



Support the growth of ideas

Leave a legacy to the Royal Society

*This done the President [unclear], it was time to
call upon the Deane of Canterbury, Dr Tillotson, as
Executor of the late Bth of Chester, Dr Wilkins, for his
Legacy of £ 400. Part Bequeathed to the R. Society
whereupon it was thought good by the Council that M^r
Olswal & M^r Hill should be desired to speak with the
said Deane about this matter. at their first conveniency*

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY



Treasurer's message

For over 350 years the Royal Society has been an independent voice for science, technology, maths and engineering, and since our foundation, legacy gifts from Fellows and friends have been central to the Society's success.

As the Society's Treasurer I know how crucial legacies are in helping us to achieve our fundamental objectives. They help us maintain our financial independence and have given us the flexibility to react quickly to immediate challenges. Using income from legacies we have been able to establish research professorships, create PhD studentships, increase our programme of scientific discussion meetings, and acquire historic works to expand the Society's library collection. That is why I have decided to leave a gift to the Society in my Will.

The Royal Society, one of the world's oldest and most distinguished scientific academies, would not be the institution that it is today without the generous support of our Fellows and friends. That is why I am grateful to everyone who is able to consider leaving a legacy to the Society.

Please join me in supporting the Royal Society with a gift in your Will. By remembering the Society in this way you can protect the Society's future and support excellence in science, technology, maths and engineering for subsequent generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Hopper', written in a cursive style.

Professor Andy Hopper CBE FREng FRS

Treasurer and Vice-President of the Royal Society

What legacies mean to the Royal Society

The Royal Society understands that leaving a legacy to a charitable organisation such as the Society is a highly personal decision, and one that is undertaken after much careful consideration. Should you decide to include the Royal Society in your Will we will ensure you that your gift will be used as effectively as possible.

You can support a specific area of the Society's work with a restricted legacy. Alternatively, you can leave an unrestricted legacy which will support the area of greatest need.

Whatever you decide to do, by including the Society in your Will you will be joining a distinguished group of Fellows and friends in supporting the future of science, technology, maths and engineering.

One of our founding Fellows John Wilkins made the first ever bequest to the Royal Society, of £400 in 1675 (worth around £50,000 today). From this point and throughout our history bequests have helped to build the Society's reputation as the national academy of science for the UK and the Commonwealth.

The Society continues to seek flexible support to help us maintain a proactive approach to all upcoming scientific challenges. A gift in your Will, whatever the size, could allow us to continue to influence and lead scientific discovery and help to create a future for scientific excellence.

“I have decided to leave a legacy to the Royal Society because I admire the way in which it supports innovative scientific research and the creativity of women and minorities. It is my way of paying back the wonderful education and opportunities I had in the UK early in my career.”

Professor Brigid Hogan FRS.



LEGACIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Ms Anne Robson left £10,000 in her Will to the Society's Centre for the History of Science. The bequest helped to fund the purchase of texts by acclaimed 17th century scientists Walter Charleton, John Ray, and Martin Lister FRS, further strengthening the reputation of the Centre amongst researchers as a unique resource for scientific history.

Since its foundation more than 350 years ago, the Society's library has continued to accumulate a number of seminal scientific texts to add to its collection, which now boasts historic works by figures such as Benjamin Franklin FRS, Sir Isaac Newton FRS, and Robert Hooke FRS. Its holdings contain the shared scientific insights of Fellows and their collaborators around the world.

Today the Centre provides a unique resource for the study of the history of science, it is accessible to the public free of charge and its artefacts, paintings and books are used by a broad array of scientists to aid their research.

Left:

Illustration showing a microscopic view of a flea from *Micrographia: or some physiological descriptions of minute bodies made by magnifying glasses with observations and inquiries thereupon*, by Robert Hooke, 1665.

Below:

The Society's Centre for the History of Science.





Professor Judith A K Howard CBE FRS
Distinguished British chemist, crystallographer
and Professor at Durham University

“I made the decision some years ago and I have written my Will accordingly, in order to leave my residual funds – after gifts to friends and family – to the benefit of the Royal Society.

I know from my time on several of the Royal Society’s panels and committees that ‘unrestricted’ bequests are much more flexible and most valuable to the Society.

So I have taken this option as I believe that any money I can give to the Society will be used well for the benefit of science and to help future generations of researchers.

