

# Government *WORLD*<sup>TM</sup>



*Autumn 2012 Edition*

**welters<sup>®</sup>**  
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**welters organisation**  
P.O. Box 159 Carlisle,  
Great Britain CA2 5BG  
Office: 08702 416 422 (national rate)  
Fax: 01228 674959  
E-mail: [office@government-world.com](mailto:office@government-world.com)

Submissions should be sent to **Government WORLD**,  
PO Box 159, Carlisle, CA2 5BG Tel: 08702 416 422 Fax:  
01228 674 959 Email: [gov.world@welters-worldwide.com](mailto:gov.world@welters-worldwide.com)

**ISSN 1744-6996**



**Cover picture**

Moths and midges attracted by lamp taken at night with slow shutter camera.



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## ORGANISATION WORLDWIDE

### Design and Innovation

### ***Majestic Community Mausolea***

The Majestic Community Mausolea provides 36 front charging and 12 side charging vaults for full bodied interment with an additional 54 niches for cremated remains caskets incorporated into one dignified structure.

All interment positions are faced in black or grey granite which can be pre-inscribed prior to the funeral and ready to fix in place immediately after the interment takes place. The building itself is decoratively finished with architecturally moulded plinths, headers and pediments with stone columns on all four corners.

Seating and planter configurations can be arranged around the paved area for further enhancement.





**Rememberland™**

**welters® Social Website**

Offered free by **welters®**  
Rememberland is a place for members to store and relive memories.

Rememberland allows you to upload and share personal photographs and music, link to videos and record memories in a journal/blog

If you would like to take advantage of this service please go to: [www.rememberland.co.uk](http://www.rememberland.co.uk) and fill in the online application form.

**All Your Memories in One Place™**





## ***Père Lachaise Cemetery***

Covering 110 acres, Père Lachaise Cemetery is the largest cemetery in Paris and arguably the most visited cemetery in the world.

The grounds are awash with impressive tombs and mausolea, each with its own carved detailing or sculpture, lending an individuality to each structure and an eclectic variant in architectural influences which is most inspiring.

The cemetery was opened in 1804 and celebrated its bicentenary in 2004. At the time of its opening it was considered that the cemetery was situated too far from the city of Paris and attracted few funerals. To counteract this the cemetery administrators devised a marketing strategy which included transferring the remains of famous dignitaries and reintering them at Père Lachaise. This strategy soon saw an increase in use as the people of Paris could now aspire to be buried among its famous citizens.



The cemetery is still functional today and boasts a crematorium and large columbarium. It is also still possible to be buried in the grounds although there is a waiting list and the deceased must either have died in Paris or lived there.

# Information for Tenders and Procurement

We are the largest and demonstrably most experienced single specialist manufacturer and installer of burial chamber and Mausoleum systems in the UK, with over 20 years of specialist experience to the industry, we believe we can offer you overall unrivalled cost, specification and service advantages.

We can also offer you full cemetery design, manufacture and install proposals for any memorial and interment service option provision in respect of full body and cremated remains interment, above or below ground to any specification.

Although many councils are now using online tender portals, many of which we are registered with, we would like to ensure that we miss no opportunity in making sure all council procurement departments are at least aware of who we are and what we can offer.

If your procedures allow, we would request that if you are purchasing any future systems for memorialisation and/or interment, that we be included in the procurement and requisition process in order that we may forward our proposals to achieve the best results for you. This can also include **welters®** financed options on a 'pay as you go' strategy, and our professional support in helping you with your overall forward cemetery management strategy as part of our professional package.

We are servicing Local Authorities nationwide and are well placed to offer you excellent value locally.

We look forward to receiving tender opportunities and to being of assistance to you in the future.

**welters®**

Tel: 08702 416 422

admin@welters-worldwide.com

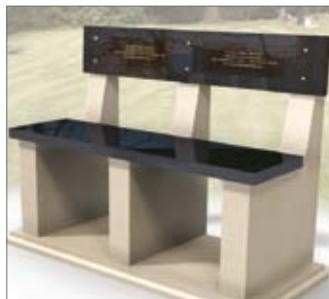
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***Recent changes in the procurement policy of many Local Authorities means that the onus is on our company to ensure we are registered with the relevant 'eTender' website.***

***welters® do not want to miss any tender opportunities so please contact us so we can make sure we are correctly registered with your eTender portal.***





Memorial bench standard model



Memorial bench with extended base plinth and planters



Memorial bench with full niche and planter specification



Niche and Keepsake arrangement



Keepsake niche option

# Chiltern Memorial Bench Collection

*Memorial benches that grow with your needs*

The **welters**® Chiltern Memorial Bench provides a range of affordable solutions for commemorative and memorial seating arrangements.

