

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 (26th April 2006) 2104 (19th July 2006) 2121 (25th October 2006) 2136 (17th January 2007) 2166 (25th July 2007) and 2178 (31st 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 11th January 2006, email to Superintendent & Registrar from Epidemiologist 10th March 2006. Letter to Superintendent & Registrar from Mrs K. Callaghan 16th May 2006. Letter from Superintendent & Registrar to Mrs K. Callaghan 19th May 2006. Briefing Note to Superintendent & Registrar from Andrew Morkot (Darlington & Durham C.C.U. email 7th June 2006 to Superintendent & Registrar and Treasurer to Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee from Gaynor Young, Durham & Darlington C.C.U. 24th May 2006 & 1st June 2006 & 30th July 2006. email to Gaynor Young from Superintendent & Registrar 3rd July 2006 email to Superintendent & Registrar from Hazel Jackson 13th September 2006. email to Andrew Morkot from Superintendent & Registrar 19th September 2006. email to Superintendent & Registrar from Andrew Morkot 19th September 2006.

4 MEMORIAL GARDEN PHASE III

(Minute Nos 2086 (26th April 2006) 2105 (19th July 2006) 2122 (25th October 2006) 2137 (17th January 2007) 2167 (25th July 2007) and 2179 (31st 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 (25th April 2007) 2168 (25th July 2007) and 2180 (31st 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 (16th July 2003) 2100 (19th July 2006) and 2162 (25th July 2007) refers)

The Members' visit to the Crematorium took place on Wednesday 28th 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 (26th October 2006) 2134 (17th January 2007) and 2145 (25th 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 (4th 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 23rd, 24th and 25th 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		
DAILY TOTAL	152	148	134

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

DISPOSAL OF CREMATED REMAINS FOR THE YEAR 2005

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

OTHER CREMATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR

(Not to be included in the above)

Number of CREMATIONS OF FOETAL REMAINS	35
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

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

The European Commission's Biocidal Product Directive could threaten the availability of embalming products and the practice of embalming as we know it. This presentation will explain what the Directive is, how it works and how it affects funeral directors.

Cremation Regulations – Consolidation and Modernisation by Bridget Prentice MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Ministry of Justice

The 1930 Cremation Regulations are now regarded as out of date, confusing and in need of replacement. A draft set of consolidated cremation regulations, intended to replace the 1930 Regulations has now been issued by the Ministry of Justice. They contain proposals that will mean major changes to the Regulations officers have been accustomed to for many years. This presentation is intended to provide an overview of those changes.

Consultation on Improving the Process of Death Certification by Simon Bennett, Clinical Programmes Directorate, Department of Health

Simon will be describing the overarching vision for the reforms of death certification, providing an overview of the responses to the Department of Health's consultation paper (published 24th July 2007) and setting out key issues and next steps for the project.

The Monitoring of Multiple Abatement Installations by Dr Clive Chamberlain BSc, PhD, CEng, FInstE, FIGasE

With more and more cremator operators considering the option, because of the lack of space in their crematory, of abating more than one cremator through a single piece of abatement equipment the question of monitoring of these multiple units has yet to be addressed. The original concept was that each cremator would have a dedicated abatement plant, but the published guidance PG5/2(04) and subsequent AQ notes do not deal with this evolution of multiple cremators into one abatement plant and how it should be monitored.

The Work of the Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group by Robert Clifford OBE, BA(Hons), Head of Burials Team, Coroners Unit, Ministry of Justice

The Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group was set up in 2001 to advise the Government on matters relating to cemeteries and their management. Since then, the Group has helped to take forward guidance for burial ground manager, a national survey of burial grounds, and a consultation exercise on burial law reform. It is currently looking into training within the industry, guidance on natural burial grounds, and the implementations of proposals for re-using old graves. The Group's membership is drawn widely reflecting the professional cemetery providers, the Church and other faith organisations, and heritage and environmental interests.

Pandemic Planning: by Duncan McCallum, Secretary, Federation of Burial & Cremation Authorities

Following the recent release of the draft guidance paper *Planning for a Possible Influenza Pandemic – A Framework for Planners Preparing to Manage Deaths*, this paper will concentrate on the practicality of the measures proposed and focus on how burial and cremation authorities should prepare for such an occurrence.

IN PRIVATE

SOLVED:

That pursuant to Section 100.A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of the items listed in column 1 below, being reports of the Officers mentioned in column 2 below, on the grounds that if members of the public were present during discussion of these items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information (as defined in Section 100.1) of the description indicated in column 3 below:

Column 1

Revenue Estimates
2008/2009

Clerk to the Central Durham
Crematorium Joint
Committee

Appointment of Clerk &
Treasurer to the Central
Durham Crematorium Joint
Committee in the event of a
Unitary Authority being
established in County
Durham

Column 2

Report of Treasurer

Report of Treasurer

Report of Treasurer

Column 3

Para. 3
Information relating to the
financial or business affairs
of any particular person
(including the Authority
holding that information).

Para. 3
Information relating to the
financial or business affairs
of any particular person
(including the Authority
holding that information).

Para. 3
Information relating to the
financial or business affairs
of any particular person
(including the Authority
holding that information).