

## Funds for general purposes

Leaving a gift for the general purposes of the RSN may sound less dynamic than leaving it to a specific programme, but because it means it can be used immediately, sometimes this has been a real life-saver. When we heard, very late in the day, that we were not going to receive Higher Education Funding for our degree programme, we suddenly had to find a lot more money with very little time to spare – thanks to the legacy gift from Jean Panter which had been given for general purposes, we could embark on the degree programme with confidence.

Those first students are now using their training in a number of exciting directions thanks to Jean's legacy gift.

## Funds for future projects

We are always open to gifts of threads, materials, needlework equipment, books, even finished objects such as antique dresses. However, there is one condition, that if we cannot use them for our students or Studio or add them to the collection, we can sell them to raise funds for the ongoing running of the RSN.

Donations of such items can be received at any time but we are not able to collect. The 2010 sale with items from a number of donors raised over £16,000 which went to support our education programmes.

*'I have left a legacy to the RSN so that some of the exquisite work and skills of the past are transferred into the future. It's just one very small thank you to everyone at the RSN (both past, present and future) for all the pleasure you give. I never cease to be amazed by the patience, skill and expertise shown; and I've yet to see a piece of work that doesn't make me smile and say WOW!'*

THANK YOU the RSN,

*Kim Tatcher*

## Remembering the RSN in your will is a fantastic gift for the future

To make or change your will, we strongly advise that you talk to a solicitor or other advisor. They will need to know what assets you have and how you wish to allocate them. If you wish to leave a gift to the RSN they will need to have our full details including our address, below and our registered charity number which is 312774.

All legacy gifts are gratefully received, whether large or small. The most effective gift is a residuary legacy; this is a share of the residue after all the specific gifts have been made. The residue can be divided between family and friends as well as organisations that have been special to you.

You can specify the general area to which you would like your funds to go such as RSN education programmes, the collection etc but we ask you not to be too specific because individual programmes may change over time. Funds given for general purposes will be used for the next most urgent opportunity.

You and your solicitor can find more information on the specific wording they may need on our website - [www.royal-needlework.org.uk/legacies](http://www.royal-needlework.org.uk/legacies) or to discuss a gift to the RSN please contact Dr Susan Kay-Williams, Chief Executive on 0203 166 6936.

*Every legacy gift is special and will help us to look ahead to the next 140 years.*



Patron: Her Majesty The Queen  
President: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester



1872 ~ 2012

# For the future

*Leaving a legacy to the RSN means hope for our future...*



*Some of the RSN degree students benefiting from a Victoria Adams bursary in 2012*



Since its inception in 1872 the RSN has received a number of legacies, both financial and in kind, and of all sizes.

Each one of these has made a major contribution to the RSN achieving its 140th anniversary and having a wonderful collection of embroidered objects to show students and visitors.

With your help we can build a fund for the future that will enable the RSN to initiate new projects, support students and tutors, and ensure we have enough funds for day-to-day existence. This leaflet shows how gifts have helped so far, it is not exhaustive and if you would like to discuss how your gift might be used, please contact us.

How legacies have helped the RSN so far...

## Student support

Several legacy donors have helped us as we introduce new student programmes, directly supporting the programme or enabling us to offer bursaries. As the costs of offering programmes increase it is really helpful to have underpinning support which can pay for programme delivery. As we are the only place in the country which offers the Certificate, Diploma, Foundation Degree and BA Hons in hand embroidery, students rarely have the opportunity to study near home, this may involve them in additional costs so one of the things that may make the decision to come here easier is knowing that we offer a number of bursaries. The more funds we have in our bursary 'pot' the more we will be able to offer.

Life Friend Victoria Adams left a substantial legacy which will be used as an endowment to support a number of students each year.



## Student resources

Legacy gifts have enabled us to purchase new books for our students. While donations of old embroidery books that are now out of print can be very helpful, students also need access to new books. Those on major fashion names and styles, or on textile applications can be very expensive if filled with lots of colour photos, but are absolutely vital for students to explore contemporary uses of embroidery.

## Conservation

RSN Friends and legators helped us to conserve the designs by Walter Crane for his most famous piece for the RSN, the Vain Jackdaw, below. This is one of the treasures of the RSN which we are now able to show on occasions – to great enjoyment.

Many objects in the collection and archive require conservation but we are not able to afford this out of our general running costs so legacy gifts for conservation will be put to good use, giving new life to some of our treasures.

## Collection

While we are limited by space and storage facilities we are always open to receiving interesting or unusual gifts which add to our range or which reflect some aspect of RSN history. For example, the Ackworth sampler, below, is the only one we have and represents a type of work that was missing in our collection. Likewise the map sampler, in coloured thread is most unusual so is very welcome.



Both of these pieces were given as part of a legacy gift. The other two pieces, below, were living legacies, given while the donor was still alive. This is wonderful because it enables us to ask a few more questions about the history of the piece (often if the first we know about a gift is from the executor, they may not have much background information).

Photographer - John Chase

## Reclaiming our history

In the late 19th century the RSN worked on a wide variety of commissions but we have very little remaining evidence of these pieces. However, thanks to a financial legacy gift, when one piece worked by the RSN came up for sale, we were able to buy it back to add to our collection.

The screen, left, featured a design by Selwyn Image on one side for which we have the original designs and on the other side is a design by Nellie Wichelo who was our longest serving member of staff, working for the RSN for 60 years. While the condition of the screen is unstable, and we will have to look to conservation at some point, it is good to have this back with us as an example of our work in the late 19th century – all thanks to a timely legacy that could be used as we needed.



## Archive

The archive is unique to the RSN, it contains much of our history, but is alas, very incomplete, especially for the early 20th century, so we are always keen to receive information that can help us to fill in the gaps. Recently we were brought two pieces of paper – the certificate of one of our stalwart members of staff, Miss Essam, who worked with us for many years; presented in 1916 it had been signed by Princess Helena.

We also received a list of work that the RSN had done for the 1937 coronation, right, which we were able to photograph and feature in the *Royal Connections* exhibition. These made a wonderful contribution to our archive, providing examples and information we did not previously have.



Photographer - Michael Wicks