The memorial bench collection comprises a range of options beginning with the standard bench and plinth arrangement with two inscription plaques on the back rest. Upgraded versions include end planters and extended base plinth.

A unique feature is the optional addition of four cremated remains niches providing two interments in each niche. These can also be enclosed in an attractive polished stainless steel frame furnished with toughened glass and used as keepsake storage niches for photographs, flowers and memorabilia.

## **Made in England**

The Chiltern Memorial Bench Collection is manufactured in **welters**® UK factory using high quality stone and polished granite creating an adaptable and elegant addition to their furniture range.

Babbling brook

Nature





## **Audit Commission announces details of £50 million annual savings for public bodies**

The Audit Commission has announced the reduced scale audit fees it will charge individual councils, health and other public bodies for five years from 2012/13.

Nearly 800 of the larger local public bodies in the Commission's regime will save a total of £250 million over the five years, for most a 40 per cent cut on current rates.

Public bodies set to benefit include single-tier, county and district councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, NHS trusts, primary care trusts, strategic health authorities, national parks authorities, waste disposal authorities, integrated transport authorities, passenger transport executives, and pension fund authorities.

Each of these organisations will be able to see online how much it will pay in scale audit fees for the next five years, and compare with similar and neighbouring bodies.

These substantial cuts come not

only from the outsourcing of the work of the Commission's in-house Audit Practice, but also from the £19 million a year savings the Commission has made through its own internal efficiencies.

The combination of outsourcing and efficiency means that until at least 2017/18 England's local public bodies will have £50 million more a year to spend on their services.

Chairman of the Audit Commission, Michael O'Higgins says: 'We are now able to put the detail on the savings that will flow from the procurement of public audit announced last month, and from the Commission's own belt-tightening.

'We are pleased to have delivered a more diversified audit market, with savings that clearly demonstrate the benefits of the Commission's national bulk purchasing power. These lower fees, fixed for five years irrespective of inflation, will help public bodies at a time when budgets are under pressure'

Audit fees are the principal way the Audit Commission finances its activities, and it has a statutory duty to cover its costs taking one year with another.

## **New plans to assess UK progress towards sustainable future**

The UK's progress towards sustainable long-term economic growth and social wellbeing will be easier for people to track under new plans announced by Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman.

Defra has launched a consultation on a new set of Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs) providing an overview of the UK's progress towards a more sustainable economy, society, and environment.

The indicators will make it easier for people to monitor if the UK is developing in a sustainable way and help Government see where more work needs to be done. Updates will be published annually with a scorecard showing whether progress is in the right direction.

Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman said: "We want to help our economy, our communities and the environment to grow and flourish in a sustainable way for the benefit of future generations. We have put sustainability at the heart of everything that the Government does, and these new indicators will help us take stock of our progress and give the public the means to chart our success. At Rio+20 we successfully argued for the need for countries to look beyond their economic performance as a measure of progress. These indicators along with the measures of wellbeing underline our own commitment to going beyond GDP to measure the health and wealth of the UK."

Assessments on our use of natural resources, and the skills and knowledge we possess, are amongst the new measurements proposed. Twelve headline measures are supported by 25 supplementary indicators.

The revised Sustainable Development Indicators will be used alongside the national wellbeing measures developed by the Office for National Statistics, and work on valuations of our natural resources, to provide a wide set of measures to view how society is progressing. Taken together, these measures demonstrate the UK's leading role in championing the need to move beyond GDP as the sole measure of progress, which received international recognition at Rio+20.

Previous SDIs have been widely used outside of Government by academics, NGOs and businesses. This consultation will give these groups the opportunity to give us their views and feedback on the new proposed SDIs.



## ***Moving Forward with Confidence***

**welters®** are excited and proud to announce another 5 year frame work contract award, from yet another major London Authority, for the provision of their unique and specialist services, demonstrating their relevant and cost effective delivery capability.

