

# **THE BRITISH CEMETERY COMMITTEE KYRENIA**

**Honorary President: Harry Fellows MBE**

**Chairman: Andy May 0548 888 2560**

**Deputy Chairman: Christine Penney 0533 845 3495 [chrispenney@hotmail.com](mailto:chrispenney@hotmail.com)**

***In the event of a death in North Cyprus of a family member or friend, would you know what to do?***

***The members of the British Cemetery Committee (BCC) are here to help you***

## ***What is the BCC?***

Following the events of 1974, it was decided that a committee should be formed to facilitate the burial of foreign, predominately British, residents. Since that time the procedures have been refined and the British Cemetery Committee is now responsible for the maintenance of the New British Cemetery (opposite the Pia Bella hotel), and the Green Hill Cemetery, in the hills above Karaođlanođlu, which since 2010 has been the cemetery in current use.

The BCC is an entirely voluntary organisation and our members are unpaid. There are no undertakers or Funeral Directors in North Cyprus and we must point out that as this is a Muslim country there is no Crematorium.

## ***Where is Green Hill Cemetery?***

Take the bypass west from Kyrenia . After about five kilometres you will pass the large yellow Pound Shop on your right. Then look out for the big blue gantry over the road before the roundabout. Turn left, off the bypass, towards the Eron supermarket (there is a small signpost to the cemetery). Follow the road left past the main entrance to the Supermarket and then turn right up the hill. There are small signposts to guide you. The track is currently unmade although we understand that a tarmac road will be laid soon.

## ***What must I do if there is a death?***

In the event of the death of a British Passport holder, relative, or partner, please contact the chairman or deputy chairman by phone or email (details are at the top of this letter). We will give you help and advice regarding official requirements and will be able to make funeral arrangements for you.

### ***What does the BCC do?***

When we are contacted about a death, we arrange to meet the Next of Kin, partner or friend of the deceased. This can be at home, or in a quiet local café or hotel if you prefer. At this meeting we will guide you carefully through the necessary procedures and regulations. We will then talk with you about the funeral and the choices available.

Our Green Hill Cemetery is open to all denominations, or none. We can arrange for a Chaplain, Pastor or Priest to lead the funeral if you wish. A Humanist service can also be arranged. We will listen to your wishes and do all we can to help at this very stressful time.

### ***What about the practical arrangements?***

The BCC will provide a coffin. At the mortuary we will carefully place the body of the deceased in the coffin and we will then transport the coffin from the mortuary to the cemetery. We prepare the grave site, backfill the grave after the funeral, and provide a metal surround and a plaque giving the name of the deceased, their date of death and plot number.

We will place the coffin in the grave and organise all aspects of the funeral including seating, car parking and guidance for mourners.

The donation required by the BCC includes all costs, with the exception of the hospital autopsy fee (should it be necessary).

As weather conditions make it difficult to dig graves during much of the year, the Committee keeps several graves dug and will always use graves in sequence

### ***What is the cost of a funeral at Green Hill Cemetery?***

The donation required by the BCC before the funeral is currently £1200. This is to cover the costs of the funeral and the maintenance of the cemetery, and is paid in sterling cash on or before the funeral. We hope that soon we will be able to take card payments.

There is an additional fee (usually £100) if a chaplain is required. This is payable by the next of kin directly to the chaplain.

As the BCC is an entirely voluntary organisation, any donations towards the upkeep of the cemeteries, and the work that we do, are always very welcome and very gratefully received.

### ***Helping us at the BCC***

If you would like to help us practically in our work we would be very pleased to hear from you. We welcome offers of help in the cemeteries for which we are responsible and the preparation of funerals. Sometimes this can be heavy work as we share the task of respectfully lowering the coffin into the grave. We have 'friends' of the BCC whom we call upon frequently and are always very grateful for their commitment. We regard these helpers as crucial and trusted members of our team.

### ***What is not covered by the BCC?***

We do all we can to support bereaved families in planning and organising the funeral. However, we have no involvement in probate nor acquiring the death certificate.

### ***When can a permanent memorial be installed on a grave?***

As the earth sinks gradually after a burial, it is necessary to wait at least eighteen months before placing a permanent stone surround, and headstone, on the grave. We provide guidance on this, and will give details of recommended stonemasons.

### ***What about British residents in the Famagusta area?***

Famagusta has its own Cemetery and Committee, so please contact Ann Kelly on 0533 860 7258. There are additional small cemeteries at Lapta and Karmi for which we have contact numbers if required

### ***What about tourists who die in North Cyprus?***

The Next of Kin is advised to check their relative/friend's travel documents, as most travel insurance offers free repatriation. The committee can advise on repatriation if necessary.

***Please do not hesitate to contact one of us if you need further information.***

***We are here to help you.***

#### ***British Cemetery Committee members***

**Chairman: Andy May 0548 888 2560**

**Deputy Chairman: Christine Penney 0533 845 3495**

**Honorary Secretary: Heather Bealer 0533 870 0797**

**Honorary Treasurer: Nigel Astbury 0533 840 8149**

**Keith Roberts 0533 871 0831**

**Steve Templeman 0533 822 7807**

**Kim Tyler 0533 847 4333**

**Bill Grundy 0542 889 0072**