

## **Green Burials**

Neville Funeral Service has seen that interest in green burials has grown over the past few years, although currently these constitute only around three per cent of the funerals we arrange.

Families choose green burials for various reasons; some simply seek a more peaceful, tranquil setting and others have a desire to have as little impact on the environment as possible.

Our Bedford branch, which trades under the name of Arnolds, has arranged the majority of our green funerals and our funeral service at Woburn Sands arranged their first green burial last summer. The funeral had been pre-arranged, with a willow coffin ordered and plot reserved prior to death. The service took place in a marquee at the Olney Green Burial Ground.

There are two local green burial grounds where glades have been developed in the young woodland. A growing number of local council-operated cemeteries also provide green burial areas.

Families can choose to hold a service in a church or other place of worship prior to the interment, others may prefer to hold a graveside service, but many people regardless of their faith will choose this type of burial based on their environmental beliefs.

Cremated remains can be interred in green burial sites providing that the casket chosen is in keeping with green principles or as long as they are loosely dispersed into the ground. For families wanting an eco-friendly coffin we have a variety of natural bio-degradable versions to choose from such as willow, banana leaf, water hyacinth and various solid softwood coffins. Depending upon the site chosen, memorial options may include the planting of a shrub or rose bush, a small tree or a wooden plaque.

A green burial is just another variation of the many types of funeral we offer and our trained and qualified staff can guide families on how to make the funeral as individually personal as possible, and for those wishing to pre-plan their funeral a green burial is one of the many options they can choose.