**welters®** are also pleased to enclose images which illustrate their 'real' and 'active' daily commitment to investing in development to enhance the 'funeral experience' as part of their service package.

**welters®** are committed to investing in the development of exciting new systems and products from their own in-house UK manufacturing facilities which guarantees cost effectiveness and sustainability.

These ongoing developments demonstrate and support **welters®** ability to offer bespoke and relevant design, manufacture, installation, multi faith and function service provision schemes supported by their dedicated and specialist on site interment, inscription and maintenance teams. These schemes can be part, or fully funded to achieve maximum impact with minimum investment. Call today for a site specific discussion.



# THE ITALIAN JOB



It is more a question of the colour of the doors as opposed to blowing them off! When asked to write about our experience with “the Italian phenomenon” that we work with every day, we were pleased to be able to share a little insight into our experience with Italian communities throughout the UK.

*By Iain Walters*

There are many thousands of Italians now living in the UK with thriving communities and a well developed Anglo Italian or ‘Britalian’ cultural identity. Post war Italian settlers are traditionally known for their ice cream, fish and chips, pizza and pasta restaurants, delis and shops. There are also large “pockets” of Italian communities that settled and thrived within other more



Four interment Midi & six interment Maxi Mausolea with cremated remains niches



Six interment Chapel Mausolea



On-site burial chamber consultation

“heavy industries” to assist with the great post war re-construction effort. The largest settlement is in London with over 50,000 people of Italian birth residing followed by Manchester with 25,000.

Bedford has over 14,000 people of Italian origin and at 20% boasts one of the highest concentrations of Italian immigrants in the UK created mainly as a result of labour recruitment in the 1950s by the London Brick Company

and by 1960 approximately 7,500 Italian men were employed by London Brick in Bedford alone. These communities have very strong inherent Catholic drivers and beliefs that dominate their culture and forward momentum through the generations.

**We have been privileged to** have worked with many Italian user groups now, providing solutions to allow them to fulfil some of their most important core beliefs here in the UK for nearly 15 years. The first of these was in Bedford, where a small group came forward to commission the very first small block of community mausolea, designed as a relatively “inexpensive” municipal above ground interment solution not really appreciating how these solutions would take off. The rest is history.

**The challenge for the design and** installation was that it had to be LACO compliant and finish at a cost that was relevant to their desired spend at the time. The result was achieving a figure of around £1000 per interment before the cemetery authority applied its fees and charges, and most importantly to be relevant to need. Now that we have established and opened up the market, much has changed and we now understand the full breadth and depth of that need. Rather like *coffee* in this country. (It's just a cup of coffee isn't it?)

**Midi mausolea, maxi mausolea, community, back to back, side charging, front charging, coliseum concave, convex, courtyard, embankment, two below one up, two below two up, keepsake niche frames, walk in family chapel, columns, buttresses, green roof, apex, decorative stone, brick, block granite, glass, lighting, on site back-up support services,**





Keith and Iain Welters meeting attendees at their Cemetery Village® open day event

*interment booking, exhumations from burial chambers to mausolea, bricking up, tablet inscriptions, bronzes...* this is a small part of our daily vocabulary with local and private authority managers, funeral directors and with Italian families directly. Bespoke one-off works are as significant and regular as our full cemetery design and build works and equally rewarding.

### My own personal sense of total

and intense satisfaction comes from being in a position to be assisting families at arguably the most difficult time of their lives, and from being able to take the smallest amount of pain away for even a second, making our part so worth while. I find myself on a regular basis in the front room of Italian family homes where they have invited all of their extended family members over to meet “the man who is going to take care of

things”. If your heart is not on your sleeve it’s not happening!

### Our efforts are always rewarded

by the expression of the significance of our achievement and the reinforcement of their fundamental belief that is critical for frequent pilgrimage and memoriam. The belief that respect should be paid daily if possible as if the deceased were still with us is refreshing in that they should not be forgotten or left out of the day-to-day loop. I firmly believe that this basic respect should be encouraged and replicated throughout society (from young to old). Young people could be helped to have a concept of their own mortality, and to understand the effect of their actions on others around them and their environment. It does work! Respect those who have passed and there is more of a tendency to respect those who are still with and

around us every day. We could all learn a lot from this dignified and deep rooted core belief.

