registrar from Southern Green 06.10.2006. Memo to Legal & Democratic Services Manager from Superintendent & Registrar 22.11.2006. Memo to Legal & Democratic Services Manager from Southern Green 12.09.2006. Memo to Superintendent & Registrar from to Legal & Democratic Services Manager 15.12.2006. Memo to Superintendent & Registrar from Southern Green 15.12.2006. email R. Langdon to Superintendent & Registrar 05.06.2007. email from R. Langdon to Superintendent & Registrar 06.06.2007. email from Richard Langdon to Superintendent & Registrar 15.06.2007. email from Superintendent & Registrar to Southern Green 05.06.2007. email from Southern Green to Superintendent & Registrar 26.06.2007.*

#### **5 LIFE AND SOUL GARDEN**

(Minute Nos 2151 (25<sup>th</sup> April 2007) 2168 (25<sup>th</sup> July 2007) and 2180 (31<sup>st</sup> October 2007) refer)

Work has begun on site for the installation of the Life and Soul Garden by staff and students from Finchale College. Works have been delayed by poor weather and the Christmas/New Year Holidays.

The Garden is expected to be complete by the end of March 2008.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

**6**      **MEMBERS' VISIT TO THE CREMATORIUM**  
(Minute Nos 1958 (16<sup>th</sup> July 2003) 2100 (19<sup>th</sup> July 2006) and 2162 (25<sup>th</sup> July 2007) refers)

The Members' visit to the Crematorium took place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and was attended by a good number of Councillors from both Durham City and Spennymoor. The Clerk to the Joint Committee opened the evening with words of welcome and the Superintendent and Registrar gave a talk covering all aspects of the Crematorium's operation, including a brief history. The tour concluded in the Crematory when a member of staff explained the detailed operation of the Cremators.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

**7**      **MOVING MEMORIES**  
(Minute Nos 2126 (26<sup>th</sup> October 2006) 2134 (17<sup>th</sup> January 2007) and 2145 (25<sup>th</sup> April 2007) refer)

Following the installation of the Projector Equipment to allow for the Moving Memories DVD to be played, I can report that despite much initial interest the system has only been used twice during the past year.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted and that no charge for use of the equipment be levied at this time.

**8**      **NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS**

I attach for information at Appendix B, a copy of the Annual Statistics form which has been submitted to the Federation Burial and Cremation Authorities.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

*Background papers: Statistics Form submitted to F.B.C.A. by Superintendent & Registrar (4<sup>th</sup> January 2008)*

**9**      **INDEPENDENT TESTING OF CREMATORS**

As a condition of the Operating License issued by Durham City Council, under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act (1990), the Cremators are due to be Independently Tested during the period 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

The results of the test will be reported to the Committee at the April Meeting.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

**10**     **STAFF TRAINING**

I would wish to advise the Committee that Mr Ian Ramsay has passed the Crematorium Management Module of the Institute of Crematorium and Cemetery Management Diploma Course, and that Mrs Lynne Lawton has passed 3 Modules (Internet, File Management and Basic Computing Skills) of the E.C.D.L.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

## 11 CONFERENCE REPORT

The Chairman and the Superintendent & Registrar attended the Joint Conference of Cremation & Burial Authorities at the Hilton Hotel, Gateshead, over the period 12, 13 and 14 November 2007. The conference was well attended and very interesting and the summary is set out in Appendix C.

**Recommended:** Members are asked to note the report.

'APPENDIX A'

OCT NOV DEC

AUSTRALIA		1	1
BILLINGHAM		1	
Barnet, Herts.			1
BIRTLEY	1		
BISHOP AUCKLAND	17	17	21
BISHOP			
MIDDLEHAM	1	2	4
BLACKHALL	1	2	2
BERWICK	1		
Evesham, Worcester			
CHESTER			
CHESTER LE			
STREET	13	6	6
CHESTER MOOR	2		
CHILTON	1	6	1
CONSETT		1	
CORNSAY			
COUNDON	1	3	4
COWSHILL			
CROOK	8	6	6
DARLINGTON			1
EASINGTON	4	2	4
EAST RAINTON			
EDMONDSLEY			
ESH			
ESH WINNING	2	4	1
FENCEHOUSES	1		
FERRYHILL	8	9	6
FISHBURN	3	2	1
FROSTERLEY			
GUISBOROUGH			
GREAT LUMLEY	2		
HAMSTERLEY		3	
HARTLEPOOL		1	
HASWELL	3	2	1
HETTON LE HOLE	1	3	5
HIGH ETHERLEY			
Kimblesworth			
HORDEN	4		2
HOUGHTON	3	1	2
HOWDEN	1	1	1
HUNWICK			
LANCHESTER			
LANGLEY PARK	4	5	3
Lancaster	1		
LONDON			1
KENT		1	
MIDDLESBROUGH			
MORPETH			
MURTON	2	2	3
NEW BRANCEPETH			
NEWCASTLE	3		
NEWTON AYCLIFFE	6	4	6
NORTHALLERTON	1	1	
OUSTON		1	
PELAW			

