



Rushcliffe Oaks Newsletter

winter 2023

Welcome...

...to the new quarterly newsletter from Rushcliffe Oaks – keeping you up to date and informed about our state-of-the-art crematorium facility that runs entirely on electricity.

Our aim is to keep everyone informed about our services and products, whether you are a colleague who visits us regularly or someone discovering us for the first time. As this is the first Rushcliffe Oaks Newsletter it includes a brief look back at the last few months since our opening as well as ongoing updates and news of an exciting event.

What is Rushcliffe Oaks?

Rushcliffe Oaks is... the East Midlands' first electric crematorium

When we opened on 3rd April we were the fourth all-electric crematorium in the country, making us the '*cleanest and greenest*' such facility in the East Midlands! During a cremation, our carbon emissions are reduced by up to 80% and our nitrous oxides emissions by around 50% compared to gas-fuelled cremators. We also have our own array of solar panels and a heat exchange system for the building's hot water, keeping us as energy efficient as possible.



Rushcliffe Oaks is... run by Rushcliffe Borough Council – and is also carbon neutral!

We are one of only 12 new publicly-owned crematoria to have opened in the last 10 years, compared to over 50 privately-owned operations in the same period. Rushcliffe Borough Council is talking the talk and walking the walk in their commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030, and Rushcliffe Oaks is honouring that commitment in providing an operationally carbon neutral crematorium for the benefit of the wider community. You can find out more about the council's carbon neutral strategy on their website at www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/environment.



Rushcliffe Oaks is... flexible!

Within our Woodland Hall, everything is movable and removable – even our catafalque! The standard arrangement provides seating for almost 120 in traditional straight rows, but a variety of alternative set-ups are also available. For a small number of mourners, the seating can be changed to a more intimate arrangement of just one or two semi-circular rows. This tends to work especially well for small family gatherings. For larger services, the glass partition between the hall and lobby can be retracted, creating one large space that will seat over 130 and accommodate over 200 in total. The lobby and the porte cochere have their own speaker systems, and a large additional screen in the lobby enables everyone to see and hear the service, wherever they are.



What Has Happened Since We Opened?

Guided Tours!

It's been full on since March when we started our tours for funeral industry partners, giving everyone the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the Rushcliffe Oaks setup. We estimate around 200 colleagues came to see us on our initial open event, and it was great to hear the wonderful comments about how well designed the facility is.



We held our first services on Monday 3rd April, and over the seven months since it has been lovely to continue to receive positive feedback from family and friends who have attended services. We have also continued to welcome a constant flow of visitors to look around, and we are always amenable to requests from families, celebrants, and funeral directors to come and see what we have to offer.

Our First Open Day

Our first official Open Day for the public was on Saturday 22nd July, when over 150 people braved the heavy rain to stop in and see us. Locally supplied cake and refreshments helped them to feel relaxed and welcomed, and as we showed people around there was great interest in understanding the process of what happens when a loved one is left in our care. Our team were kept very busy answering those frequently asked questions that so many people wonder about. There was particular interest from many visitors about our environmentally-friendly electric cremator.

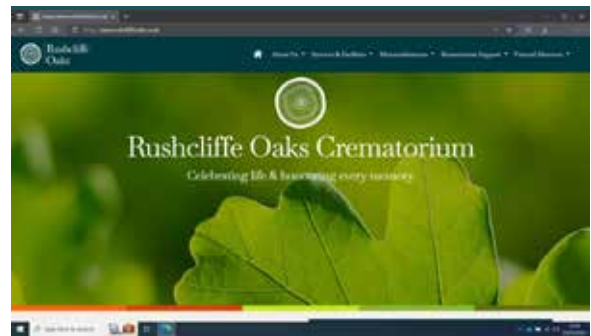


Development of the Building & Grounds

Over time our plan is to continue enhancing the look and feel of the facilities here by adding more artwork to various spaces around the building, along with the installation of more features into our memorial grounds. For instance, new gravel beds have been installed into our Acorn Gardens formal lawn area, providing a better setting for the beauty of our Stone Orb memorials. In the developing Quercus Woodland there are 8 more benches to be installed, along with three more carved wooden animals – squirrel, fox, and rabbit – to complement the existing hedgehog, badger and owl which are already in place.

