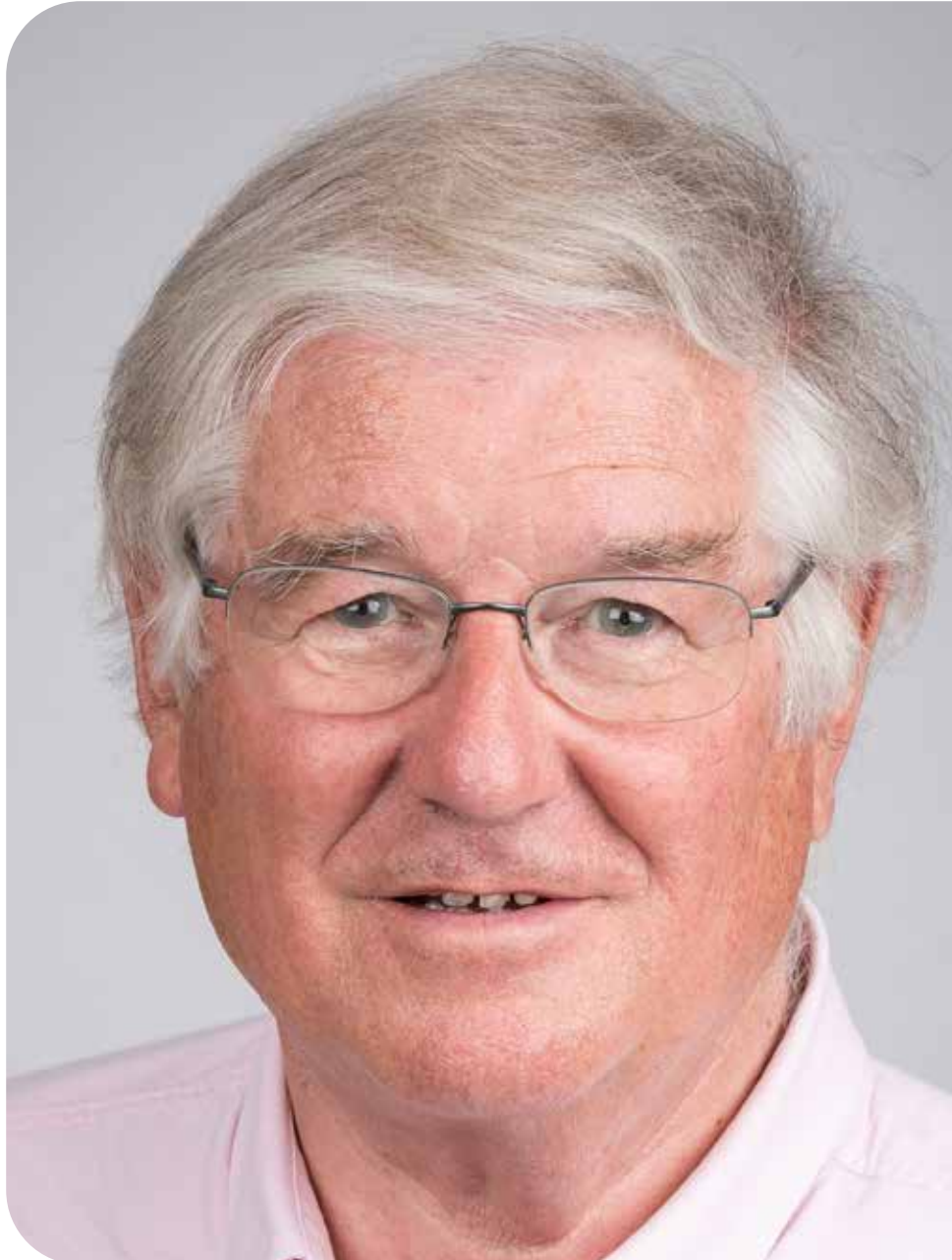


Gifts in Wills

Calibre audio



Share your love of a good book... **with future generations**



When I joined Calibre as a trustee in 2014, I wanted to make a difference, and to give something back. As a publisher, author, and avid reader, I had taken for granted my sight, as well as my ability to read whatever I pleased.

I am committed to enabling our members to enjoy the same freedom. In addition to my role as Chairman, I have left a gift to Calibre Audio in my Will and invite you to consider doing the same if and when the time is right for you.

Richard Balkwill
Chairman, Calibre Audio



Do you remember the first time you received an audiobook from Calibre?

Do you remember how you felt?

If you love the bespoke and dedicated service that you have received over the years, with our knowledgeable membership services team, who take the time to get to know you so that we can send you the books you'll enjoy when you want them.

If you've appreciated the stimulation, escape and knowledge that Calibre has provided through our free audiobook service, and how we lessen your sense of isolation, please consider leaving us a gift in your Will.

Your gift will enable future generations to enjoy the service that means so much to you.

Mike's story

Mike developed ME, or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome as it is otherwise known, in 1996. It initially resulted in him being in bed seventeen hours a day and he was retired on the grounds of ill health soon after. Nowadays, he remains very short of energy and rests in bed for two hours every afternoon and forty-five minutes in the early evening, before going to bed at 9pm. He is unable to undertake anything physically demanding and his ability to concentrate is also affected. He cannot read or use a computer for more than 20 minutes, nor watch television for more than about an hour. He gets frequent headaches and on bad days has to return to bed.

