

South Woodham Ferrers Garden of Remembrance



“A place of peace for all who visit”



Letters to Heaven Post Box

As well as a range of services we offer to the public, we also offer a “Letters To Heaven” post box. A quiet space for remembrance, this special post box invites

people to send heartfelt messages to loved ones they've lost. Whether it's a note of love, a memory shared, or words left unsaid, posting a letter can offer comfort and connection. All letters are treated with care and respect, honouring the emotions behind each one. **The letters are never read**, but disposed of in a sympathetic way and returned to the soil.

You will find it in the Sensory Gardens, near the car park area. If you are planning an interment or a scattering you may wish to post a letter before or after the ceremony. You do not need to have someone in the gardens to use the box, as it is open to all, of whatever faith or belief.

Please note this is not a regular Royal Mail post box and we only allow letters or cards, in preference inside an envelope .

This is just one of the many services we provide that is covered by this booklet.



The Garden of Remembrance is situated in an idyllic location out of the rush of everyday life. You can enjoy the tranquil atmosphere giving you the time and space to reflect and remember loved ones. The garden has grown in many ways since its opening in 1995 with its striking rotunda and traditional designed raised flower beds reminiscent of the grand garden designs of stately homes from times gone by. With its park like views and walkways, the garden is home to many beautiful trees that not only create the ambiance but provide shelter to the abundant wild life. A place of peace for all who visit. As well as local undertakers, we respectfully accept ashes from direct cremations, offering the option to hold a meaningful ceremony , which can be organised directly with us for no additional fee or through your chosen religious representative or celebrant.



The site is situated on the Woodham Road, B1012, near the junction with Ferrers Road, South Woodham Ferrers. Chelmsford. Essex. There is a sign on the main road to the car park entrance. There is also a pedestrian entrance in Ferrers Road by the roundabout.

You are welcome to visit any daytime from 9am, please see website for closing times.

You can find the site on Waze or Google . Please note, there is no office at the gardens. All administration is done at the South Woodham Ferrers Town Hall.

Fees can be obtained as stated on the latest form, which is available on our website
or by calling or emailing the Town Hall.

We do not offer burials of coffins, the procedure of the cremation itself, but instead offer a final resting place for your loved ones, in the tranquillity of the gardens. We offer a range of services, and this booklet will help you to make your choices in what way you wish to bring final closure after your loss.

For those who are seeking to deposit their loved one's ashes into the ground, you have the choice of a scattering or an interment.

A simple scattering service is carried out in our scattering copse.

You may want to consider to purchase a separate memorial to your loved one.



Or you may wish for their remains to be placed into the ground in one of our plots. A marker plaque is included in the cost of the interment. We can now offer a biodegradable urn for the ashes to be placed in at additional cost. Plots allow the space for up to two interments.



For those who wish to keep the ashes within an urn, we also have a Columbarium, for which you may lease one of the available niches.

Adult ground plots and adult niches in the columbarium allow for the interment of 2 persons. Remains are placed into a stainless steel urn.



The Child columbarium is for only a single child. Remains are placed into a stainless steel urn.

We understand losing a child can be one of the most traumatic experiences you can face. We hope this can bring closure to the family, and a place to visit for years to come.



Scattering

Scattering of cremated remains takes place in the Scattering Copse. Scatterings can be booked all year. You cannot have ashes scattered anywhere on the site apart from this area, as we want to avoid disturbing them once laid.



Interment

You can choose for the ashes of your loved one to be placed into a garden bed in one of our plots. The ashes are scattered into a pre-dug hole. There is a plaque supplied, marking the area location, and also includes a flower holder. We can only place the ashes into the pre-made hole in the ground which has been dug by our custodian, and not in the tree areas. You may also purchase from us, an approved biodegradable urn, instead of the ashes being placed directly.



Adult Columbarium

The Adult Columbarium, is a place dedicated to the placing of loved ones cremated remains in a dignified and worthy resting place, within niches sized to hold up to two stainless steel urns and closed by a polished and engraved granite tile, with gold lettering. It is a popular option as an alternative to a burial, and includes a longer lease period of 25 years.



You have many options for the design of your front tile, including different fonts and also a custom motif can be added at additional cost. A new tile can be ordered at a later time for an additional fee, if you wish to add an additional person to the first interment. See our application forms for fees.

As the cremated remains have not been interred into the ground they may easily be moved whenever you require if given notice for a small fee. We will also arrange a scattering if your lease expires, and you choose not to renew. A sample tile is shown below left.



Child and Infant Columbarium

We fully understand how tragic the loss of a child or infant can be. We want to offer a space for which family and friends can visit and remember those who were taken so soon. The columbarium is topped with teddy bears, to symbolise the remains of the young life which has been interred here.

The Child Columbarium, is a place dedicated to the placing of loved ones cremated remains in a dignified and worthy resting place, within niches sized to hold a stainless steel urn and closed by a polished and engraved small granite tile. It is a popular option as an alternative to a burial and includes a longer lease period of 25 years. As the cremated remains have not been interred into the ground they may easily be moved whenever you require if given notice.



Butterfly or Wall Plaque Memorial

Families may choose to honour the memory of a baby or child with a personalised plaque on the Peter Pan Wall. We offer both traditional wall plaques and butterfly-shaped plaques, each a lasting tribute in a space designed for reflection, comfort, and connection.

These are placed in front of the two 'Christmas Tree' Ferns which are decorated each year during Christmas with a baby loss star by a local charity.

