

Gifts given in memory

Leaving legacy gifts in memory appeals to many people who are about to make their wills. Perhaps the memory is of a loved one who was an active member of the museum, enjoyed visiting, or perhaps the museum was championed by the donor themselves.

How to leave a gift to the Vale & Downland Museum in your Will

Did you know only 30% of people have made a will? Only around 5-7% of people leave a legacy gift to a charity and of these donations, only a very small proportion is given to arts/cultural/heritage charities.

We advise anyone making a will to take legal advice by talking to your solicitor or legal adviser. Making a will is one of the most positive things you can do, as it offers you peace of mind. There are three main types of legacy gifts you can leave and your legal adviser can help you make the decision that is right for you.



- A Residuary Gift – this sets aside a proportion of your remaining estate after family/friends' bequests, debts, inheritance tax (if due) has been paid.
- A Pecuniary Gift – this is a specific sum of money (although inflation will mean the value of this will reduce over time)
- A Specific Gift – this is a named item, usually a particular asset, eg shares, property, jewellery etc)

It is worth noting that if any inheritance tax is due, then this is reduced from 40% to 36% when gifts to charities are 10% or more of the estate. Gifts to registered charities are exempt from inheritance tax and are taken off the value of an estate before inheritance tax is calculated.

Organise a collection, or consider a donation in lieu of flowers for the V&DM, at your loved one's funeral or memorial service. By honouring your loved one in this way, you'll be helping us to continue our work in safeguarding our heritage and inspiring the next generation.



If you would like to know more about the Vale & Downland Museum, or have an informal chat with someone at the Museum about leaving a legacy gift, then please contact us:

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A LEGACY GUIDE

Help us to continue to preserve and protect the Vale and Downland's history and heritage and to inspire future generations.



A LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE VALE & DOWNLAND MUSEUM

Leaving a gift in your Will to The Vale & Downland Museum will play a vital role in sustaining the future of the museum and help maintain this much loved and cherished community asset by making us stronger and more resilient in the long term. We provide a community facility for the benefit of the people of Wantage and the Vale of The White Horse.



Community Impact

We are an important asset to the local and wider community, providing an active in-house engagement programme which is available for adults and families. As well as informative talks for adults, there is a programme of well-balanced activities both during term time and in the holidays.

We host a number of community initiatives, including as a meeting point for the weekly Walking for Health, and a regular book and writing group, toddler groups.

Our role in the community is to celebrate and interpret the human and natural history of the area for visitors, tourists and the local population.

Working with the next generation is essential in order to foster an understanding and love of history and heritage.

We have initiated and lead projects such as the community archives, researching local history topics and have created partnerships with schools.



and with the community engagement team at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

Above all, we help to foster a sense of belonging and a sense of place.



We engage with local care homes and groups and have put together a set of memory boxes for the residents.

The Museum works in partnership with a range of local groups and organisations such as the Letcombe Brook Project, King Alfred's Academy, the Wantage Literary Festival,

How your gift will support the Museum

The Museum does a lot with a small team of dedicated, highly skilled staff, ably assisted by around 40 volunteers. We have limited resources yet still manage to offer a high-quality experience and plenty of engagement opportunities. Your gift will help us to sustain our existing activities and continue to expand.

One of our most important remits is to reach out to the next generation and to inspire them by supporting the delivery of educational and cultural events. In order to address this need, we acquire, care for and display a collection of over 8000 accessioned objects, through our permanent galleries and temporary exhibitions.

We have an Image Archive of 6000 photographs, a Research Archive of 3000 items, a Reference Library of 1500 books and a Handling Collection of 1500 objects.



Please help to sustain us into the future by leaving a gift in your will. Every gift, no matter how big or small, has the power to make a real and lasting difference.