PETERLEE	11	12	10
SACRISTON	1	2	
SEAHAM	2	5	5
SCOTLAND			
SEDFIELD	3	3	5
SHILDON	3	4	4
SHINEY ROW			
SHOTTON	2	1	4
SOMERSET			
SOUTH HETTON	1	1	
STAINDROP			
STANHOPE		1	
STANLEY	1		
STATION TOWN	1		
STOCKTON	1		1
SUNDERLAND			2
SUNNYBROW	1	3	2
THIRSK	1		
THORNLEY		1	2
TOFT HILL			
TOW LAW		2	2
TRIMDON	6	6	2
WALES			
WASHINGTON			
WEST AUCKLAND	5	4	2
WEST CORNFORTH	1	4	2
WHEATLEY HILL	6	2	
WILLINGTON	9	6	6
WINGATE		2	
WINLATON			
WOLSINGHAM	1	2	2
Poynton (Cheshire)	1		
<b>DAILY TOTAL</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>134</b>



APPENDIX 'B'

Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to The Secretary,  
FBCA, 41 Salisbury Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3HA.  
Telephone/Fax: 020 8669 4521

**NATIONAL CREMATION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 2007**

Name: **Durham Crematorium** **S/060**

**NUMBER OF CREMATIONS**

The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register at 31 December 2007	<b>(a) 88502</b>
The LAST NUMBER in your Cremation Register at 31 December 2006	<b>(b) 86230</b>
TOTAL CREMATIONS for the year 2007 [(a) – (b)]	<b>(c) 2272</b>
Add: Total Cremations SINCE OPENING to 31 December 2006	<b>(d) 86230</b>
TOTAL CREMATIONS to 31 December 2007 [(c) + (d)]	<b>88502</b>

DISPOSAL OF CREMATED REMAINS FOR THE YEAR 2005

Strew in grounds of this Crematorium	<b>1120</b>
Interred in grounds of this Crematorium	-
Placed in niches at this Crematorium	<b>4</b>
Removed from this Crematorium	<b>1148</b>
No collectible remains obtained	-
Awaiting instructions for disposal	-
Total [Should agree with (c) above]	<b>2272</b>

OTHER CREMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR

(Not to be included in the above)

Number of CREMATIONS OF FOETAL REMAINS	<b>35</b>
Number of SOCIAL TERMINATIONS (identified by Hospital Number only)	
Number of CREMATIONS OF BODY PARTS under the Cremation (Amendment) Regulations 2000	

CODE OF CREMATION PRACTICE

It is hereby certified that during the year 2007 the Code of Cremation Practice of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities has been observed at this Crematorium

Date ..... Signature.....

Name of signatory (BLOCK CAPITALS) **MR A S JOSÉ**

For (Name of Cremation Authority) Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee

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Cremation and Burial Authorities Conference  
Hilton Hotel, Gateshead – 12-14 November 2007

*Resomation User-Mayo Clinic by Sandy Sullivan BA (Hons), Managing Director, Resomation Ltd and Dean Fisher, BSc, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA.*

Alkaline hydrolysis is an environmentally responsible, non-burn, water-based process that returns the body to its constituent element. It utilizes and accelerates a naturally occurring alkaline hydrolysis reaction to rapidly decompose the body, leaving behind a pure white calcium phosphate that can be returned to families, very similar to the ash created during the cremation process. Alkaline hydrolysis takes place in the natural environment when bodies are buried in the earth. This process is slow, sometimes taking years to complete. Alkaline hydrolysis greatly speeds up the process using an alkali/water mixture at a temperature of 300° Fahrenheit.

