

## Your Funeral, Your Way

Nobody wants to think about the end of their life, it is simply not in our nature. Likewise, funeral planning tends to be left for another day. All too often, the burden of responsibility falls on the shoulders of those left behind. Wouldn't it be better to plan your own funeral, ensuring that it is exactly the way you would want it to be?

When it comes to funerals, there are many different options available. The main considerations are whether you would rather be buried or cremated. This is a very personal decision which sometimes comes down to family tradition or religion but often is simply a preference one way or the other.

How the day will be funded should be taken into consideration as well. Money can be set aside specifically for this cause or a funeral plan could be set up.

Listed below are some of the areas to consider when thinking of your funeral options:

**Burial** - Traditionally a burial will take place in a graveyard or cemetery in either a new or family plot. What type of headstone would you choose? Is there room on an existing head stone or is an entirely new headstone required? It is also possible to be buried in designated woodlands or at sea.

**Cremation** - If this is your chosen option you might want to think about where you would like your ceremony to be held - at the crematorium or perhaps in a church with a simple committal held at the crematorium. Do you have a preference for what happens to your ashes? It is possible for them to be scattered, buried, stored in an urn or even made into jewelry.

**Eco** - More people are now opting for environmentally sustainable funeral arrangements in a natural setting. Woodland burial sites are popular or some families choose to scatter ashes in a favourite spot and plant a memorial tree. Biodegradable coffins are available in bamboo, banana leaf or cardboard options.

**Religious or non-religious** - Again this is a personal preference and most people will immediately know which path is for them. For non-religious ceremonies, a humanist celebrant is often used.

**Eulogy** - Who would you like to give your eulogy? Do you have any poems or readings which are special to you? Is there anything in particular you would like to be mentioned?

**Music** - Whether or not the funeral takes place in a church, music is traditionally a key part of the day. What music would you like to be played, favourite hymns sung? Is there a song or instrumental people would naturally identify with you or that holds a special place in your heart?

**Flowers** - Would you want flowers to be offered or instead a donation made to your chosen charity? Do you have a favourite flower you would want to be used on the day?

Invitees - Who should your family notify? Would you want an obituary posted in any particular paper?

**Wake** - Where would you want the wake to be held? Do you have a particular menu in mind or perhaps a bottle of your favourite tipple could be set aside for a toast?

It is perhaps also worth listing anything - or anyone - you do not want to be part of your funeral!

With so many options available, wouldn't it be great to ensure everything is just as you wish it would be.

Biscuit Tin can ensure that any funeral wishes you store will be shared with your loved ones.

Biscuit Tin Planning Ltd