

# Diary of a New Build

## 7th April - the turf cutting

**Chris Came, Clerk of Works, Stepnell Group**

We've started work on Nottinghamshire's fourth and most sophisticated cremation facility – Ollerton Crematorium. This pioneering two million pound project complete with the latest abatement plant, is under construction on behalf of Memoria Ltd. Cllr. Russell Snnod, the Mayor of Ollerton and Boughton Town Council, his fellow council officials and representatives from Memoria joined us at the site on a chilly spring afternoon to cut the first turf amidst bulldozers, dumper trucks and the heavy earth-working gear used to clear the site. Once representatives from some of the local churches had arrived we supplied everyone with the now mandatory hard hat for the photo call, produced a silver shovel and caught the magic moment on camera.

The Rev. Richard Kirton, of Ollerton and Boughton Parish commented that this state-of-the-art complex would help make memorial services across the district run more smoothly. "Having to go over to Mansfield is very inconvenient, especially in the rush-hour, and this is a very welcome development. This [crematorium] will be a much more accessible



*The turf is cut by Carmel Heathcote, Policy Committee Chairman*

and modern facility than Mansfield Crematorium and has many nice features such as Gardens of Reflection. It is a very significant day for the town."



*The civic party on site*

Cllr. Ben Wells, Chair of Policy and Resources told us that the development will provide a massive boost to the local area and had been chosen because of the first class facilities on offer. Chris Johns, Operations Director for Oxford-based Memoria was delighted to hear these comments and told us, "This is a big investment and it is a great honour for our company to win the contract. This complex will be the first in the UK to be fully equipped with a mercury abatement facility which will make the emissions released into the environment much cleaner; beware of pretenders to the title! It will be a very futuristic site and will help to lead the way in the crematorium industry."

This project is the realisation of a long held dream by Ollerton and Boughton Town Council to provide a facility for families in northern Nottinghamshire and following the on-site ceremony we all adjourned to the Ollerton Town Hall for a small reception provided by the Council and discussed the benefits of local facilities against travelling some distance.

The site, once part of a long since closed colliery with an industrial railway embankment forming its backdrop, is well covered with a mix of



native tree species and is an attractive location in which to work. With our security fence erected, a hardcore road established and the entrance adorned with huts and notices, work is speeding ahead with an expected completion and opening by December. During the course of the next two TJ's you will be able to follow, in pictures and words, the progress and completion of Ollerton Crematorium



*Michael Hackney, Memoria Ltd, Mayor Russell Snnod, Chris Johns, Memoria Ltd & Cllr. Ben Wells*