

Making a gift in your Will to support Sir John Soane's Museum: Frequently Asked Questions

By leaving a lasting legacy to support Sir John Soane's Museum with a gift in your Will you will be helping to ensure that the Soane remains a place of learning and inspiration for generations to come. We have put together some frequently asked questions which will hopefully answer any queries you may have.

Why should I make a Will?

If you don't have a Will, your estate will be divided according to the law when you die. This could mean that your wishes are not carried out. Having a Will, especially one written by a solicitor, is the only way of ensuring that your loved ones and chosen charities will be remembered as you wish them to be. A properly drafted Will can also help reduce the amount of tax payable on your estate and can increase the value of the assets that you pass on to the people you care about.

How can I make a Will?

We would encourage you to discuss your Will with your solicitor to ensure that all legal requirements are met and that your Will is valid. The Law Society will be able to assist you with finding a local solicitor if you do not have one already: solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk

What kind of gift could I make?

There are three main types of gift that you can leave in your will:

1. You can leave a percentage of your estate after your loved ones are provided for. This is called a **residuary gift**.
2. You can leave a fixed sum of money, which is called a **pecuniary gift**.
3. You could leave a **specific gift** such as a piece of art or jewellery.

All gifts are vitally important to Sir John Soane's Museum. However, residuary gifts (a percentage of your estate) are particularly helpful as they usually maintain or increase in value over time, and will remain proportional to the value of your estate as it goes by.

We ask that if you are planning to leave a specific gift to Sir John Soane's Museum that you get in contact with us to discuss your thoughts.

How will my gift be used?

Your legacy can be felt for generations by helping us to continue to preserve the building and collections and to keep its doors open for free so that the Museum remains a place of learning and inspiration for everyone.



13 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3BP

+44 (0) 20 7405 2107
www.soane.org
Charity No: 313609

I can't give much – will anything I leave be useful?

We are grateful for every gift we receive, no matter how large or small. Every gift we receive supports Soane's vision to keep his house open and free for inspiration and education and even a small percentage of your estate would mean a great amount to us.

I already have a will, how do I amend it?

If you decide to leave a gift in your Will, you may not need a new one. Small changes to your Will can be stated in a document called a **codicil**, which is read in conjunction with your Will. However, your solicitor will need our registered address and charity details, which can be found at the bottom of this page.

Sample wording for your Will

If you decide to leave a gift in your Will to Sir John Soane's Museum we encourage you to discuss the following wording with your solicitor which would be suitable for a will in England and Wales:

I [NAME] of [INSERT ADDRESS HERE] declare this to be a [first/second/other] codicil to my Will dated [INSERT]. In addition to any legacies given in my will I give to The Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP, registered charity no. 313609, ____% of my residuary estate [OR] £___ to be used for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Registrar or other duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executors.

Contact us

If you would like to talk to us about leaving Sir John Soane's Museum a gift in your will or to let us know that you are planning to leave a legacy to the Museum, please get in touch with Willa Beckett using the contact details below. Please be aware that Sir John Soane's Museum is not able to offer any legal advice.

Willa Beckett

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Sir John Soane's Museum, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP