

# Bridgnorth Cemetery

Mill Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire WV15 5AF



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## **INTRODUCTION**

**Bridgnorth Cemetery is situated approximately one mile north-east of Bridgnorth Town centre on the A442 towards Telford. It is open daily to the public from 7.30am until dusk.**

**The cemetery dates from 1850 and is a beautiful sandstone area which has been designated as an area of Special Scientific Interest. Approximately 120 species of wild flowers can be found on this site and Shropshire Wildlife Trust have produced a strict management plan for the cemetery in order to ensure the continuing wildlife presence.**

**A brief summary of some of the regulations and other factors relating to the working of the cemetery are given here. A full copy of the cemetery regulations and fees are available from the Town Council or can be viewed on their website at [www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk).**

**Bridgnorth Cemetery is a place of peace and quiet reflection. It is also a work place. Visitors to the cemetery are welcome but are asked to respect the special nature of the site, the needs of other users and safety factors.**

**We require your co-operation in keeping the grassed area of graves free of pots, plants and other artefacts. If there are articles along the length of the grave we will not be able to cut the grass as the use of mowers would risk breakages and potential injury to the operator, wildlife and to visitors.**

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS**

**Although the Council has responsibilities under Health and Safety legislation to ensure the safety of visitors and staff whilst in the cemetery, the responsibility for the safety of individual memorials rests with the owner. If a memorial becomes dilapidated and/or unsafe, the Council has the right to remove it or make it safe. The cost for any such work can be claimed from the grave owner or passed on to the family the next time the grave is re-opened.**

**The Council undertakes regular safety checks of all the memorials in the cemetery. Where possible, the grave owner will be contacted if a memorial is found to be unsafe. The owner will then be given the option of contacting a stonemason of their choice to carry out any necessary repairs. If they should choose not to do so, the Council retains the right to remove the memorial.**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL**

Whether the grave is purchased or not, the Council will maintain it to a decent standard by cutting the grass on a regular basis, or in line with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust management plan if appropriate, and will ensure that the grave is topped up and levelled if it should sink. The Council will carry out periodic testing of the stability of any memorial on the grave and will contact you if there are any problems. The Council is not responsible for the maintenance of individual memorials.

### **EXCAVATION OF ADJACENT GRAVES**

Please note that it may occasionally be necessary to excavate nearby graves when we will need to place boards over the grave to which you own Exclusive Right of Burial on which to place dug-out soil. This will only be done where there is no other option, but please be assured that the area will be tidied and returned to its usual condition as soon as the burial has taken place.

### **CEMETERY CHAPEL**

The Cemetery Chapel is open daily and you are welcome to enjoy its peace and solitude. The chapel can also be hired for funeral and memorial services.

### **REMEMBRANCE GARDEN**

A more recent development is the Remembrance Garden where arrangements can be made for the scattering of ashes and, if you so wish, the purchase of a memorial plaque.

Please contact Bridgnorth Town Council for details of the various memorabilia options available elsewhere in the cemetery.

### **PURCHASED GRAVES**

When you purchase a grave, you do not buy the land that the grave occupies; that remains within the ownership of the Council. What you actually purchase is the Exclusive Right of Burial to the grave. This means that no burials can take place in the grave without your permission. The owner also has the automatic right to be buried in that grave until such time as the grave is full. Purchasing the Exclusive Right of Burial also gives you the right to have a memorial placed on

the grave, subject to current memorial regulations and the payment of a permit fee. It is strongly recommended that you seek advice from the Council regarding sole or joint ownership, as ownership does not automatically pass to the next of kin when the owner dies.

The Exclusive Right of Burial to a grave or cremation plot in Bridgnorth Cemetery can only be purchased at the time of an interment. It is not possible to reserve a new grave plot for re-use at a later date.

### **DEED OF GRANT**

Following the purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial to a grave, the Council will issue you with a Deed of Grant. This Deed is proof of your ownership and should be kept in a safe place as it will need to be produced before an interment takes place in the grave or a memorial request can be considered. In order to keep our records up to date, it is important that you advise us of any changes of address.

### **LENGTH OF PURCHASE**

The Exclusive Right of Burial to a grave is for a period of 75 years. At the end of this period you will be given the opportunity to purchase further years. If you choose not to, the rights to the grave will revert to the Council and any memorial on the grave could be removed.

### **UNPURCHASED GRAVES**

If the Exclusive Right of Burial for a grave is not purchased, the Council retains the Rights and may use any remaining space in the grave for further unrelated burials. No memorial requests will be considered if they relate to an unpurchased grave.

### **BENEFITS OF GRAVE PURCHASE**

- Control over who is buried in the grave (until such time as the grave is full)
- Right to place a memorial on the grave (subject to regulations)

### **GRAVE SELECTION**

Graves in Sections Consecrated, Unconsecrated and Newly Consecrated can no longer be purchased for new interments except under exceptional circumstances but may be opened upon proof of an existing ownership, or if appropriate, by transferring the ownership. When you purchase a new grave elsewhere in the cemetery you may



be given the opportunity to select your preferred section, subject to availability, but the location of the plot within that section would normally be allocated by the Council.

