

20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

## Crematorium Matters – Manager’s Report

### Staffing Issues

The manager has been awarded the ICCM Diploma and Eikhoff medal for outstanding achievement in his studies.

### Achievements

Staff managed a service recently which was attended by about 800 mourners. The crematorium was chosen because of its facilities to deal with a large funeral and the careful preparations ensured the service went extremely well with minimal disruption to car-parks and the preceding/following services.

### Metals Recycling Charity Award

A cheque for £5,000 to the North Devon Cancer Care Centre Trust has been issued by the metals recycling scheme and the presentation date has been arranged as 11<sup>th</sup> October. The next charity to be submitted for an award will be Families in Grief.

The recent increase in awards has apparently been achieved through the increasing use of the scheme and the resulting efficiency savings of the operating company.

### Cremation Figures

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
<b>April</b>	117	129	98	125	109	102	161	125	139	163	117
<b>May</b>	102	122	112	90	111	123	117	135	118	126	138
<b>June</b>	94	96	103	103	129	116	102	123	143	125	129
<b>July</b>	107	102	90	99	107	111	121	106	111	126	142
<b>Aug</b>	112	85	99	83	116	106	117	100	109	114	122
<b>Sept</b>	112	86	103	111	88	104	107	122	127	121	128
<b>Oct</b>	114	121	97	97	102	101	98	125	140	127	
<b>Nov</b>	105	105	115	115	116	129	96	120	108	157	
<b>Dec</b>	86	133	120	107	88	100	98	120	128	123	
<b>Jan</b>	155	164	141	169	143	159	164	142	131	158	
<b>Feb</b>	109	122	105	140	127	121	116	154	136	137	
<b>Mar</b>	94	114	114	117	132	144	127	157	151	162	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1307</b>	<b>1379</b>	<b>1297</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>1416</b>	<b>1424</b>	<b>1529</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>1639</b>	

## **Medical Referee Post Update**

The Gloucester pilot scheme was visited together with Harry Waters, one of our Medical Referees. This is one of two pilots and it is operating as a commissioned service from the NHS (effectively being run by the Gloucester General Hospital Bereavement Office).

During the visit it was recognized that the geographical area that scheme covers is determined by the Coroner's area of responsibility, raising the possibility the authority likely to be responsible will be Devon County Council rather than each individual council.

This issue was raised with Dr Judith Bernstein (the Ministry of Justice lead for Coroners, Burials and Cremations). She indicated that there was no decision yet regarding how each area would be set up geographically and similarly no decision has been made about which authority would be responsible. She also indicated that the Brexit negotiations and recent tragedies at Grenfell and terrorist attacks at Westminster Bridge and Manchester Arena had been occupying her team with the result that the implementation has been delayed by an undetermined period – at least 2019.

## **Grounds Improvement Update**

The next phase of works (new 'summerhouse' structure and Poet's area border edging/paths) all require tenders in view of the expenditure. These are pending with a view to works completion early in the new-year.

## **Chapel Music System**

The music system will have been running for over 2 weeks at the time of the meeting. A period of 'dual-running' the old and new systems will be drawing to an end. A full update will be given at the meeting and the opportunity for the Committee to see the system in operation (from Funeral Director booking a service to delivery in-chapel).

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