**The perspective of priority that** we have experienced by many Italian families driven by a morality and spirituality and an innate desire to create a single focal point not just for themselves and immediate family, but past, present and future generations and for all of the known and as yet unknown extended family is clearly apparent.

We worked with a particular family who had saved systematically over the years to purchase a large family mausoleum. Family emphasis is commonly placed on careful investment in the interest of the whole family (through saving money that might have easily been spent elsewhere) on the provision of family mausolea for the future. This would create focus and an important interment and memorial facility to cater to all eventualities but most importantly to be a social meeting point for young and old alike providing a dignified and centred core to the family unit for generations to come. An admirable and selfless act to bring the family together long term.

**The most common and enduring** sense of comfort and reassurance that is drawn by the Italian community from our work with them is that they can realise their own comprehensive wishes. Bespoke personal design choices without complicated procedure, at a difficult time with the help of caring and expertise is the key to peace of mind. It is now well known that we have the ability to “make it all happen”. It is as common for us to be discussing the design and build of a large 12 interment walk-in family chapel mausoleum as it is to be cladding a single burial chamber with one memorial with



Bricking up into a community mausoleum prior to tablet fitting on the day of interment carried out by Welters®



Classic decorative stone front tablets inscribed with bronze ornamentation with independently removable granite plaque post interment



Burial Chamber Interment

equal importance and feeling.

**As with “importing” any concept,** system or procedure into this country (or any other for that matter) it is never a question of simply looking at that what occurs and how it is done in Italy and attempting to transpose that here, if that was the case everyone would find it achievable! It is absolutely critical to the relationship success that the “magic” ingredient is an integral part of the mix. What is the magic ingredient? We believe after many years that it is the ability to identify and implement design solutions and support services that are relevant interpretations. These issues naturally involve all factors like legislation, climate, material specification, unit cost spend ceilings, handling restrictions and procedures etc. Environmental issues, on-going maintenance and localised cultural interment and



Granite mausoleum plaque with bronze feature, lamps and vase furnishings

memorial preferences specifically developed for the UK market are all essential factors to be considered professionally. In other words; we interpret the ideas of what they want without presuming what we think they should have. Our service is tailored to suit the needs of both the Italian community and the cemetery operator and is designed to work here on all levels.



Front charging mausolea with stone obelisk decoration

Our confidence in understanding these needs thoroughly, coupled with the total control of our in-house design, manufacturing and installation programmes has given us the ability to offer cemetery operators inspired part and fully funded projects. This opportunity can produce positive cash-flow without significant capital investment from the cemetery operator to initiate these very important service provision option schemes.

**Do you know any Italians you can help?**



Six interment Tiber Mausolea interior following interment



Six interment Chapel mausolea with casket ready to inter



An amazing side and front charging combination community mausolea scheme with canopy and romanesque columns



Large scale community mausolea scheme



Large scale community mausolea scheme



Double interment granite dressed Sarcophagi, one below and one above

## £1billion to improve council homes set to boost economy

Housing Minister Mark Prisk has confirmed nearly £1billion to bring sub-standard council homes up to scratch - while at the same time offering a boost to local businesses up and down the country.

The Minister said that the funding, to be allocated to 41 councils over the next two years - would bring over 86,000 homes up to a decent living standard.

And with reports in some areas that every pound spent on Decent Homes improvements creates £1.46 in local spend through orders to tradesmen and suppliers in the area, he said the cash would also help kickstart the economy, supporting local tradesmen and creating new jobs.

Today's investment secures the future until the end of this Parliament of the Decent Homes Programme, confirming the indicative allocations made in 2011. The cash will help councils bring their homes up to a decent standard, from fitting new roofs and windows to updating kitchens or heating systems.

Mr Prisk said that this new construction and skilled work would provide a shot in the arm

for thousands of local businesses and tradesmen, supporting the Government's measures to boost British jobs and the economy.

He is also keen to explore bringing forward some of this funding to councils to help boost their economies through local investment in decent homes. Officials will shortly be in touch with councils to see what may be done to achieve this.

The Minister said that spending money earlier would help boost local employment as early as possible, as well as delivering home improvements for tenants ahead of schedule.

