

ISLE OF WIGHT CREMATORIUM



Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information about the Isle of Wight Crematorium, which is situated on the A 3054 just off the East Cowes, Newport, Ryde roundabout.

It is hoped that the rural woodland setting of the Crematorium will provide visitors with a haven for quiet contemplation and remembrance. The grounds are open throughout the year and the Crematorium Manger and staff are available during weekdays. Weekend staff are available for limited periods during the weekends and public holidays.

Office, Chapel, Book of Remembrance Room and Grounds.

Access to Chapel may be limited due to funeral services

Monday to Fridays 9.00am to 5.00pm

Chapel, Book of Remembrance Room and Grounds

Saturdays 9.00am to 4.00pm

Sundays 12noon to 4.00pm

Bank Holidays 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Enquiries

The Crematorium is administered by the Isle of Wight Council Bereavement Services at the Isle of Wight Crematorium, Station Lane, Whippingham, East Cowes, Isle of Wight PO32 6NJ - telephone 01983 882288, fax 01983 883010, and all enquires should be made to this office.

Should you be in any doubt, or if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to call, write to or telephone the office at the Crematorium.

Brief History of Cremation

In 1874 the Crematorium Society of England was formed to promote cremation, with the first President being Sir Henry Thompson, Surgeon to Queen Victoria. The Cremation Society built the first crematorium at Woking in 1879, but Parliament refused to legalize cremation at that time, it was not used for many years. A legal judgement in 1884 'allowed for cremation provided no nuisance is caused in the process to others'.

On the 26th March 1885 the first official cremation was carried out. By 1892, 104 cremations had been carried out at Woking and the Crematorium Movement was considered to have been successfully launched. Between 1892 and 1901 a further seven crematoria (all private) were built, with the first municipal crematorium opening in Hull in 1901. There are now 251 crematoria in operation in the British Isles.

Brief History of the Isle of Wight Crematorium

By the late 1930s the need for island residents to travel to the mainland for the cremation of their relatives was causing increasing concern as the popularity of cremation increased. There were discussions about a new crematorium in 1939, but these were interrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War.

In July 1953 the Isle of Wight Joint Crematorium Committee was established. And in November 1959 Newport Borough agreed the constructing of a crematorium and superintendent's house on a site near Whippingham Station. The foundation stone was laid on 19th May 1960, by the Mayor of Newport, Alderman A.O. Purdy who was also the Chairman of the Isle of Wight Joint Crematorium Committee.

The first cremation took place on 30th May 1961 shortly after the building was officially dedicated and opened by the Bishop of Portsmouth, on 19th May 1961.

In General

The Crematorium (situated in an rural woodland setting) is approached by a tarmac lane. Car parking is available for mourners and visitors. Friends and relatives may use the waiting-room provided whilst awaiting the arrival of the funeral cortege. The office is situated to the left of the Chapel. The Federation of British Cremation Authorities (of which the Isle of Wight Crematorium is a member) has laid down a Code of Cremation Practice to ensure the highest standards. Every service is carried out with reverence, dignity and respect.

Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance has continually developed over the years to provide two distinct and contrasting areas; the informally designed flower beds and shrubbery areas containing roses, hydrangeas and specimen trees; and the natural woodside area with its bark pathway and meandering stream. The whole crematorium area is a haven for wildlife and fauna.



The ambience within the Garden of Remembrance promotes an area for quiet contemplation and tranquillity where visitors can wander at ease and rest on one of the many benches provided for peaceful reflection.

Babies & Children's Garden of Remembrance

The Babies & Children's Garden of Remembrance, opened on the 29th October 2000, was the result of consultation between the Bereavement Services Department and the Isle of Wight Council, St Mary's Hospital and the Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society.

The Garden of Remembrance consists of:

- A 'Born to Soon' section where stillborn children may be laid to rest.
- An area for the scattering of cremated remains of babies and children who have been cremated - this is split into four areas for children born in the Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter.
- A burial area for personal graves.





Path leading to main ash scattering plots and burial area



Baby garden showing main ash scattering plots and burial area

The Chapel



The Chapel is constructed in a simple dignified style. The chapel seats approximately 120 persons, and there is standing room available. The catafalque is furnished with a velvet curtain which is normally closed at the moment of committal. The altar has a cross which can be moved, if so desired, for non-Christian or secular services. There is a music console and an electronic organ. Particular attention has been paid to the needs of the disabled with good wheelchair access and a hearing loop system.

Floral Tributes



There is a floral tribute plot provided outside the chapel for the display of floral tributes after a cremation services. Floral tributes can, if you so wish, be distributed. Your Funeral Director will carry out your wishes in this respect. Floral tributes remain on display for a week following the service.

