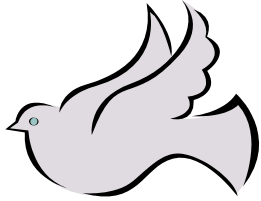


Information for Cemetery Users



You may have been recently bereaved and, understandably, may wish to commemorate your loved one by placing a Memorial in the Cemetery. To avoid unnecessary stress or suffering on your part there are a number of points that you need to know in relation to this which have been outlined below.

What types of Memorials are authorised?

If you wish to place a Memorial of any description on a grave, the law states you must have the Right of Burial Certificate or the owner's permission, and it has to be approved by the Council to whom a fee is payable. It is therefore essential that you contact the Council prior to placing the Memorial; otherwise, the Council has the right to remove it without informing you.

The lawn grave memorial must measure no more than three feet six inches high, three feet wide and a maximum of six inches thick (1065mm x 910mm x 150mm). Children's section - no more than 3 feet high, two feet wide and six inches thick (910mm x 610mm x 150mm). The cremated section memorials must measure no more than three feet at its highest point-including the plinth, two foot wide and six inches thick (910mm x 610mm x 150mm).

No memorials of any type are allowed in the Natural Burial Area.

No kerbs, railing surrounds, shrubs or trees are allowed in the Lawn Sections as these may cause damage to maintenance equipment or potential injury to operatives or other visitors to the Cemetery.

What liabilities do I have as a Memorial owner?

As the owner of the Memorial, it is your responsibility to keep it in a safe and orderly manner. It is recommended, therefore, that you take out insurance cover for your Memorial which will protect you in the event it becomes damaged or is vandalised. Memorial Masons include this in their fees but remember to renew it.

The Council continually undertakes an inspection process. This is for Health & Safety reasons as unstable Memorials can cause serious or even fatal injuries to Cemetery users. As such, all Memorials will be subjected to a stability test. It is important that owners inform the Council of a change of address as otherwise their Memorial may be laid flat or even removed if found to be unsafe. Without a current address the Council would be unable to contact you regarding any necessary action to be taken.

What can you expect from the Mason you employ?

All owners must use the services of a Monumental Mason when installing a memorial. The Council operates a Registration Scheme for all Monumental Masons who work within its Cemeteries. This is to ensure that they all work to agreed standards and conduct themselves in a professional manner when dealing with their customers and the Council. A list of all Monumental Masons include in the

Registration Scheme can be provided if you require it, or you can contact the Council to ensure that the Mason you have selected is approved.

You do not have to use the Monumental Mason recommended by your Funeral Director. It may be advantageous to obtain quotations from a number of different companies. Looking around Cemeteries may give you ideas as most Masons discreetly inscribe the Memorials they install with their company name (this is usually found on the base).

Many Monumental Masons are members of NAMM, The National Association of Monumental Masons, or BRAMM, The British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons, who have their own Code of Ethics, Business and Working Practice. The Council recognises their standards as part of its own Registration Scheme.

Remember to obtain your 'Certificate of Compliance' from the Monumental Mason you appoint; this is a guarantee of workmanship for the lifetime of the Memorial.

Are there any other issues?

It is generally recommended that you wait at least six months after the funeral before installing a Memorial to allow settlement of the ground. It is permitted to mark the grave earlier with a temporary wooden cross, but this must be left in place no longer than for 9 months. Some Funeral Directors undertake this on your behalf as part of their service.

Any repairs to Memorials should only be carried out by authorised persons.

If in any doubt check with the Council.

The very nature of cemeteries as burial places, the natural subsidence of graves, and plant root development can cause Memorials to become distorted. While this can look unsightly it may also be dangerous. It is therefore recommended that, at all times you and family members, particularly children, avoid coming into contact with other Memorials while in the Cemetery.

Important Points

- Contact the Council before installing any type of Memorial on a grave.
- Small plants or vases may only be placed in the allocated **maximum 9 inches/25 centimetres** in front of the memorial - **not down the plot length.**
- No unauthorised monument, gravestone, memorial tablet, plaque, kerb, post, fence, railings or chippings and no decorations, mementoes, photographs, pictures, soft toys, fragile items or the like shall be placed or erected upon or about the sown area of any grave. **If placed they will be removed, stored for 14 days then discarded.**
- Your Memorial is your responsibility – you should insure it.
- Unstable Memorials can injure or even kill – **TAKE CARE AT ALL TIMES**
- Keep your **'Right of Burial' Certificate** in a safe place- it is your proof that you have the right to request any other work on that space e.g., erection of a Memorial.
- Don't forget to renew your 'Right of Burial' Certificate or to transfer it at the appropriate time.



Amble Town Council

*Fourways 2,
6 Dilston Terrace,
Amble
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 0DT*

(01665) 714695

The Committee reserve the right to amend or change the details contained here without prior notice.

Memorials in Cemeteries



A Guide for Owners & Visitors

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