



ASSOCIATION OF BURIAL AUTHORITIES

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF ABA

THE ASSOCIATION OF BURIAL AUTHORITIES was formed in 1993 to fulfil the need for a consumer orientated organization to co-ordinate the activities of burial grounds and provide a tangible link between them and the public. It is a not-for-profit company, limited by guarantee.

The "Death Care Industry" is fragmented among municipal cemeteries and crematoria; privately owned cemeteries and crematoria, churchyards and parish council burial grounds, funeral directors and memorial masons. There are long established trade associations and organizing bodies representing all of these groups with the exception of the 25,000 or so burial grounds. The ABA was formed by a group comprising cemetery managers, friends of cemeteries, the Church of England, memorial masons, landscape architects and service and product suppliers. Public relations professional and author of the *Daily Telegraph Guide to Funerals and Bereavement*, Sam Weller, who has specialised in this subject for some 20 years, was elected chairman.

Its membership, generally corporate, comprises the management of public and private cemeteries; Metropolitan, Unitary, City, Borough and District Councils; Joint Burial Boards / Committees; Town, Parish and Community Councils with responsibility for burial grounds; Parochial Church Councils, Dioceses and church incumbents; Green / Woodland burial sites; the Association of Private Pet Cemeteries and Crematoria; suppliers of services and equipment for the care of burial grounds, and interested individuals.

The ABA is entirely independent from any other trade or professional association and acts essentially as a national group co-ordinating plans and actions to achieve the following aims:

- To raise awareness and appreciation of our cemeteries and churchyards as places of commemoration, heritage and amenity value
- Promote the importance of burial grounds as places of remembrance for our communities and the long-term care of the bereaved
- Protect and promote the interests of organizations engaged in the management and operation of burial grounds and provide them with guidance
- Monitor and improve legislation and regulations affecting burial grounds on National and European Union levels.

The ABA has submitted to consultations by numerous official bodies including the House of Commons Select Committee Inquiry into Cemeteries, review of Coroner's Service, the Shipman Inquiry, the Treasury inquiry into pre-paid funeral plans, the Office of Fair Trading about funeral directors' trading practices and prepaid funeral plans; the faculty jurisdiction review committee of the Church of England; the General Register Office about registration of births, marriages and deaths; the Home Office about reuse of graves and other matters, the BSi about memorial stan-

dards. The ABA is represented on the London Churchyards and Cemeteries Habitat Action Plan working group. The ABA is a member of the Government's Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group, the Welsh Assembly BCAG, and the BCAG Memorial Safety subgroup and Cemetery Management subgroup.

The ABA has organized various Burials Day Conferences focusing on specific issues including how a burial ground can be operated at a profit, the reuse of graves, memorial inscriptions, vandalism and product liability, conservation of our memorial heritage, design and memorial landscaping, communications between the funerary factions and to the public, churchyards and consecrated areas, and public and managerial responsibility for safety.

A programme of seminars is constantly updated, with a series of 11 on safety, sponsored by Zurich Municipal, across the country during 2001. Early in 2003 Sam Weller spoke on memorial safety to a meeting of the Church of England Ecclesiastical Judges Association. In Autumn 2003 he presented burial safety seminars during the annual conferences of the Society of Local Council Clerks and the National Association of Local Councils. The ABA "Get Safe" seminars, including practical advice and training if required, are in popular demand.

The definitive *Guide to Management of Safety in Burial Grounds* is published by the ABA, with sponsorship and advice from Zurich Municipal and advice from the Health and Safety Executive.

The Phoenix Awards competition to encourage creativity in cemetery and memorial design, is organized annually by the ABA.

The 2004 Grounds for Burial Conference in May was opened by the Minister responsible for burial grounds, and had the Chair of the Select Committee Inquiry into Cemeteries as a keynote speaker. It focussed on the Government's plans for burial law reform as well as cemetery design and the Phoenix Awards prize giving. ABA representatives also participate in national and international conferences. They have exhibited and lectured at the Funeral Services Exhibition in the NEC; Tanexpo in Modena, Italy, Funexpo and Funeraire in Paris, France.

The ABA publishes regular news of its activities and developments of interest to the profession in the *ABA Info* newsletter (circ 2,300); offers a design and planning service for burial ground development - including if required on-site consultancy; researches and publishes instructions and guidelines; operates an advisory bureau and helpline for both burial authorities and the public, and implements a proactive public relations and government lobbying campaign.

