

**Central Durham Crematorium
Joint Committee**

29 September 2010

Quarterly Update Report



Report of Alan José, Superintendent and Registrar to the Joint Committee

1. Purpose of the Report

To give Members of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee the usual information contained within the Quarterly Update.

2. Cremations

I have to report for your information, the following statistics relating to the Crematorium for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010 inclusive:

	2009/2010	2010/2011	Change
APR	170 + 6*	190	+20
MAY	169 + 2*	188 + 1*	+19-1*
JUNE	179 + 3*	184 + 1*	+5-2*
TOTAL	518 + 11*	562 + 2*	+44-9*

* = Non Viable Foetus (NVF) ** = Stillborns (STs) *** = Body Parts

The full profile of where families came from can be seen in Appendix 2. In summary, 177 came from Durham and 385 from outside of the area. This has led to 562 cremations undertaken in this period, compared to 518 in the comparable period last year an increase of 44.

3. Memorial Garden

The walled memorial garden was opened in 2000. During the period 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010 inclusive, the following Memorials have been sold:

Vase Blocks	9
Large Plaques	32
Small Plaques	7
Columbaria	<u>2</u>
Total	33

Financial Information (Net of VAT)

Vase Blocks	2,574.65
Large Plaques	8,861.10
Small Plaques	1,642.92
Columbaria	<u>2,290.00</u>
Total	£ 15,368.67

4. 50 Year Anniversary

A good deal of detailed work was carried out by the Clerk and the Superintendent and Registrar to put in place the agreed arrangements for the 50 Anniversary over the weekend of 6-8 August 2010.

The Dinner which was held at County Hall on Friday 6 August 2010, was a great success with 180 people in attendance. The Principal guests were:

- The Chairman of the County Council Councillor Mac Williams and his partner Pauline Adams
- Isobel Mattick – President of the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities
- Mr Roger Arber – Secretary of Cremation Society of Great Britain and his wife Irene Arber
- Mr Martin Birch – Chairman of Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and his wife Denise Birch
- Councillor Maria Plews – Chair of the Central Durham Crematorium Joint Committee and Mr Brian Plews
- Deputy Mayor of Durham – Councillor Les Thompson and Mrs Thompson
- Mr John Parkin – Mayor of Spennymoor and Mrs Julie Parkin
- Ms Janet Officer – Chairman of British Institute of Embalmers (NE)

Other guests were made up from Councillors, Funeral Directors, Clergy and Staff.

The food was excellent and Stuart Thompson and his team did a superb job.

Two Memorial Services were held at the Crematorium, one on Saturday 7 August 2010 and the other on Sunday 8 August 2010. Both were co-

ordained by Reverend Keith Lumsdon – Vicar of St. Lukes Parish Church, Ferryhill and Dean for the Sedgefield Deanery.

Both services were well attended, the Chairman of the County Council attended on Saturday 7 August 2010 and the Mayors of Durham and Spennymoor on Sunday 8 August 2010.

The feedback from the events held to mark this important Anniversary, have been hugely positive.

The Booklet, written by the Superintendent and Registrar, printed by Inprint, was made available to each guest at the Dinner and to everyone who attended a Memorial Service.

The Superintendent and Registrar has written a series of articles for the Professional Journals and the one for the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management is produced for information.

5. Staffing

Mr John Dodd resigned from his post on 18 August 2010.

Mr Ray Goodson, a fully qualified Standby Cremator Operator has been engaged on a temporary contract to ensure adequate staffing cover over the next couple of months.

Mr Dodd, had gardening expertise and it is essential that an experienced Gardener be recruited at the earliest opportunity so as to ensure that the high standards of maintenance, essential at the Crematorium, are maintained.

The Superintendent and Registrar has liaised with staffing at Neighbourhood Services about this vacancy.

6. Joint Conference – Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities / Cremation Society of Great Britain

The Vice Chairman and the Superintendent attended the Joint Cremation and Burial Conference held at Stratford upon Avon in July 2010.

A number of keynote addresses were given, including those by Judith Bernstein, Head of Coroner Policy at the Ministry of Justice, who reported on the progress of Coroner's Reform which will have a major impact on the work of Crematoria.

Ahmed Azam, Leader of the Pandemic Flu Co-ordination Team, at the Home Office, reminded delegates that a Flu Pandemic was still a very high risk as far as the Government was concerned, confirmed that there should be no backtracking on Pandemic Planning.

Mr Azam expressed interest in visiting Durham to see how the plans put in place by the Crematoria and Cemeteries would work.

Simon Bennett, Head of Clinical Governance, Clinical Policy and Strategy at the Department of Health, reported on the progress towards the appointment of Medical Examiners – this issue too could have a significant impact on all Crematoria and Cemeteries.

Stephen White, Member of Council of the Cremation Society of Great Britain, gave an update on the Legal Limbs V12 & V12 Funeral Pyres.

There were some twelve other papers of high quality presented as well as a comprehensive Exhibition devoted to Cemetery and Crematorium supplies.

7. Recommendation

That the Report be noted.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

As outlined in the Report

Staffing

As outlined in the Report

Equality and diversity

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None

Environment

None

Human rights

None

Localities and rurality

None

Young people

None

Consultation

None

Appendix 2: Breakdown of figures

	Apr	May	Jun		Apr	May	Jun
Alston				London			
America				Middlesbrough			
Ashington	1			Middleton/Teesdale			
Barnard Castle				Morpeth			
Birtley	1			Murton	3	2	2
Bishop Auckland	15	13	12	Nettlesworth			
Bishop Middleham	1	1	1	Newcastle	1	1	1
Blackhall	1		2	Newton Aycliffe	4	2	7
Boldon			1	Northallerton		1	
Burnhope				Pelaw			1
Cambridge			1	Peterlee	7	8	4
Chester-le-Street	18	6	17	Rothbury			
Cheshire				Sacrison	2	3	2
Chilton	1	4	1	Seaham	4	2	1
Consett	1	1		Seaton			
Cornsay	1			Sedgefield	4	3	2
Coundon			1	Shildon		4	2
Cowshill				Shiney Row			
Crook	11	7	13	Shotton	2	6	1
Darlington				Southampton			
Easington	5	6		South Hetton	2	1	
East Rainton				Staindrop			
Edmondsley				Stanhope	1	1	1
Esh				Stanley		4	
Esh Winning			1	Station Town		1	1
Fencehouses				Stockton			
Ferryhill	8	8	11	Sunderland	1		2
Fishburn	3	1	2	Sunnybrow	1	1	
Frosterley				Thirsk			
Gateshead				Thornley	1	3	
Great Lumley	2	2	2	Toft Hill			
Hamsterley				Tow Law			2
Hartlepool	1	2		Trimdon	4	3	2
Haswell	1	1	1	Warrington			
Hetton-le-Hole	1	2	1	Washington			
High Etherley				West Auckland	1		2
High Rickleton				West Cornforth	2	4	4
Horden	6	2	4	Wheatley Hill	1	1	3
Houghton	5	7	4	Willington	1	4	4
Howden	2		1	Wingate	4	3	1
Hunwick				Witney, Oxfordshire		1	
Kimblesworth			1	Wolsingham	3	1	1
Lanchester	1			Yorkshire			
Langley Park	2		2	London			
Daily Total	137	123	125				