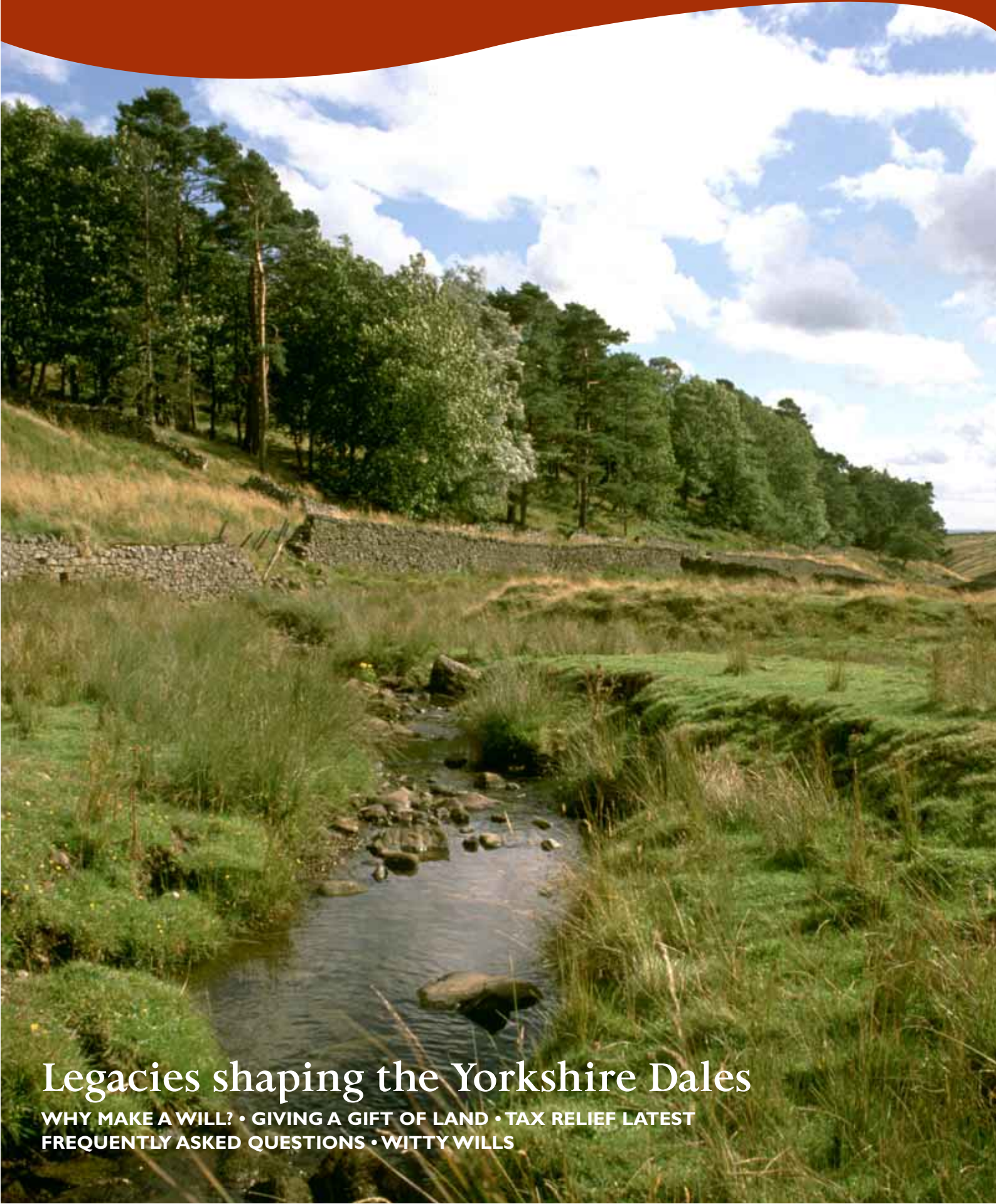


# Living Heritage



WOODLAND  
TRUST

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## Legacies shaping the Yorkshire Dales

