



# ARNOS VALE

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust and Friends of Arnos Vale  
End of Year Newsletter - 2017

0117 971 9117

[www.arnosvale.org.uk](http://www.arnosvale.org.uk)



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[INFO@ARNOSVALE.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@ARNOSVALE.ORG.UK)

WINTER EDITION

## New Natural Burial Woodland for Bristol

Earlier in the year, landscape works were carried out at Arnos Vale by volunteers and local contractors, including the laying of a 150 metre path. This has opened up previously unmanaged woodland, creating burial space for up to 400 new Natural Burial plots, nestled under the canopy of the trees.



“An ethos to make burial environmentally friendly.”

The Arnos Vale Natural Burial Woodland is now part of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds (ANBG) adhering to the code of conduct to promote Natural Burial best practice, a growing social movement in end of life planning. Key to this is an ethos to make burial as environmentally friendly as possible, with no memorials placed in the woods to mark burials and all coffins or shrouds to be made of sustainable biodegradable materials such as bamboo.

Burials start from £1695 with high pre-sale demand expected due to the eco-friendly appeal of the site.

### News From the Estates

A warm wet Summer has kept the landscape team and volunteers busy with rapid growth around the cemetery.

New Estates Supervisor Liam has joined us bringing additional conservation management knowledge out on site.

The Estates Team also welcomed a new Caretaker, Steve to look after our listed buildings.

Alongside regular clearance, Estates Volunteers have also been helping with project work including the Cloisters restoration and Natural Burial Woodland completion. If you are interested in volunteering please contact:

[volunteer@arnosvale.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@arnosvale.org.uk)

## Welcome

It has been another incredible year for everyone involved at Arnos Vale Cemetery.

Once again we have received acclaim, this time in the Bristol life Tourism Business of the Year category, welcoming more visitors than ever before to the cemetery.

The completion of the Natural Burial Woodland means Arnos Vale is now a member of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds (ANBG).

A number of restoration works have been completed on site including drainage work on the War Graves Memorial, the gates being returned to the front entrance and the Cloisters restoration work funded by the Friends of Arnos Vale Cemetery.

The Engagement and Enterprise teams have put on a diverse schedule of events including tours, theatre and talks alongside a host of private meetings and events held in the venues.

I look forward to an even more successful 2018.



Mike Coe - Chief Executive

## New Woodland walk for 2018

Thanks to donations from the Co-op and Tesco, the Estates Team and volunteers will be hard at work over the winter preparing paths at the top of the cemetery for the launch of our new woodland walk which will open in Spring 2018.

The woodland walk will join on from the current visitor trail to link the top and bottom plateaux at Arnos Vale helping visitors to discover even more of the site.

“A journey of discovery”

—Mike Coe

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The new route will lead walkers past Sunshine Corner, the new Natural Burial Woodland and our World War 2 graves at Soldiers Corner before heading back down to Ceremonial Way passing some of the most fascinating columns and headstones at Arnos Vale.

CEO Mike Coe said, “For a number of years we have wanted to link the two levels at Arnos Vale together more and the new Woodland Walk will allow visitors to take an even more fascinating Journey of Discovery around Arnos Vale, maintaining our commitment to being a quality assured attraction.”



# Life, Death (and the Rest)

We are pleased to announce that our flagship event has been awarded funding from the Arts Council which allows for a much bigger production to take place in 2018, from Thursday, 22nd to Sunday, 25th of February.

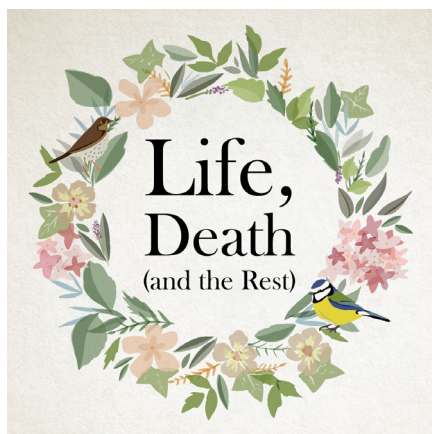
Life, Death (and the Rest) is our annual 4 day event of talks, tours, theatre and film that supports a growing social movement talking about death, and how we remember our loved ones.

