

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY



& the
GLADES OF
REMEMBRANCE

BROOKWOOD CEMETERY:

“Midst Surrey Pines”

In 1850 Parliament ordered the closure of the more crowded churchyards in London, and a search was commissioned for a new site of sufficient size and splendour to serve the burial needs of the Metropolis for at least 500 years. To meet these demanding requirements Brookwood Cemetery was created, and, after incorporation by Royal Act of Parliament in 1852, it acquired more than 2,000 acres of land from the Earl of Onslow just 25 miles from the centre of London at Woking in Surrey.

With typical Victorian extravagance some 500 acres of Surrey countryside was carefully landscaped and a wealth of exotic trees and shrubs planted under the guidance of the leading gardeners from Kew. Perhaps as a reaction to the crowded and unsightly burial grounds of London, every effort was made to ensure that Brookwood was beautiful, spacious and tranquil. The spot chosen was an ideal one for its purpose, and now that the natural charm has been enhanced by those early plantings reaching full maturity, there is perhaps no more restful cemetery in the world. Indeed, it seems impossible to realise that central London is no more than 40 minutes by train.

A distinguishing feature of Brookwood Cemetery was its own railway. The London & South Western Railway was engaged to convey coffins and mourners from a private station adjacent to Waterloo down into the Cemetery. At Brookwood there were two stations, one for the Nonconformist sections, and another for the Anglican areas. The funeral trains stopped running after the private London terminus was bombed in April 1941.

Brookwood Cemetery is probably the biggest cemetery in Western Europe. Since 1854, over 235,000 people have been buried here.

Plots were and still are reserved for use by parishes, or by various guilds and organisations. Individuals had complete freedom over the site and position of their grave, provided they could afford the plot.

Today more than 150 years after its inception Brookwood Cemetery continues to provide a final resting place for people from all over the world. The quiet splendour of the grounds and the spacious setting cannot fail to impress the visitor, and the fine monuments, many of which commemorate once famous names, illustrate well the skills of stonemasons both past and present.

FAMILY PLOTS

Special care and attention is devoted to providing an environment in which families can cherish the memory of their relatives and the selection of each site is a matter for individual choice to take account of personal wishes and requirements. Above all else, Brookwood Cemetery is spacious, so the natural desire for families to be close is more thoughtfully accommodated by allowing relatives to choose their own family site with sufficient space for the burial of each member next to one another. Family areas may range from large privately screened sites to the simple double allotment. Arrangements may be made by reserving the site in advance of need or at the time of the first interment.

COMMUNITY AND ETHNIC GROUPS

Brookwood Cemetery is perhaps unique in the way in which it is able to create private commemorative grounds within its great complex for special groups according to each one's particular requirements. At Brookwood today there are congregations who have privately screened areas to replace their own churchyards long since filled. There are areas for national groups like the Swedish Church and ethnic groups like Muslims, the Latvians, for the Chelsea Pensioners and for the Oddfellows, and there are large individual areas for almost all religious denominations. In addition there is a recently constructed green burial ground and selected areas for woodland burial.

WOODLAND PLOTS: for Burials & Cremated Remains

There are currently three areas usually used for woodland burials. They are part of plot 134 in the former Nonconformist section, plot 45, and lower St Mark's Avenue in the Church of England section (plot 69A). Burials may take place adjacent to existing trees; otherwise a new tree may be planted in memory of a loved one. Special prices and restrictions apply to all woodland burials at Brookwood. Please see our current price list or contact the Cemetery Office for further details.



GREEN PLOTS: for Burials & Cremated Remains

Green burials incorporate environmentally friendly coffins (such as wicker or cardboard), or the choice of shrouds or body bags. You may wish to contact us direct to discuss your requirements. The main area reserved for green burials is plot 69, beyond plot 54 off St Mark's Avenue in the Church of England section. Brookwood Cemetery may be regarded as the "home" of green burials as Sir Francis Seymour Haden (1818-1910), who argued the case for disposable coffins from the 1870s, is buried here. The London Necropolis Company devised special "earth to earth" coffins which were made widely available to the funeral trade from this time. Haden once wrote that "it is plainly in the interest of every class, high and low, to avoid the seething suburban cemeteries and to bury their dead at Woking".

