

# Pass on your love of gardening



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Royal  
Horticultural  
Society

Sharing the best in Gardening

Find out about how your legacy could  
help RHS Garden Wisley grow

[rhs.org.uk/legacies](https://rhs.org.uk/legacies)

RHS Registered Charity No. 222879/SC038262



I remember my first gardening book, which was on conifers. I got particularly obsessed with monkey puzzles (*Araucaria*) with their strange shapes and textures. I made my parents stop the car whenever we saw one, and I even made an album of my monkey puzzle photos. My grandma was a keen gardener and fired my interest in house plants at a very young age. I started filling up all the windowsills at home, and then the windowsills at my school, too. She shared her passion and enjoyment of gardening with me and it was infectious.

Having met many RHS supporters during my career, I know that most of them remember their first experience of

gardening too – the thing that made them fall in love with the garden, plants, flowers and the joy of watching a seed start to grow.

I'm lucky that I was able to turn my passion into my career. It's a luxury most don't get to have, and it was only because of the expert training, facilities and opportunities given to me by the RHS that I have been able to work at Wisley, where I am now Curator. Kind supporters who have left gifts to the RHS in their Wills have helped me on my journey.

I don't know if you are aware, but gifts in Wills have a huge impact on Wisley. This money is vital in training the next generation of gardeners and horticulturists.

A charity with over 200 years of expertise, the RHS is driven by the belief that gardening can enrich and inspire the lives of people of all ages – as we hope we have inspired you.

The RHS needs the help of passionate gardeners like you to pass on your love of gardening to future generations – without your support, our gardening heritage could be at risk. Thank you so much for thinking about including the RHS in your Will.

**Matthew Pottage**  
Curator, RHS Garden Wisley



RHS Garden Wisley, our flagship garden



## Suggested wording for leaving a legacy to the RHS

### We recommend seeking legal advice when making or updating your Will.

If you leave a gift in your Will to a charity, like the RHS, the gift is exempt from inheritance tax. Your solicitor will be able to offer you further advice and guidance on efficient tax planning.

When leaving such gifts, you can elect to give the gift to the general funds of the charity, or to a specific activity; for the RHS, this could be to a specific garden. We have reflected such choices in the suggested wording below.

### 1. Leaving the residue of your estate to the RHS:

This is when you leave the residue of your estate after all other gifts, costs and so on have been deducted. This type of gift allows for the remainder of your estate (or a specified percentage of it) to be passed to the RHS.

You may leave the residue to one person or organisation, or you can divide it among any number of beneficiaries. The value of this type of gift will increase as the value of your estate increases.

You might want to use the following wording:

I leave to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number: 222879/SCO38262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE (“all” or state fraction) of the residue of my estate absolutely for (“its general purposes” or, for example, “for its garden at Wisley”) and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

### 2. Pecuniary or fixed amount legacy:

When you want to leave a specific or fixed amount of money. Over the course of time, this type of gift is likely to lose value because of inflation. You may therefore wish to consider index linking your cash gift.

I leave to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number: 222879/SCO38262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE absolutely the sum £... for (“its general purposes” or, for example, “for its garden at Wisley”). I declare that the receipt of an authorised officer shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

Or, if you wish to secure the value of your gift against the effects of inflation:

I leave to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number: 222879/SCO38262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE absolutely for (“its general purposes” or, for example, “for its garden at Wisley”) the sum of money produced by dividing the sum of £... by index figure in the Index of Retail Prices (‘the index’) for the month in which this will be executed and multiplying it by the index figure in the index month in which my death occurs. I declare that the receipt of an authorised officer shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

### 3. Leaving a specific item

A gift of specific property such as antiques, shares or paintings. The Item(s) must be clearly described in your Will to avoid any possible confusion and to ensure the gift does not fail.

Your solicitors will be able to prepare appropriate wording for your Will.

If you are thinking of donating books for our Libraries, please contact us for our collections criteria.

### 4. If you want to change your existing Will

You can easily add a gift to the RHS to your existing Will using a short document called a Codicil. Your solicitor will advise you how to do this so that no legal or technical mistakes occur.

### 5. A reversionary legacy

This is the means of leaving a gift to a chosen beneficiary such as the RHS, whilst meanwhile allowing another person to have the use of it during his or her lifetime.

For example, you may want someone to have the use of your home for the remainder of his or her life, or of the income from a fund. When s/he dies, the item will then pass to the RHS.

