



## **BURIAL AND CREMATION EDUCATION TRUST**



### **ANNUAL REPORT 2006**

The Trust (BCET), a registered charity, exists to support those embarking on the certificate and diploma courses of the ICCM. It also seeks to support research and study into the improvement of cemetery and crematorium services. BCET makes discretionary grants in appropriate cases.

Following a long period of dormancy BCET has had a promising resumption of activity this year. In the early part of the year an extensive review of BCET aims and establishment was conducted resulting in the then Clerk producing a revised Strategic Plan. The plan together with some constitutional changes has effectively modernised the charity and made it ready for its more active future role.

The key priority has been to raise funds as like the organisation they have remained static for some years. Several schemes have been brought forward and the first to be tried was the 'Abatement In Action Days' held at Sherwood Forest Crematorium Nottinghamshire. This enabled Institute members to see first hand the operation of Britain's first fully abated crematorium. Four days in all were organised and produced significant income for the BCET.

Plans are now well advanced on a War Graves visit to France in spring 2007. This visit will be an educational opportunity as well as a chance to make personal visits to the graves of soldiers of the Great War. In addition to this we are working with a firm of solicitors on a proposal to offer an estate probate service with an introduction fee coming to BCET. It is hoped that first news of this will reach cemeteries and crematoria by the end of the year.

Following the resignation of John Rotherham we advertised and interviewed a large number of applicants. I am delighted to report the appointment of Mrs Nicky Burt as the new Clerk to the Trustees. Mrs Burt comes with the benefit of having been a senior executive with an international company, but more importantly a tremendous enthusiasm for the task in hand. The fact that she is new to our industry is in the view of the Trustees an opportunity to apply fresh thinking to the many tasks in hand.

The Trustees have met on several occasions through the year and anticipate further activity as we drive forward with the goal of increasing income and awards to those gainfully employed in cemeteries and crematoria. I am pleased to report a resumption of grant making this year. We very much look forward to continued close working with the ICCM for the good of both organisations. I have been asked to record our thanks to Facultatieve Technologies Ltd, Furnace Finance Ltd and Memoria Ltd for their untiring sponsorship of the Abatement Days.

It remains only for me to thank my fellow trustees who have served this year, Charles Howlett, Brian Stott, Tim Morris and John Robson and our two employees John Rotherham and Nicky Burt.

C F JOHNS  
Chairman

