

Be part of the Open Country legacy

Make a difference by remembering Open Country in your Will



Please consider helping to secure our future by leaving something to Open Country in your Will. With your financial support, we will be able to continue our valuable work of helping people with disabilities to access and enjoy the countryside.

What is a legacy?

A legacy is a gift made in a Will. It can be a means of leaving a charity some of your wealth after you have died.

Why should I leave a legacy to Open Country?

We hope that our award-winning work, helping people with disabilities to access and enjoy the countryside, speaks for itself. Please contact a staff member if you would like some more details about what we do, or visit www.opencountry.org.uk

Our Charity only receives about 15% of the money we need from North Yorkshire Social Services and we have to work very hard for every single penny. Unconditional legacies allow to address needs, as and when they arrive.

However, you may prefer to leave money for a particular project or purpose:

- ❖ £250 pays for our community allotment for one year
- ❖ £500 allows us to replace broken conservation tools annually
- ❖ £3,000 buys a new tandem
- ❖ £8,000 funds a nature conservation work party for a year
- ❖ £40,000 purchases a fully accessible minibus

Open Country is a small charity with huge aims and we appreciate every penny.

Why should I leave a Will?

The only way to be sure that the things that you own are passed on to your family, friends and charities, according to your wishes, is by making a Will. Sadly many people die without a leaving a Will, which can cause unnecessary distress and expense for those left behind. If you die with no Will in place then intestacy rules come into play and your possessions are divided according to law rather than your personal wishes.

Some people assume that they do not have to make a Will because their partner, spouse or civil partner will inherit everything anyway. This is, however, very far from the case. Under the intestacy rules, your spouse, or civil partner would not necessarily inherit everything you own. An unmarried partner would have no legal right to inherit anything from you.

Do I need to use a solicitor?

Making a Will is a perfect opportunity to leave a gift to a charity such as Open Country. Although you can make a Will on-line or through a DIY kit we strongly recommend that you take legal advice from a qualified solicitor, because a badly drawn Will can be worse than no Will at all! They can also advise you about the tax benefits of the various options.

Think about what you want to do before you visit your solicitor. This will save both time and costs.

Many people make specific gifts in Wills of family items, amounts of money and then split the residue of their estate (which is usually the largest portion) between their loved ones.

If you decide you can help Open Country in your Will by leaving a donation, however small, then it may help your solicitor or Will writer to know the wording to use.

Below are the more common types of gift and suggested wording for including in your Will:-

A Cash Gift (Pecuniary Bequest)

A cash gift is a fixed amount of money. You should remember that the value of cash can decrease over time and so you should keep your Will under review.

“I give the sum of £ [*enter amount to be given*] to Open Country (Registered Charity number 1107331) of Community House, 46 East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LT

I also direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised Officer of Open Country for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for this gift.”

A Specific Gift

This is the gift of a specific item and could be property, shares, a piece of jewellery and so on:-

"I give (*enter details of the item to be given*) to Open Country (Registered Charity number 1107331) of Community House, 46 East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LT

I also direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised Officer of Open Country for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for this gift."

A Residuary Gift

After providing for family and friends many people decide to leave the remainder of their estate, or a percentage of the remainder, to charity. This is a particularly popular way to leave a gift to charity as the gift increases in line with inflation:-

"I give [enter the word "all" or "a ---- % share of"] the residue of my estate to Open Country (Registered Charity number 1107331) of Community House, 46 East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LT. I also direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised Officer of Open Country for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for this gift."

I've already made my Will. Do I need to write a new one?

No, but you will need to keep it up to date. You can add charitable legacies to your Will by seeing a solicitor about a short codicil. A new Will can be made at any time.



Thank you for your time and trouble. Every legacy helps us in our work.

Open Country, Community House, 46 East Parade, Harrogate, HG1 5LT,

(01423) 507227, info@opencountry.org.uk

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