Housing Minister Mark Prisk said: "By improving this country's council homes we will transform many families' lives for the better, bringing their living standards up to scratch ensuring that their home is the safe haven it is meant to be. But the benefits of the £1billion I've confirmed today reach far beyond tenants themselves and into the local economy. With every pound spent on improvements boosting local business, creating new jobs and supporting local spending, I want to see councils realising the benefits of this cash as soon as possible."

## Minister launches new 'stop-the-clock' power to save local treasures

Communities Minister Don Foster has legally authorised new powers for communities to help prevent the rapid sell off of treasured community assets and buildings so they can be protected.

The Community Right to Bid, created in the historic Localism Act, came into force 21st September across the country so communities can 'stop-the clock' on the sale of valuable local assets and amenities like post offices, village shops or community pubs, giving them time to put in a takeover bid of their own and protect it for the wider community's benefit.

The new right gives voluntary and community organisations and parish councils the opportunity to nominate an asset to be included on a list of 'assets of community value', pausing the sale of a successfully listed asset for six-months, giving communities the time to prepare a bid and get a business plan together. Previously the community had no opportunity or time to gather resources to bid to buy or take them over.

Communities Minister Don Foster said: "For too long communities have been shut out, forced to watch from the sidelines as treasured local assets, vital in peoples daily lives, have been shut-down and sold on. We are determined to put an end to that and put people back at the centre of the future of their communities. The Community Right to bid lets communities decide what's important to them and 'stop the clock' on sales so they have them the time to get together a bid, put together a plan and ensure that prized local assets can live on, this time run by the local community for the local community."

Communities are already showing their determination and appetite to get involved in saving and running local facilities and amenities and over 500 people are looking into using the Right to Bid in their community.

- In Norden, local people formed a Trust to buy and refurbish the historic old library building and reopen it as a community facility. The group purchased the lease from the Local authority and since then the building has been transformed into a modern community hub and a doctors surgery.
- In Cranleigh, the community is already planning to use the Community Right to Bid to return the first village hospital in the community back into the hands of the local people to provide support to the elderly in the community and ensure that the long history of the building as a community facility can continue.

The Community Right to Bid, is just one of the Community Rights measures brought in by the Localism Act. In June, the Government announced a £30million package of specialist support to help communities take advantage of their new rights.



# Red Tape Challenge

Health and safety regulations are designed to protect employees, employers and the public from harm arising from work activities. The Red Tape Challenge is a Government initiative offering people the opportunity to have their say on regulations that affect their everyday lives.

Health and Safety regulation is one of six cross cutting themes open to comments from the public throughout the whole of the Red Tape Challenge campaign, but from 30 June, for a period of three weeks, it will be a key focus on the challenge website. The regulations have been divided into four different categories to enable people to comment on those most relevant to them or their area of work.

Health and safety should be proportionate to risk and the regulations should reflect that. The government has already started reforms to health and safety and the Red Tape Challenge will enable everyone to have their say on the regulations underpinning Great Britain's health and safety culture, whether they work in the field of health and safety or have experience of the regulation as an employee, business owner or member of the public.

The HSE want to hear from everyone, whether you think that a regulation is well designed and provides vital protections, or if you think that a regulation is badly planned, badly implemented or simply a bad idea.

Further information can be found at:  
[www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/home/index/](http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/home/index/)



## Cabinet Office stands up for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)

Confusing tenders and bureaucratic public procurement have been laid bare in the latest Mystery Shopper results, published by the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude. The results show that the Cabinet Office has stepped in and stood up for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), resolving a total of 14 cases over the past three months.

The initiative allows business owners to report instances where SMEs or other suppliers are shut out of the market so that the Cabinet Office can investigate and deal with them, opening up the market for SMEs. The results published by the Cabinet Office show:

- 14 new Mystery Shopper cases were resolved between June and September 2011
- 85 per cent of cases (12) resulted in either immediate or future changes to the tender
- pre-qualification questionnaires (PQQs) are still the most common issue (5 out of the 14 cases), followed by unfair disqualification on financial pre requirements (2)
- of the two cases that did not result in action, one was resolved without Cabinet Office intervention and the other tender was investigated and found to be sound

Since its launch, Mystery Shopper has received over 80 cases, almost half of these are already resolved (37), with Cabinet Office action leading to direct changes in procurement in 81 per cent of cases. For example, a small coffee roasting business was unable to bid for a tender because it lacked the resources to respond to an unnecessarily lengthy and complicated PQQ. Cabinet Office action via Mystery Shopper led to the contracting authority shortening the PQQ.

