



SOCIETY OF  
ANTIQUARIES  
OF LONDON

## THE MAKING HISTORY CAMPAIGN

*Giving the Past a Future*

*'The Society of Antiquaries of London has done more than any other institution to shape our view of the past, to conserve and record it, and, above all, to inspire people with passion for it.'*

Dr David Starkey FSA  
Chairman of the Making History Campaign Group



*The drawings and records of churches and monuments that the Society made in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are the only record we now have of such works of art as the medieval wall paintings that were lost when the Palace of Westminster, home to the Houses of Parliament, went up in flames in 1834.*

*One of our most precious possessions is the Winton Domesday Book, a key document for the study of local history and for understanding conditions in England after the Norman Conquest.*

## THE MAKING HISTORY CAMPAIGN



The Society of Antiquaries has been making history since its foundation in 1707. The elected Fellows of our learned society were rescuing pictures and antiquities for the nation before the British Museum and National Gallery were founded. The drawings and records of churches and monuments that the Society made in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries are now very often the only record we have of the destroyed originals. We pioneered the techniques that make archaeology a distinct science and fought the battles in Parliament that secured the first legislation to protect such monuments as Avebury and Stonehenge.



Today our Fellows continue to make history through research, education and fieldwork. They write the books that reinterpret and refresh our understanding of the past and make TV programmes that bring history, archaeology, art and architecture to a world eager for knowledge. As the directors of national museums and galleries, they mount the exhibitions that promote informed enjoyment of the world's rich cultural legacy and they run the national heritage agencies that manage historic properties and advise governments on heritage policy. Fellows add to our knowledge of the past by excavating and interpreting archaeological sites, and they teach the next generation of historians and archaeologists in schools, universities and evening classes.

Now you too can help us to make history by supporting our fundraising campaign. We need £6 million for two projects of vital importance to our future: essential improvements to our Library, and the development of a centre for learning at Kelmscott Manor, the country home of William Morris, the radical thinker whose multiple interests represent in microcosm the aims and values of our Society.

*The Society's activities over the last 300 years have largely been made possible through the vision and generosity of those benefactors who have made donations or bequests to the Society in the past, including the gift of rare books and antiquities. These form the bedrock of an exceptional collection that we showed to the world through our Royal Academy exhibition in 2007 and its subsequent national tour. Our collections tell the story of history itself.*





*Why was Stonehenge built? Recent excavations directed by our President, Geoff Wainwright and Vice-President, Tim Darvill, have generated international media coverage. Was Stonehenge a place of healing, a prehistoric Lourdes, or part of a symbolic landscape in which stone circles represented the enduring world of the ancestors?*

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The Society's position at the forefront of knowledge is reflected in the roll call of our distinguished current Fellowship, which includes:

- Mick Aston, Phil Harding, Helen Geake and most of the experts who appear on Channel 4's *Time Team*
- Sir David Attenborough, much-loved broadcaster of programmes on natural history and archaeology
- Mary Beard, Cambridge Classics Professor, irreverent Times blogger and best-selling author of *The Colosseum*, *The Roman Triumph* and *Pompeii*
- Beatrice de Cardi, hailed by the BBC on her 95th birthday as 'better than Indiana Jones' for her continuing work on the archaeology of the Persian Gulf
- The Directors of the British Museum, the Fitzwilliam Museum, the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales, the Mary Rose Trust, the Metropolitan Museum, New York, the Museum Victoria of Australia, the National Gallery, the Royal Academy, the Royal Naval Museum, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Wallace Collection
- James Fenton, poet, journalist, literary critic and former Oxford Professor of Poetry
- Alan Garner, author of classic books for children based on the historic landscape of Alderley Edge
- Carola Hicks, author of Radio 4 Book of the Week *The King's Glass* on the stained glass of King's College Chapel, Cambridge
- Sir Simon Jenkins, National Trust Chairman, *Times* and *Guardian* columnist
- David Starkey, Tudor historian, presenter of Channel 4's *Monarchy* and best-selling author of books on Henry VIII and his wives
- Robert Tear, distinguished tenor and conductor
- Michael Wood, writer and broadcaster

*'This is a campaign for the realisation of two vital projects that will transform the Society, laying the foundation for our fourth century at the heart of the nation's heritage.'*

Professor Geoffrey Wainwright,  
President  
2007–2010

*John Gipkin's diptych of 1616 is a rare example of Jacobean fundraising; it was painted to encourage donations for the restoration of St Paul's Cathedral after damage by lightning in 1561. The final panel offers a vision of angels rejoicing in celebration at the splendours of the restored church.*

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*'The Society of Antiquaries, with its superb library, is the natural home and inspiration for those interested in the world's past cultures and the conservation of our historic heritage.'*

Sir Barry Cunliffe FSA



## THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY



Purpose-designed for the Society in 1875, our Grade II\* listed Library has remained almost unchanged for the last 135 years, an elegant architectural setting for an unparalleled collection of books, prints and antiquarian archives. Many items in our collections are so rare that they cannot be found in any other library. By providing free access for all, we play a vital role in international scholarship, inspiring today's leading researchers and writers.

