

# Giving a gift in your will



## Support Britain's heritage for generations to come

If you love Britain's magnificent historic houses and gardens, you can safeguard them for future generations by supporting the work of the Historic Houses Association (HHA).

Across the world Britain's heritage is recognised as unique. Our historic houses, castles and gardens are among

the most visited and best loved places in the country and they give pleasure to everyone, from students to specialists, day visitors to concert goers.

By leaving a gift in your will, you can support the HHA and your legacy, big or small, will help these houses live on in the future.



# Historic houses are important today

Historic houses and castles are also an important part of modern life. They support local jobs; conserve cultural treasures in their historic setting; tell stories of the families who have looked after them past and present; create inspiring places for learning; and bring people together to enjoy a shared history today.

Two-thirds of listed buildings are looked after by private individuals and families who play a crucial role in the care and conservation of Britain's cultural heritage.

However, maintaining these properties can be daunting – there is a backlog of £390million of urgent repair work needed in HHA houses, but less than 1% of the annual costs of repair can be met from public grants (HHA Survey of Members).

By leaving a gift in your will, the HHA can support owners in meeting these challenges and more, to help them ensure the longevity of these inspirational buildings.

This leaflet explains how.



Glynde Place

## What is the HHA?

The Historic Houses Association (HHA) is a not-for-profit organisation, bringing together Britain's privately and charitably owned historic houses, castles and gardens. The Association was established in 1973 to help owners conserve these wonderful places in line with the interests of the nation.

The HHA represents 1500 privately owned historic houses and gardens. Around 500 of these properties open to the public and welcome 13 million visitors a year. More than half of the HHA's member houses and gardens open for charities, special interest groups or local events, and many provide venues for weddings, conferences, festivals or concerts. One in five of all HHA properties offer educational visits, welcoming over 300,000 schoolchildren and older learners.

Members of the HHA range from iconic stately homes, such as Blenheim Palace, Longleat and Burghley House, to more intimate houses, such as Traquair House in Scotland, Treowen in Wales and Belle Isle in Northern Ireland. Most are still private family homes.

## How does the HHA help?

The HHA helps to secure the future of privately owned historic houses by:

- lobbying government to help support the long term sustainability of historic houses
- helping owners to broaden activities for people to enjoy and to develop educational programmes and resources
- providing members with specialist and technical advice such as improving access for those with disabilities
- advising historic houses on reducing their carbon footprint
- organising national training seminars
- bringing together owners, professional advisers and conservators to share knowledge and experience
- giving financial and administrative support to the Heritage Conservation Trust for art restoration grants, educational initiatives and conservation research



Kelmarsh Hall

## Why are we asking for support?

Legacies help enormously, by enabling the HHA to undertake work that would not be possible on our annual budget.

Additional funds help us to carry out research, for example into the application of renewable energy in historic houses, to raise our profile with politicians, to expand our specialist support for owners and to support our Learning Advisory team.

All donations, big or small, can make a significant difference and are gratefully received and acknowledged. We hugely appreciate your support and will continue to work to safeguard Britain's unique heritage for generations to come.

## How do I leave a gift in my will?

There are several different ways in which you can leave a gift. You should discuss which kind of gift is more appropriate with your solicitor or will writer.

It is helpful for us if gifts are made unconditionally as we can then use the money in the way it is most needed at the time. However, you can leave a legacy for a specific aspect of the HHA's work if you prefer.

You may also wish to arrange a 'gift in memory' as a special way to commemorate the life of a loved one that will provide a lasting legacy. Gifts in memory can be arranged through funeral directors.



## Find out more

If you would like to talk to somebody to find out more about how you can help please contact us:

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## Thank you for your support

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