***Thank you for contacting North Wales Wildlife Trust about making your Will. The following information is intended to help you in making your Will, but is not designed to replace the advice of a solicitor. We hope you find it useful.***

**Why should I make as Will?**

A Will ensures that all your wishes will be respected and carried out correctly, when you will be unable to oversee your requests personally.

A Will means those you care about most will benefit most. It avoids someone you do not wish to, benefiting from your estate. It saves unhappiness and legal disputes.

It is particularly important to make a Will if you have children, to appoint a guardian and ensure your wishes for their welfare are met.

**How can I make a Will?**

The best way is to visit a solicitor. Think in advance about your wishes and make notes to take with you. Making a list of your “Bits and Pieces” may show you that you own more than you realise.

Your solicitor’s role is to express your wishes in a straightforward manner, so your intentions are clear. If you do not have a solicitor, ask a relative or friend to suggest one or simply look in the Yellow Pages.

**What information do I need?**

* Any previous Will (if you have one) and any documents you feel may be important.
* A list of particular items you have promised to friends or relations (do not forget their name and address – not just “Cousin Billy in Australia”).
* Everything that you owe, from mortgage to HP payments (do not forget company names and addresses).
* Everything owed to you.
* A list of items owned jointly.
* The correct name and address of persons or charities you wish to remember.
* A family tree of your nearest living relatives.

**Making sense of your Will**

Legal language is a puzzle to most of us but these explanations will save you time and money whilst with your solicitor:

* **Beneficiary:** Anyone who benefits in any way from your Will
* **Bequest:** Gift of items or cash
* **Codicil:** A separate legal document altering or adding to the original Will
* **Devize:** A gift of land
* **Estate:** Everything you own which may include you home at the time of your death
* **Executor:** A person you appoint to ensure that your wishes are carried out
* **Intestate:** Someone who dies without leaving a Will.
* **Probate:** A document which establishes officially that you left a valid Will and who your executors or administrators are.
* **Residue:** Everything left over after paying taxes, funeral and other bills and all legacies have been taken out.
* **Testator (male) / Testatrix (female):** The person who is making the Will

**How can I be sure my wishes are carried out?**

This is why you appoint Executors, usually two. It helps if one is the solicitor dealing with your Will. Your chief heir: husband, wife or eldest child, may be the other.

If you do not choose any Executor then the Court will decide for you and they will be unfamiliar with your wishes.

**How do I work out what to leave?**

Your solicitor will help you draw up the list of your possessions with their value. They will also tell you approximate costs involved in drawing up the Will, funeral costs, etc. and explain how to take all your expenses away from your assets.

If you have personal requests, either organ donation or type of funeral preferred, do ensure that close relatives know in advance. By the time your Will is read, it may be too late to carry out your wishes.

Make a list of specific bequests for specific people. Try not to forget anyone. Whatever is left after specific bequests are made is the residue of your estate. Many people now choose to leave the residue to their favourite Charity.

***We sincerely hope that any Will made in our favour will not be read for many years but you will have the satisfaction of knowing that a bequest to us will be used thoughtfully and with great care towards the conservation of our special habitats and wildlife in North Wales***.

**How can I help North Wales Wildlife Trust?**

If you are making a new Will you could use one of these paragraphs (your solicitor will advise you):

“I give to the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Llys Garth, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT, Registered Charity No. 230772, the sum of £ …………… and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being or other duly authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge of my Executor[s].”

“I give all [or a share of] the residue of my estate absolutely to the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Llys Garth, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT, Registered Charity No.230772, and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being or other duly authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor[s].”

“I give to the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Llys Garth, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT, Registered Charity No. 230772, my [description of land or goods] absolutely and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being or other duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executor[s].”

**I have already made my Will. How can I help North Wales Wildlife Trust?**

Your solicitor can easily add a Codicil to your existing Will, which updates it to reflect your most recent wishes. It could include these words (your solicitor will advise you):

“I give to the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Llys Garth, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT, Registered Charity No.230772, the sum of £ ………….. [or the specific items to be given] and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being or other authorised officer will be sufficient discharge to my Executor[s].”

“I give all [or a share of] the residue of my estate absolutely to the North Wales Wildlife Trust, Llys Garth, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT, Registered Charity No.230772 and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being or other duly authorised officer shall be sufficient discharge to my Executor[s].”

***Whether you decide to leave part of your estate to North Wales Wildlife Trust or not, please do decide to make a Will. We hope this guidance has been helpful and reassuring. If you have decided to help our work in this way, we thank you on behalf of those who will benefit many years from now.***