Your solicitors will be able to prepare appropriate wording for your Will.

No matter whether your gift is large or small, the RHS is extremely grateful for your support.

*“I love visiting the wonderful gardens and shows, and I have learnt a great deal too. I want to leave a legacy so that the RHS can continue its vital work for the enjoyment and benefit of generations to come.”*  
Mrs Linda Knight, legacy pledger

## Frequently asked questions

### **Why does the RHS need legacies?**

Gifts in Wills provide vital income to the RHS. As a charity we receive no government support and much of our work can only continue through additional funding, including legacies. For every pound we raise from member subscriptions, we need to raise another pound by other means to fund our charitable work.

### **Can I choose where you spend my legacy?**

Yes, you can specify how your money is spent, such as a gift to RHS Garden Wisley, or to our Campaign for School Gardening. However, leaving a gift for us to use in the way that allows us the most flexibility, means that we can use funds where they are most needed.

### **Can I be sure that you will spend my gift where I want it to be spent?**

We will endeavour to spend your gift as you have requested. However, in some circumstances where there are very specific terms attached to your legacy, we may not be able to spend or accept it if the terms do not fall under our remit of work. We do therefore ask if you intend to leave your gift for a very specific purpose that you discuss it with us so that we can ensure we will be able to carry out your wishes.

### **What are the inheritance tax implications of leaving a legacy?**

The RHS is a charity and money left to a charity is exempt from inheritance tax. Your solicitor will advise you if you could be liable to pay inheritance tax on your estate and can suggest ways of minimising your liability. For more information on inheritance tax and the latest inheritance tax threshold contact HM Revenue & Customs.

### **How do I make a Will?**

A valid Will is the only guaranteed way for your wishes to be carried out. Making a Will isn't complicated and shouldn't be costly. We strongly recommend that you seek legal advice when you prepare your Will.

### **Can the RHS be one of my executors?**

Unfortunately, the RHS is unable to act as an executor. We recommend that you choose two executors, who can be a professional advisor, family member or friend. Your solicitor will advise you as to the eligibility of a chosen executor.

### **Can I choose how much I want to leave and does it have to be for a lot of money?**

You can specify exactly how much you would like to leave to the RHS and no, it doesn't have to be a lot of money; any contribution towards supporting our work is hugely appreciated.

### **Can I talk to someone about leaving a legacy to the RHS?**

We would be happy to answer your queries, or discuss areas of our work you'd like to support. Please contact us on **020 7821 3125**, or email [developmentoffice@rhs.org.uk](mailto:developmentoffice@rhs.org.uk)

### **Please let us know if you have left us a gift in your Will. We would like to thank you.**

*"The RHS has given me a lifetime of tranquility, horticultural skills and knowledge. A legacy seems a perfect way to say thank you."*

Mrs Anne Clifford, legacy pledger





**Our vision is...  
to enrich  
everyone's life  
through plants,  
and make the  
UK a greener  
and more  
beautiful place**

My two passions  
in life are travel

and all things horticultural so before  
joining the RHS as the Director General,  
I had been a member and regular visitor  
to RHS Gardens and shows.

For over 200 years the RHS has  
continued to delight, inspire, and share  
their experience with all of us. What you  
may not know, however, is that as a  
charity the RHS receives no financial  
support from the government and so we  
raise all our funds for our charitable work

from membership, commercial activities  
and our all-important donations.

Legacies are at the heart of the  
Society's funding. A legacy can go a  
long way in helping to fund our unique  
and important scientific research, in  
continuing our vital and growing  
education programmes, such as the  
Campaign for School Gardening, and,  
of course, looking after our world  
famous gardens.

If, like me, you have been inspired by  
the RHS and would like to find out more  
about the charitable work of the RHS  
and the importance of legacies in  
realising the Society's plans for the  
future, please request a legacy DVD  
that describes the work of the RHS.

**Sue Biggs**  
RHS Director General

If you would like to discuss leaving a legacy to the RHS or would like to attend an  
information event to find out more, please contact us on 020 7821 3125 or email  
[developmentoffice@rhs.org.uk](mailto:developmentoffice@rhs.org.uk)

We'd be happy to discuss how your gift will help the RHS, support Wisley, or a particular  
area of our work.

Please let us know if you have left us a gift in your will. We would like to thank you.

The Royal Horticultural Society  
80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE

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