Audiences will be invited to join in with one of our fascinating tours such as Morbid Curiosity, or learn about Memorial Tattoos with Dr John Troyer.

“We had to bring the event back for 2018.”

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Other events include Carla Valentine talking about her book, Past Mortems and The Death Show in the Anglican Chapel which encourages the audience to celebrate mortality.



Arnos Vale continues to develop a national standing as a centre where life and death are brought together in one space and in 2017, Arnos Vale's efforts were recognised nationally when we were listed as a finalist in the Good Funeral Awards 2017 for Best Event and the new funding will help to strengthen the quality of the showcase.



Event Coordinator, Adela Straughan said, “We were unsure about how Life, Death (and the Rest) would go last year but it was such a popular event that we had to bring it back next year and the amazing support from The Arts Council means we can further expand the festival.”

Tickets for the event performances are already on sale with more acts to be added to the line up over the coming weeks.

## Visitor Centre Improvements

During January, Arnos Vale will be refurbishing the East Lodge Gift Shop to create a new Visitor Centre for the cemetery.

The Visitor Centre works will see the internal wall opened up to produce a more appealing welcoming space for cemetery visitors alongside a larger area to stock a wide range of crafts and products relating to Arnos Vale and local history

Arnos Vale CEO, Mike Coe said, “The reception and shop have always been a difficult space to manage. By opening them out we hope to create a much better space for both visitors to be welcomed to Arnos Vale and volunteers who work in them.”

During January the gift shop will be closed but wood will still be available to purchase from the West Lodge and trail maps and guide books located in the cafe.



The view from Kate's Kitchen  
Credit - Bryn Dolman

## Kate's Kitchen

**Kate's Kitchen at Arnos Vale are celebrating their first year with us here on site.**

Taking over from Whisk! who launched the original cafe, Kate's Kitchen at Arnos Vale was new venture for popular Bristol caterer Kate's Kitchen, set up by founder and Chef Kate Ploughman in 2007.

The new cafe serves a re-invented menu with a seasonal twist including gourmet sandwiches and baguettes, warm dishes and homemade cakes. There is also a new 'grab and go' selection, serving the local offices around Arnos Vale with fresh and exciting lunches to take away.

Alongside the cafe, Kate's Kitchen has been running the event catering at Arnos Vale, servicing the growing number of meetings and events which take place in the stunning Grade II listed venues. The menu is constantly changing so why not try one of the many choices on offer.

### EDUCATION

## Education @ Arnos Vale

Students of all ages have been enjoying trips to Arnos Vale this year as our education programme goes from strength to strength. From History to Biodiversity, Arnos Vale is magical outdoor classroom and our Forest School sessions are becoming more popular.

"An outdoor classroom"  
—Janine Marriott

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For adults we have added even more talks and tours which take place around the cemetery from February 2018 including our new Murder, Mystery and Mayhem tour. Alternatively if you want to book a private group tour there are a number to choose from with one of our fantastic guides.

To learn more about our education offer, visit our website or contact:

[learning@arnosvale.org.uk](mailto:learning@arnosvale.org.uk)

### NEW STAFF

## New Wedding Coordinator

In December our new Wedding Coordinator Buffy Jones joined us from the events team at Old Down Manor.

Over the last few year the weddings business has provided an income for Arnos Vale to help sustain our charitable objectives.

With two Grade II listed chapels and Bristol's only licensed woodland setting, weddings at Arnos Vale continue to grow in popularity.

Buffy said "I'm so proud to be working at this magical space with all its history and sense of community. As a local resident with a passion for the area I look forward to welcoming couples to Arnos Vale to create magical memories."