But decades of sunlight and heat have taken their toll on ancient vellum and leather bindings. We lack the space and modern facilities for all the students and scholars who want to make use of our library.

We are also running out of space for new books. As interest in the material history of our past continues to grow, newly published books and journals are filling an additional 45 metres of shelf space a year.

*The Library is still much as it was in 1875 although electric lights have replaced these gasoliers in the ceiling which originally provided ventilation as well as illumination. We now need to bring environmental conditions up to twenty-first-century sustainable standards.*

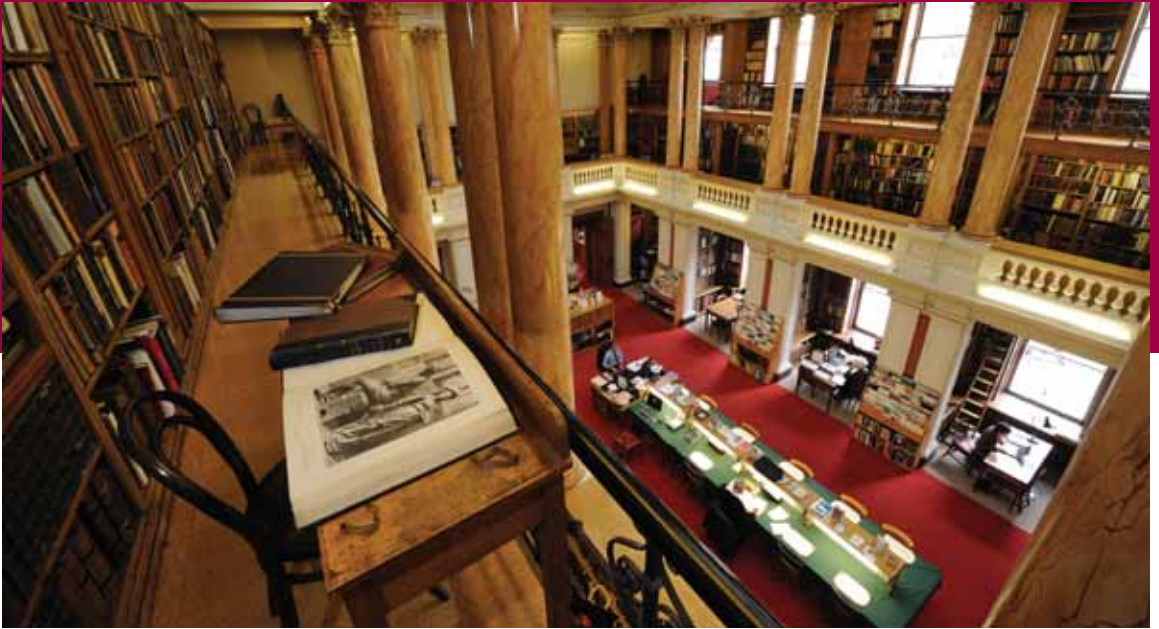
*Scholars from all over the world use our Library.*

### Our plan is to:

- restore the historic Library interiors
- provide better environmental conditions for the ever-growing collection of books
- increase shelving by a third and free up space in the library itself for more users
- provide disabled access throughout the building
- upgrade our IT infrastructure and access to online resources
- create dedicated studios for collections study and on-site conservation, reducing the cost and risk of sending items out for cleaning and repair

*More than 50 per cent of the printed collections require in-house conservation, and we will run out of shelf space within the next five years.*

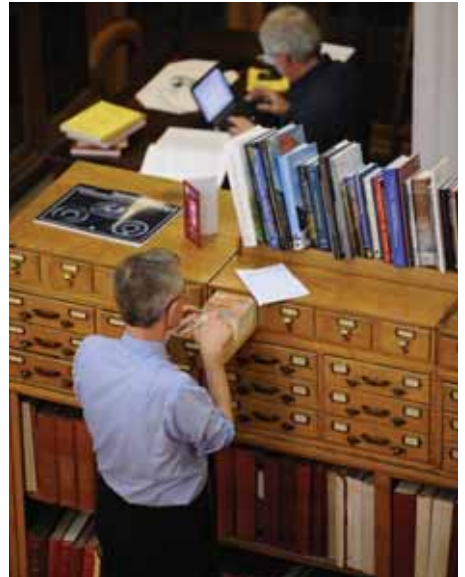




Since it acquired its very first book in 1720 – Strype's edition of John Stow's A Survey of the cities of London and Westminster – the Library's collections have nourished the work of many great scholars.



Innovative research and inspiring collections demand twenty-first-century research and study facilities.



