



# HEALTHIER OCEAN. STRONGER PLANET.

**Make this your  
legacy; leave a gift  
in your Will to SAMS**

Your support will help researchers and scientists at SAMS unlock the incredible **POWER** of the seas, enabling us to protect our ocean, for people, and for planet.

# About SAMS

**SAMS is built on an amazing legacy of generosity.**

The first global marine research expedition was made possible when the Royal Navy gifted the use of a strong sturdy ship, HMS Challenger, and others contributed to making her fit for a new life on the seas. In 1872 an intrepid team, including our founder Sir John Murray, began a three & a half year voyage that would completely reshape marine science and research.

The impact of that epic journey changed our relationship with the planet's oceans forever.

**But there's still so much more to discover, & much we need to understand.**

By leaving the most personal of gifts to SAMS, you can continue to make positive change to our ever-growing environmental challenges for generations to come.

A gift left in your Will to SAMS can boost our pioneering research, leading to new discoveries and new solutions, while also enabling us to remain independent and impartial. Planned giving allows our scientists and researchers to do even more, even faster; unlocking the incredible power of the seas and enabling us to protect our oceans, for people, for planet.



# Why Wills are so important

Making a Will is the best way to make sure your final wishes are carried in the ways you want after you die. This can include what sort of funeral you would like, how you would like your possessions to be distributed, as well as other wishes, like who should bring up your children or be guardians of your pets, if you have them.

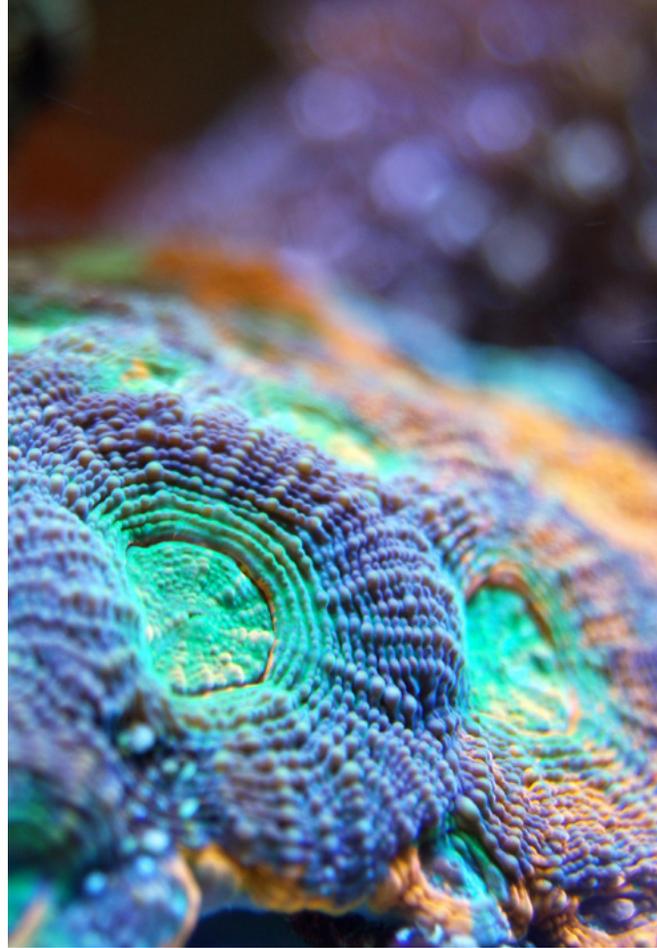
A Will also ensures that your loved ones and the causes you care about will be provided for in the future.

Once you've provided for your loved ones, family and friends, gifts to your favourite charities can make sure you have long-lasting impact, even when you're no longer here.

Any legacy, no matter how large or small, will make a huge difference to SAMS.

When it comes to the climate crisis, we're literally running out of time to find solutions to the challenges facing humankind.

Gifts in Wills support researchers and scientists to prevent further damage and degradation of our oceans, protect the overall health of the ocean, and the vast species of animals, plants and organisms living in it, and prepare for the future, by using the ocean to better anticipate the changes to our planet.



You can choose to leave your gift to the work that matters most to you.



If you enjoy a life on the sea, you could help us maintain our fleet of boats; the tools that facilitate our discovery.



If innovation excites you, enable our robotics to develop; providing safer, efficient and more effective ways to collect vital data from extreme landscapes with harsh conditions.



If you're worried about how the future of our planet will affect your family, invest in our students; the next generation of environmental trailblazers who will change the world.



Or consider an unrestricted gift, so we can use it towards the most urgent challenges of the time.

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If you are considering directing your gift to a particular area of our work, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss your plans with you before you commit them to a Will. This will also help us to understand your wishes better, so we can implement them as authentically as possible when the time comes.

# A big decision, but a straightforward process

Making a Will is a big decision, but it needn't be a complicated process.



