



HOW YOU CAN HELP BEXHILL MUSEUM

INTRODUCTION

Every museum needs a long-term vision, **Bexhill Museum** being no exception. We are not talking of the period covered by our Forward Plan 2010-2014 (a copy of which you will find on the web site) but of much further into the future, say for the next 50 years. That may seem far too long a period even to contemplate, but during 2014 we will be celebrating the museum's 100th birthday. So why should we not plan for 2064? Many of us will not be around then but certainly our children and grandchildren will be and we must ensure that they and all residents of Bexhill and visitors to the town still have a museum to enjoy. The Society of Bexhill Museums Ltd. is committed not only to preserving our town's priceless heritage, but also to enlarging the collections, mounting exhibitions, increasing education programmes, broadening access and bringing enjoyment to all who visit the museum.

As a charitable limited company, the Society relies heavily on the generosity of the public to manage and maintain our museum. We receive no central government funding and the limited annual grant received from Rother District Council is solely to assist us towards utility costs and is not even guaranteed for the future. This means that all of the museum's running costs and the vital conservation and development work have to be paid from admission charges, shop sales, hiring out of the education room, outside events, lectures by our curator, subscriptions, donations, legacies and specific fund raising.

LEGACIES

Leaving a legacy is possibly the most personal gift anyone can make to **Bexhill Museum**. By leaving a bequest in your Will, you can help to preserve our heritage for the present and future generations. You do not have to be an avid collector or expert to leave us a legacy, just an enthusiastic museum supporter. Likewise, you do not have to be extremely wealthy to donate. All bequests are welcome and can be put to good use, be they £10 or £10,000. You may wish to give for the general benefit of the museum, thereby giving us flexibility to use in the area of greatest need. Alternatively, you may wish to make a bequest for a specific purpose, reflecting your individual interest. For example, education, costumes, racing heritage, social history or antiquities. We record and recognise all such gifts in the most appropriate manner, usually through dedicated labels or through acknowledgement in the Annual Report.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

We strongly recommend that you consult your legal advisor when making or altering your Will. By making a legally correct Will you can ensure that your estate is allocated to your wishes. You can provide for family, friends and the good causes you wish to support. Bequests to charitable organisations such as ours may also reduce the capital tax liability on your estate if its value exceeds the Inheritance Tax threshold. Your tax advisor will be able to explain this.

TYPES OF BEQUESTS

- **A Pecuniary Bequest** allows you to give a specific sum of money.
- **A Residuary Bequest** is a gift of the whole or part of your estate remaining after other bequests have been met.
- **A Reversionary Bequest** allows you to leave assets to a chosen beneficiary whilst giving the named person the benefit of them during their lifetime.
- **A Conditional Bequest** leaves all or part of your estate to a person or persons but in the event that they die before you, the bequest would come to the museum.

DONATIONS

Another way to support **Bexhill Museum** is through donations. A donation is a one off payment or a regular amount paid at intervals that you find convenient. The Society may use these for:

Restoration and conservation works.
Presenting innovative temporary exhibitions.
Continuing our commitment to education and research.
Purchasing key acquisitions.
Ensuring reasonable admission charges.

You can contribute to **Bexhill Museum** in the following ways:

- Giving cash personally in a donation box at the reception desk.
- Sending a cheque payable to 'The Society of Bexhill Museums Ltd.'
- Making a payment by credit/debit card at the reception desk.
- By Gift Aid. This method allows UK tax payers to increase their donation by 20%. Forms may be picked up at reception or sent to your home address. Please telephone or e-mail the museum.

The directors of the Society of Bexhill Museums Ltd. appreciate that these are financially difficult times for everyone and that the situation will not improve for some years. However, we hope that you will agree with us that **Bexhill Museum** plays and will continue to play an important role in our town's present and future prosperity, as its second most popular visitor attraction. We hold in trust an outstanding collection with items ranging in age from 2.5 billion years to one year and very much in between! The museum is also the repository for Bexhill's own heritage, this material being essential for anyone pursuing local studies. We are developing our education programmes and our ambition is to see **Bexhill Museum** as an important education centre for all ages by 2013.

If you would like to speak to someone in confidence about leaving a legacy or making a donation, please telephone Don Phillips or Julian Porter on 01424 787950.