If you want to look around the wedding venues, contact:

[bethany.jones@arnosvale.org.uk](mailto:bethany.jones@arnosvale.org.uk)



Buffy Jones

## Events

**Arnos Vale has grown its reputation as a space for events with more activities on site then ever before including productions such as 'The Turn of The Screw' and comedy and speaker events like 'Past Mortems' and 'Outside the Box'.**

**Arnos Vale has also grown as a venue to host private events through the year hosting numerous birthday and anniversary celebrations.**

**During Halloween we held our popular Business Networking Event and throughout 2017 were host to corporate meetings, conferences and speaker lectures with companies enjoying our award winning venues and catering .**

**If you are interested in seeing the venues at Arnos Vale or want to book a meeting or event simply contact Adela at:**

[adela.straughan@arnosvale.org.uk](mailto:adela.straughan@arnosvale.org.uk)



FRIENDS OF  
ARNOS VALE  
CEMETERY

## Friends 30th Anniversary Project

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the foundation of The Association for the Preservation of Arnos Vale Cemetery, which changed its name to the Friends of Arnos Vale Cemetery in 1998.

The current Friends Working Group felt we should mark this milestone with a significant project in the cemetery, funded from a legacy we received earlier in the year.

We proposed that The Cloisters be renovated and were delighted that the Trust approved this work.

The roof was leaking and the paint had long seen better days. Phase One of the project, which has been fully funded by the Friends, with many hours of Volunteer support, was completed at the end of September and a plaque to mark the project was unveiled on the 1st October 2017.



Cloisters

In addition to the work on the building, we now have an index of those commemorated in the Cloisters together with photographs of each of the 1370 plaques, again thanks to the work of volunteers. No such index had previously been found in the Trust records.

Our grateful thanks go to all volunteers, staff and contractors who have worked on this project and to a local firm, CRBS Scaffolding for their donation of the site scaffolding

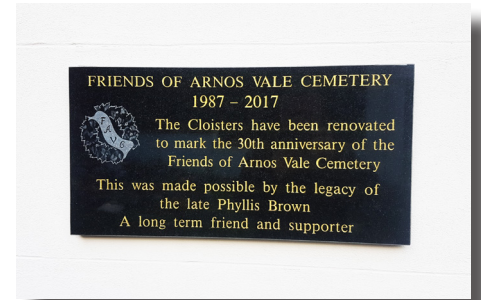
Sue Puddy - Chair of the Friends

## Friends Update

The ongoing financial support from our members continues to help us to support the Trust.

As this newsletter goes to press in December it is a busy time of the year for fundraising, running bars at events in the cemetery as well as selling Christmas cards, handmade chocolates and a selection of items made by the knitting group.

The cards and chocolates are also available in the gift shop in the cemetery along with our new decorative carry bags.



## Support Us

To continue to support us, membership forms are available at reception in the Cemetery or forms can be downloaded from the website under The Friends section in the 'Support Us' page or you can contact:

[friends@arnosvale.org.uk](mailto:friends@arnosvale.org.uk)



If you would be interested in helping us at events or joining the Working Group please get in touch – you can leave a note at reception or again email us at :

[friends@arnosvale.org.uk](mailto:friends@arnosvale.org.uk)

## Cemetery Services

Arnos Vale is a serene final resting place, a beautiful natural landscape, and a welcoming location that encourages visitors to celebrate life and remember those who've passed.

### Burials

Arnos Vale is one of a few cemeteries in Bristol that allows pre-purchase of plots as well as immediate burials.

Grave plots are available in many areas of the cemetery and, of course a new Natural Burial Woodland is now available for burial for those wanting Natural Burial.

### Memorial Services

Arnos Vale's Grade II listed Anglican Chapel, with its

simple, classic interior is a beautiful setting to hold a funeral or remembrance service. The buildings may be hired for as long as you need and we can help to arrange music and catering on your behalf.

### Burial of Ashes

A new cremation plot to bury a casket of ashes can be purchased at Arnos Vale and plots can hold two caskets so that a second person's remains can be added when the time comes. If you have an existing family grave within the cemetery you may arrange for burial within the existing plot.

Alternatively ashes can be scattered in one of our beautiful Gardens of Rest.

We understand it is often easier to talk in person so our Cemetery Services Co-ordinator Vanessa Spencer is always on hand to talk through your requirements and answer any questions – please do not hesitate to call: **0117 971 9117**



Ceremonial Way