I encourage others amongst you to think of a gift to the Royal Society, when finally we leave our scientific lives behind”





Image:

Visitor at the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition.

“My Research Professorship will allow me both to bring the power of chemistry to bear, in order to tackle major challenges in biological science, and also to inspire a new generation of chemical biologists”

Professor Gideon Davies FMedSci FRS on his Ken Murray Research Professorship, made possible by a legacy from Sir Kenneth Murray FMedSci FRS.

SCIENCE POLICY – LEGACIES HELP MAINTAIN INDEPENDENCE

The Royal Society provides independent, authoritative and accessible scientific advice to decision-makers and to inform public discourse. The Society draws on the expertise of its Fellowship to use new and emerging science to inform policy-making.

By bringing together world-leading experts with national and international decision-makers, the Society fosters discussion and debate on current and future developments in science and their implications. For a wide range of issues, from climate change to genetic technologies to artificial intelligence, the Society engages in areas of public discourse where science matters most.

The Society works on policies for science, research and innovation and champions the contributions that science can make to economic prosperity, wellbeing and sustainability.

By remembering the Society in your Will you can help maintain the Society's independence and its ability to provide advice for policy-makers for years to come.



Legacy information

When considering leaving 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 a percentage, or the whole, of an 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 a specific bequest, it is advisable to speak to a member of staff 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, which can be enjoyed by a chosen beneficiary during their lifetime before reverting to the Society.

Should you decide to remember the Society in your Will it is advisable that you also discuss your wishes with your family and friends so that they are fully aware of your intentions.

Suggested wording

We recommend that you draft your Will in consultation with a qualified solicitor. The following wording is only a guide.

For residuary legacies

I GIVE _____% 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.

For pecuniary or specific legacies

I GIVE a pecuniary / specific legacy free of all tax of £ _____ 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...

Please note to protect pecuniary legacies against being devalued by inflation we advise supporters to link their gift to an eligible pricing index such as the Consumer Prices Index. All amendments should be made in consultation with a qualified solicitor.

Inheritance tax information

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. By remembering the Society in your Will you may also be able to reduce the taxable value of your assets.

Inheritance Tax is a tax on the estate (the property, money and possessions) of someone who has died.

There is normally no Inheritance Tax to pay if either:

- the value of your estate is below the £325,000 threshold (if you are single) or £650,000 (if you are a married couple or civil partners)*
- you leave everything to an exempt beneficiary such as a charity.

In April 2012, the government introduced a change to Inheritance Tax legislation meaning that in some situations people leaving 10% or more of their taxable estate to charity qualify for a reduced rate of Inheritance Tax from 40% to 36%. If you think that your estate is going to be subject to Inheritance Tax, please discuss this with your solicitor.

* Correct as of January 2019

Overseas donors

The Royal Society welcomes bequests from all over the world. We are an international organisation, acting as a champion for science across international borders.

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 and York Ltd
708 Third Avenue
6th Floor
Suite 34
New York
NY 10017
USA



Thank you

We would like to thank you for considering making a gift to the Society in your Will. It would be helpful to us if you informed us of your intentions by filling in the attached form. All pledges and enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence. We would also be delighted to keep you up to date with any developments at the Society.

Left:

Dr Steven Spoel, Royal Society University Research Fellow, Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences, University of Edinburgh.

Below:

Attendees at the Royal Society conference, *Microbiome: Human medicine and agriculture in a microbial world*.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact:

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E development@royalsociety.org

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“The Royal Society gave me not only the opportunity to engage with science but also allowed me to meet so many eminent scientists whom I had admired from afar. The organisation has also been extremely generous to me after the loss of my late husband and its people have become the family I never had.”

Dr Elizabeth Graham, Doctor of Zoology and widow of Professor Alastair Graham FRS.



The Royal Society

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world's most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society's fundamental purpose, reflected in its founding Charters of the 1660s, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

The Society's strategic priorities are:

- Promoting excellence in science
- Supporting international collaboration
- Demonstrating the importance of science to everyone

For further information

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Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science

Registered Charity No 207043
Issued: July 2019 DES5691

Cover images:

Botanical study showing a hybridised poppy (*Papaver hispidobracteatum*), from the paper, *Nouvelles recherches sur l'hybridité dans les végétaux*, by Charles Naudin, 1865.

Minutes from the Council meeting on 9 October 1673, recording a discussion on the gift, Founding Fellow, John Wilkins (1614 – 1672), left to the Society in his Will.