As someone relatively new to Ipswich Bereavement Services, having only taken up my post in March this year, I have had the opportunity to attend two regional ICCM meetings. The first was in Southampton, just two weeks into the job, followed by the meeting in Cambridge in April to re-establish the Eastern Branch. By the time I went to Cambridge it was as if I had known many of the members for years.

The meetings provide everyone with a good insight into how other cemeteries and crematoria operate and that what works well in one part of the country may not elsewhere. I’ve been able to pick up on good practice and reassure myself that if I encounter any problems I have a network of contacts with whom I can discuss potential solutions.

The meetings are quite informal and relaxed offering an opportunity to bring up any issues that one may be experiencing and hear updates on any changes happening within the industry. I have benefited in particular from being able to look around the different sites to see how they have developed, what has worked well and to bring back ideas on how we can progress.

Our next Eastern Branch meeting is planned for Ipswich on Saturday 2nd November when you will be able to view our refurbishment works and the newly installed ATI cremators. It will be an opportunity for the staff and myself to receive your feedback; tell us what you think. The guest speaker will be Paul Scott who is the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor at the cemetery and a member of the Ipswich Society. Paul will give a talk about the social history of Ipswich Cemetery.

For directions and those using Sat Navs, please link to www.multimap.co.uk or www.greenflag.co.uk. Please enter Cemetery Lane via Colchester Road (A1214)

Please RSVP by 30 October to the Business Support Team Leader (Rob Henrique) by emailing to: rob.henrique@cambridge.gov.uk or the Cemeteries and Crematorium Team at: bereavementservices@cambridge.gov.uk or telephone Rob on 01223 458012 or the team on 01223 458010.