

An enduring legacy for future generations

How to leave a gift to Amersham Museum in your Will



Thank you...

...for picking up this leaflet. Your interest in leaving a gift means a great deal to us.

Our passion for the work we do here at the Museum means we want to make sure that everyone gets a share in our future. We rely heavily on individuals' support to do this, and gifts left in Wills are an incredibly effective way to support the ways we keep Amersham's past alive today.

Amersham Museum is very special. Located in the heart of the Old Town, the Museum is central to our bustling town and wider area – a captivating resource for the whole community.

We believe that history is something to be shared. So, with the help of our brilliant network of supporters, including 125 volunteers, our work spills out from our building, taking our fascinating history to local residents of all ages. You could support our work by leaving a gift in your Will.

Some examples of how your gift might help:

- Education: expanding our interactive sessions exploring local history with older and young people
- Arts and exhibitions: enabling us to host more visiting exhibitions and develop our permanent displays
- Conservation: ensuring that we can continue to store our collection in the best possible way to prevent it deteriorating in the future
- Our building: discovering more about our fascinating home
- Securing the whole Museum's future by making it possible for us to put funds where the need is greatest.



Education...

Our wish is to inspire all generations with their history. So that's why we place such a premium on our education work.

We have a thriving programme for children: school visits, an art club, a young curators' programme and arts, crafts and collections events. We use the physical collection to bring local history to life. We're very keen to expand that programme to include specific content for children with Special Educational Needs. Sessions for children under five are in the pipeline too, for which we will need new resources.

We also work with older people, running reminiscence sessions in the Museum and helping care home residents to develop memory boxes. We also want to develop our work with older house-bound people.

Our Mobile Museum has enabled us to take our education programme out to more people than ever before. We plan to use the Mobile Museum in even more innovative ways: for instance we will soon have a 1950s shop in it to show people how we shopped before plastic.

We have so many more residents we want to introduce to our absorbing history.

Arts and exhibitions...

We're lucky enough to have our own permanent exhibition centred around key moments of Amersham's history.

We've also brought splendid new exhibitions to the Museum. This is something we're very keen to expand. It'll take resources to display more peripatetic exhibitions in our temporary exhibition space and new items, but such fascinating artefacts will lend a whole new dimension to our visitors' experience of the Museum.

An example of one such exhibition is the drawings (on loan to the museum) of Car Richardson, whose haunting images of recuperating WWI soldiers are shown alongside works drawn by injured servicemen and women. With a thread on Amersham's women at war, we aim to give visitors a sense of a wartime community.

Visitors often comment on the hands-on nature of our Museum. This is something we want to do more of in the future. Given the funds, we plan to base future interactive displays on our successful Tudor room.





Conservation of the Collection...

Amersham Museum's conservation expertise is recognised across the country.

For instance, the National Trust of Scotland gave us a miniature theatre which had belonged to an Amersham resident in the 1930s. As well as the theatre itself, hundreds of Victorian and early 20th century handmade dolls and puppets that came with it need our specialist care.

In 2017 we were given a doll's house dating from the 1930s. A family toy that had been used to help shell-shocked members of the Home Guard, it was in poor condition after generations of children had played with it. We took the unusual step of involving local people in its restoration. With their work, and the support of an artist, the house is now redecorated and dressed with model period objects – and is helping bring alive World War II for groups of local people.

As with every object in all our collections, these precious articles will need ongoing, expert conservation so that they are available to inspire people long into the future.



Our building...

Rather wonderfully, the Museum building itself is probably our finest artefact, dating back to between the 1450s and the 1480s.

We have been able to find out more over the last 30 years – we've uncovered some wattle and daub walls, and the original hearth (which would have had no chimney) – but the more we find, the more we realise there is to discover.

This fascinating project will require a tremendous range of research.

For instance, we'd like to carry out specialised analysis of samples of old paint which we think possibly date from the 16th century. Then we'd need to date accurately the timber used in the construction of the building using dendrochronology. We're prepared for the surprises of our building to keep on coming.



A word from our Curator...

As Amersham Museum's Curator, I'm very excited about the Museum's future. There's so much to be done, building on all we've achieved. Supporters of any kind will be an integral part of what we do in the coming years.

As some of you may be aware, we received a very generous bequest which was unrestricted – dedicated to all our work, not just one aspect of it.

Thanks to this we were able to:

- expand our exhibition space
- create an activity room
- have new stores for our collection
- deliver more activities to locals through our school and community projects
- launch our Mobile Museum to take our work beyond the walls of the museum building.

A gift left in a Will, large or small, will help us bring more of Amersham's fascinating history to light for generations to come.

Emily Toettcher, Curator.



Leaving a gift in your Will is straightforward – and transformational...

First of all, it's important to know how to leave a gift.

- If you haven't drawn up a Will, you can simply include our Museum when you do.
- If you already have a Will, you can just add a codicil leaving a gift.

There are three ways to leave a gift in your Will:

- A residuary legacy – a gift of the remainder of your legacy after all other gifts have been made and debts paid off
 - A pecuniary legacy – a fixed sum of money
- or
- A specific legacy – a named object left in your Will, such as a painting or books.

Vibrant Amersham through the ages...

- 1200 Amersham is given a royal charter for an annual fair and weekly market
- 1450-80 Our main building, a medieval hall house, is built
- 1775 William Weller buys the local brewery and his family goes on to own most of the pubs in the town
- 1892 The Metropolitan Railway is opened at Amersham as part of a 16 mile stretch from Chalfont Road to Aylesbury
- 1932 The Weller Estate, Amersham's Metro-land housing estate, is launched
- 1939 Many move to Amersham to escape the bombing in London. Shardeloes, home of the Lord of the Manor, becomes a maternity hospital for expectant mothers from London
- 1991 Amersham Museum opens
- 21st century Gifts left in Wills help to bring more of Amersham's history alive for the future.



You can choose how you would like us to use your gift. For us, unrestricted gifts (which enable us to devote funds to the area of greatest need) are tremendously valuable. However, if you would like to support Education, Arts and Exhibitions, our Collections or the Museum building, just say so in your Will. We will honour your wishes.

Finally, it's worth knowing that anyone who leaves at least 10% of their assets to charity will have their inheritance tax cut from 40% to 36%.

Thank you

To find out more...

...about how a gift in your Will could help support the fascinating work of Amersham Museum for the future, please feel free to email our Curator, Emily Toettcher, at **Emily@amershammuseum.org** or call her on **01494 723700**.

She will be delighted to speak with you.

Amersham Museum

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