



A guide to leaving a gift to
the Museum & Art Gallery
in your Will

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your will to Dorset Museum & Art Gallery



In recent years, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery has been transformed. It now has the spaces and facilities in which to protect, conserve and interpret its priceless collections, and to welcome generations of visitors, for decades to come. But it will continue to need our help.

The Museum & Art Gallery is, in itself, a legacy. A legacy of all our pasts and presents, left to us by our predecessors. We are its current guardians and it is for us to ensure

the buildings, collections and resilience of the organisation are passed on in the best possible condition. For this, the Museum & Art Gallery continues to need help. Leaving a gift in your Will makes a lasting difference. Every gift helps to safeguard and build the collections, maintain the estate and ensure everyone in the community can explore, enjoy and learn about their unique Dorset heritage.

Please help Dorset Museum & Art Gallery thrive for another 100 years (and more) by considering making a gift in your Will. This guide will tell you a little more about how your gift might be used, and may answer some of your questions about how to make arrangements to leave a gift in your Will. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you'd like to discuss this further.

Thank you.

Jean Lang DL

Chair, Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery is home to an unrivalled collection

of objects, photographs and documents from Dorset's past. Reflecting 250 million years of the county's natural, historical and cultural heritage, the collections continue to grow with objects from the past as well as those that represent contemporary life in the county.

Three founding fathers with a desire to protect threatened local archaeological sites and natural history set up the Museum in 1845. Their foresight and generosity led to today's Museum & Art Gallery and the collection of over four million objects covering not only natural history and archaeology, but literature, fine art, textiles, costume and local history. The bequest in 1937 of the Thomas Hardy collection and the acquisitions of significant sculpture and drawings from Elisabeth Frink's estate, are more recent major additions to the Museum & Art Gallery's treasures.

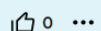
The move into its current, purpose-built home on Dorchester's High Street took place in 1883. The delightful Victorian building has recently been expanded with a dramatic extension providing spacious new exhibition galleries, a learning centre for schools and other groups and a state-of-the-art storage area and conservation studio for the collections. Dorset Museum & Art Gallery has risen to become one of the UK's most inspiring regional museums, with collections of international standing.

The Museum & Art Gallery is not just about things. It's about people. Those who visit, volunteer and work there; those who come to events, research the archives and read about our work. And it's about those who come to learn from the extraordinary heritage in our care, from the schoolchildren in whom we can foster a sense of place and belonging, to those with a longstanding yearning for knowledge about the culture, history and nature of Dorset.



Suzanne B

London, UK • 26 contributions



A must see to understand Dorset landscape and it's people.

Mar 2024 • Couples

Brilliant county Museum for Dorset based in an old hall and new extension. We had one of the warmest welcomes ever from the lovely staff and volunteer guides. The three floors are dedicated to different aspects of Dorset history - the Archaeology, Natural Dorset, the people and the artists. The exhibits are well spaced out and have very informative and interesting information about the objects. The archaeological finds including the newly found fossilised Pliosaur are incredible. There are very clear explanations of the county's geology and landscapes. You can even walk on two amazing Roman mosaics found locally! There is a good museum shop and a very cosy looking cafe. It's a must visit when in Dorset to understand the history and landscape. We will be back.

With your help, we can continue to care for Dorset's culture and heritage for future generations

The Museum & Art Gallery is now in a position to thrive, but it will always need the support of those who treasure it.

We are an independent charity (the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society) relying on income from admissions membership and commercial activity to cover costs. Where possible, donations and grants are used to develop and improve what we can offer for audiences, through our collections, exhibitions and buildings.

A gift in your Will could help the Museum & Art Gallery continue to do everything it does now, and more:

- Acquire objects that are vital to the capturing of Dorset's past and present.
- Care for all the collections, ensuring they survive for generations to come.
- Create displays that use the collections to tell the stories of Dorset's heritage, and host exhibitions to bring national and international collections to a local audience.
- Arrange events and activities, for the widest range of audiences, to ensure everyone in the county and beyond can share in and learn about Dorset's history.
- Deliver educational programmes for schools and other groups.
- Build its resilience for the future.

Supporting the Museum with a legacy is to help future generations cherish and learn from their past. My hope is that we can pass on a museum that is strong, sustainable and fit to face whatever challenges arise.

Dr Peter Down

Chairman, Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society 2011-2017

Here is how we would like to use your gift

Gifts that are “unrestricted” are the most valuable to us as they can be used where they are most needed. Legacies can be applied as follows:

Collections Fund

Acquiring, conserving, documenting, cataloguing and interpreting our collections are at the core of the Museum & Art Gallery's purpose. On receipt of your gift, here are some of the ways that funds might be used to support us.

