

COVID19 - Guidance for families.

5th revision 19/7/2021. This overrides past guidance notes in their entirety.

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 government further easing restrictions and removing social distancing legislation we are still mindful that the pandemic remains to be a threat, particularly to the clinically vulnerable. We ask that you adhere to this guidance and share this with your family and the other people who will attend the appointment. 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.

There is no restriction on the number of attendees, but we ask that you consider the number of people invited to reduce any threat of spreading the virus. We also ask that you 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 develops symptoms or who is 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, you can drop them off at the office a few days before. This will allow us to transfer the ashes into our brass scattering urn saving you having to wait on the day. Otherwise you may scatter them from the supplied container – however this is not always as dignified. If it is required to transfer ashes on the day, we ask that you arrive half an hour early. We will arrange for you to meet with a member of the team at the crematorium who will take the ashes into his/her care. You will then need to wait in the gardens where the attendant will meet you at the time of the appointment.

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 or can give you instruction if you wish to do it yourself.

If you would like a minister or celebrant to officiate you will need to organise this directly with them, please let us know in advance. Once the cremated remains have been scattered our attendant will leave. Please spend as long as you need in the gardens after the cremated remains have been scattered.

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.

Guidance is subject to change. We will endeavour to contact you if your appointment is likely to be affected.

We thank you for your understanding.

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 Sanctum vaults. If this is what you and your family would prefer, please contact the office so that we can discuss the options and advise on cost. You can also visit 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.

Should the scattering of ashes take place a few days after the funeral two or three floral tributes from the funeral may be placed at the site where the ashes were scattered. These will be removed and disposed of, without notice once the flowers have wilted.

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