The ABA is a member of the Council of British Funeral Services (CBFS); the European Federation of Funeral Services (EFFS) the International Federation of Thanatologists Associations (FIAT/IFTA) and the Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe (ASCE).



THE ASSOCIATION OF BURIAL AUTHORITIES APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enrol the undersigned as a Member of the Association of Burial Authorities.
Enclosed is our cheque for the joining fee (indicated in brackets) and one year's subscription in accordance with the membership category indicated (please tick as appropriate).

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

City, Borough or District Council	£295 (+£20)	£315.....
Proprietary Company	£295 (+£20)	£315.....
Joint Committee or Board	£190 (+£20)	£210.....
Town /Parish/Parochial Church Council	£ 78 (+£10)	£ 88.....

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Associate Company	£150 (+£15)	£165.....
Professional Organisation/Diocese	£150 (+£15)	£165.....
Institution	£ 78 (+£10)	£ 88.....
Individual (please see below*)	£ 20 (+£ 5)	£ 25.....

NAME.....AUTHORITY.....

ADDRESS.....COMPANY.....

.....POSITION.....

.....POSTCODE.....

Tel.....Fax.....E-mail.....

**The category for individuals is not open to those associated professionally with the death care industry. If you are applying for individual membership, please state your particular interest.*

Send your application to: The ABA, Waterloo House, 155 Upper Street, London N1 1RA
Tel (020) 7288 2522 Fax (020) 7288 2533 E-mail aba@swa-pr.co.uk

Some of the Benefits of Membership

HELPLINE FOR ADVICE ON: burial ground extensions, reuse of graves, acquisition, design & planning, grave care and responsibilities, inhumations, exhumations, monuments, maintenance, health & safety, DIY funerals, 'green' burials, rights and responsibilities, perpetuity & lease tenure, disposal and commemoration of cremated remains, vandalism & security, environmental matters, regulations etc

CONSULTANCY: expert on-site survey and advice on safety audits and inspection regimes; design planning and development; project management; maintenance of closed churchyards; legal issues

PUBLICATIONS: 'ABAinfo' the quarterly information newsletter for burial authority management, papers from professionals presented at seminars, fact sheets on current issues, model rules and regulations, guide to best practice in burial grounds, The ABA/ZM Guide to The Management of Safety in Burial Grounds (2001)

PUBLIC AFFAIRS: The ABA represents burial authority special interests with national & local government including the Home Office Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group, the Synod of the Church of England, the Churches Group on Funerals, Cemeteries and Crematoria, environment agencies, European Union directives. The ABA is a member of FIAT/IFTA (International Federation of Thanatology Associations), EFFS (European Federation of Funeral Services), IMF (International Monument Federation), ASCE (Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe) and the CBFS (Council of British Funeral Services). A proactive public relations, awareness and education campaign is run by the ABA

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS: The ABA monitors, attends and makes presentations at exhibitions and discussions at international and UK events as well as organising its own seminars, conferences and lecture and workshop sessions as a contribution to CPD, education and training. ABA operates as an information exchange on burial matters and participates in events with fraternal organisations

REDUCED RATES: members can enjoy concessionary prices for attendance at ABA events, visits to international trade fairs & exhibitions, special interest books and consultancy services.

Patron: Sheila Cameron CBE QC Dean of the Arches and Auditor

insurance
risk management
health & safety
fire
security
info sheet



ZURICH
MUNICIPAL

Guide to Safety in Burial Grounds



The Association of Burial Authorities along with Zurich Municipal have produced the definitive guide to safety management in burial grounds, cemeteries and churchyards. It presents comprehensive solutions to the problems, responsibilities and methods for resolving both historic and current issues, and preventing ongoing occurrences.

Issues addressed include areas of responsibility and liability; health and safety of employees; contractors and the public; audits and inspections; risk assessment; public relations and communications; foundations and fixings, with best practice examples; landscape planning and plot layout.

The Guide, in the form of a loose-leaf manual, including illustrations and forms for record keeping and update facilities, costs £85 (reduced to £75 for members of the ABA and the ZM LCAS and RMAS) plus £5 p&p.

Yes – I would like to have copies of the Guide to Safety in Burial Grounds.

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

.....

..... Postcode:

Tel No.

Fax No:

Please fax to Siobhan Behan on 01252 376010 or 549256 or mail it to her at Loss Control Services, Zurich Municipal, Southwood Crescent, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0NJ

Details of the manual's contents can be found overleaf.

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