You're not alone taking this first step. It's estimated that over 60% of people don't have a Will. This means that when you die, you will have little control over who receives your estate. This becomes more complicated if you have children, an unmarried partner, stepchildren and pets, or if you've recently married or got divorced.

Include your family & loved ones in the conversations, and once you know how you would like to leave your estate, a solicitor can sensitively advise you on how best to articulate your wishes.

Do-it-yourself wills may seem inexpensive, but if you don't prepare it properly it may not be valid.

To avoid complications further down the line we recommend you use a professional adviser, like a solicitor, so you can make sure your Will is written properly and meets all your needs and requirements.

If your estate is like to be complicated, it's even more important to seek specialist support.

And remember to keep it up to date. This is the only way you can be sure your wishes will be taken care of properly in the future and is particularly important if your circumstances change.

It's worth reviewing your Will every few years to make sure it still reflects your wishes and making changes where needed.

Contact Julie on [fundraising@sams.ac.uk](mailto:fundraising@sams.ac.uk) for an open, sensitive and confidential conversation about how we can ensure your legacy will contribute to creating a healthier ocean, for a stronger planet.

# Leaving a gift in your Will to SAMS

If you would like to leave a gift to SAMS to further marine science, the following wording can be adapted by your solicitor to suit the type of gift you wish to leave:

## Example

I give, devise and bequeath to the **Scottish Association For Marine Science** (Charity No: SC009206) of Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA.....

the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ pounds).

or

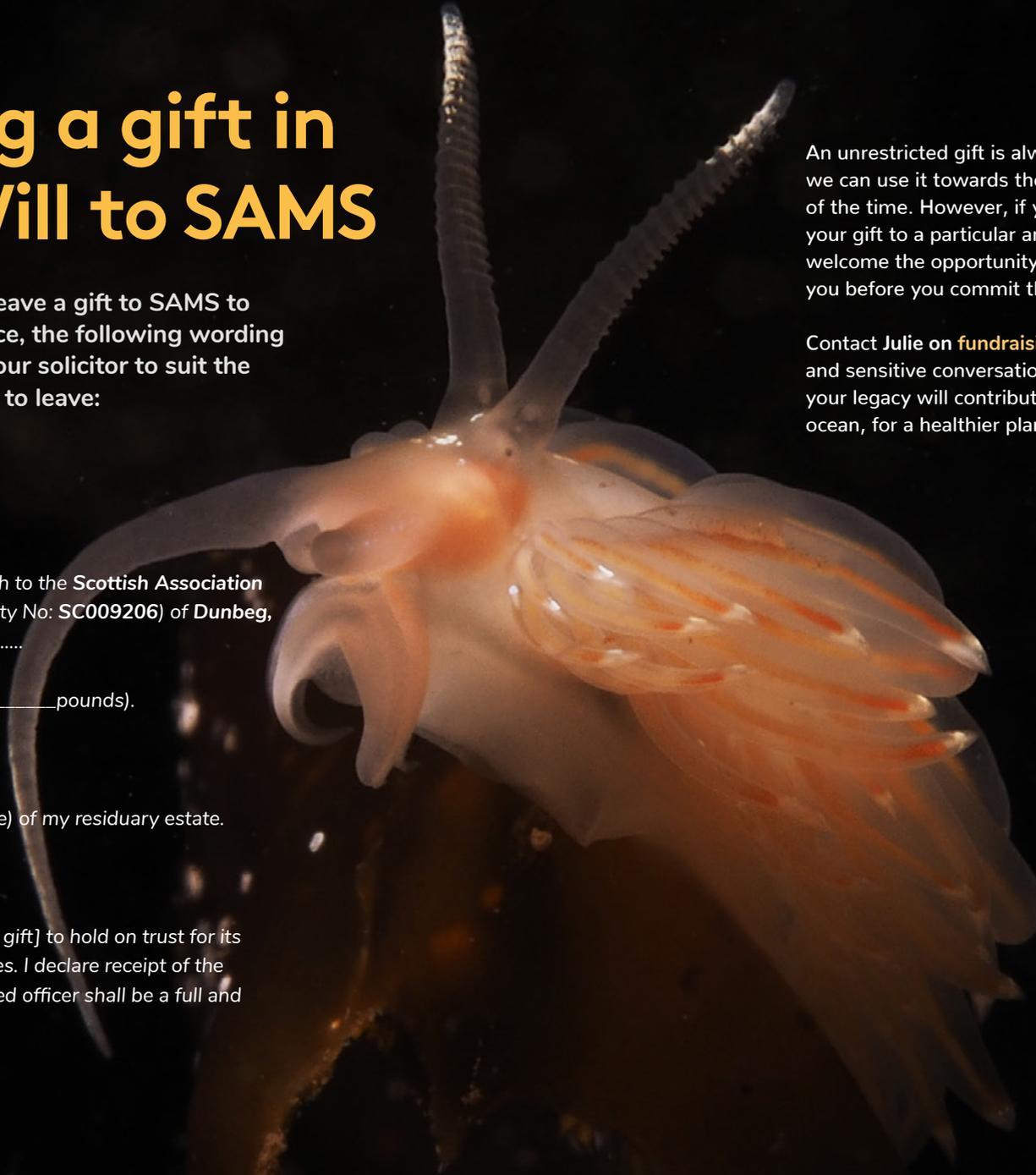
the whole (or \_\_\_\_\_% share) of my residuary estate.

