

## **COVID19 - Guidance for families**

### **Scattering of cremated remains – Putney Vale crematorium**

Thank you for your enquiry or for booking an appointment to scatter your loved ones cremated remains at Putney Vale. With the pandemic still a threat we ask that you adhere to this guidance and share this with your family and the other people who may wish to attend. Our priority is your safety and that of our staff. We also want to ensure a dignified moment for you to scatter your loved one's ashes.

#### **Restrictions.**

The numbers of attendees permitted is limited to 16 people who must socially distance at least 2 meters from each household group. We will need you to control this. Please also keep your distance from staff and allow them to do their duties whilst remaining safe. Anyone who intends to be there on the day who has symptoms or who has been told to self-isolate must not attend.

**NHS test and trace** – As the lead person we ask that you list the names and contact numbers for the group of people in your party. Please retain this list for 21 days after the appointment. If we are contacted by the NHS we will contact you and advise you further.

#### **On the day.**

Please aim to arrive in good time, we suggest 10 minutes before your appointment. Please visit reception at the administration building to let us know that you have arrived. We will then send you to meet the attendant at the middle entrance to the walled gardens or the place the strewing will take place if known.

If you have collected your loved ones cremated remains, we will arrange for you to drop them off at the office a few days before the day so that we can safely transfer them into our brass scattering urn. Otherwise you may scatter them from the supplied container – however this is not always as dignified. We regret that we are unable to transfer ashes on the day and a member of your party will need to scatter the ashes as our staff will not handle other containers.

If we are looking after your loved ones cremated remains, we will bring them to the gardens. We will then discuss the options on where the ashes can be scattered (please see the next page) unless already known. The attendant will scatter the ashes for you. Unfortunately, we are unable to let you do this at this time to avoid the possibility of spreading the virus.

If you would like a minister or celebrant to officiate you will need to organise this directly with them, otherwise once the cremated remains have been scattered our attendant will leave. Please spend whatever time you need in the gardens. Any arranged minister is not included in the 16-person restriction.

If you have any further questions prior to the appointment, please contact the office on 020 3959 0090 and a member of staff will be happy to help. Otherwise the attendant will be able to answer questions on the day.

We thank you for your understanding, particularly of the restrictions at this time.

## **Options for scattering cremated remains at Putney Vale**

Cremated remains can only be scattered on the ground in communal areas at Putney Vale. It is not possible to scatter cremated remains around a dedicated rose or have them buried in the earth.

Alternatively, we offer cremated remains graves and above ground vaults. If this is what you and your family would prefer, please contact the office and we can discuss the options and advise on cost. You can also visit [www.putneyvale.org](http://www.putneyvale.org) for further information on these and other memorial options.

### **The gardens.**

Located within the walled gardens are many locations where you can scatter your loved ones remains. There are many trees of different varieties and some shrub borders. Cremated remains are scattered at the base of the tree/shrub in a soil boarder. Periodically these areas are top dressed with soil to allow for further use. The gardens are formal and maintained throughout the year.

### **The glade.**

Between the walled garden and the perimeter wall, running parallel to the A3 is the glade. The glade is designed as a natural woodland setting and is maintained to a minimum throughout the year. From late winter to early summer there is show of a variety of bulbs. Daffodils, snowdrops, crocus and bluebells to name but a few. Then as the bulbs wither the grass is allowed to grow long and other plants (including nettles) take over, supporting the varied wildlife. Usually the first cut of the season is completed in late June/early July with another cut early Autumn. To allow for access some pathways are cut through the long grass and some tidying works are completed. Here ashes are scattered on the grass and periodically they are carefully teased under the grass using a rake, to allow grass to grow. Throughout the seasons the natural appearance of this area often alarms people so if you would prefer a maintained, formal setting please choose the gardens.

### **Regulations.**

Only freshly cut flowers, without wrappings are permitted throughout the gardens and glade at the place where cremated remains have been scattered. No other items are permitted and will be removed and disposed of without notice.

No items are to be placed on or attached to any tree or shrub.

The adopting of or marking out of areas/plots is not allowed.

The scattering of cremated remains without an appointment is unlawful.

Different terms and conditions apply for memorial plaques and vaults and can be found at [www.putneyvale.org](http://www.putneyvale.org)