

## **ALL OF STOCKPORT'S CEMETERIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR INCLUDING BANK HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTMAS**

When you purchase a private grave you are issued with a deed granting you the exclusive right of burial for 75 years (subject to conditions then in force). This will be forwarded to you via your funeral director or posted directly from Stockport Cemetery. This grave deed must be produced whenever the grave is required to be re-opened for an interment. The loss of the deed would cause you delay and inconvenience at this time, so keep it safe with other important documents. When the grave has to be re-opened for an interment, give the grave deed to your funeral director who will make all the arrangements for you. Make sure that the deed is returned to you after the funeral has taken place. Remember if anyone else holds the grave deed they may have the grave opened for an interment, so keep the deed safe.

### **GRAVE OWNERSHIP**

The person whose name appears on the deed as the purchaser of the exclusive right (registered grave owner) is the only person who can authorise such things as the erection of a memorial or the cutting of an inscription. When the registered owner dies the exclusive right passes to the executor or the next of kin. The registered owner can transfer the title of the grave to another person. Such transfers are not valid unless registered with the cemetery office, or where the rights to the grave have been bequeathed in a will.

**PLEASE NOTE:** When a grave is opened for burial, due to the short notice it is necessary to place the surplus soil on the adjacent space. Where it is unavoidable the adjacent space may be your family grave. Should you visit the cemetery and find this has happened to your grave please rest assured, the staff will protect all memorials and the area will be left clean and tidy as soon as the burial has taken place. Please accept our apologies for any distress this may cause.

### **LAWN CEMETERIES**

It is now the policy of Stockport Council to maintain all cemeteries as lawn cemeteries in the interest of maintenance and appearance. This means that no surrounds such as kerbs, border stones, tiles or fencing will be permitted on a grave. Also the grave cannot be kept as a raised mound. If you choose to erect a memorial on your grave you are advised to obtain several quotations for the provision of a memorial. Ideally, you should inspect examples of the work supplied through the monumental mason or funeral director involved. Many monumental

masons are members of the National Association of Memorial Masons (N.A.M.M). They offer advice regarding all natural stone memorials and have introduced a code of working practice regarding the erection of memorials. Only Stockport Council registered Monumental Masons will be permitted to work in Stockport's Cemeteries.

### **MILL LANE CEMETERY**

To conform to planning permission conditions for this cemetery, no upright memorials are permitted. Memorials must be made of granite only and to a size and shape specified below. Separate vases, urns, tributes etc. must be a maximum of 150 mm in height and are not permitted on the grave space or grassed areas. This is to assist with the maintenance of the cemetery. This is a lawn cemetery and it is strictly prohibited to plant out any part of the grave. Plants will be removed. Memorial sizes are as follows: (NB The Jewish section is slightly smaller. Contact the cemetery office for details). Memorials at Mill Lane are 900mm wide, 600mm long and 125mm in height sloping to 75mm at the front. The new cremated remains graves at Mill Lane on ME section are as follows Height 4"(100mm), Width 17"(431mm), length 15"(381mm) (Most of Mill Lane graves have pre-purchased foundations. The foundations on Jewish graves are not pre-purchased.)

Maximum headstone sizes for Stockport, Cheadle, Highfield and Willow Grove Cemeteries are Plate – 610mm wide by 900mm high, base 864mm side by 305mm thick.

The stone mason's name and the grave number must be inscribed on the base of the stone, indicating if an anchor system is fitted. In parts of Stockport's cemeteries, foundations have been laid by Stockport Council. There is an additional charge for the foundation on these sections (all prices are available from the Cemetery Office). Only the grave owner will be granted permission to erect a stone (or a representative with their permission) and the monumental mason you engage will ask you to complete a form for permission to be granted. Stockport Council have a list of registered Monumental Masons and only those masons registered with the Council will be permitted to work in the cemeteries. Stockport Council does not employ a stone mason. Headstones and memorials remain the property of the owner or their descendant and it is their sole responsibility to ensure the maintenance and safety of the memorial. All headstones are subject to safety inspections and if found to be unsafe, may be gently laid on the ground. Should the memorial be vandalised, the grave owner is responsible for any necessary repairs and not the owner or operator of the cemetery. If you request your grave to be opened you may need to engage a monumental mason to remove and replace the headstone.

**WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU ASK YOUR MONUMENTAL MASON FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO INSURE A MEMORIAL THAT YOU PURCHASE.**