

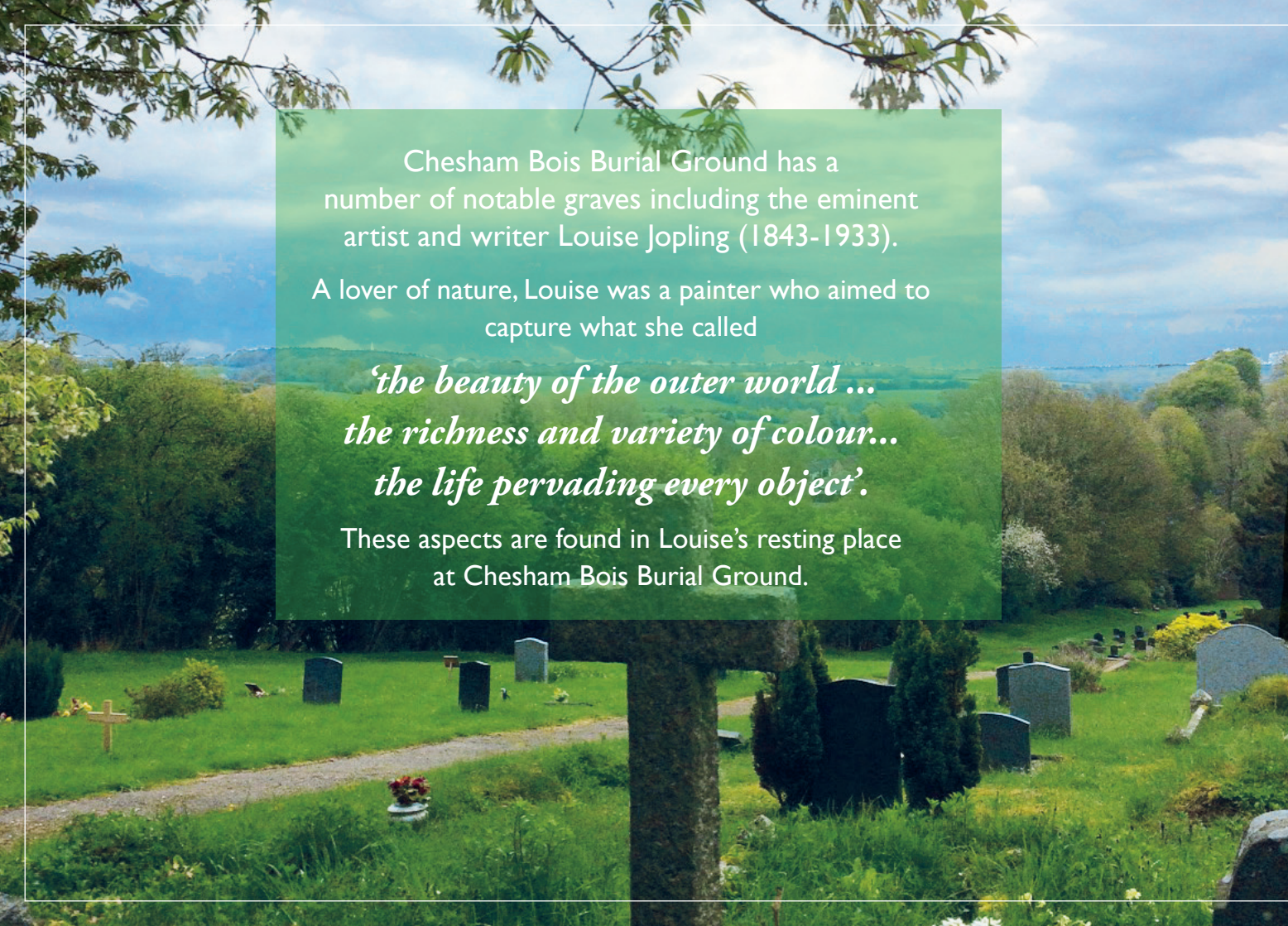


CHESHAM BOIS  
BURIAL GROUND



*A special place of tranquillity  
in the beautiful woodland setting of the Chilterns*