*Up in smoke or six feet under by Andrew Mallalieu, Vice President Technical Affairs, Facultatieve Technologies.*

The progression through life of each and every one of us is history of take up, conversion and rejection of the natural resources of our environment, from the breath we breathe and the food we eat to the items added less naturally to maintain us along the way. The difference between what's taken in and what's rejected is what physically remains at the end. It has been borrowed from the environment for the period of our lifetime and has to be returned to the environment at its conclusion. This paper addresses the role of cremation in this context.

*Revitalising Cemeteries – New ways forward with the old by Dr Julian Litten, PhD, Hon D art, FSA, FSA(SCOT), HonBIFD.*

The announcement earlier in the year from the Ministry of Justice that burial authorities will shortly be given the choice of whether to not to instigate 'lift and deepen' re-use, contributes towards a radical way forward in cemetery management. For the dead, this is of no concern; but for the living, how will the new regulation be greeted? What new opportunities will there be within the new system to extend grave tenure, will 'lift and deepen' solve the problem permanently, and what new opportunities are afforded for memorialisation? These, and other issues relating to the

Revitalising of the Old, will be addressed by in this paper.

*Sikhs say 'No' to open air funeral pyres by Harmander Singh, Principal Adviser, Sikhs in England.*

A review of the Sikh culture specifically with regard to funerals and cremation, following the recent case of an open air funeral pyre and the attempts to secure the wider adoption of this practice by a section of the community.

*Re-use the Australian way by Peter MacLean AM, PSM, JP, FAIM, FLGMA, Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, Perth, Australia.*

Perth's largest cemetery at Karrakatta is being progressively redeveloped and creative ways have been found to re-use old burial areas without disturbing remains. Old areas are also being re-used for burials and memorial gardens for cremated remains. This type of development avoids the cemetery falling into neglect, transforms and beautifies the landscape and renders the cemetery both viable and sustainable.

*Cremation: How the Churches got to it wrong by Revd. Dr John Lampard, Vice-Chair, Ecumenical Churches Funerals Group*

In the 1940s the churches in England said that cremation was equivalent to burial. This 'error' led to a neglect of the significance of the ashes as mortal remains worthy of respect. The consequence of this has had a profound, and damaging, effect on the way we respect the significance of death. Only recently have the churches started to redeem the situation.

*Cameo Update by Brendan Day MBA, FICCM (Dip), CAMEO Manager*

The Cremation Abatement of Mercury Emission Organisation (CAMEO) is arranging mercury abatement burden sharing at a national level, providing an umbrella organisation for both running the system and report to National Regulatory Authorities. The paper will provide updated information on the CAMEO Scheme together with recent results compiled from the annual survey together with the recommended CAMEO mercury abatement surcharge for 2008.

*Crematoria to die for: Modernity over burial in Glamorgan by Professor Hilary Grainger BA(Hons), PhD, FRSA, Dean, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London*

Glamorgan, South Wales, witnessed the building of three remarkable crematoria close in date and physical proximity, Margam (1969), Bridgend (1970) and Aberdare (1970). Overtly modern, they flew in the face of both the strong burial tradition and the architectural conservatism of Wales. This paper asks why Glamorgan?

*Environmental Impacts of Death by Dr Mark McLellan, BSc (Hons), PhD, Parsons Brinckerhoff*

Viewed from an ecological perspective death is a key component of natural cycling and replenishment. The body of a mammal dying on land or water is swiftly attached by macro-fauna and micro-organisms; its tissues are consumed and the skeleton dispersed. However, human civilisation, from its earliest manifestations, has largely sought to avoid this posthumous fate via a number of methods; most commonly burial and cremation. Whilst the treatment of human remains will continue to be strongly influenced by religious and spiritual beliefs, the scale of death means that the associated environmental impacts are becoming increasingly more significant. Parson Brinckerhoff's presentation will consider the potential environmental impacts of burial, cremation, promession and resomation and the legislative implications of emerging solutions such as the re-use of burial plots and the discharge of liquid residue following resomation.

*Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) – Improving facilities for all by Sharon Almond BA (Hons), DipLA, NRAC Consultant Member, Principal Access Consultant, JMU Access Partnership (RNIB)*

The DDA states that it is unlawful for businesses and organisations providing services to treat disabled people less favourably than other people for a reason to their disability. The DRC estimates that 10 million people have rights under the DDA. By improving facilities for disabled people this can also improve facilities for all users of a service regardless of ability. This presentation will look at some of your obligations under the DDA and will give practical examples of what can be done to improve your services.

*The Biocides Directive: by Adrian Haler, Chairperson of the European Federation of Funeral Services (EFFS) sub committee for Embalming/ Thanatopraxy*