South Essex Crematorium supporting St Francis Hospice

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Barbara Matthews presented a cheque for £4487 to Anne Brown who gratefully received the donation on behalf of St Francis Hospice.

South Essex Crematorium is a member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) and joined their metal recycling scheme last year.

Environmental issues are becoming increasingly important to all of us and as a member of the Charter for the Bereaved, South Essex Crematorium is committed to minimising the impact of cremation on the environment.

When families apply for the cremation of a loved one they are always given the opportunity to have any metals remaining returned to them. Soft metals such as gold and silver melt during the cremation process and are not recoverable.

At some time in our lives many of us may benefit from an operation to replace a joint or have a metal insert to assist the repair of a bone. Eventually if we chose to be cremated these metal implants will remain in the ashes following cremation. You may wonder, what happens to them? Whilst all of an individual's remains are recovered and are held safely, any metals have been traditionally removed from the ashes and stored until there is a sufficient quantity to be buried in the grounds.

This has become less acceptable on environmental grounds and metals used for implants are special medical grade stainless steel, titanium and cobalt chrome, all produced from non-renewable resources.

With the permission of next of kin, a specialist company, now carry out periodic collections. Metals are taken for separation, sorting and smelting in Sheffield and amongst other uses, are used to manufacture new orthopaedic implants.

All the money received from the scheme will be donated to a bereavement charity chosen by the staff at the South Essex Crematorium. The Deputy Mayor of Havering, Cllr. Barbara Matthews said:

“By joining this dedicated scheme, families and the crematorium are able to make a difference to the local environment and to preserve important resources while at the same time making a valuable contribution to the care of the bereaved locally”.

Earlier this year staff from Havering Registration and Bereavement Service took part in the Mud N Madness event at Stubbers Adventure Centre to raise money for St Francis Hospice. By completing the challenging 8km course which included Tunnels of Terror and Mud Alley, the team raised more than £1400. Ashley Smith, Cemeteries Coordinator said:

“As a team we take pride not only in caring for the grounds but also for our families and we know first-hand how important St Francis is to the local community.”