Leave a legacy to science
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From its earliest days, bequests from Fellows and friends have built the Royal Society’s endowment. Thanks to the generosity of its benefactors, the Society has been able to maintain its independence and has the flexibility to respond to emerging scientific issues.

Many of our core activities such as public lectures, discussion meetings, independent policy advice, prizes and research grants would not be possible without this long-term support. Your bequest to the Royal Society will serve the cause of science for the coming centuries.

Historically, legacies have played a vitally important role in helping the Society to advance the cause of science and meet the needs of the scientific community. The names of past Fellows such as Copley, Baker and Davy are remembered in the many premier medals, lectures and fellowships which have originated from such gifts.

The Royal Society’s strategic priorities change over time and it is therefore important to keep the wording for a bequest to the Society as general as possible. At this time, unrestricted endowment support is critical to the Society. If you have a specific purpose in mind for your gift, we strongly recommend that you contact one of the Officers or the Development Office for a confidential discussion. This will ensure that the use of your gift meets your wishes, whilst supporting the aims of the Society.

Alternatively, you could indicate a preference for the area your gift should support whilst providing the Council of the Royal Society with maximum discretion on deciding how this can best be achieved. A degree of flexibility in the wording will enable the Council of the Royal Society to honour your intentions if circumstances change.

No matter the size, each gift is deeply appreciated and makes a valuable contribution to enhancing the capacity of the Society, as an independent academy, to maintain its essential work in the future.
Suggested Wording

We recommend that you draft your Will in consultation with a qualified solicitor. The following wording is only a guide. Because the Royal Society is a registered charity, bequests – be they residuary, pecuniary or specific – will not be subject to inheritance tax in the UK.

For Pecuniary or Specific Legacies
I GIVE a pecuniary / specific legacy free of all tax of £X to THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON FOR IMPROVING NATURAL KNOWLEDGE of 6 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AG (Registered Charity Number 207043) and I express the wish but without imposing any binding trust or obligation that this legacy be used in / applied towards…

For Residuary Legacies
I GIVE the whole (or a X% share) of my Residuary Estate to THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON FOR IMPROVING NATURAL KNOWLEDGE of 6 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AG (Registered Charity Number 207043) absolutely and I express the wish but without imposing any binding trust or obligation that this be used in / applied towards…

Reversionary legacies should be drafted in consultation with a solicitor.

Types of legacies

When considering a legacy gift in the UK, there are four main types of bequest, some of which may be more appropriate to your financial or personal circumstances.

Residuary This is a gift of the whole or a percentage of the estate following the distribution of specific gifts and payment of any debts and expenses.

Pecuniary This is a financial gift of money or shares.

Specific This is a gift of an item, such as a portrait or historical document. When considering specific bequest, it is advisable to speak to the Society to make sure that the Society will be a suitable home for the object.

Reversionary This is a gift of an asset, such as a house or fund that can be enjoyed by a chosen beneficiary during his or her lifetime before reverting to the Society.
Thank you

We would like to thank you for remembering the Royal Society in your Will by inviting you to special events and keep you up to date on developments at the Society. It would therefore be helpful if you informed us of your intentions by filling in the attached form. All pledges and enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact:

The Development Office
The Royal Society
6-9 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7451 2211
Fax: +44 (0)20 7451 2170
Email: development@royalsociety.org
Web: www.royalsociety.org
Registered Charity No 207043

Overseas Donors
(including USA and Hong Kong)

The Royal Society welcomes bequests from all over the world. We are an international organisation, acting as champion for science across international borders. Currently, our Fellows live in over 30 different countries. The Society maintains charitable status in Hong Kong. Donors in the United States can direct their bequest to the American Friends of the Royal Society if they so choose.

The American Friends of the Royal Society (AFRS), Inc., is a US-based 501 (c) (3) registered charity. The AFRS taxpayer ID number is 31-1708031 and the contact details are:

American Friends of the Royal Society
c/o Chapel & York Ltd.
1000 N. West Street
Suite 1200
Wilmington DE 19801

The Royal Society is registered as a charitable organisation in Hong Kong at the following address:

The Royal Society
Level 28, Three Pacific Place
1 Queen’s Road East
Hong Kong
If you decide to make a legacy to the Royal Society, or if you have already remembered the Society in your Will, it would be most helpful if you could indicate your present intentions by completing this form and returning it to the Development Office.

Please note that this form is in no way binding. It does not commit you to a particular course of action, or limit your freedom to alter your Will in the future. It merely gives an indication of your current position. Of course, all information received will be treated in strict confidence.

Please tick the appropriate box

☐ I have already made a legacy to the Society in my Will

☐ I intend to make a legacy to the Society/to add a Codicil in favour of the Society in my Will

☐ I am not ready to consider making a legacy now. Please contact me again in: ________________

   (please indicate when you would like to be contacted)

☐ I am unable to make a legacy to the Society, but I enclose a donation of £ ________________

Title  Name

Address

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Postcode

Daytime telephone

Email

☐ Please tick the box if you wish to remain anonymous.
Royal Society Conversazione
by J. Mantonia, c. 1908

Burlington House was the home of the Royal Society from 1857-1967. This picture is set in the Library and depicts a Soiree. The annual tradition continues and is now called the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition

Presented by the Editor of The Sphere, 1908
**Gifts to the archives**

The Library recently received a generous bequest of scientific books from the estate of the late Mrs Peggy Cooper (née Filer). Originally purchased by Mrs Cooper’s father F E Filer, the 28 books date from the 1850s to the 1930s and have strengthened our collection of works in late Victorian natural history significantly. Among the highlights are ‘Lectures on the Physiology of Plants’ (1886) by Sydney Howard Vines FRS, one of the earliest student textbooks on plant metabolism and growth and ‘Bees and bee-keeping; scientific and practical’ (1886) by Frank Cheshire. Many of the books are in handsome decorative bindings, including ‘Flowers of the Field’ (1893) by the Reverend C A Johns.

**John Wilkins** was one of the founding Fellows of the Royal Society and is considered to be one of the key figures in the Society’s development. In the years before 1660, he gathered together a group of experimentalists at Wadham College Oxford, where he was Warden, which led to the birth of the Royal Society as an organisation dedicated to experimental learning. Wilkins made the first ever bequest to the Royal Society, of £400 in 1675 (worth around £50,000 today).

**Brian Mercer** inventor of Netlon and Tensar, materials which are quite literally woven into much of the fabric of the modern world, bequeathed £10 million from his estate to the Royal Society in 1999. His gift was to endow the **Brian Mercer Awards for Innovation**. The awards play a crucial part in taking findings from initial research and development stages to commercial viability.

**A history of giving**