

ST MABYN PARISH COUNCIL

MEMORIAL SAFETY INSPECTION

St Mabyn Parish Council has scheduled a memorial inspection in St Mabyn Lawn Cemetery:

WEEK COMMENCING 20th May 2024 (Weather permitting)

The inspection will involve testing the stability of all memorials over 5 years old. The cemetery will remain open during the inspection which will be carried out as discreetly as possible by an experienced and qualified person. Where it is necessary to take action to make a memorial safe, this will be undertaken by an appropriately qualified stonemason. Such actions will be a temporary measure and will be proportionate to the danger posed.

The Parish Council understand the significance that memorials hold for family members and that it can be upsetting to see work carried out on a memorial to a loved one; a list of frequently asked questions has been prepared below to help to answer any questions or concerns that families may have.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who is responsible for keeping memorials in a safe condition?

Memorials are the responsibility of the owner/s of the Exclusive Right of Burial and they have a duty to keep the memorial repaired and in a safe condition.

Why is a memorial inspection needed?

The Parish Council has a responsibility under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure that risks within the cemetery are properly managed. As a result, Health and Safety Executive requires regular safety inspections and stability testing to be carried out on memorials in St Mabyn Lawn Cemetery.

What do the inspections involve?

- Each headstone will have a visual inspection to assess its condition.
- A hand test will then be carried out to check that the memorial is not in any immediate danger of falling (memorials under 1.5m in height)
- A confirmatory test using a mechanical force measuring device will be undertaken only if felt necessary after the results of the hand test are found to be inconclusive and where some movement is felt (memorials 625mm to 1.5m in height). Force testing will not exceed 25kg at 1.5m or the apex of a memorial, whichever is the lower.
- The memorial will be categorised as C1, C2 or C3.

What happens if my memorial fails the inspection?

Memorials that fail the inspection (categorised as C1) are considered to be an immediate danger to the public and immediate action will be taken to reduce or eliminate the identified risk. Depending on the danger and size of a memorial a qualified stonemason will either install a stake and band to prevent the memorial falling over or lay the memorial (or part thereof) flat. Only when it is deemed strictly necessary will access to the memorial be cordoned off.

How will I know if my memorial has failed the inspection?

The Parish Council's immediate priority is to make the St Mabyn Lawn Cemetery safe for the public. Memorials that fail the inspection will have a notice attached to them and the Parish Council will write to the owner/s of the Exclusive Right of Burial (where data is less than 30 years old)/ Please read the failure letter carefully as it will explain the reasons your memorial has failed and the necessary steps to reinstate your memorial to the required standard and the timescale for doing so.

If you have not been written to it could be because we do not have your most up to date contact details. To update your contact details please complete a Change of Details form and return it to the Parish Clerk. The form can be found on the Parish Council's website, www.stmabynparishcouncil.gov.uk click on Cemetery.

Can I repair the memorial myself?

For your own safety as well as that of others, all works to memorials in St Mabyn Lawn Cemetery, including repairs and removals, must be undertaken by a BRAMM or NAMM qualified stonemason who must also have relevant public liability insurance. They will also need to submit a memorial application form for approval before works commence.

How much will the repairs cost to bring the memorial up to the required standard?

All memorials are required to meet current national standards set by the Ministry of Justice and British Standards. Each memorial is unique and could require different repairs. You will need to contact a stonemason to quote for these works. The Parish Council recommends that all memorials within St Mabyn Lawn Cemetery are insured against all risks. If you have insurance cover for your memorial, please check with your insurer or stonemason to find out if repair work is covered.

What happens if I am not the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial?

You will need to contact the owner of the Exclusive Right of Burial for information regarding the memorial's repair. Provided that you obtain their signed permission on the relevant memorial application form, you can arrange for the memorial's repair. If you need to discuss transferring the ownership of an EROB, please contact the Parish Clerk.

What has St Mabyn Parish Council done to inform visitors and owners of the memorial inspection?

Notices have been placed in the Lawn Cemetery, on the Parish Council website and the Notice Boards.

Will my memorial be subject to further tests in the future?

Yes, similar tests will be conducted at regular intervals in the future, at least every five years. It is recommended that memorials are insured and that they are regularly and professionally checked and maintained by your stonemason to ensure they are safe.

Where can I get further information?

Full details of The St Mabyn Lawn Cemetery Memorial Management Policy can be viewed on the Parish Council's website: www.stmabynparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you require any further information or would like to discuss a specific memorial, please contact the Parish Clerk, Linda Coles; email: clerk@stmabynparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone: 01579 350962

Further information about St Mabyn Lawn Cemetery, including cemetery fees and cemetery Interment information, can be found on the following webpage:

<https://www.stmabynparishcouncil.gov.uk/cemetery.php>