or

[insert details of a specific gift] to hold on trust for its general charitable purposes. I declare receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

An unrestricted gift is always the most helpful, so we can use it towards the most pressing challenges of the time. However, if you are considering directing your gift to a particular area of our work, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss your plans with you before you commit them to a Will.

Contact Julie on [fundraising@sams.ac.uk](mailto:fundraising@sams.ac.uk) for an open and sensitive conversation about how we can ensure your legacy will contribute to creating a healthier ocean, for a healthier planet.





"SAMS RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ARE OF INCREASING RELEVANCE TO A SOCIETY THAT FACES A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, PLASTIC WASTE CRISIS AND UNPRECEDENTED SPECIES EXTINCTION RATES. WE SCIENTISTS MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS FOR A HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE MARINE ENVIRONMENT."

**NICK OWENS,  
DIRECTOR OF SAMS**

# Be part of our family. Be part of our future. Become a... **LIFETIME EXPLORER!**

If you have remembered SAMS in your Will, we'd absolutely love to hear from you. Not only will this help us plan for the future, but it also means we can thank you properly for your support.

Our Lifetime Explorer programme is exclusively available for those leaving the most personal of gifts and will bring you closer to our people, research and activities during your lifetime.

-  Each year we host a small, informal event at our beautiful coastal laboratory in Oban, to show first-hand how legacies can enable the discovery and knowledge needed to tackle the most challenging environmental issues of our time
-  Stay up to date about SAMS' exciting projects and developments through our e-newsletters and digital Ocean Explorer Magazine
-  Keep us informed of any specific requests about your legacy, including how you would like to be recognised
-  On request, Lifetime Explorers can find out more about specific areas of our work, meet the teams involved and get a better sense for the scale of impact that can be made through a restricted gift

Through the lens of marine science, we are tackling head-on some of the world's most urgent and complex issues, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and providing sustainable resources for an ever-growing human population. Now YOU can be part of that, for years to come.

"I DIDN'T REALISE YOU COULD LEAVE  
A LEGACY TO SAMS. BEING BORN AND  
BRED IN OBAN, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN  
PROUD OF SUCH GLOBALLY IMPORTANT  
WORK COMING OUT OF MY HOMETOWN.

KNOWING I CAN DO SOMETHING TO  
SUPPORT THEM IN THE FUTURE MEANS  
A GREAT DEAL TO ME, PARTICULARLY IF  
IT CONTRIBUTES TO MAKING A BETTER  
PLANET FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN'S  
CHILDREN."



# Making the Language of Wills easier to understand

Being a legal document, and due to some old fashioned language and terminology, starting the Will writing process can sometimes feel daunting. We've broken down a few of the main terms, some of which we've already used, into plain English...

## Codicil

This is a note of small change to an existing Will, witnessed in the same way. Codicils can sometimes lead to confusion, so nowadays it's much more common to re-write the whole Will.



## Executor

A person or person(s) who have the legal authority and responsibility to administer the estate.

## Estate

The property and assets of the person who has died.

## Probate

Probate is the legal right to deal with someone's estate when they die. Once a 'grant of probate' is issued, the executor is authorised to sell property, pay off debts, close accounts and distribute assets in accordance with the Will.

## Will

The formal document which details how someone wishes to dispose of their assets after death.

## Beneficiary

A person or organisation to whom a gift is left.

## Specific gift

A gift of a particular item, for example a property, a book or a painting.

## Residuary gift

A share of whatever is left after all debts have been settled and other gifts made.

## Testator/Testatrix

The person making a Will (Male or Female).

## Pecuniary gift

A gift of a fixed sum of money.

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for your interest in supporting our vital research through gifts in Wills.

For 140 years, we've tirelessly dedicated ourselves to building a foundation of marine knowledge, enabling us now to tackle head-on some of the most complex and important challenges humankind has ever faced.

The most personal donation you can ever make will boost resource and capacity, enabling our researchers and scientists to do even more but critically, even faster; unlocking the incredible power of the seas and enabling us to protect our ocean, for people, and for planet.

To discuss these options further please contact our Fundraising department

Telephone: **01631 559000**

Email: **[fundraising@sams.ac.uk](mailto:fundraising@sams.ac.uk)**

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