FORMAL AND NATURAL BURIALS

A scenic view of Chesham Bois Burial Ground. The foreground shows several gravestones of various shapes and sizes, including a large cross, set in a lush green field. In the background, there are rolling green hills and a blue sky with scattered clouds. A large tree trunk is visible in the lower center. A semi-transparent green box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Chesham Bois Burial Ground has a number of notable graves including the eminent artist and writer Louise Jopling (1843-1933).

A lover of nature, Louise was a painter who aimed to capture what she called

*‘the beauty of the outer world ...  
the richness and variety of colour...  
the life pervading every object’.*

These aspects are found in Louise’s resting place at Chesham Bois Burial Ground.

## A truly unique setting and special place of tranquillity

Chesham Bois Burial Ground is located next to Bois Wood, within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Our hidden, tranquil setting has stunning, far-reaching views that you will want to revisit. It’s a ‘hidden beauty’ and it may be the area’s ‘best kept secret’, seen as an ‘unknown gem’.

### A place for memories and reflection

With its outstanding beauty and views, Chesham Bois Burial Ground is an ideal place to visit, reflect and remember a loved one.

By looking after the environment and preserving the Burial Ground for future generations to enjoy, Chesham Bois Parish Council ensures that the natural beauty of these surroundings offers a fitting memorial.

### As nature intended

The meadow and woodland at Chesham Bois have evolved naturally and create an authentic, informal setting. This is complemented by the diverse flora and fauna found in the surrounding woods and rare chalk grassland.



## *Our values*

- ✿ Providing a tranquil and unique burial ground within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- ✿ Offering beautiful woodland and views as a lasting memorial to your loved one that all can visit
- ✿ Giving a flexible and personal service to recognise how special your loved one was
- ✿ A wide range of options to respect all end-of-life choices; formal burials, interment of ashes and natural burials
- ✿ Our ethos, service and size allow us to focus on the individual
- ✿ Investing back into the Burial Ground to ensure that the upkeep, appearance and environmental diversity is maintained.

## Your loved one was special...

...we wish to provide a memorial and resting place that is equally special.

We know how treasured and unique the deceased was to you in their lifetime and how you want to recognise that in their memorial and resting place. We believe Chesham Bois Burial Ground is an authentic, beautiful and natural site that does just that.

Visitors will feel peaceful, comfortable and welcomed. It's a place where families and friends can visit and remember, with a relaxed atmosphere different from more formal settings.



*“Other burial sites often deliver a standardised service, as this can be more efficient for them. Our service is not driven by these considerations and so it is one that is very personal and right for you and your loved one”.*

Sexton, Chesham Bois Burial Ground

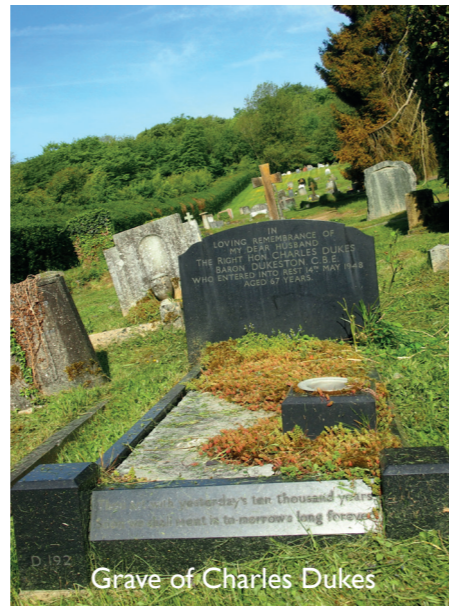
# Choose a burial as individual and unique as your loved one

We are flexible in the types of burial we can offer. You can choose either a formal or natural woodland burial to provide what is right for you and your loved one. We can offer a unique plot to inter a loved one's ashes as well as providing for full burials.