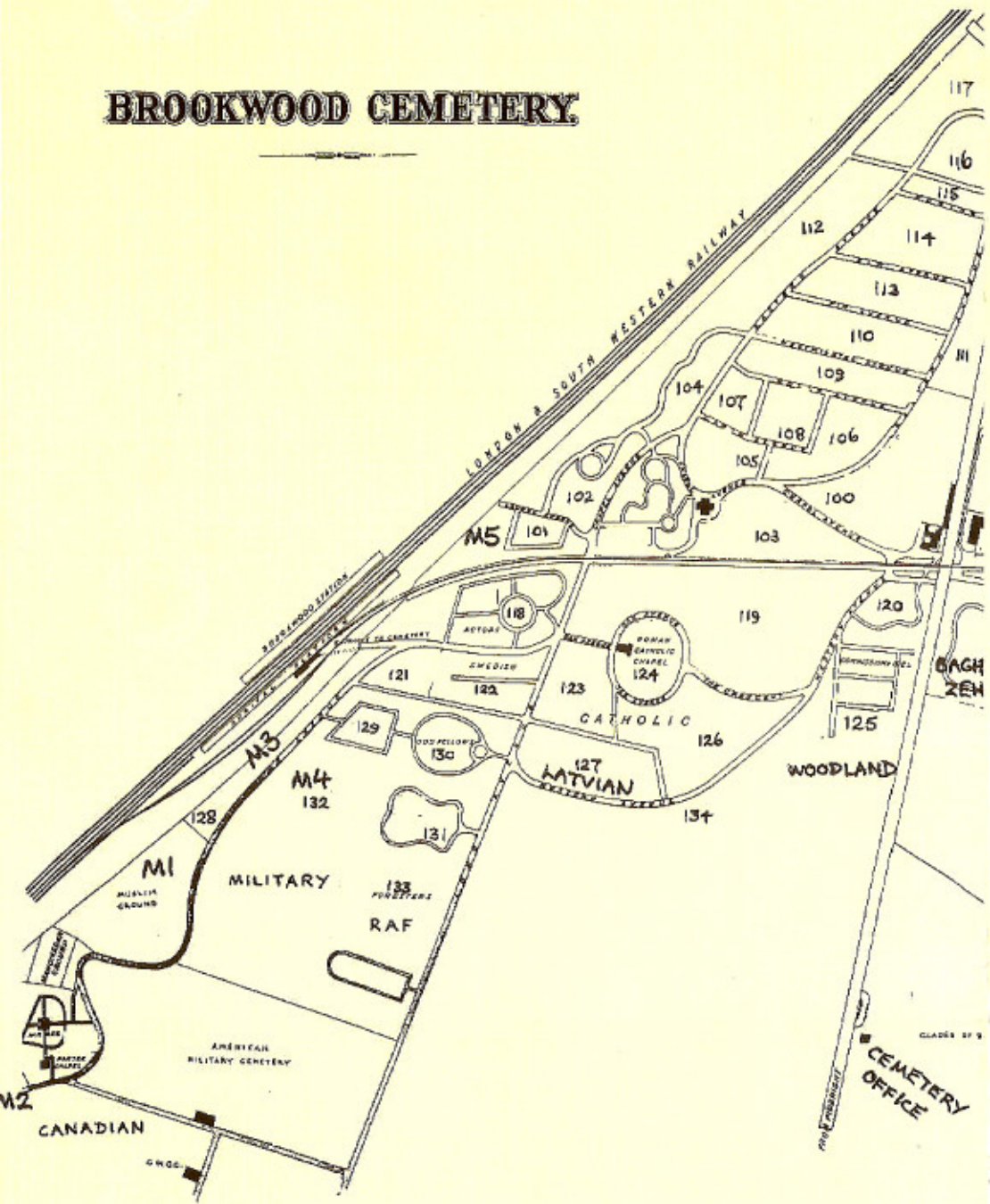


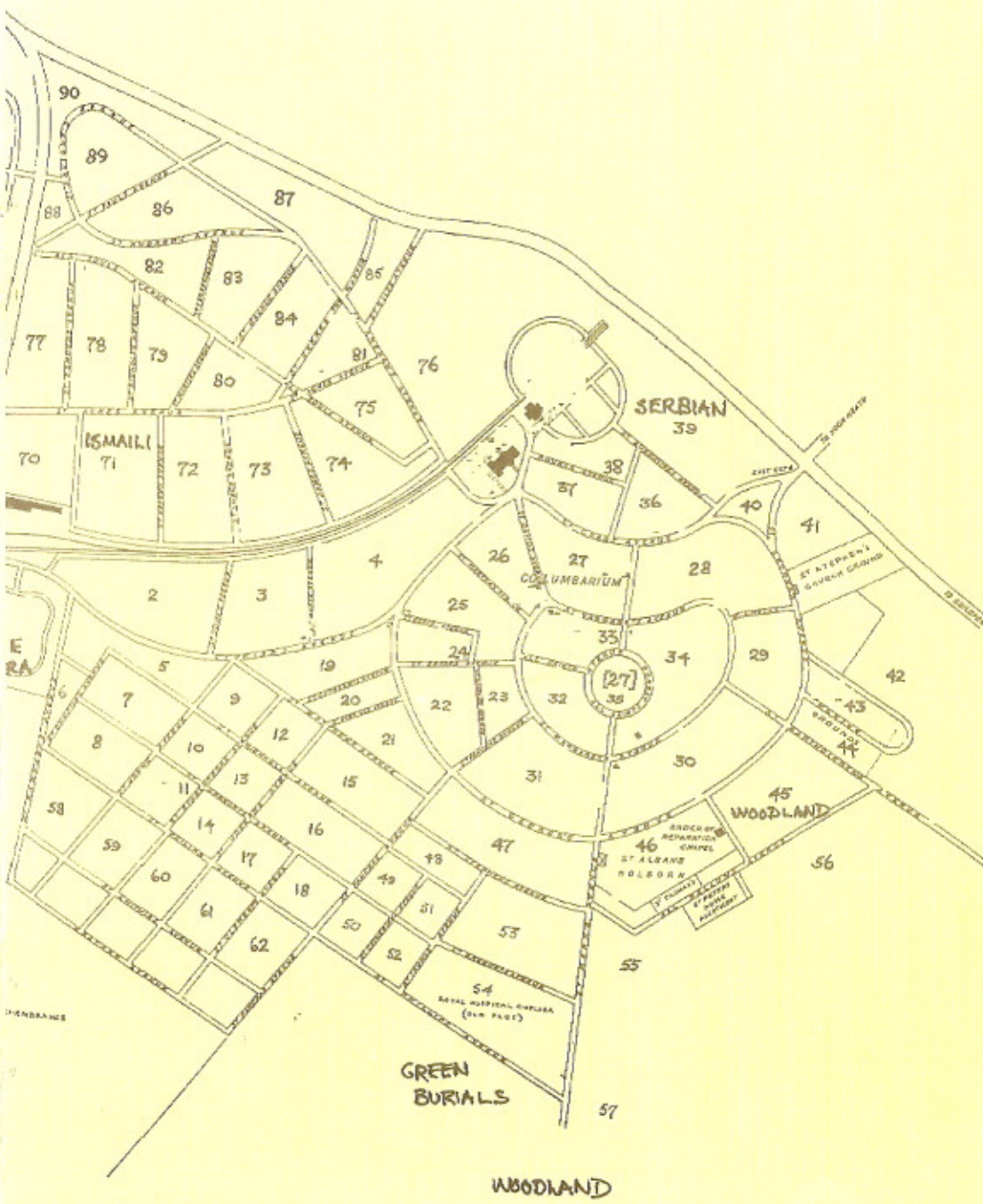
THE GLADES OF REMEMBRANCE

The Glades of Remembrance were created over 50 years ago in response to the demand for a more permanent form of commemoration as an alternative for those who prefer cremation. The Glades, set in some 20 acres of magnificent wooded gardens with leafy glades and an ornamental lake, provide a truly private resting place in which ashes may be interred. The choice of each site, whether for the individual or the family, is a matter of personal preference and small monuments or memorials may be erected in the memory of those who rest here. For those cremated many miles away the management will always make suitable arrangements, in conjunction with Funeral Directors, for the transportation of ashes and choice of sites. Because of the vast area that Brookwood still has to offer, ashes interments are given a 50 year Deed of Grant.



BROOKWOOD CEMETERY





THE CEMETERY ROLL CALL

Brookwood Cemetery incorporates a remarkably rich range of burials reflecting all levels of society. Burials include those of Charles Bradlaugh (1833-1891), the first atheist to sit in the House of Commons; Dr Robert Knox (1791-1862), one of Burke and Hare's best customers; the artist John Singer Sargent (1856-1925); and the writer Dame Rebecca West (1892-1983). Other burials include St Edward the Martyr (959-979), a Saxon King of England; Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton (1836-1907), sometime Master of Queen Victoria's household; Dr Gottlieb William Leitner (1840-1899), the founder of Woking's Mosque; Alfred Bestall (1892-1985), for many years the artist who drew Rupert Bear; and Prince Samy (1885-1961), nephew of the last Sultan of Turkey. Elsewhere lay thousands of Londoners buried at the expense of their parish in individual yet unmarked graves.

GRAVE MAINTENANCE

Grave maintenance is carried out by the Cemetery. There is an initial charge of £275 at the time of burial. Our current charge is £10 per month for a standard grave space (7ft 6in by 3ft), if paid by standing order. Otherwise the annual fee is £120. The minimum period for a maintenance contract is 1 year.

We can also quote for maintenance of larger family plots, based on the area of the grave.

We also offer a memorial cleaning service which is available on request. We can also replace marble or granite chippings on graves.

Cemetery Opening Hours

Daily 7am – 5pm

during the winter months (Oct-March)

Daily 7am-7pm

during the summer months (April-Sept)

Glades of Remembrance

Daily 8am – 5pm

(Access can be gained through the main gates outside of these hours)

Cemetery Office Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5pm

**Brookwood Cemetery is a
Grade I Historic Park & Garden**



Brookwood Cemetery

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