

MEMORIALS ON GRAVES



Rossendale
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Introduction

This leaflet provides some general information for burial owners and details on memorials.

After the Burial

Around 2 to 3 weeks after the funeral all flowers, wreaths and other items will be removed from the grave. This may be sooner if the flowers have perished.

The grave may be topped up with soil and once the ground has settled it is then covered with turf. This process can take many months and is greatly influenced by weather and ground conditions. Newly laid turf may need re-lifting in order to level a grave. Please do not think your grave has been forgotten about, the work can take some time to complete.

Planting of graves

Graves can be planted with any type of natural plant within an area measuring 45cm from the base of the memorial stone. Plants should be kept tidy and they should not be allowed to grow over or cover other graves and paths. They should not exceed 60 cm in height.

Separate flower holders can be placed on the grave within the area mentioned above They must be made of metal or glazed earthenware but not glass. These are placed at the owners own risk.

Occasionally the surface of your grave may be used to site a soil box when digging an adjoining grave. This means any plants may have to be lifted as a temporary measure. Every effort will be made to restore the grave to its original condition.

Memorials

You may place any type of stone memorial on a grave to which you own the Right of Burial providing it meets with our current regulations (see cemetery rules and regulations enclosed) and the mason employed is a member of BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons). This is a national scheme aimed at raising standards in the fixing of memorials which in turn should lead to safer cemeteries. You can obtain details on their website www.bramm-uk.org

Installing a memorial

After the burial, it will take some time for the soil to settle. We will check the site and add topsoil where necessary, once the ground has settled it is then covered with turf. It is recommended you allow the soil to settle for at least 6 months prior to the erection of a lasting memorial.

Wording on a headstone

We will allow any words providing they do not cause offence to other visitors. We welcome nicknames as well as 'Mum' and 'Dad'. You may also have ceramic plaques and artwork on memorials in our cemeteries.

Responsibility for the memorial

The grave owner or the person who purchased the memorial is responsible for its safety and good repair. We insist on the National Association of Memorial Masons fixing method for all new memorials.

Where an existing memorial is replaced e.g. after removal for burial or an additional inscription, it must be replaced in accordance with the National Association of Memorial Masons guidance. This should ensure the memorial is safe for a considerable period.

If a headstone becomes loose or dangerous we will try to contact the owner but occasionally we have to make safe any memorial that becomes dangerous and this may include laying it flat.

You should consult your mason with regard to any guarantee. Your mason should issue you with a Certificate of Compliance which confirms the memorial has been fixed in accordance with British Standards. Your mason will also be able to give you details on insuring your memorial.



What can I place on the grave?

We do allow a headstone to be placed by a BRAMM registered mason. We also allow an area of 45cm (18") maximum from the base of the memorial stone where the turf can be removed and suitable plants planted.

Under Health and Safety legislation we must ensure that the Cemetery is a safe place for both our employees and for visitors.

Unfortunately we cannot allow fencing, railings, kerbs chippings and other such items around a grave.

The reasons for this are that they make it more difficult for visitors accessing graves, they seriously hamper our grounds maintenance programme and make it extremely difficult to reopen graves for further burial.

Having to work round many obstacles can seriously impact on work in the cemetery.

It is against cemetery regulations to mark the grave unless permission has been granted. Unauthorised items may be removed without notice.

Rules for cemetery grave plots

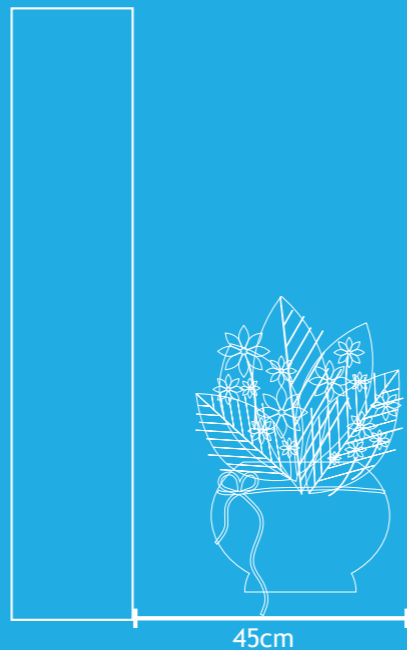
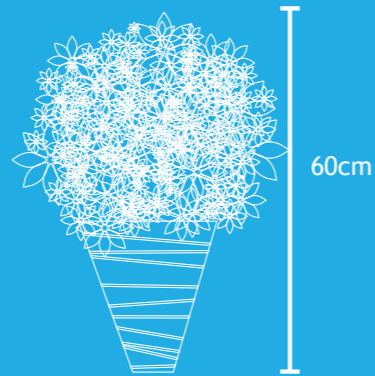
To maintain an attractive, dignified and safe environment for everyone the council has determined that the following rules governing the control of informal memorials should be adhered to.

Flowers and vases

The following items are allowed but placed at the owners risk:

- Plants (up to 60cm in height)
- flowers
- small vases
- miscellaneous items such as cards, wreaths and small ornaments.

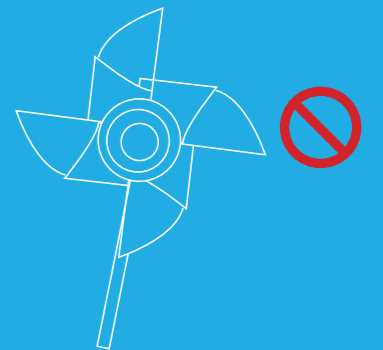
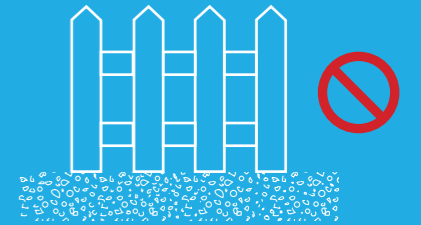
All items placed on the grave must be contained within an area extending up to 45cm from the base of the memorial.



Unauthorised items

The following items are not allowed and will be removed or repositioned by cemetery staff:

- Fencing, kerb and edgings of any type
- Chippings
- Any items placed on a grave which exceed the measurements above
- Any item considered to be a health and safety hazard to cemetery users. This includes glass vases, sharp objects and tripping hazards
- Any item which may disturb the peace and quiet of the cemetery for other users such as windmills and chimes.



Erection of memorials

The erection of a memorial is subject to formal application and approval and normally involves a fee. Your mason will deal with this for you. Any memorial erected without permission/fee will be removed.



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For further information please contact the Bereavement
Services Officer on tel: 01706 238601, Fax: 01706 873557

Email: cemeteries@rossendalebc.gov.uk