### **TRANSFER OF RIGHTS**

You can choose to transfer the Rights to the grave to another person at any time during your lifetime whilst the Right is still within your ownership, or following your death, the Council will contact the Executor or next of kin as appropriate to discuss the transfer of ownership. It will not be possible to reopen the grave again, or to place a memorial on the grave, without the ownership being transferred to a new owner. There is an administration charge to transfer these Rights.

### **MEMORIALS**

Because we realise that the choice of memorial is important to you, we strongly recommend that you clarify what size and type of memorial is permitted in the area you have selected before you purchase a grave to avoid disappointment later.

Memorials on graves must be of a specific size, design and material and must be approved by the Council before being fixed. More information is given on the following pages. To request further copies or to discuss the cemetery regulations including fees, please contact the Town Council or alternatively view the documents on the Town Council's website at [www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

### **VASES**

In Sections Consecrated, Unconsecrated, Newly Consecrated, A, B, E and Oak Grove below the woodchip path, up to three flower vases may be placed on each grave without payment provided they are of an appropriate size, design and material and on condition that the vases do not extend out from the headstone by more than 8 inches (203mm) or extend past either side of the headstone. Broken glass or pottery presents a danger to visitors, staff and wildlife in the cemetery and are therefore not suitable materials. Inappropriate articles left on graves will be removed. *Freestanding vases or similar memorabilia are not permitted* in Sections Chestnut Grove, Oak Circle and Oak Grove above the woodchip path. Regulations permit integral vases only in these Sections of the Cemetery. These should be fitted within the desk or flat memorial tablet or within the small shelf permitted in front of the monolithic memorial.

**MEMORIAL REGULATIONS** *(All requests are subject to a fee and must be approved by the Town Council.)*

**Sections Consecrated, Unconsecrated, Newly Consecrated, A B E and Oak Grove below the woodchip path**

- **Headstone or wooden cross not exceeding 3ft height and 2ft width (914mm x 610mm)**
- **Kerbstones or border stones enclosing a space not exceeding 7ft x 6ft 6ins (2134mm x 1981mm) without rails, chains and palisades (permitted in sections Consecrated, Unconsecrated and Newly Consecrated only)**

**Cremation plots behind the top chapel**

- **Headstone not exceeding 2ft height and 1ft 6ins width (610mm x 457mm)**
- **Flat tablets, desk tablets or tablets on rests should not exceed 1ft 6ins x 1ft 6ins overall (457mm x 457mm)**

**Sections Chestnut Grove, Oak Circle and Oak Grove above the woodchip path (graves and cremation plots)**

- **Monolithic memorials, desk tablets and flat tablets in either Welsh blue slate, Westmoreland green slate, York stone or honed black or grey granite.**
- **Inscriptions may be in-filled with black, gold, silver or white.**
- **Integral vases only are permitted either in a flat shelf, no wider than the memorial and no deeper than 8ins (203mm), abutting the front of the memorial, or as part of the desk or flat tablet.**
- **Sizes:**
  - Monolithic memorial maximum height of 24ins (610mm) above ground level x maximum width of 18ins (457mm) with 15ins (381mm) below ground level.**
  - Flat tablets maximum 24ins x 24ins (610mm x 610mm)**
  - Desk tablets maximum 24ins x 24ins (610mm x 610mm) with a maximum height of 2ins (51mm) at the front and 4ins (102mm) at the back.**

***Articles not conforming to regulations will be removed. Temporary markers on graves should be removed after six months.***

## **CEMETERY FEES**

Fees are reviewed annually, but an up-to-date fee sheet can be obtained by contacting the Town Council or alternatively the fees can be viewed on the Cemetery page of the Town Council's website at [www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## **STANDARD OR CONCESSIONARY FEES**

Standard (non-resident) fees will be charged for interments and for the purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial for all plots where the person to be buried does not qualify for residents' fees. A concessionary (resident) fee will be charged where the person to be buried does qualify. The residency rule will apply where the person to be interred was at the time of death, or had been during the 12 months preceding, a resident of the Parish of Bridgnorth. Different fees will also apply depending upon whether the plot to be used is a \*lawned or \*\*woodland plot. There is no charge for the interment of a stillborn child, but in these instances the normal rules regarding residency will apply for the purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial to the plot.

Proof of residency will be required in all instances where concessions fees are to be applied.

\* Lawned plots: Sections Consecrated, Unconsecrated, Newly Consecrated, A, B, E, Oak Grove and the Cremation plots behind the top chapel

\*\* Woodland plots: Oak Circle and Chestnut Grove

## **MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES AND FEES**

Contact Bridgnorth Town Council or visit their website for details regarding the scattering of ashes, the hire of the chapel and all forms of sponsorship within the cemetery.

1 April 2019

**It is hoped that the information contained within this guide will be of help to you, either while you are making arrangements for the interment of a loved one, thinking of pre-purchasing a grave or cremation plot for the future, or planning to place a memorial in the cemetery to remember someone special.**

**Should you have any questions or comments relating to Bridgnorth Cemetery, our staff will be more than happy to help you. Please contact us as follows:**

**Telephone: 01746 762231**

**Email: [cemetery@bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cemetery@bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk)**

**Or visit our website at [www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bridgnorthtowncouncil.gov.uk)**