*'The Library has proved invaluable to me when seeking references by travellers to Arabia and Persia in the seventeenth century and later. Its open access is something I particularly appreciate as it has allowed me to explore all the collections and new trains of thought have often opened up as a result.'*

Beatrice de Cardi FSA

## KELMSCOTT MANOR

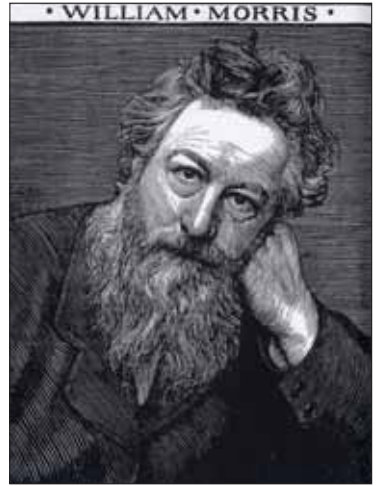


William Morris (1834–96) was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1894 in recognition of his genius as a designer, craftsman, poet, pioneer socialist and a founding father of the buildings conservation movement. In all of these activities, Kelmscott Manor was a powerful inspiration in his life. Bequeathed to the Society by William's daughter, May Morris, the Manor continues to inspire visitors with its remarkable collection of Arts & Crafts furniture, textiles and paintings made by Morris, members of his family and associates such as Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Edward Burne-Jones.

The Society made a major capital investment in Kelmscott Manor in 1962, when a generous gift enabled the Society to carry out urgent repairs, under the expert guidance of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, the organisation that Morris himself set up in 1877 to protect buildings from over-restoration.

That campaign of repairs enabled us to open the Manor to an appreciative public at a time of growing interest in Morris and his ideals, and hundreds of thousands of visitors have since been able to experience the unique atmosphere of the Manor.

The income from visitors has never been adequate to fund capital works and we now need to undertake urgent repairs to the seventeenth-century farmstead that stands alongside the Manor. Restoring this range of historic barns and byres will maintain the harmonious setting of the Manor, and provide an opportunity to make better use of the buildings for learning, interpretation and new exhibitions.



*Morris championed the cause of working people enslaved to factory processes and sought to revive traditional crafts, especially of textile production. His respect for ancient buildings was married to a firm conviction that new buildings should be 'of their time' and not a pastiche of the past.*

*Kelmscott Manor's interiors are preserved in a form close to their state during Morris's lifetime.*



### Our plan is to:

- create a new learning centre to provide training courses in craft skills for young people and adult learners in partnership with national and local heritage organisations
- provide space for a rolling programme of exhibitions interpreting the Manor and Morris's legacy
- introduce an ecology centre for the study of the natural environment of the Manor in its Thames-side setting
- improve visitor facilities at the site



*With your help, our learning programme will attract new generations to Kelmscott.*

*This seventeenth-century field barn is suited to conversion to an ecology centre for studying the plants, insects and invertebrates that flourish in the meadows, streams and gardens surrounding the Manor.*

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*'Morris's vision at Kelmscott embraced making and doing as well as writing and thinking. The new learning centre will renew Morris's vision for our own time.'*

Dr David Gaimster  
General Secretary and CEO

*Fronted by cattle troughs made from limestone slabs, this granary and byre will become the new Learning Centre.*

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*Kelmscott Manor and its environment served as the source for many of Morris's practical furniture, textile and wallpaper designs and as the symbol of a communal way of life that he idealised in his utopian novel, News from Nowhere.*



## WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT

Today, as for the last 300 years, the Society's activities are made possible through the subscriptions of our 3,000 Fellows and by the vision and generosity of our benefactors who have made bequests and donations to the Society in the past. This is a great strength, for the fact that the Society of Antiquaries receives no funding from Government allows us to act as independent and objective advocates for heritage.

But, as we enter our fourth century, we cannot continue to make history alone. The development of Kelmescott and our Library is vital to the Society's future. Our fellows have recognised this and have already contributed £500,000 towards our future plans. But we need much more and for this we must turn to you.

We know that there are many good causes competing for your attention and goodwill. But if you are interested in history, art, archaeology and architecture, in conservation and the legacy of William Morris, and in helping young and adult learners appreciate the past, please consider becoming a supporter of the Society of Antiquaries. Your aims are ours, and your support will help us continue making history in the future as we have done in the past.

Making a donation or registering as a supporter allows us to keep you informed of news of the Campaign as it develops. You will receive invitations to special supporters' events that provide you with an opportunity to get to know the Society better. We would be delighted to discuss how we might best recognise your gift, and how it might be put to use in helping us realise our vision.

*'The key antiquarian motive, the love of the past and the sense of wonder at it, will never die, so long as human memory and human society endure.'*

Dr David Starkey FSA  
Chairman of the Making History Campaign Group

Stonehenge from the East, *John William Inchbold* (1830–88)

To make a donation or to request further information about the Making History Campaign, please contact:

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*The Society moved to its current home at Burlington House, Piccadilly, in 1875.*