If you are thinking further ahead, we encourage visits from those who are planning their own funeral and who may wish to choose and reserve their own plot in advance. Whatever your needs, our Sexton fully supports and welcomes all individual visits to assist you in your choice and preparations. There are very few rules about the funeral itself. It may be religious or secular; and any idea will be considered to personalise your loved one's burial. Music can be played, readings or poetry can be read, toasts made and personal tributes may be spoken. A combination of traditional and more modern elements within a funeral may be more relevant when someone has a diverse group of family and friends.

*“We are very pleased with all the administration provided, and just how flexible and helpful the Sexton, Clerk and all staff at Chesham Bois Burial Ground are”.*

Local Funeral Director



Grave of Charles Dukes

Chesham Bois Burial Ground has a selection of notable graves including that of Charles Dukes, 1st Baron Dukeston of Warrington (1881-1948), who was associated in the 1940's with drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It also includes the grave of the eminent artist and writer Louise Jopling (1843-1933) as well as several war graves.



Grave of Louise Jopling



## Formal burials - traditional and unconstrained

Chesham Bois Burial Ground has two beautiful formal burial grounds, the original one was established in 1924 and we opened a new formal burial ground in 2006 to provide more plots and level access.

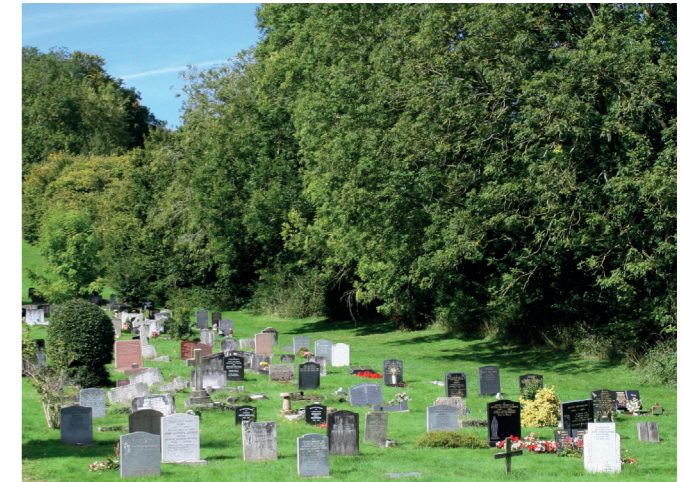
The Original Formal Burial Ground is the area nearest to the main entrance at the bottom of the hill. It is laid out in rows on both sides of the path leading to a bench with stunning views at the top of the hill. The New Formal Burial Ground runs in parallel up the hill from the opposite side of the Chapel and offers its own central pathway with rows to either side, leading up to a bench with views at the top.

We have a designated area of consecrated land (which has been declared sacred by the Church of England) for those who would wish to specify this, alongside a majority of un-consecrated land for those of other denominations and those of other faiths or none.

### Freedom to choose

We can offer a much larger choice than usual for plot location, including plots for interring ashes as well as burial plots. Unlike many other sites, we do not insist on the 'next plot along'.

Our Sexton will be happy to help you choose the right plot for your loved one. All our formal burial plots can be double depth, to allow for two formal burials, as well as an additional 3 caskets of ashes. It is also possible to reserve family plots which are double width as well as double depth and could include 6 caskets of ashes. Plots for children or ashes alone are also available.



Personalised memorials to mark your loved one's grave or ashes plot are allowed within the formal burial grounds. We are not prescriptive about style and encourage your personal choice.





# Woodland burials - a natural way to celebrate life

The funeral of a loved one is understandably a time of sadness and grief. A natural woodland burial at Chesham Bois Burial Ground is a way to celebrate life in a very positive way by giving life back to the environment.

