The Internet is the biggest and most ‘disruptive’ force since the industrial revolution. As a result, society is spending an ever increasing amount of time online. This has led to a range of benefits whilst changing the way in which society prepares for death, mourns and remembers the deceased into posterity.

The Digital Legacy Association is the professional body dedicated to raising the quality of end of life care in all areas relating to digital asset and digital legacy. Our mission is to help ensure that everyone’s end of life wishes are met both in the real world and the digital realm. We do this by supporting the general public and by developing standards, frameworks and toolkits with charities and third party organisations.

“Having my social media means my mum knows exactly what I want to happen to my account. She will also post blogs for me after I have died and upload the legacy video I have just made. Not only will she be left with the social media will, but I have created a document with instructions on how to manage my accounts, how to post blogs and how to share the legacy video, so that she can follow my wishes exactly”.

— Lucy Watts MBE

YOUR DIGITAL ESTATE CHECKLIST

Photos, videos and important documents are often stored on electronic devices (like mobile phones, tablets and computers). They can also be saved ‘in the cloud’ (on services such as Facebook, Twitter and within emails).

If you have a security password on a mobile phone or any other electronic device, you may want to think about how best to manage your passwords.

If you have a social media account (like Facebook) you may want to download your photos and videos from them and pass them onto your next of kin. You may also want to provide administrative access of your social media accounts to someone you trust.

If you have online subscriptions or online bank accounts you may want to make suitable plans for each.

If you have photos or videos stored on electronic devices or in the cloud you may want to make a folder of your favourite photos and share them with a friend or family member. Sharing can occur through various internet services or by using an external memory stick or a hard drive.

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