In another instance, only pre-selected suppliers could bid for a contract. Following Cabinet Office advice, the contracting authority opened its tender to all suppliers.

Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude, said: "This is yet another lever, in addition to our actions to scrap unnecessary PQQs and publish all contracts on contracts finder. We will continue to publish these cases regularly so that issues are transparent."

Stephen Allott, Crown Representative for SMEs, said: "The voices of SMEs are getting through to government thanks to the Mystery Shopper initiative, and problems are being dealt with. There is always more to do, but we are on the right path to a more dynamic, transparent and innovative supplier marketplace, which will lead to better government services and better value for money for taxpayers. But we want to hear more – if you spot poor practice this service can make a difference, and we want to hear from you."

# Energy risks need better explanation by Government and regulators according to MPs



Independent regulators should take a more prominent role in communicating the risks associated with energy generation and distribution because the Government is not seen as an impartial source of information, according to MPs on the Science and Technology Committee.

Public distrust of governments as providers of risk information is evident across Europe. The UK Government's position as an advocate for nuclear power makes it difficult for the public to trust it as an impartial source of information. Technically competent public bodies that are independent of

Government - such as the Health & Safety Executive and Office for Nuclear Regulation - are in a much better position to engender public trust and influence risk perceptions. The Committee calls on these regulators to make greater efforts to communicate risk to the public and develop their role as trusted sources of information for lay people, in addition to providing risk information for technical audiences.

Andrew Miller MP said:

"The public must be able to trust the information it receives on the risks of nuclear power and other

energy technologies – such as fracking or carbon capture and storage.

Developing the public profile of independent regulators as trusted and authoritative sources may be one way of increasing public trust and understanding of such risks."

The report also warns that there is a lack of strategic coordination across Government when it comes to risk communication. A senior individual in Government should lead a Risk Communication Strategy team, drawing together existing expertise within Departments and public bodies – and be visibly responsible for overseeing risk communication.

Furthermore, the decision to class the Fukushima at the same 'Level Seven' magnitude as Chernobyl - despite there being significantly lower levels of radioactive material released into the atmosphere and no deaths directly attributable to the accident - demonstrates the need to revise the scale used to communicate the magnitude of nuclear accidents, according to the report.

Andrew Miller MP, Chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, said:  
Fukushima was no Chernobyl, but the public were left with a

confusing picture of the real risks from the accident partly because it was classed as the same magnitude.

Although tens of thousands died as a result of the earthquake and tsunami, to date nobody has died, or received a life-threatening dose of radiation, from the Fukushima nuclear accident and no one is expected to.

The accident has made it clear that the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale is not up-to-the-job. The International Atomic Energy Agency should come up with a better and more accurate way of communicating the risks involved in any future nuclear accident."

The global body responsible for the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES) should review the scale focusing on how to:  
better represent orders of magnitude;  
make the scale comprehensible to non-technical audiences;  
ensure the technical basis of the scale incorporates sufficient information about risk as well as hazard.

The report also calls on regulators and other information sources to emphasise to the public that exceeding recommended minimal radiation exposure levels may not pose any risk to people or the environment – and that safety thresholds may allow for significantly greater radiation exposure to occur without significant risk to health or the environment.



# welters®

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Design and Innovation



## welters® Caskets

**welters®** have designed their own exclusive range of decorative caskets for full burial and cremated remains interment.

The design includes their trademark doves, leaves and butterfly motifs and they are available in antique bronze and polished stainless steel finishes or a combination of the two.

The introduction of these new products not only provides extra choice in quality caskets for the bereaved but also provides a UK manufactured and distributed product for Funeral Directors who traditionally source decorative caskets from the USA.

**welters®** caskets now offer a viable alternative with UK manufacturing supplying UK business which in turn creates and protects UK jobs.





## ***New Majestic Community Mausoleum Installed to Meet Demand***

As Burial Authorities across the UK provide wider choices of interment for their service users, the demand for these services are on the increase.

Above ground burial in the form of mausolea is nothing new and the name of **welters®** latest community mausoleum reflects the long history of this form of interment.

Mausolea interments are on the increase and as such as second Mausolus was commissioned to meet this growing need.