Website & Literature

As the physical site continues to mature, our digital site will continue to be updated with the most up-to-date imagery, including in the downloadable versions of our publications. If you would like copies of our printed versions for display in your premises, then please contact us via the Rushcliffe Oaks email or give us a call – we are more than happy to help.



Did you know?

The front page of our website has a red alert bar which we can activate if we need to let you know of any issues that might affect your getting to us – for example road closures or roadworks. We will also flag up these issues on our social media channels as soon as we are made aware of them.

News You Can Use!

TRIALLING A NEW SERVICE:

Reduced-Price Attended Direct Cremations

This service is available at the reduced price of £475 and can be booked straight away, for a trial period. This period will depend on how successful the service is. Details of how it works are as follows:

- Bookings can only be made **no more than 5 working days in advance** of an available slot. This can be by calling our office or via our online Funeral Directors' portal, selecting the Direct Cremation option. For example, if booking for a Tuesday, the earliest this could be booked in would be the Wednesday before. Any bookings made before this will not be accepted.
- Bookings are in our usual time slots, but for no longer than 15 minutes in the ceremony hall.
- The entry and exit music for the booking will be selected by the crematorium.
- The family may also choose one additional piece of reflection music to listen to. This should be booked in through the Obitus system in the usual way.
- A free single halo photo can also be ordered for display.
- There will not be a speaker, such as a celebrant or family member.
- The only restriction on numbers attending is the capacity of our Ceremony Hall – 120.

If you would like to discuss this offer in more detail, please don't hesitate to give us a call.



Free Entries in our Digital Book of Remembrance

In the memorialisations section of our website we have a digital Book of Remembrance which is open to anyone to have a free entry – whether they were cremated at Rushcliffe Oaks or not. There are choices of styles and motifs to suit a wide variety of tastes – see for yourself by visiting www.rushcliffeoaks.co.uk



Introducing a New Team Member...

Maisie is based in our office and enjoys lots of fuss and attention. She is a nine year old Shih Tzu and has a lovely, gentle nature, meaning people fall in love with her in a very short time (as we already have!) We are finding that many people – from attendees at funeral services to celebrants and funeral director staff – all want to say 'hi' and spend some time with her, but as she's owned by our manager, Rhonda, you *will* have to give her back... eventually, after all the fussing!

Maisie is becoming quite the social media star with her newly appointed role, so keep your eye out for her appearances on our Facebook page.



Rushcliffe Oaks Crematorium

Celebrating life and honouring every memory

Christmas MEMORIAL SERVICE



Friday 1st December *at 6.00pm*

Our first Christmas Memorial Service will be taking place on Friday 1st December at 6pm. We are looking forward to welcoming visitors to Rushcliffe Oaks to remember their loved ones during a service led by independent celebrant, Jon Harris. The service will include an opportunity to write a message and place a star on our Christmas tree, and attendees are invited to send in a picture of their loved one to be displayed on the screen during a piece of reflection music. We hope it will be a nice occasion for all in attendance and everyone is welcome.

There will be an opportunity to win prizes donated by local businesses during our raffle, from which all proceeds will go to Ash Lea school in Cotgrave – a community special school for pupils aged from 3-18 who experience complex learning difficulties.



If you would like to join us for this free special event, please do let us know by calling **0115 914 8557** or emailing info@rushcliffeoaks.co.uk. The service will be ticketed, purely so we know how many attendees to expect – we would hate anyone to miss out on hot refreshments and mince pies!



Rushcliffe
Oaks

Main Road, Stragglethorpe, Nottingham, NG12 2PY

0115 914 8557 • info@rushcliffeoaks.co.uk
www.rushcliffeoaks.co.uk