WHY MAKE A WILL? • GIVING A GIFT OF LAND • TAX RELIEF LATEST  
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Thwaitestones Wood, Yorkshire Dales National Park

Photograph: Stuart Handley

## Legacies shaping the Yorkshire Dales

*Despite its natural beauty, the Yorkshire Dales contains some of the UK's most threatened woodland landscapes. Our native woodland accounts for just over 1% of this National Park. But thanks to two legacies, this is beginning to change.*

In the Yorkshire Dales, there are just a few remaining pockets of ancient semi-natural woodland, one of our richest wildlife habitats. Yet even these remain under threat. Ancient woodland has been managed for many years by man and is of great value as a reservoir for a fascinating variety of plants and animals – it is also a valuable landscape feature and historical record. But much of what remains has been poorly managed in recent years and some woods have disappeared completely under the pressure of grazing animals and changing land management practices. Woodland is just one of a variety of important habitats in the Dales but, if we don't save what remains, the natural variety will suffer even more in years to come.

Thankfully, two Woodland Trust supporters, Sidney Clifford Webb and Anne Appleton, left generous legacies, enabling a new groundbreaking project

to be launched in the Dales. This will help protect, link and extend these remaining fragments of ancient semi-natural woodland.

The Trust is now working alongside farmers, landowners and local agencies to take practical action to protect what remains through the new Yorkshire Dales Project. The Project can make a tremendous difference by

- helping people to understand why ancient woodland is important
- providing positive incentives to encourage land managers to restore and conserve it
- buffering and protecting it from damaging external threats by planting new native trees and fencing out livestock
- encouraging others to take positive action and lead by example.

Without the legacies, none of this would be possible.

This new project will also enable the Trust to ensure that schemes that provide financial incentives for the protection of ancient woodland are adequate. In most cases, every £1 spent by the Trust will result in around £3 being utilised to protect, plant and manage woodland.

The response in the Dales has been extremely positive and, with the help of the many partners, the Trust is already planning a number of new schemes for 2001.

Northern Regional Development Officer, Judith Stuttard, explains "This is a great illustration of the value of legacies to the Trust. These generous supporters will help us make a lasting, positive impression on the beautiful landscape of the Dales."

The Trust aims to secure a sustainable future for the precious remaining ancient woodland in the Dales. If the pilot is a success, the Trust will waste no time in seeking ways of funding similar projects in other areas of the country.

**The Yorkshire Dales Project** is just one example of how the Woodland Trust can use legacies to make a lasting difference. For more information about legacies, contact Susan Miller at the Trust (see back cover). To find out more about this Project, visit the web site on [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/yorkshiredales](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/yorkshiredales) or call Judith Stuttard on 01484 609510

## Making the right choice

Currently in the UK, around 60% of those who pass away do so without making a Will. Most of those preferred not to think about it or decided that it was not a priority. Of course, the decision to make a Will is one that only you can make. But with something as important as this, it is vital to know the facts.

Many people are surprised to find out what will happen to their money and possessions if they die 'intestate' – without a Will. The Acts that govern the distribution of the estate of such a person are designed to be as fair as possible. They are based on the principle that the estate is divided as they would have done had they made a Will during their lifetime. Sadly, there are still many cases where difficulties have been faced by the nearest and dearest of the deceased as a result of their passing away intestate. This is exacerbated by the fact that, today, family situations are increasingly complicated.

A free fact sheet on reasons to make a Will is available from the Woodland Trust. For your copy phone 01476 581129.

### The facts

Did you know that if you die without a Will:

- if you have a spouse, they do not automatically receive your entire estate. Some of it may be distributed to other relatives whom you may not wish to benefit?
- if you are unmarried but living with a partner, they have no automatic claim to any of your estate?

