

On Saturday 11th June, 2016, The South West Middlesex Crematorium held its Annual Open Day followed by a Multi-Faith Memorial Service. The Superintendent/Registrar, Teresa Kearney, started the first tour for the crematorium in the Jamieson Chapel, at 10.30 am and gave a brief over-view of the crematorium and of the various processes that would be explained to them on the tour. The Superintendent also gave a brief explanation about the recycling of metals through the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium management (ICCM) and of the monies that has now been raised i.e. over £1 million nationwide. In the past 5 years the crematorium has donated monies to the Princess Alice Hospice in Esher, Surrey, as part of this excellent scheme. The tours of the crematorium proved very successful with even greater numbers attending this year. Tracey Russell-Douce, one of the crematorium technicians, gave an in depth tour of the crematory explaining all the processes, procedures and protocol that has to be followed in achieving a dignified cremation.

Peter Russell, Head Gardener, lead the tours of the award winning gardens. A coloured information brochure was provided to accompany the tour showing some of the trees and shrubs within the grounds. The brochure also gave a brief over view of the history of the gardens and of the environmental policies of the crematorium in respect of recycling, and of plans to increase the use of natural resources and proposed future projects.

The Multi-Faith Memorial Service was the culmination of the Crematoriums Open Day. This year the speakers addressing the congregation were Reverend Sergiy Diduk (All Saints C of E Church, Hanworth), Hemant Kumar (Hindu Priest), Harbhajan Singh (Sikh Priest), Jan Doyle (Civil Funeral Celebrant) and Pastor Nigel Degenhart (Bethany Pentecostal Church). Every speaker offered their own thoughts and reflections and comfort to those who attended. Before the Open Day visitors to the crematorium were given the opportunity to fill out a memorial slip for anyone they wished remembered during the service. The dedications were projected onto a screen and continually rolled throughout the service with a back drop of the crematorium's memorial gardens. This year some members of The New Egham Singers choir came along to help us celebrate the Multi-Faith Memorial service. Their rendition of "When The Saints Go Marching In" at the end of the service, proved so popular and uplifting, that they were clapped by the congregation.



Invited dignitaries and speakers - left Teresa Kearney, Superintendent/Registrar, South West Middlesex Crematorium Board, Hemant Kumar, Harbhajan Singh, Jan Doyle, Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Councillor Kate Howard, Worshipful Mayor of Hounslow, Councillor Ajmer Grewal, Past Mayor of Hounslow, Pritam Grewal, Reverend Sergiy Diduk and Pastor Nigel Degenhart.

The weather was dry and sunny for the release of the doves, following the memorial service. Some of the invited guests took the opportunity to hold and release a dove which were symbolic of everyone who had been cremated at the crematorium in the last 60 years



Third from right - Janice Crook - represented The New Egham Singers Choir.