

Bereavement

The Town Council appreciates that bereavement is a difficult time. The following information may help you with burial arrangements. We are committed to dealing with these matters in a sensitive manner.

Burial Application

A funeral can be by burial or by cremation. You can organise it with or without the help of a funeral director. The majority of people use a professional funeral director who can deal with the authorities on your behalf. They can provide advice about some of the important decisions you will need to make.

An early consideration will be to confirm that a burial or interment of cremated remains can take place in Northleach Cemetery. The burial may require use of:

- An unused vacant plot
- A previously reserved plot (please note that prior reservations are no longer available)
- Re-opening a previously used family grave.

We will confirm availability with the funeral director and ask them to complete an Interment form.

Grave Ownership

Graves cannot be opened nor memorials erected without the permission in writing of the registered grave owner. This is a legal requirement which protects your rights as registered owner of the grave.

If the plot has been reserved or a previously used grave needs to be re-opened, certain information will be required for authorisation. The only exception is where the burial is that of the registered grave owner as they have the right to be buried in their own grave. If the original grave owner is deceased, the later burial of their spouse in the same grave can also be arranged fairly quickly.

For other family members, however, it is important to arrange transfer of ownership of the grave ownership as soon as possible and, ideally, before a further burial is required. If such a burial is imminent this will have to be dealt with as a matter of urgency and we will do our best to facilitate this. Please contact us for more information about this process (see Guide 2: Grave Ownership and Transfer).

After the Funeral

After the funeral, the Funeral Director will be responsible for reinstating the grave. Flowers and wreaths may be left on the grave until they have expired and will be removed after one month. Thereafter, cut flowers and tributes may be left provided they remain tidy and don't interfere with maintenance. You should allow a period of 12 months for the ground to settle before installation of a headstone or memorial. The nature and location of all memorials must be approved by the Town Council.

Burial and Memorial Fees

Fees are payable to purchase the Exclusive Right of Burial, for each interment, and for permission to install or alter a memorial (including any vases). A schedule of fees can be found on our website:

<https://www.northleach.gov.uk/cemetery-and-burial-records/>

Further information

If you have any questions please contact us on 01451 861499 or email admin@northleach.gov.uk.