



ARNOS VALE



Leaving a **loving gift** to future generations

A guide to making or updating your Will

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust

Giving loving care and protection

For more than 20 years, Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust has been working to safeguard and enhance Arnos Vale Cemetery. We're committed to protecting our 45-acres well into the future for next generations to visit, value and enjoy.



A place of rest

More than 300,000 people are buried and remembered here, from much loved members of local families, to those who gave their lives in wartime, and people from across the world.

A place of heritage

Arnos Vale Cemetery is one of the earliest and best examples of a Victorian garden cemetery. The site, its buildings and graves are of national significance.

A place for wildlife

The mosaic of well managed habitats provide refuge to a vast array of wildlife. Arnos Vale shows how, even in the most urban environment, nature can thrive and enrich the lives of those around it.

A place for wellbeing

Stretching over 45 acres, Arnos Vale is a haven of peace and quiet in Bristol; perfect to listen to birdsong, walk with a friend, or read a book on a bench.

A place for community

We're a welcoming community hub, offering volunteering opportunities, outdoor educational events for children and tours for visitors. Local couples get married here, creating lifelong cherished memories.



A place of charity

We work hard to balance our need for voluntary income from donations and grants with innovative, commercial activity from events, weddings and venue-hire. All with the aim of preserving Arnos Vale as a place of remembrance, recreation, wildlife, and learning.

What Arnos Vale Cemetery means to you



"We always head to Arnos Vale Cemetery when we can, for the peace and tranquillity, the history, the wildlife, for remembering loved ones we have lost."

Hennessy Family



"Arnos Vale is such a boon to the people and wildlife of Bristol. It is a precious patch of peacefulness and wilderness in the city and should be treasured by everyone."

Deborah Harvey



"Arnos Vale has been such a place of solace and peace for me when times have been tough."

Kerry Wheeler



"Arnos Vale is a beautiful place carefully curated by nature and nurture. I love coming here, the trees and the birds are just magical."

Rae McClelland

"My family owned Thomas Davis Funeral Directors from the mid-1800s to late 1980s. Both my great-grandfather and grandfather, who would have overseen many of the funeral services at Arnos Vale, are buried here. This is a significant place in local history, as well as in my own family history, and is deserving of ongoing protection and preservation."

Paul Davis



Leaving your loving gift

A gift in your Will can achieve so much, ensuring your values live on and inspiring your family and friends. A gift to Arnos Vale will leave a legacy of loving care and protection.

Your greatest gift

We all have financial commitments, which means we can't always do as much as we'd like to help others. A gift left in your Will is an opportunity to give more than you might ever have been able to give in your lifetime. It provides protection for our place of remembrance, heritage, and nature, long into the future.

How you're remembered

Your Will tells the people you leave behind about the person you are. It's about the people you love and the things you care about. Your Will helps pass on your principles and the values that matter to you.

Your legacy, with love

A gift to Arnos Vale is a gift that will bring comfort for someone when times are hard, conservation for our green oasis in the middle of the city and secure our future for the next generation.

How to make your gift

If you'd like to include Arnos Vale in your Will, you can use the details below. Please ask your solicitor to use our **full name** and **details** to ensure the gift reaches us. These are:

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust, a charity registered in England and Wales no. 1120210.

Registered office:

West Lodge, Arnos Vale Cemetery,
Bath Road, BS4 3EW.

Telling us about your gift

Your Will is personal and it's entirely up to you if you wish to share this information. But if you do choose to tell us, we'd love to be able to thank you properly and let you know how your gift can help.



Your questions answered

Making a Will is important because it gives you the peace of mind of knowing that your wishes will be respected. It needn't be time-consuming or expensive.

Q. **I want my family and friends to be taken care of. Can I still give to Arnos Vale?**

A. Many people will want to look after their loved ones first in their Will. After they are provided for, even 1% of your estate left for Arnos Vale can help ensure our work continues.

