

Recycling of metals following cremation

If your loved one had to have an orthopaedic implant during their lifetime you may wonder what happens to it after cremation.

Until the early 2000's it was accepted practice to take the implant from the remains and place it with other implants which would then be buried in the grounds of the crematorium at regular intervals.

The metals used for implants are special medical grade stainless steel, titanium and cobalt chrome all produced from non-renewable resources. Over time these resources will be depleted, and these metals will become less available for such operations in the future.

Other metals may also be collected from the cremation process mainly from nails in the coffin. Precious metals melt and combine with ash in the cremator although very small particles may get into the metals recycled.

The Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) run a scheme throughout the UK where participating crematoria have the metals collected bi-annually and these are taken to be smelted down for re-use in other industries.

Should you not wish the metals to be re-cycled we are happy to return them to you with the cremated remains. You can indicate your choice to have them returned on the Application for Cremation Form 1 that you complete when applying for the cremation to take place.

Any monies raised from the metal recycling is distributed by the ICCM to bereavement related charities across the country. Crematoria can nominate specific charities that they would like the donation to be made to.

The North East Surrey Crematorium Board members have approved 6 local charities to receive their donations on a cyclical basis. These charities are listed below with links to their websites, where you can read of the work they all carry out within the bereavement sector.

The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk

St Raphaels Hospice www.straphaels.org.uk

Royal Trinity Hospice www.royaltrinityhospice.london

Wandsworth Bereavement Service www.wandsworthbereavement.org.uk

Jigsaw4u in Mitcham www.jigsaw4u.org.uk

Wimbledon Guild www.wimbledonguild.co.uk