

# Local institution is given a major makeover

**AN important part of Paisley's heritage has been tastefully restored and is set to celebrate its 85th anniversary on October 15.**

With the funeral industry rapidly evolving post Covid pandemic, part of Paisley's heritage at Paisley Woodside cemetery and crematorium has seen an impressive makeover of both the site, chapel, and general facilities.

Memoria, who own several memorial parks across the country, have taken this famous old site under their wing and undertaken a large-scale internal makeover. The work has left the baroque elegance exterior whilst improving the interior and adding modern options, to ensure that this 85-year-old facility continues to be a preferred destination when saying goodbye to loved ones.

The need for a modern, large cemetery in Paisley was first mooted in 1845 and, following several meetings and consulta-

tions, Stewart Murray, curator of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, was appointed to oversee the project. Situated on a low-hilltop position between Woodside House and Ferguslie House, the "garden cemetery" extended to just over 20 acres.

Murray's design was inspired by the earlier garden cemetery at the Glasgow Necropolis of 1832, which took its inspiration from Père Lachaise, the hilltop garden cemetery in Paris.

By 1938, cremation was becoming much more common and the creation and addition of a new crematorium designed by the renowned Paisley architect James Steel Maitland was opened on October 28.

The very first cremation was the late George Jephson and took place on November 9, 1938. The total cost of the Memoria Paisley Woodside development was £9603 16s and 4d.

By 1996, all 20 acres of the memorial park were already utilised and the site was now seeing over 1700 burials and cremation



Paisley Woodside Cemetery and Crematorium has had an impressive renovation, completed earlier this month

services annually. In 2019, local funeral directors Fosters took over the site and, by 2023, what is now known as Memoria Paisley Woodside Memorial Park & Crematorium was the go-to facility in the Paisley area.

The makeover was completed on September 4, 2023, and on October 15 it will hold its 85th anniversary event, where local people

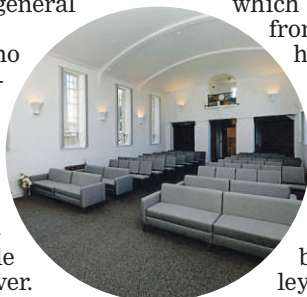
are invited along to see the improvements for themselves.

Alexander Stoddart, who is the King's Sculptor in Ordinary in Scotland, will provide tours of the cemetery and share his engaging stories and vast knowledge of the cemetery.

There will also be an exhibition of the site's history and an afternoon tea for everyone attending.

In December, Memoria Paisley Woodside are holding a service of remembrance. The names of lost loved ones will be displayed on the newly installed plasma screens whilst candles are lit in loving memory.

For full details, go to [www.paisley Memorial.co.uk](http://www.paisley Memorial.co.uk), email [Memoria@paisleywoodside.co.uk](mailto:Memoria@paisleywoodside.co.uk) or call the site on 0141 889 2260.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING

MEMORIA



Memoria Paisley Woodside Memorial Park and Crematorium has recently seen an impressive makeover of both the site, chapel, and general facilities.

Located in the west end of Paisley, the Memorial Park and Crematorium offers a unique atmosphere and is steeped in local and national history.

- Chapel capacity – 95 seats
- Dedicated clergy facilities
- Traditional burial
- Memorial gardens for cremated remains
- Parking for 60 vehicles with overflow capacity for a further 40
- Disabled access and hearing loop
- Choice of advanced music system or live organ
- Web camera with live streaming capabilities for those friends and family unable to attend
- Large screen televisions for photo dedication/eulogy

MEMORIA PAISLEY WOODSIDE MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORIUM

46 Broomlands Street, Paisley PA1 2NP T. 0141 889 2260 E. [memoria@paisleywoodside.co.uk](mailto:memoria@paisleywoodside.co.uk) [www.memoriapaisleywoodside.co.uk](http://www.memoriapaisleywoodside.co.uk)