

Cemetery of the Year Awards 2018

The Memorial Awareness Board (MAB) has been promoting and organising the Cemetery of the Year Awards for nearly 20 years. The **free to enter competition** has been re-established in 2018 and is now available to all UK Cemetery Authorities using an online application form.

MAB would like to encourage ICCM members who have a responsibility for cemeteries/churchyards to enter the competition which will use a new online application form which is simple to complete (approx. 15-20 minutes) and allows the applications to be marked objectively with pre-defined points allocated in each section. This will allow feedback to be given to each entrant showing not only their overall competition marks but also how they can improve and develop their cemeteries/churchyards in important areas including Health and Safety, Facilities, Good Practice, Choice and National Standards.

An online MAB publication '*How to Increase Cemetery Income*' which covers some innovative ideas used by many authorities to reduce costs and increase revenue, will also be sent to each authority when they enter the competition.

The awards are an excellent opportunity to reward hard-working staff and demonstrate the central role cemeteries/church yards can play in the community as places of peaceful contemplation and beauty. The competition aims to promote freedom of choice encouraging cemeteries/churchyards to provide a variety of burial and cremation areas and emphasise the comfort that well-maintained cemeteries/churchyards bring to the bereaved and their historical, social and ecological importance to the community

The competition application form can be accessed directly from the MAB website by clicking on the link –

www.MemorialAwarenessBoard.org.uk

The deadline for all completed online forms to be received by MAB is **31 July 2018**. The best entries in CYA 2018 will receive notification in writing that they have reached the short-list of finalists. An adjudicator will then visit each short-listed burial ground to confirm the application information submitted and give advice on possible improvements.

These awards will hopefully generate excellent interest for our cemeteries and churchyards as places of beauty and leisure and for the concept of memorialisation in stone.

'The Cemetery of the Year Awards 2018 is fully endorsed by ICCM'