Current Needs

Responding to visitors' changing tastes and expectations with updated displays, special exhibitions and new learning materials, as well as to the demands of maintenance and repair, means there will always be an immediate need for funds.

Future Fund

With an eye to the long-term security of the Museum & Art Gallery, the Trustees have decided to start building a long-term Future Fund which will be invested to generate annual revenue. Once established, this will help the organisation face future challenges (such as a pandemic) in much better shape. We cannot hope to build this Fund from annual income, so legacies are vital to its growth.

Of course, if you would like your gift to be used in a different way, you can stipulate that. It would be helpful if you could discuss this with us so we can confirm that we would be able to accept the terms of the gift.

* The Trustees of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society (the owner of the Museum & Art Gallery) reserve the right to allocate gifts according to the priorities and needs of the organisation.

Leaving a gift in your Will is straightforward,

and a solicitor will be able to help you. It is important that you use the right wording to specify the type of gift you wish to bequeath. We strongly recommend that you take legal advice when writing or amending your will. A solicitor will be able to guide you through the process and advise you on the different types of legacy you can leave.

A pecuniary gift is a set amount of money – for example, £10,000. If you want to leave a pecuniary gift and to ensure it keeps its value over the years you can have the gift index-linked.

Many people choose to leave a residuary gift – a share of your estate after all other bequests and commitments have been settled. The proportion can be as small or as large as you wish, depending on how you want your estate split between family, friends and other causes.

If you would like to leave a gift of property, land or a specific item, please contact us. There are some items we might be unable to receive, so it is important we talk about your wishes before you write your Will.

If you wish to make an addition to an existing will, you can write a codicil to be kept alongside your Will.

We'd like to thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to the Museum & Art Gallery. If you do decide to go ahead, please accept our gratitude for your generosity. Your gift will help us to keep and care for Dorset's wonderful heritage, making it accessible for everyone now and in the future.

On receipt of your gift, we would like to acknowledge you as a legacy donor within the Museum & Art Gallery. We are very happy to discuss this with you, or, at the time the gift is made, with your executors.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need more information or would like to discuss a gift in detail.

Email enquiries@dorsetmuseum.org

Telephone 01305 262735



'The Dewlish Leopard and Gazelle Mosaic - saved for Dorset and the nation by the generosity of donors'.

FAQs

If I leave money to the Museum & Art Gallery, how will it be spent?

Unless you specify something else, your gift will be allocated in line with the Society's priorities at the time. From time-to-time Trustees will reconsider the allocations and reserve the right to change these if they think it necessary.

Will giving to the Museum & Art Gallery impact my Inheritance Tax?

Yes it may – gifts to charity at the date of this guide can reduce your Inheritance Tax bill. Any amount given to a registered UK charity is usually deducted from the value of your estate before Inheritance Tax is calculated. This means your gift may be free of tax. If you believe your estate may be liable to Inheritance Tax we suggest you speak to your legal advisor.

What's the difference between a pecuniary and a residuary gift?

If you leave a pecuniary gift, it will be a specific amount of money, for example £10,000. This can be affected by inflation or, if the value of your estate reduces between the time you write your Will and the date of your death, may mean that other beneficiaries don't receive as much as you'd want. A residuary gift is the remainder, or percentage of the remainder, of your estate after all other gifts to family and friends have been distributed.

How can I make sure the value of my gift is increased with inflation?

If you are leaving a pecuniary gift (a set amount), this could be worth less than you wish at the time of your death because of the impact of inflation. To protect against this, you can use wording which gives your executors the option to increase the gift as they see fit.

Can I leave property or land to the Museum & Art Gallery?

Yes, we welcome gifts of property and land on the understanding that we may sell these assets. In this event, the proceeds of any sale would be treated as a legacy. It would be helpful to us if we could discuss any proposed gift of property or land with you before you write your Will.

Do I need to tell you if I'm including a gift to the charity in my Will?

No you don't, but it helps us if you do. We would like to know if you are planning to help the Museum & Art Gallery with a future gift so that we can thank you and ensure you are able to enjoy special access during your lifetime. We can also agree with you how you would like your gift acknowledged when the time comes.

If I have a will already, can I add a gift to the Museum & Art Gallery?

Yes, you can write a codicil adding a gift to the Museum & Art Gallery which will be kept alongside your will.

Can I leave a gift in memory of a loved one?

We can help you do this to provide a lasting legacy. Please contact us to discuss arrangements.