Q. **Do I need to use a solicitor to write or amend my Will?**

A. We recommend you consult a solicitor or expert legal advisor to ensure your Will is legal and valid.

Q. **Are there different types of gifts I can leave in my Will?**

A. There are two main ways people choose to support Arnos Vale. A **pecuniary legacy** is a fixed amount of money. And a **residuary legacy** is a percentage or share of the balance of your estate once all other payments and gifts have been made.

Many people prefer to give a residuary gift because it keeps in line with inflation and does not lose value over time.



Q. **Are there any tax benefits if I leave a charitable gift in my Will?**

A. Most gifts left for Arnos Vale are exempt from Inheritance Tax because we are a charity. You can find out more by visiting HMRC at gov.uk/inheritance-tax/overview or asking a solicitor.

Q. **What if I have any questions?**

A. If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you. We aren't solicitors but we have a wealth of experience and can help you with any questions or concerns.

Please call 0117 971 9117 or email legacy@arnosvale.org.uk

Wording for your Will



If you would like to leave a gift to Arnos Vale, you might want to include the wording below in your Will. Many people choose to leave a residuary gift: a percentage of what is left of their estate once they have provided for their loved ones.

To leave a share of your estate

I give to Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust of West Lodge, Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bath Road, BS4 3EW, registered charity number 1120210, **[all/___% of the residue]** of my estate absolutely for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Chief Executive Officer or other proper officer at Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to my executor(s).

To leave a cash gift

I give to Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust of West Lodge, Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bath Road, BS4 3EW, registered charity number 1120210, the sum of £**[insert in words and figures]** free of tax for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Chief Executive Officer or other proper officer at Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge to my executor(s).

Your gift can help ensure that people continue to find comfort in our peaceful green space, enjoy our nature and wildlife and learn about our historical buildings, monuments and the people that are remembered here.

Our story

1837

The beginnings

An Act of Parliament in 1837 authorised the Bristol General Cemetery Company to build a cemetery at Arnos Vale. It was designed by Bristol Architect Charles Underwood in classical Greek style, and was one of the earliest, and best, Victorian garden cemeteries.



1839

Here for people

The Cemetery opened and Mary Breillat, wife of John Breillat, founder of the Bristol Gas Lighting Company, was the first person to be buried. Later, people started visiting in large numbers to see the graves of loved ones or simply for a stroll.



1920s-40s

Great War Memorial and Soldiers' Corner

Men and women who gave their lives in the First World War and Second World War are remembered here. Arnos Vale is the last resting place of service personnel from all over the world, including Australians who fell in the Gallipoli campaign, Canadians, Indians, and white and black South Africans.



1980s-90s

The campaign to save Arnos Vale

With little space left for burials and income dwindling to a trickle, the Cemetery was sold to a private owner. It fell into a critical condition. In 1998, the owner tried to close the Cemetery and lock the gates. Plans for commercial development were revealed. Concerned locals and people with relatives buried at Arnos Vale came together as the Friends of Arnos Vale to save the Cemetery.



2001

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust

Persuaded by overwhelming public opinion, the Cemetery was acquired by Bristol City Council who passed it over to the Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust, a charity set up specifically to manage the Cemetery. It is now safe from any threat of commercial development. The Trust was successful in raising money for the full restoration of the cemetery buildings and grounds.



Beyond 2010

The Cemetery transformed

A celebration event was held with many of the original campaigners. Among the new visitor attractions is a new gift shop and exhibitions. People are welcome for walks, to tend the community garden, join a tour, volunteer in the gift shop and on the grounds, and take part in workshops and wellbeing classes.

A photograph of a forest path. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The path is covered in fallen leaves and small plants. Tall, slender trees line the path, their trunks and branches visible against the bright light. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

The Future, with your support

A gift left for Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust can ensure we are always on hand to provide loving care and protection for this special place, full of beauty, tranquillity and history, and deeply loved by so many people.



Thank you

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust

Providing loving care and protection
for Arnos Vale Cemetery.

Call: 0117 971 9117

Email: legacy@arnosvale.org.uk

Visit: arnosvale.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1120210



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