The designated Woodland Burial Ground is positioned on the hillside, with the formal burial grounds beyond a hedge on one side and with a large area of chalk grassland on the other. This chalk grassland is also maintained by the Council and is filled with a diversity of flora. Within the Woodland Burial Ground, a main access path meanders up the hill to a bench at the top, passing between alternating areas of planted trees and glades.

## A haven for nature

The higher plots enjoy panoramic views across the Chiltern Hills. The view extends for many miles – on a clear day, it is breath-taking. Bird boxes and bat boxes are hidden among the trees; footpaths weave through the woodland. The grass in the Woodland Burial Ground is

cut less frequently than in the formal areas to provide areas of meadow and some interesting wild flowers. Butterflies and other insects are in abundance which in turn attract a range of small mammals and birds, including the impressive red kite.



In the chalk grassland next to Chesham Bois Burial Ground are beehives, managed by a local beekeepers' association, which add to the diversity of the local flora and fauna.



Burial plots are available next to the young trees. Our Sexton will be pleased to help you choose a plot within your preferred area, either by visiting the site or discussing it over the phone.

# Special ways to remember your loved one

## Chapel

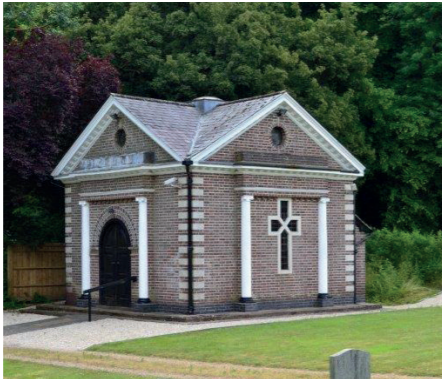
Our chapel provides a welcome place for friends and family to gather for a memorial service of any denomination or none. It has a calm and peaceful ambience, a wooden lectern and seating for up to 50 people. An individual eco toilet block is available in an adjacent screened area.

## Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance is at the bottom of the Original Formal Burial Ground opposite the Chapel and is a place to sit and contemplate. It is also home to memorial plaques on the wall of remembrance which can be provided as an alternative way to remember your loved one.

## Benches

Memorial benches, with or without an inscription, can be donated to Chesham Bois Burial Ground in memory of loved ones.



## Wildlife boxes

A wildlife box for birds or bats can be sponsored in a loved one's memory. We can also offer sponsorship of insect boxes.

# Acclaimed personal service

We are proud of the consistently positive feedback we receive for our friendly and welcoming staff. They provide great advice and support, and are known to be efficient and pleasant to deal with. Families tell us they like the personal, local and friendly feel of Chesham Bois Burial Ground.

As the Burial Ground is owned and managed by Chesham Bois Parish Council it means that all monies are reinvested back into the parish for the benefit of its parishioners and its visitors. We are motivated by the desire to deliver what's right for you and this, coupled with the variety of choice that we offer, makes us distinct from commercial companies.

*“Thank you for making my mother's burial an intimate and beautiful send off. We couldn't have done it without your help. We were all delighted with the plot and the assistance each of you gave”.*

**Ms A, London**



# Frequently asked questions

## General

### How do we arrange a funeral at Chesham Bois Burial Ground?

We will work closely with your Funeral Director. We welcome visits to the Burial Ground where our Sexton can guide you around the various different burial areas and facilities if you wish and let the you know what to expect on the day of the funeral. If you select a plot, our Sexton will confirm these details in writing with your Funeral Director, along with a confirmed date and time.

### How much choice can you offer us?

We are flexible in the types of burial we can offer and the location of the plots, so that you can choose what is right for you and your loved one. We offer both full burial and ashes plots, which you can choose within our Formal or Woodland burial areas.

### Can I purchase a burial plot in advance?

Yes, all burial plots can be pre-purchased. Our Sexton welcomes and supports visits from people who would like to plan ahead and reserve a burial plot for themselves or their loved ones. However, any fees with regard to interment and memorials cannot be pre-paid.