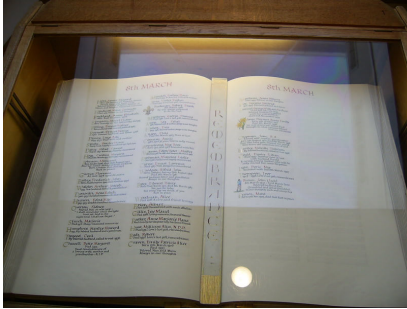
Cremated Remains

After the cremation service, where no immediate arrangements have been made for the final resting place of the cremated remains, they may be retained at the Crematorium pending a decision for up to one month. Where relatives have chosen the Crematorium grounds as the final resting place, the cremated remains will be reverently scattered on a plot within a few days of the service.

Memorials

At the moment there are various choices of memorialization, which included:

Book of Remembrance



The Book of Remembrance, a simple and permanent form of memorial, is displayed in the Book of Remembrance Room at the back of the chapel. It comprises beautifully bound volumes for the four quarters of the year, with a page for each day. The entries are inscribed annually by calligraphers at their studios. The pages are turned daily by the Crematorium staff so that relatives can view the entries, which can be under the date of death, birthday or wedding anniversary. There is also an electronic book which can be viewed daily (ideal if the volumes are away being inscribed).

Memorial cards, which include individually inscribed copies of the entry, are available for those who wish to keep a personal of the epitaph or to give copies to relatives or friends.

Wall Plaques



Polished granite memorial plaques, inscribed with gold lettering, are available. These are mounted on panels on the walls in the cloisters area of the crematorium, initially for seven/fourteen years. After this time the memorial can be renewed for a further period. As there is no limit to the number of renewals, plaques can remain in position for as long as the relatives wish.

Memorial Vases and Tablets



The memorial vase and tablets are on the edge of each scattering plot. The vase block is made from natural material quarried and worked to give a lasting base for your memorial. Flowers can be placed in your own personal vase. The tablet is made out of polished pink granite. The lease term is for 10 years, which can be renewed for a further period.

Memorial Leather Panel



The leather memorial panel is selected deep blue niger goat leather with the memorial inscription in 22 carat english gold leaf. The classic deep blue tone of the leather creates an affective contrast to the brilliance of the gold lettering to provide a dignified lasting memorial.

The leather memorial panels are on permanent display in the Book of Remembrance Room for a initial period of seven years with an option to endow for a further period.

Granite Mushroom Tablets (Circular)



The four and five tablet granite mushrooms have a polished surface. Each tablet can be inscribed for a period of ten years, with a option to renew for a further period. The mushrooms are sited in the woodland walk area.

Interment Niches



This stand alone polished granite columbaria offers a dignified resting place for two cremation caskets. Each niche features a black granite tablet, with your choice of inscription.. The interment niches are leased for a period of 10 years, with a option to renew for a further period.

Brass plaques

The blue baize board that the brass plaques are attached to is sited in the foyer at the rear of the chapel. The lease term is initially seven/fourteen years, with the option to renew for a further period.

Benches

The timber used for the benches is mainly Iroko, which is a substitute for

teak. It is extremely hard, highly resistant to weather, fungal and insect attack. A brass plaque can be added with your own personal or commemorative inscription.

Trees/Shrubs/Bulbs

We can supply or we welcome any donation of trees/shrubs/bulbs. As we have extensive grounds the gardener will select a spot for the plants to grow successfully.

Black Granite Burial Tablets

There is a specific burial area called ‘Birch Meadow’ for the interment of cremated remains. The area was dedicated in September 2007 for the final resting place to loved ones. The burial tablets, which are permanent, can be inscribed for one person or can be ‘book style’ for two names.

Baby & Children’s Memorials

Memorials may be dedicated for any child, whenever or wherever the funeral was held. These include:

- Dedication of trees and shrubs
- A brass plaque placed on a memorial seat
- A granite plaque on a memorial planter
- Black granite memorial tablets

The Staff at the Isle of Wight Crematorium are committed to providing the highest level of customer service and hold an Annual Open Day with a Service of Remembrance and a Christmas ‘Lights of Love’ Service in honour of loved ones.

The Isle of Wight Crematorium is a public facility and as such the premises and cremation facilities are available for public inspection during normal operational hours by making an appointment with the Manager. Educational tours of the site are also available for individuals, or interested parties, and in many cases these tours help to dispel myths, misunderstandings and fears concerning the cremation process.

