

# Legacy giving: FAQs

## What is a gift in a will?

A gift in a will or a legacy is an amount of money or property left in a will.

## How will a gift in my will help GHM?

Supporters who remember GHM with a gift in their will make a huge difference to us. With £50, for example, we could pay for a new display board in the museum. £500 could pay for a conservator to work on some of our 'at risk' objects and £5,000 could fund a project to make our family history resources accessible online. All contributions are gratefully received and would be used to preserve and promote Gairloch's heritage for future generations.

## I can only leave a small legacy – is it really worth it?

Yes! You do not need to own a property to leave a gift in a will, nor do you need to have savings or an investment portfolio. Any legacy left to GHM plays a vital role in safeguarding the future of the museum and we are extremely grateful for every gift bequeathed to us, no matter the size.

## Why do I need a will?

Without a will, it is the law that determines what happens to your money, property and possessions. With a will, it is you that is in charge of who receives what. Writing your will presents an opportunity to remember a cause close to your heart and ensure that your wishes are carried out after your death.

## How do I get a will written and how much does it cost?

Making a will is very important, but not as hard as you may think. It is possible to write a will yourself (see guidelines at [www.gov.uk/make-will](http://www.gov.uk/make-will)) but we recommend you to consult a solicitor to ensure your will is up-to-date, legally binding and accurately reflects your wishes.

To find a solicitor near you who can help write your will, visit the Law Society Scotland website ([www.lawscot.org.uk](http://www.lawscot.org.uk)). Costs can vary and start at about £125.

## What information do I need to include about GHM when making my will?

You only need to include our name, address and charity number:

Gairloch Heritage Museum, Achtercairn, Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2BP; Charity Number SC010249

### What if I already have a will?

If you have a will you may want to make small alterations to it in the future. A codicil is a document used to make a change or addition to a will. The benefit of adding a codicil is that you do not have to re-write the whole document in order to make a small change. A simple way of remembering GHM in your will is by adding a codicil.

While a codicil is a seemingly simple addition it is still a legal document in its own right and as such we recommend you speak to your solicitor to update your will with a codicil.

### Can you explain the different types of gifts in wills?

You can leave a sum of money, a percentage of your estate or a specific item. A sum of money is known as a **pecuniary legacy** and is an exact sum stated in your will.

A percentage of your estate comes from the 'residue' of the estate – what is left after all other bequests, taxes and debts have been paid. You can give the entire residue or a share of it to GHM. You may prefer to leave a **residuary legacy** as the value will be determined following your death. This means that the value of the legacy will increase with the value of your estate.

A **specific legacy** relates to a particular item such as stock or shares, property or personal possessions.

### Where can I get more information?

There are many guides on the internet that can help you to write a will. These include:

- Citizens Advice Bureau's guide
- The Law Society of Scotland's guide
- Money Saving Expert's guide
- Which? Consumer Magazine's guide