### Do I have to be a Chesham Bois Resident?

No. We welcome and encourage you to choose Chesham Bois Burial Ground whether or not you live locally. Whilst we offer reduced rates for those who live within the Parish of Chesham Bois, we believe that we offer competitive rates for all. Our Sexton, or your Funeral Director, can take you through the particular costs of the options that you choose. Further information is available on our website.

### What payment options are there?

Full payment for plots and interments must be received prior to burial taking place. If you are paying us directly, you can pay by cheque or a bank transfer. Your Funeral Director may also offer other payment methods and plans.

### How long is the plot lease period?

Chesham Bois Burial Ground plots are purchased for a period of 99 years. The Exclusive Rights of Burial is a deed of grant issued to the purchaser of the plot. This deed entitles the holder to determine who is buried in the plot and apply for a Memorial Permit. If the ownership of a deed has changed, proof will need to be provided to the Council before any interment can take place.

### What happens at the end of the plot lease period of 99 years?

At the end of the 99-year period of the Exclusive Rights of Burial, the owners shall have the choice of renewing that right subject to the rules and regulations in force at that time.

### What sort of service can we have?

The Burial Ground is not attached to any particular church or religion. If you want a service, our chapel has seating for up to 50 people. The chapel is available for hire to support burials of any denomination, any faith or none. We have both consecrated and un-consecrated areas which means we can cater for a religious or secular burial.

### Do you stipulate what style of coffin I can choose?

We encourage your personal choice of coffin. As well as traditional wooden coffins, other materials such as cardboard or willow are acceptable throughout the Burial Ground. In line with our natural burial philosophy, only eco-friendly materials are permitted for interments in the Woodland Burial Ground. Your Funeral Director can provide more advice.

### When can we visit the burial ground?

We welcome relatives and visitors during daylight hours, when the pedestrian gates are open. A small parking area is available just outside the Burial Ground gates.

The main vehicle gates are normally kept locked, except on Sunday afternoons and during funeral services when cars are permitted into the inner parking area. Please contact the Sexton to arrange vehicle access to the top of the Burial Ground.

Visitors are responsible for their own safety in the Burial Ground. Dogs are welcome and should be kept on a lead at all times, both in the Formal and Woodland burial areas.

## Formal Burials

### Can people be buried together?

Full burial plots can accommodate 2 formal burials and 3 caskets of ashes. It is also possible to reserve family plots which are double width as well as double depth, and could include up to 6 caskets. We also offer smaller plots for ashes interment.

### Can I choose the exact place for a formal burial?

Yes, with a few limitations. Unlike other places where you have to take the next plot in the row, at Chesham Bois Burial Ground you can pick the place that's right for you.

### Can I plant anything on a formal grave?

Planting on graves is allowed if it is appropriate and in keeping with the area. However be aware that plants with the potential to grow into large shrubs will be removed by the Council as these can affect the foundations of memorials nearby. No trees are permitted.

### Are there rules about the style of memorial I can have on the grave?

Memorials can only be erected in the formal burial areas. We understand the need to have a lasting and personal memorial to your loved one and we offer flexibility about the style, inscription and material used. They can be installed after obtaining permission from the Council in line with the requirements set out on our website. They should be maintained to a safe standard and are the sole responsibility of the registered owner of the burial plot, who should be in possession of a valid Memorial Permit from the Council which is renewable on a 5-year basis.

## Woodland Burials

### Can I choose the exact place for a woodland burial?

Until the newly planted trees mature, woodland burial plots are currently only offered in the planted areas. The Sexton will be pleased to help you choose a plot.

### What size are the woodland burial plots?

Burial plots in the Woodland Burial Ground are single depth and can accommodate an additional 3 ashes caskets. Half plots are also available for ashes caskets.

### How are woodland burial graves marked?

To retain the natural setting of Chesham Bois Burial Ground, woodland burial graves are unmarked resting places. We place a numbered metal disc with the coffin or casket and carefully record the position using GPS mapping to ensure that there is a permanent record of each person who is buried with us and their location.

We recognise that sometimes families wish to mark the burial plot in a manner which is in keeping with the woodland burial ethos. We allow native plants that keep the area as natural as possible. We ask that families abide by the guidelines set out on our website.

### Can I have a memorial for a woodland burial grave?

A wildlife box for birds, bats or insects, can be sponsored in a loved one's memory, and we also accept the donation of memorial benches. A memorial plaque may be fixed to the wall of the Garden of Remembrance.

### How will Chesham Bois Burial Ground take care of the woodland?

Chesham Bois Burial Ground is a special place. To retain its unique charm and character, we have a grounds maintenance team who tend the woodland burial ground all year round.

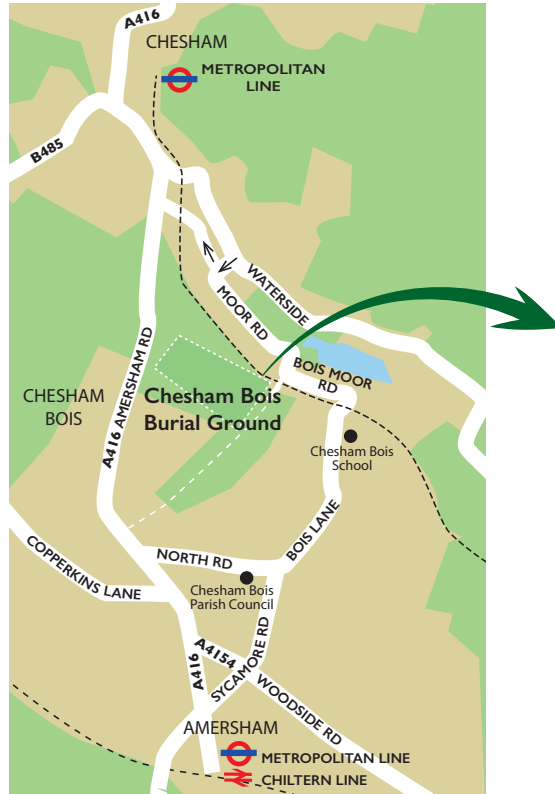
## OPENING HOURS

We welcome visitors and relatives during daylight hours. Dogs are welcome and should be kept on a lead at all times.

## HOW TO FIND US

**By car:** Chesham Bois Burial Ground is situated just off Bois Moor Road (Sat Nav HP5 1SU), on a short single-track access road which passes under a railway arch. If approaching from the centre of Chesham Bois village along Bois Lane, the entrance to the Burial Ground is on the left, 400m after the traffic lights by Chesham Bois school. There is a small amount of parking just outside the Burial Ground gates. On Sunday afternoons and during funeral services, additional parking is available inside the Burial Ground.

**By public transport:** Nearest stations are in Amersham (Chiltern and Metropolitan Lines) and Chesham (Metropolitan Line); both have taxi ranks. The 71/73 bus service (Red Rose Travel) serves Bois Moor Road and runs between Little Chalfont and Whelpley Hill via Amersham and Chesham.



### Chesham Bois Burial Ground

Bois Moor Road, Chesham HP5 1SU

Phone: 01494 432585

[www.cheshamboispc.org.uk/services/burial-grounds/](http://www.cheshamboispc.org.uk/services/burial-grounds/)

email: [clerk@cheshamboispc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@cheshamboispc.org.uk)

### Chesham Bois Parish Council

Glebe Way, Chesham Bois HP6 5ND



As a member of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds (ANBG), we hold independent accreditation from this nationally recognised charity for our Woodland Burial Ground as an upholder of the best practice in natural burial provision through compliance with the ANBG Code of Conduct.