The Majestic Community Mausoleum offers front and side charging positions with a total of 48 burial cells and an additional 54 niches for cremated remains caskets.

Much of the remaining spaces have already been pre-purchased and the Burial Authority are planning a further two Mausolus to keep ahead of demand.





In fact this form of burial is so popular in the local community that an interment was carried out even before construction work had been completed!

**welters®** are now constructing mausolea across the UK and as the public become more aware of the choices available to them, the increase in demand is set to continue.



The heyday of mausolea construction was in the Victorian period which has left a rich heritage of magnificent monuments.

The twentieth century saw a dramatic decline in this form of interment and many Burial Authorities offered little choice between earthen burial and brick vaulted graves and greatly restricted the size and type of memorial that could be erected

Low maintenance 'lawn type' utility style headstones were installed in their thousands stripping cemeteries of their character and reducing the ability of the bereaved to express their individuality in tribute to a loved one.

Thankfully this is now slowly changing and the opportunity for individuals to create truly monumental structures serving generations is now widely accepted and encouraged by many forward thinking Authorities.

# Environmental Audit Committee publishes report on Protecting the Arctic

The Environmental Audit Committee has published the report of its inquiry into Protecting the Arctic and calls for a halt on oil drilling until:

- A pan-Arctic oil spill response standard is in place
- A stricter financial liability regime for oil and gas operations is introduced that requires companies to prove that they can meet the costs of cleaning up
- An oil and gas industry group is set up to peer-review companies' spill response plans and operating practices, reporting publicly
- Further independent research and testing on oil spill response techniques in Arctic conditions is conducted, including an assessment of their environmental side-effects
- An internationally recognised environmental sanctuary is established in at least part of the Arctic

Chair of the Committee, Joan Walley MP, said:

"The oil companies should come clean and admit that dealing with an oil spill in the icy extremes of

the Arctic would be exceptionally difficult.

The infrastructure to mount a big clean-up operation is simply not in place and conventional oil spill response techniques have not been proven to work in such severe conditions.

Drilling is only currently feasible in the Arctic during a short summer window when it is relatively ice-free. We heard compelling evidence that if a blow-out occurred just before the dark Arctic winter returned it may not be possible to cap it until the following summer - potentially leaving oil spewing out under the ice for six months or more with devastating consequences for wildlife"

The report also looks at the effect that climate change is having on the Arctic. It warns that a collapse in summer Arctic sea-ice, increased methane emissions from thawing permafrost, melting of the Greenland ice-sheet and changes to the thermo-haline circulation could all have disastrous consequences for the world - pushing up sea levels and transforming weather patterns.

Temperature rises in the Arctic are already affecting the UK's weather,

according to evidence submitted to the inquiry. The UK is warming more slowly when compared with the rest of continental Europe, as the decrease in the thermo-haline circulation means that less heat is being brought to Britain by the Gulf Stream.

Chair of the Committee, Joan Walley MP, added:

"The shocking speed at which the Arctic sea ice is melting should be a wake-up call to the world that we need to phase out fossil fuels fast. Instead we are witnessing a reckless gold rush in this pristine wilderness as big companies and governments make a grab for the world's last untapped oil and gas reserves."

The report points out that there are already more proven fossil fuel reserves in the world, than can be burnt safely if we want to keep global temperature rises below dangerous thresholds. The MPs accuse the Government of failing to demonstrate how future oil and gas extraction from the Arctic can be reconciled to commitments to limit the overall temperature increase to 2°C. and they call on it to rethink its approach to combating climate change by tackling the supply of fossil fuels, as well as demand.

Caroline Lucas MP, a member of the Committee, said:

"This hard hitting, cross party report comes at a time when the race to carve up the Arctic is accelerating faster than our regulatory or technical capacity to manage it.

The Arctic oil rush is bringing unprecedented risks to the area, and it's now clear that the consequences of any potential oil spill would be catastrophic.

The UK government now has a responsibility to respond to this EAC report and show vital leadership on the issue by doing all it can to urgently secure a moratorium on Arctic drilling – starting with companies registered in this country."

Joan Walley MP, concluded:

"Concerns over climate change should be recognised internationally as a limiting factor on any new oil and gas drilling in the Arctic."