Once all debts, expenses and obligations have been covered, making a Will means that the remainder of your estate can be distributed exactly as you want. It allows you to make your own very personal wishes known and it need not be expensive or complicated. For most of us, making a Will is the right choice to make.

*Did you know...in 1999 a total of 29,395 Wills left some of their estate to charity?*

## Calling all solicitors

If you are a solicitor and you support the work of the Woodland Trust, you can help us by displaying some of our legacy leaflets in your reception area.

We may also be able to help you. From time to time we are asked if we can recommend a firm of solicitors in a specific area. Whilst we are not able to recommend a specific firm, we could supply a general list of solicitors in that area. If you would like your firm to be included on that list, please contact us. **For more information, call Susan Miller on 01476 581129.**

### Question

I am about to write my Will and wish to appoint two friends as executors. I am concerned that, if, when the time came, my friends felt that they could not cope with the task, they would be required to pay the solicitor out of their own pockets. Is this the case?

### Answer

*Your friends would be acting in the capacity of 'personal representatives' and, as such, are entitled to employ a solicitor to administer the estate on their behalf. The costs of this can be settled from the estate. But, it's important to be aware that the estate can only bear the cost of one firm being employed, unless more are required because specialist knowledge is needed in particular areas.*



Apple blossom at Linnet's Wood

Photograph: Paul Coppi

## New hope for Scotland's rainforest

Crinan Wood rises 100 metres above the picturesque village of Crinan. From this vantage point, visitors can lose themselves in the spectacular views west to the Isle of Jura and north to Mull. Or they can look across Crinan Loch and marvel at the historic 12th century Duntrune Castle and survey the 1,200 boggy acres of National Nature Reserve that lies beyond.

But even without its stunning setting, this would be an exceptional place. With its moist, warm climate it is often described as a remnant of Scotland's own rainforest and it is home to a vast variety of ferns, lichens and bryophytes. There are 24 species of breeding bird including buzzard, tree creeper, redstart and wood warbler. Such impressive natural diversity is typical of the ancient semi-natural woodland that covers part of the wood.

When Dr Lillian E Topping wrote her Will, she asked that her bequest be spent on woodland creation in Argyll. She saw this as an enduring and tender

way to remember her parents. Crinan Wood fitted the bill perfectly. Although it was already rich in wildlife, the wood needed a helping hand. Planting new trees would help the vulnerable oakwood areas to extend and survive well into the future.

Thanks to Dr Topping, Crinan Wood is in the midst of a three year regeneration programme that will give it a new lease of life. Acorns and hazelnuts are being gathered from the existing trees to be nurtured into saplings and planted back into the wood. In the safe hands of the Woodland Trust, the wood will regenerate and become an even healthier wildlife haven.

Visitors are already encouraged to go to the site and enjoy the peace and beauty it offers. We hope that, along the way, they will stop and read the plaque that remembers Dr Lillian E Topping and her parents – for it is thanks in part to them that visits will be such a pleasure.



Tree creeper

Photograph: Geoff Campbell

## Leaving a gift of land?

A new advice leaflet is available for those considering the generous step of leaving the Trust land in their Will. This explains how you can make your gift ensuring that your wishes are taken into account and that we have the resources necessary to give it the attention it deserves. **For a copy of the leaflet call 01476 581129.**



Crinan Wood - a treasure set to extend and thrive thanks to Dr Topping and her parents.

Photograph: Alex Von Koettlitz



Heath Hills, Surrey – gifted to the Trust in 1996

Photograph: Robert McLeod

## Good news for shareholders

*“Taking advantage of this benefit could enable the value of your gift to be increased fivefold...”*

Many of you will already know that bequests to charity have the benefit of exemption from both Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax. But fewer people are aware that, from April 2000, another valuable form of tax relief has been introduced.

