

**Central Durham Crematorium Joint
Committee**

29 June 2023



**Quarterly Performance and Operational
Report - 1 April to 31 May 2023**

**Report of Graham Harrison, Bereavement Services Manager &
Registrar**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee with the quarterly update relating to performance and other operational matters.

Executive summary

2. This report provides Members of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee with a quarterly update of performance and operational matters at the crematorium.

Recommendation(s)

3. It is recommended that Members of the Central Durham Joint Committee:
 - a. Note the current performance of the crematorium.
 - b. Note the update with regards to the staffing at the crematorium.
 - c. Note the attendance at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition 2023.
 - d. Note the date of the heritage open weekend.
 - e. Note the distribution of recycling income and subsequent charity nominations.
 - f. Discuss and agree if the terms and conditions are to be revised to allow plastic, silk or artificial flowers.

Background

- As identified in the report.

Performance Update - Number of Cremations

- The table below provides details of the number of cremations for the period 1 April to 31 May 2023 inclusive, with comparative data in the same period last year:

	2022/23	2023/24	Change
April	176 + 0*	174 + 2*	- 2 + 2*
May	199 + 1*	201 + 3*	+ 2 + 2*
TOTAL	375 + 1*	375 + 5*	= 0 + 4*

* = Non-Viable Foetus (NVF) ** = Stillborns (STs) *** = Body parts

- The full profile of where families came from can be seen in Appendix 2. In summary 111 came from Durham, 17 came from Spennymoor and 247 from other areas. There have been 5 NVF cremations undertaken for the period covered by this report compared to 1 in the comparable period last year, which is an increase of 4 NVF and no increase in Cremations.

Memorials

- The table below outlines the number and value of the memorials sold in the period April to May 2023 compared to the same period the previous year.

	(Apr – May) 2022/23		(Apr – May) 2023/24	
	Number	£	Number	£
Vase Blocks	3	1,914.00	2	1,318.00
Large Plaques	13	5,436.00	6	2,580.00
Small Plaques	1	261.00	2	546.00
Niche	0	0.00	1	1,240.00
Renewal	22	4,240.00	20	3,663.00
Memorial leaves	6	600.00	10	1,000.00
Total	45	12,451.00	41	10,347.00

- In overall terms the number and value of memorials sold of 41/ £10,347 compared to 45 / £12,451 in the same period last year shows a decrease of 4 / £2,104.

Staffing

- For members information, we have recently appointed 2 relief members of staff to assist in the operational areas of the crematorium. They are

currently undertaking training in all aspects of the roles within the crematorium.

Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition 2023

10. As in previous years, the necessary arrangements will be made for representation at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management ICCM Learning Convention and Exhibition which is to be held at Chesford Grange Hotel, near Kenilworth from 18th to 20th September 2023. It is proposed that the Bereavement Services Manager and the Chair attend this conference as representatives of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee.

Heritage Open Weekend

11. Members will be aware that the Durham Heritage Open Weekend has been running for several years and Durham Crematorium has been part of this event.
12. We have once again agreed to participate in the September 2023 event, which is to be held from Thursday 14th September to Sunday 17th September.

Recycling of Metals Scheme

13. As members were advised on the 26th of April 2023 Committee meeting, we nominated ManHealth and Teenage Cancer Trust. Photos from the presentation can be found in Appendix 3.

Artificial Flowers

14. Currently within our terms and conditions we have a sentence written in which says that the Joint Committee will not allow plastic, silk, or any other artificial flowers nor pot plants or any other items around the Book of Remembrance building and reserve the right to remove any such items and dispose of them.
15. More recently we have had a few members of the public approach us to ask if this could be reviewed with a view to allowing plastic/silk flowers to be placed in rose bowls etc beneath the plaques/niche units.
16. Therefore, members are asked to review this and decide if they are willing to allow plastic/silk flowers or to uphold the current terms and conditions.

Contact: Graham Harrison

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report

Finance

As identified in the report with regards to the position of the Income.

Consultation

Officers of Spennymoor Town Council were consulted on the contents of this report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no Equality and Diversity implications associated with this report.

Human Rights

There are no Human Rights implications associated with this report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no Crime and Disorder implications associated with this report.

Staffing

As identified in the report.

Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications associated with this report.

Risk

As identified in the report.

Procurement

There are no procurement issues associated with this report.

Appendix 2: Breakdown of Figures

	Apr	May	Total Apr-May
DURHAM	54	57	111
BILLINGHAM		1	1
BISHOP AUCKLAND	1	6	7
BLACKHALL	3	2	5
BURNHOPE	2		2
CHESTER LE STREET	11	18	29
CHILTON		1	1
CONSETT	1	1	2
CROOK	7	2	9
DARLINGTON		2	2
EASINGTON	4	1	5
EAST RAINTON		1	1
ESH	1		1
ESH WINNING	2	2	4
FERRYHILL	4	2	6
FISHBURN	1	1	2
GREAT LUMLEY		2	2
HARTLEPOOL	1	2	3
HASWELL	1	1	2
HETTON LE HOLE	2	5	7
HORDEN		7	7
HOUGHTON	8	11	19
HOWDEN		1	1
LANCHESTER		1	1
LANGLEY PARK	1	2	3
MURTON	4	3	7
NEW BRANCEPETH	1	1	2
NEWCASTLE	1	1	2
NEWTON AYCLIFFE	2	2	4
NORTHUMBERLAND		1	1
PETERLEE	10	14	24
SACRISTON	5	2	7
SEAHAM	9	12	21
SEDFIELD		1	1
SHILDON		1	1
SHOTTON	2	4	6
SOUTH HETTON	1	1	2
SPENNYMOOR	11	6	17
STANLEY	4		4
STATION TOWN		1	1
SUNDERLAND	1	1	2

SOUTHERN ENGLAND		1	1
THORNLEY	1		1
TOW LAW		2	2
TRIMDON	5	6	11
WASHINGTON	4	2	6
WEST AUCKLAND	1		1
WEST CORNFORTH	1	3	4
WHEATLEY HILL	2	2	4
WILLINGTON	3	3	6
WINGATE	1	1	2
YORKSHIRE	1		1
SINGAPORE		1	1
Total	174	201	375

Appendix 3: Recycling of metals cheque presentation



Photo from the cheque presentation with Heather Bowen from Teenage Cancer Trust.



Photo from the cheque presentation with Christopher Underwood from Manhealth.