## ***Water Feature Management***

**welters®** have a long tradition in creating water solutions born from many years of land ownership and agricultural and recreational development and management.

This could be instigating land drainage pools for farmland to create a useful water source for agricultural or livestock use by drawing water into low lying or take it away from clay based soil areas and freeing up that land for growing or grazing.



As well as practical solutions, many water projects fulfill aesthetic landscaping requirements to provide focal points for ornamental designs, be it in private or parkland estates or even memorial parks.

Projects can include new installations or involve careful manipulation of existing water sources such as streams or natural ponds to conform to the clients needs.

Lake restoration is usually required when artificial lakes such as those in parkland begin to lose their ability to retain water. In these instances the lake will require draining and the lake bed sealed and made sound.



Many water features are also specifically designed to become naturalised to encourage wild fauna and flora to colonise the area providing a safe and secure environment for protecting rare and endangered species.

From lake creation to wetland development, water feature management creates many attractive water environments for a multitude of uses both practical and pleasurable.



## Brighter Later

By the time you read this, the weather may have resumed normal function. But what is normal? Normal has become increasingly unpredictable. 'Apocalyptic' and 'Biblical' Met Office flood alerts - wettest 'drought' on record! We have always believed that if you fight nature, you will lose. So, far better to work with it, than against it.

Over 25 years ago, **welters®** had a vision to deal with the inherent practical and cost associated problems of digging holes in fields, especially wet fields, for burial. Our volume produced, cost effective and pre-engineered and installed above and below ground systems, complete with installation and support packages, were born. The systems offer affordable, clean, safe and manageable solutions that facilitate pre-selling which can be tailored to the appropriate spend levels and individual cultural requirements.

Many things have changed and improved over the years but the principle remains the same. Throughout this period of extreme weather and in the light of nature's increasingly unpredictable efforts and man made economic traumas, it is perhaps much more relevant and important than ever before to ensure that decent burial is provided. To which end, **welters®** have created the **welters®** Funeral Experience™ for delivery in extreme conditions.

**welters®** fixed unit cost, full back up on site support, maintenance and interment services are all contractually available. The 'no brainer' packages are ideal in wet or difficult to dig and manage ground, especially when budgets are challenged.

**welters®** will consider all cemetery acquisition lease and purchase options. If you would like a free evaluation, we would be happy to assist.



# Research highlights link between Environmental Stewardship and food security

A report commissioned by Natural England reveals the important role that Environmental Stewardship (ES) schemes play in supporting agricultural productivity.

The report, 'Ecosystem services from Environmental Stewardship that benefit agricultural production', highlights the role of Environmental Stewardship in protecting the environment and agricultural food production. The report found that ES schemes are delivering a range of vital goods and services, known as ecosystems services - which benefit the natural environment and in doing so help sustain and develop agricultural productivity.

The report:

- Shows how ES schemes can help protect soil and water, regulate pest species and improve pollination, which in turn helps support crop production;
- Reinforces the key role farmers and land managers in ES play in enhancing the natural environment without compromising their ability to produce food;

- For the first time, maps the distribution of the major ecosystems services provided by ES options.

The research, carried out by the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), found many examples of how ecosystems services supported by ES contribute to food production, such as:

- Pollination services are provided by many ES options, with those delivering early pollen and nectar sources and season-long floral resources particularly important. Farms under organic management are likely to deliver more for bumblebees due to the legume content of rotational grassland;
- Control of pest species by natural enemies is encouraged by ES options supporting hedgerows, flower margins, species-rich grassland and beetle banks;
- Conservation of genetic resources is supported by options such as traditional orchard and species-rich

grassland management, as well as native breed supplements;

- Converting land to grassland benefits microscopic soil animals which improve soil organic matter content, while options where legumes are sown increase soil nitrogen, organic matter and soil wildlife.

Ian Fugler, Land Management Director for Natural England, said: "Long-term food security and a healthy natural environment are inextricably linked. This report highlights how Environmental Stewardship supports the important role farmers play both in putting food on the table and providing a whole range of vital goods and services – protecting wildlife, managing water, storing carbon, looking after woodlands and hedgerows, and planting new ones, and shaping much-loved landscapes for people to explore and enjoy".

The report 'Ecosystem services from Environmental Stewardship that benefit agricultural production' can be downloaded from the Natural England website.