Gifts of certain shares, securities and other investments to charities are now eligible for Income Tax relief as well as being exempt from Capital Gains Tax. If you are thinking of leaving shares or other investments to a charity in your Will, why not consider

whether you are able to reap greater benefits by donating them in your lifetime? This offers the added advantage of enabling you to fund a specific project which can be enjoyed in your own lifetime.

Taking advantage of this benefit could enable the value of your gift to be increased fivefold, saving you money and helping the charity greatly.

To discuss whether this is an appropriate option for you, call **James Underhill** at the Trust on **01797 344721**. Alternatively, pick up the Inland Revenue leaflet, *Giving Shares and Securities to Charities*, from your local tax office or visit their website at **[www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk](http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk)**

### Quick wit

*Somerset amateur actor, John Bliss, said in his Will “I leave my skull to the Crewkerne Players, in the hope that its appearance on stage during public performances may attract more favourable criticism than I did while appearing alive.”*

### Quick wit

*A Kent man said in his Will “To my first wife, Sue, whom I always promised I would mention in my Will – ‘Hello Sue!’”.*

### Question

My husband and I are about to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We have decided that it’s about time to write our Wills. We have separate banks, savings accounts and investments and support different charities. We would like to leave our individual estates to our respective charities, except the house in which we live. We want this to be passed to our surviving partner. How can we do this?

### Answer

Most matrimonial homes are now owned by spouses as ‘joint tenants’ (or in Scotland under a ‘destination’ to the surviving spouse) which means that the two partners own the home equally and so the property will automatically pass to the surviving spouse, regardless of the Will. If, however, the house is owned as ‘tenants in common’, each spouse owns a certain amount of the property and his/her share will pass on death according to the terms of the Will.

If you think that your home is owned as ‘tenants in common’ (or in Scotland with no ‘destination’), you should include in your Will wording along the lines of “I leave my interest in the property at ..... to my husband/wife absolutely.” Your solicitor will be able to give you further advice on this.





Hone Wood, Yorkshire

Photograph: Stuart Handley

## Dr Asser's bequest

*Mrs Lida Newman, daughter of Dr Elizabeth Asser, explains why her mother decided to leave a legacy to the Woodland Trust.*

Dr Elizabeth Asser had two great passions – trees and Yorkshire. To see bluebells growing under trees just coming into leaf, or dew glinting on autumn leaves, was bliss.

In the 1970s, she became a supporter and left the Woodland Trust a legacy in her Will. To her, trees, whether they were growing singly, in a small copse or a great forest, were a sight of wonderment, important for the health of every living creature and the planet's future. She would say that, without the benefit of trees, everything would die from pollution, lack of resources or disasters.



Dr Elizabeth Asser (second from right) on her 70th birthday surrounded by her three sisters and her daughter.

Elizabeth Asser loved Yorkshire. When she died in January this year, donations were sent to the Trust which, added to her legacy, have made it possible to create a living memorial to her and her two great passions.

For the most up to date news of what's happening in Yorkshire, visit [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/yorkshiredales](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/yorkshiredales)

### The Hone Wood legacy

*Dr Asser's bequest contributed to the creation of a brand new wood near the village of Boggle Hole, North Yorkshire. Christened 'Boggle Top' by the local villagers, the wood will extend the ancient Hone Wood. 10,530 trees are being planted there this spring – mostly oak and ash with a sprinkling of field maple, rowan, hazel, holly, hawthorn and dog rose. A new sign will welcome the public and a grassy path will lead to a viewpoint where walkers can survey the spectacular coastal scenery below.*

## A helping hand with your legacy

Leaving a legacy to the Woodland Trust is an ideal way of being remembered and making a lasting gift to future generations. We can help to make the process easy.

Susan Miller, our Legacy Manager, is very pleased to talk to you directly on the telephone or to arrange for a member of staff to call and see you at home, if you would prefer. Alternatively, why not ask for our free advice leaflet, *Wording for Wills?*



For further information, contact Susan on: 01476 581129

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[www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk)

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