The wall memorials offer a all year memorial to those we have lost but will never be forgotten.

Please enquire with us for more details.



Wall Marker Plaque

Personalised wall plaques are available within our Gardens of Remembrance and are available on a 10 year renewable lease. The initial price includes the plaque bearing a short inscription. : They are made of Avonite (granite appearance) in Belgian Black, with White letters. They are fixed to a wall near the entrance to the gardens. These are popular with people who choose scatterings only, or just require a memorial only.



Double Wall Marker plaque

These are an attractive way to commemorate a loved one in the garden of remembrance, and are popular with those who choose scatterings. They are made of Avonite (granite appearance) and are coloured Polar White.

You may want to add a motif to this plaque, from a supplied list. These are on a 10 year lease period.

If space is left for text to be added at a later time, we can provide a service for removing the plaque and for additional wording to be added. Please contact the office for the costs of this work to be carried out.



Curb Marker Stone

For those who prefer the granite look of a prominent memorial along a remembrance pathway.

The memorial has a polished chamfer on which the enamelled black engravings are cut.



Standard Rose Tree

Standard roses have a single tall stem, topped with foliage and flowers, like a small tree .,

Beautiful Standard Roses are planted within the Garden of Remembrance and are available on a 5 year renewable lease. When they flower, they produce wonderful coloured petals with a light scent. The initial price includes the provision of a plaque bearing a short inscription which is placed in front of each rose. These are of the same style of plaque as used for the interment plots.

We have chosen a high stem rose tree, of 130 -150 cm height as these are less likely to be damaged by wild animals .



Yellow “Absolutely Fabulous”



Orange red – “ Super trooper”



White” Champagne moment “



or Pink “Mum in million”

During the lease period the roses and the rose beds are maintained by our staff who will also replace the rose should the need arise. Please note that no other items are permitted in the rose beds. You are permitted a marker plaque in the space provided. We do not scatter ashes in the rose beds. . We are unable to guarantee which colour would be selected for each application and your rose will normally be the next one in the row which is unadopted, but you may request a preference if this is available. The colours of the rose and times of blooming may vary from plant to plant Images shown are representative. This is a great alternative to a tree which still means you can pay your respect. A flower holder is included in each small plot which is kept separate from the next bush.

The process

We strongly suggest that you look through our application form to decide what is best for you and your loved one. It can be difficult to know sometimes what they would have wanted; in which case it will be down to how you want them to be remembered. Any form can look daunting to complete, but it is designed to give us a full understanding of what you want. You only need to complete the sections for the service (s) you wish from us. For the Columbarium, you will need to complete a second separate form. If you are planning an interment, you would normally be asked to supply two weekday dates to carry out the ceremony. Committals and scatterings normally take place on a weekday between the hours of 9am and 12 noon. Please also read the regulations regarding the operating of the site. Different fees may apply to those who did not live within the defined boundary of South Woodham Ferrers before they passed away.

We are more than willing to assist you in completing it in person at the Town Hall during office hours, and we always advise you make an appointment to do so, so we can give you plenty of our time.

Once the form is completed and you have paid the fees, we will then begin to process the order. If you have ordered any memorial or marker plaque, we will send off your chosen wording for a proof for your approval. If this is incorrect, we will make the required changes and then send a further proof. Once this is confirmed we will send the order for manufacture. This can take some time, so in some cases there may be a temporary marker in place until we receive this back from the supplier. The form includes details of how the ashes are dealt with. South Woodham Ferrers The Town Council has arranged with Paul J King of South Woodham Ferrers, that he will store the cremated remains until the date of the committal. We will collect the ashes on the day and take them to the Garden of Remembrance.

You will need to decide if you intend arranging for a Minister or Funeral Director to officiate at the committal. If you chose this option, the custodian would remain there to oversee the placement of the ashes. If you have chosen not to have your own arranged person, a representative of the Town Council will attend, and will carry out a non-religious short interment ceremony. The custodian will deal with the placement of the ashes. These ceremonies differ slightly depending on the type of committal you have chosen. Once the official has completed the ceremony, they both will leave you to carry out any additional words, prayers, laying of flowers etc, you may wish to have in addition.

There is normally no ceremony for placing of a memorial only, unless requested.



The layout

Our site includes parking and walkways throughout the garden. Many of the existing memorial beds are full, and we allocate space to the next plot space within the current row. We are unable to offer a plot not within the plot already being used unless it is a second interment. Each plot area is given a code, such as N11. We are currently no longer able to allow new tree adoptions at this time.

The kerb edges are placed in the area which can be identified by the black stripes in the yellow pathways.

Wall plaques are fitted to the shaped walls, indicated on the map as extended S shapes.

To the bottom centre area of this map, you will find the area of the scattering copse.



We would always recommend a visit to the gardens, if you are unsure what would work out best for you and your family or loved ones. We try and balance the natural landscape and wildlife of the site, with keeping it as the final resting place for those who we will always remember. Fees are shown on forms or on request.



Information is correct at time of production, but we reserve the right to alter or withdraw any services offered. We would always advise a call or a visit with the Town Hall team, if you wish to discuss your options further, have any questions or requests.

You should also refer to the Garden of Remembrance regulations, to ensure that you comply with the rules governing the site. No dogs are permitted on site, and we ask you respect those laid to rest in the gardens, and to those who are visiting.



Town Council office:

Champions Manor Hall, Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex, CM3 5LJ

Open Monday to Friday 9:00 - 16.00

Tel: 01245 321817

Direct line: 01245 429441

www.southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk