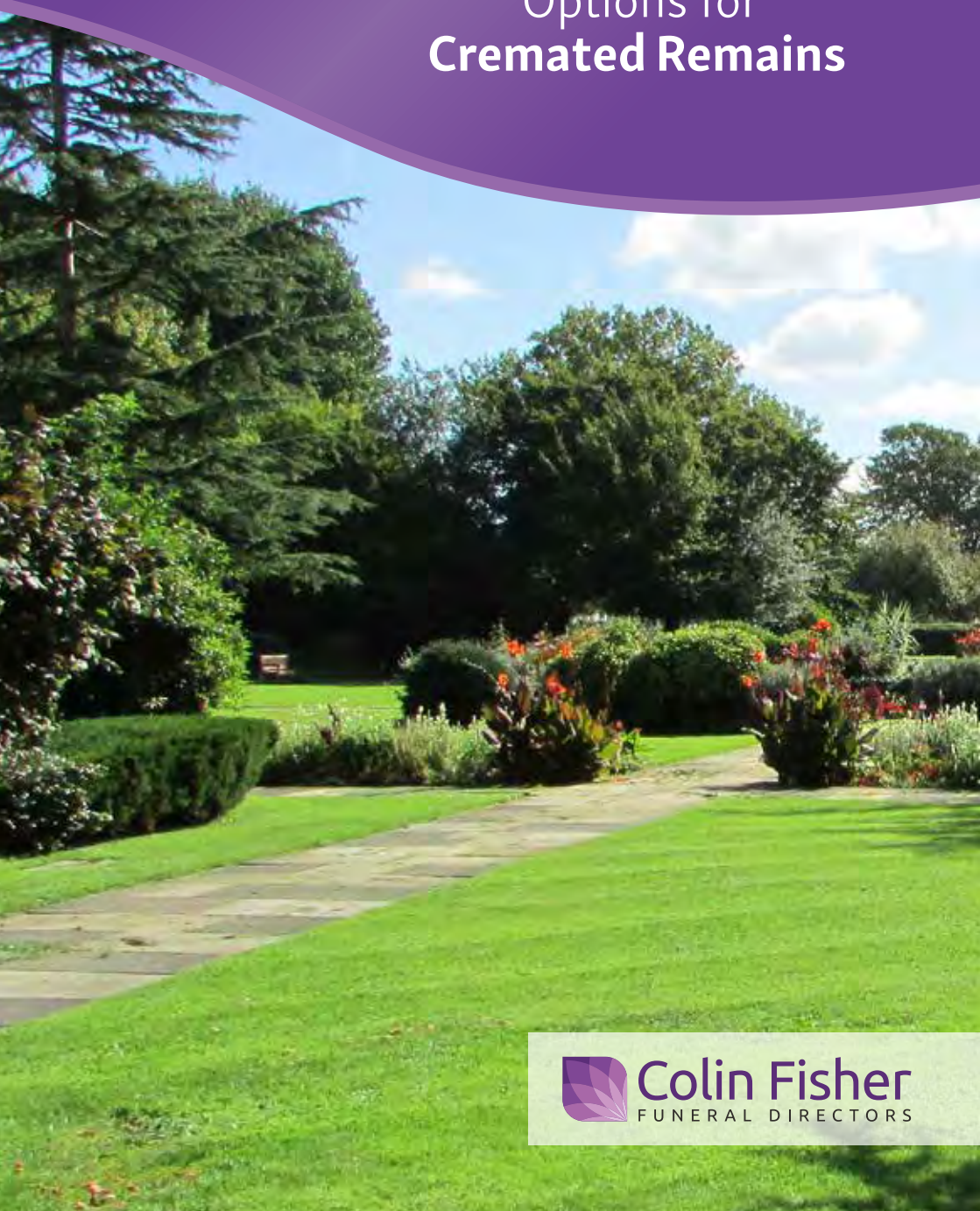


Options for Cremated Remains



Colin Fisher
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Options for Cremated Remains following a Funeral Service

Once a funeral has taken place many of us believe that the arrangements are complete. However the decision on what to do with the cremated remains needs to be made.

Deciding what to do with the cremated remains can be challenging but in order to help you make this decision Colin Fisher Funeral Directors have fully researched the options available which are explained in this booklet, so you can talk them over with your family.

Agreeing the final resting place for the cremated remains is a very important decision, and for most families it is probably better to leave that decision for two or three weeks after the funeral to leave time to consider. In the meantime we will collect the remains from the crematorium for you whilst you decide.

Once your decision is made please call us and we will arrange everything for you. Alternatively, if you would prefer to discuss any of the options in person, or even an alternative idea which is not presented here, we would be pleased to help you in any way we can.

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1 Cremated remains buried in churchyard or cemetery

One option is to bury the cremated remains in a churchyard or cemetery. Locally, these include the cemeteries in London Road, Hither Green and Kemnal Park and local churchyards. Reclaimed cremated remains plots can be purchased, accommodating up to eight urns, and new cremation plots are available at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

2 Bury in a family grave

Cremated remains may be buried in an existing family grave. The burial rights for every grave are owned by someone, usually the next of kin of the person buried there, so the grave owner's permission will be required. The burial of cremated remains in the grave sometimes extends the period of ownership.



3 Burial in the family garden

You can collect the cremated remains from the crematorium a day or two after the cremation and take them home. We can provide a variety of urns or other containers, or commission the making of something unique. There is no problem if you wish to scatter or bury the cremated remains in your own garden, but bear in mind that you may move house in the future.

It would therefore make sense to bury the cremated remains inside a brass urn, or place them in the bottom of a terracotta pot and plant a favourite flower on top, so you can take them with you if you move. We also provide garden memorials to house the cremated remains such as those in the picture below - they can have a planter, birdbath or sundial on the memorial.





4 Scatter at a favourite spot

If the deceased was a sports-loving person, you might like to consider scattering his or her cremated remains somewhere like a football or cricket ground, racecourse or golf course.



Scattering at such places – as with all privately owned land – requires permission from the owner, but this is usually given, subject to practical requirements. The owner of the land may also agree to the installation of a bench with a small name plate.





5

Woodland Trust and National Parks

The Woodland Trust is happy to let you scatter on its land, but asks that you do not hold any kind of formal ceremony, and do not disturb the ground in any way. The rules for National Parks vary from location to location, as the National Parks authority does not own the land – it is similar to a planning authority. It advises that the consent of the landowner be obtained. The Forestry Commission does not allow cremated remains to be scattered on its land, and Welsh conservationists and The Mountaineering Council of Scotland have asked that scattering should not take place on the iconic mountain peaks of their countries. More secluded spots should be chosen instead. Royal Parks prefer people not to scatter cremated remains within their parks.



6 Natural burial grounds

There are a number of natural burial grounds across the country. For example the nearest one to Bromley is Eden Valley near Edenbridge (pictured above).

It is a beautiful natural burial reserve where cremated remains are buried rather than scattered. You can choose a specific spot among the flowers and grasses of the meadows or between the trees. The spot can be marked temporarily with a bio-degradable memorial plaque laid on the ground, but there are no gravestones – the plots gradually blend into the surroundings as time passes.

However, Eden Valley has a plot marking system which ensures that individual plots can always be located by visitors. Colin Fisher funeral directors can provide information on other locations.

7 Royal or Merchant Navy

If the deceased had at any time served in the Royal Navy or Merchant Navy, the Navy will scatter the cremated remains free of charge, with up to four family members present. The Navy ship will depart from Portsmouth, and the cremated remains will be scattered three miles out to sea. The mourners will then return to land on the Pilot boat.

If no Royal Navy ship is scheduled to put to sea at the appropriate time, the mourners will travel to and from the burial area in the Pilot boat, which carries out this service every Wednesday.

For those of you who do not want travel to Portsmouth the ashes can be scattered from the HMS Belfast moored on the Thames.

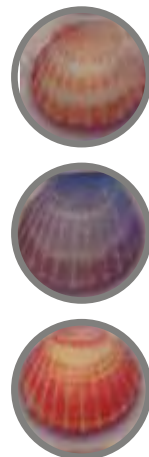


8 Scatter on water

Cremated remains can be scattered at sea or on a river. No permission is required to spread cremated remains in UK coastal waters. However, consideration should be given to members of the public who might be present. This applies also to rivers. The English Environment Agency say it is acceptable with certain provisos to scatter cremated remains into rivers or streams. There is no evidence, say the Agency, that this has a negative impact on the environment. But nothing should be deposited in the river which will not degrade naturally, such as plastic.



With this in mind we can provide special paper containers (some examples are pictured here) that can be put into the water and will float for a moment or two before sinking and will, over time, dissolve harmlessly. These containers, beautifully decorated if you wish or perhaps in the shape of a seashell, ensure that the ashes are scattered into the water rather than being blown away in windy conditions.





Certain parts of the River Thames are available for the scattering of cremated remains by the Hindu and Sikh communities and others. City Cruises (one of whose boats is pictured above) is one company which facilitates this, departing from Cherry Tree Wharf off Jamaica Road, by London's Borough Market. We also provide a scattering service in the sea off the south coast - this can be attended or not - please ask your arranger for details.

9 Viking ship ash casket

Some clients ask us for the romance of a Viking burial which unfortunately is not possible. However there is an attractive alternative in which after the cremation takes place, the ashes are placed in a 3ft model wicker Viking long boat, a fire is set in the long boat and then the boat set adrift. This can take place on any waterway with permission of the local authority. Alternatively we can provide this at sea, conditions permitting.



10 Repatriated back to home country

We can repatriate the cremated remains to the person's country of birth. Most airlines will allow cremated remains to be transported as air cargo or as a personally transported item. They must be informed in advance and the remains must be sealed inside a wooden container capable of being x-rayed.

You will require the correct paperwork which we can provide and in some cases the documents have to be stamped at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and by the destination country's embassy in advance of the flight.

Colin Fisher Funeral Directors is very experienced at repatriation and can provide a full service for you.



11 Inter in the Holy Land

Should it be your last wish to have your ashes interred in the Holy Land then we can help. We have two sites in Israel, one near Jerusalem and the other at the Sea of Galilee.

Both places are very evocative with huge biblical and historic significance: Jerusalem, the city of David and the Sea of Galilee where Jesus gave his sermon on the mount.



12 Scattered on the Bluebell Railway

People who had a special love of steam railways can have their cremated remains scattered by a locomotive of the Bluebell Railway (pictured here). Two members of the family can ride on the footplate and watch as the cremated remains are placed into the firebox. As the train steams from Horsted Keynes to Sheffield Park the remains are blown through the chimney so they are scattered over the railway line.

There are many other heritage railways all over the UK, from the Bodmin & Wenford Railway in Cornwall to the Strathspey Railway at the far north of Scotland and from the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways in the heart of Snowdonia to the Bure Valley Railway running through rural Norfolk.

13 Divide into small amounts for distribution to family members

If you wish you can divide the cremated remains into smaller amounts and give them to individuals for them to keep or dispose of in a way they feel especially appropriate for them. We can provide suitable containers.





14 Scattered from the air

We can organise a scattering of cremated remains from the air. It is not possible simply to open a plane's window and eject the cremated remains without most of them covering the outside of the plane or blowing back inside it, but we have a method which eliminates this problem, using a specialised aircraft.

15 Royal Air Force

We can offer the chance for your loved ones ashes to be scattered from a choice of vintage WW2 planes. A fitting end for any RAF or WW2 veteran, pilot or plane enthusiast. Your choice of plane includes the majestic and legendary Spitfire to be flown especially from an airfield in Kent with Battle of Britain history.

16 Sky diving

For a send off and a view you won't forget, experience the thrill of freefall while attached to a highly experienced Instructor with a parachute that is designed for two people. You'll leave the aircraft at 13,000ft and sky dive with the instructor who will open the parachute and scatter the ashes on the way down. The whole journey down lasts for about 6 minutes. The company is affiliated to the British Parachute Association. All tandem instructors are very experienced freefall parachutists who hold BPA Tandem Instructor ratings.





17 Diamonds, jewellery and crystal glass

Jewellery or crystal glass options are recent innovations that have become increasingly popular. Only a small amount of the cremated remains is required to create a unique memorial keepsake of the deceased person. The cremated remains can be used to create beautiful designs as shown on this page. By combining the cremated remains with crystal glass of varied colours, it is possible to create unique hand-crafted jewellery (rings, locket, pendants and cufflinks) or quality paperweights.

For something extra special, you can also turn a small portion of cremated remains into a “Heart in Diamond.” You will receive a genuine diamond, with all the optical, physical and chemical properties of an Earth grown diamond.



The same ‘4Cs’ characteristics applied for grading a conventional diamond (colour, clarity, cut and carat) will also be used for your own “Heart in Diamond.”

The remainder of the cremated remains can be scattered or buried according to your wishes.



18 Just jewellery

Here is a further selection of alternative jewellery ideas including silver and gold which can incorporate a small amount of the cremated remains.





19 Urns

A small selection of the different types of urns available: brass, solid wood, biodegradable / soluble urns.



20 Picture frames

A photograph of the deceased can be placed in the front, and a portion of cremated remains inserted inside the back.





21 Hand Casts and Candles

Sculptor Kate Semple will attend to make a mould of the hand of the deceased clasped together with yours or alternatively the deceased hand only to form a sculpture. Cremated remains can be set in a bowl under the cup of a candleholder.



22 Fireworks

The fireworks option may sound unusual but has captured the imagination of a growing number of people, especially of younger generations. A portion of the cremated remains is placed inside a firework - a rocket for example - and released into the sky on firing. Companies can provide a single firework, or a complete display for an event celebrating the life of the person who has died. You can fire the rockets and mini-displays yourself, or the company will prepare and set off a display representing the personality of the individual. This can include a name or message in fireworks, or synchronising the display to favourite music tracks.





23 Coral Reef

A permanent living legacy for those who lived by the sea, made a living from the sea or simply just loved the sea...

Creating a reef for new life to flourish - this new service, based in Weymouth, Dorset, is a great idea for those wishing to be buried at sea.

Either a beautiful memorial or somewhere where your loved one's ashes are held, their Solace Stone slides from the deck and falls away to the sea bed. As the reef sanctuary evolves and flourishes it will become home and haven to numerous marine species. With the passing of time your loved one's Solace Stone will become part of the reef's future growth and protection. It will help to create a special place and become a permanent reminder to all of their unique life.





24 Scatter them into the Stratosphere

We will scatter the ashes of your loved one into the stratosphere, so that they may be released back into the universe.

Our environmentally-friendly balloons will carry ashes to a height of up to 100,000 ft, where they will be released from a lightweight urn into the stratosphere, so that they may circulate the globe.

Our service is totally unique and a wonderful way to celebrate the life of your loved one, by giving them the final journey to commemorate a lifetime.

25 Send them into space

Sending cremated remains into outer space might seem bizarre, but this has been an option since the mid-nineties.

A portion of the cremated remains is placed aboard a commercial rocket and blasted into space. The options include a journey in which the rocket returns to earth with the cremated remains, goes into orbit around the earth or the moon, or departs on a journey of no return into deep space. One company arranges for relatives and other mourners to attend the launch and take part, if desired, in a memorial service. The company can also provide footage of the launch and a photograph of the name inscription on board the spacecraft.

A portion of the cremated remains of the American astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh, who discovered the planet Pluto in 1930, was sent into space aboard the New Horizons spacecraft launched in 2006, which passed by Pluto on 14 July 2015.





We have been pleased to provide you with the possibilities outlined in this brochure. We look forward to hearing from you when you have had time to give this important matter some thought.

Many other options are available on request.

Costs on application.

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