With many other forms of enjoyment denied to him, Mike decided to join Calibre. Being able to escape into an audiobook has been an absolute lifesaver, according to Mike's wife Jill. It helps banish boredom, it takes him out of his four walls and it enables shared activity and discussion as often Jill will read the same book alongside him. This shared reading experience has been particularly enjoyable on holidays, and Mike has declared Juliet Stevenson worth her weight in gold for her wonderful readings of so many of the classics!

Both Mike and Jill have decided to leave Calibre a gift in their Wills as they wanted to ensure that everyone in the future can enjoy the pleasure of a good book as Mike has done.



About Calibre Audio

1974 was quite a year! Britain entered its first post-war (global) recession, a three-day week and two general elections (Edward Heath and Harold Wilson). In America, the Watergate scandal forced the resignation of President Nixon. And for sports fans, there was a Rumble in the Jungle in Zaire where Muhammad Ali beat George Foreman to become World Heavyweight Champion.

1974 was also the year that Susan Beazley, Monica McMullan and Ros Thornton started an audiobook library in Monica's house in Highgate, North London so that James, Susan's sight-impaired son, could enjoy books more easily. They used the most modern technology of the time, a cassette recorder. Their first recording was of L. M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* – and so Calibre was born.

Since then we have gone from strength to strength. Thanks to our founders and the many staff, volunteers, trustees and supporters who have continued to drive Calibre's purpose we now have over 14,500 members from all around the UK and several hundred members worldwide who enjoy free access to over 12,000 audiobooks.



We are adaptable

We have been successful by adapting to change and embracing new technology such as moving from audio cassette to MP3 CDs, USB memory sticks and streaming. In March 2020 we abolished our joining fee, to make our service totally free for life.

Over the years we have had to move several times until being gifted some land, which allowed us to build our current purpose-built offices in Aylesbury, with its own recording studio and production area, enabling us to create audiobooks and manage our service in-house.

Our service has remained in huge demand despite the rise in popularity of commercial audiobook services such as Audible.



We are cost-efficient

To future proof our service, we have made the conscious business decision to run at a deficit in 2019 and to invest in extra resources to grow income from additional income streams. We have improved our website and are developing our app and streaming service, as well as transforming our business process to provide maximum efficiency and cost benefit.



For every £1 donated, 89p goes directly to fund our audiobook service, 7p covers the cost of fundraising and the remaining 4p covers support team and running costs.

Any gift, large or small, will make a real difference to people like you, who have a print disability, enabling them to enjoy the books they love.

Registered with



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

We are well governed and managed

Calibre Audio is registered with the Fundraising Regulator, we follow their guidance as well as best practice from the Institute of Fundraising and the Charity Commission.

We have an experienced leadership team led by our Chief Executive, Anthony Kemp, who reports to a board of Trustees who make all major decisions. You can find out more about our board of trustees on our website: calibreaudio.org.uk/about/trustees

Running our service costs around £1.5 million each year. We receive no government funding so rely on gifts from our kind supporters and trusts. Each year gifts in Wills covers over 30% of our running costs; we simply could not exist without them. As our membership grows so will the need for more funding.

Writing a Will is important

A Will is a legally binding document that lets you decide how your Estate (your money, property and possessions) is distributed after your death. Without a Will, the Government gets to decide.

Having a Will makes it easier for people you care about to follow your wishes and avoids the possibility of disputes at an already stressful time.

Having a Will can reduce your inheritance tax liability. Furthermore, anything you leave to a charity is exempt from inheritance tax.

You can also include your personal wishes in your Will, such as the type of funeral you would like, who you would like to look after your pets or children, and who you would like as executors of your Will.

And finally, after taking care of those who are most important to you, your Will enables you to leave a gift to organisations you care about at no cost to you during your lifetime.

Calibre's audiobook service was invaluable for my mother, Joan. She was always a great reader. She began to suffer from macular degeneration when she was 70, and moved from large print books to audiobooks when she was 80. By the time she died aged 99 she must have listened (often twice over) to almost all Calibre's stock of books! She could not have managed without them. She gladly left a gift in her Will to Calibre, to support their continued good work.

Barbara Ronalds – *daughter of Joan*

Being in my early nineties with failing sight, I do appreciate receiving my audiobooks so promptly. It is so restful for my eyes to listen to these interesting and stimulating books provided by the staff and many volunteers at Calibre. I made it a top priority in my Will as I feel it is such a helpful and worthwhile charity satisfying the needs of so many.

Mrs. Allen

How will we use your gift?

Your gift will enable our ever-growing membership to enjoy the service that has bought you joy.

We expect demand for our service to rise significantly because:

-  Sight loss is expected to rise from 2 to 4 million by 2050
-  Dementia is expected to rise to over 1 million by 2025
- Aa** It's estimated that 6 million people in the UK are dyslexic
-  People with a physical impairment, such as ME, MS, Motor Neurone Disease, or those receiving palliative care, can also access our books
-  Through technology, we also anticipate reaching a younger, more diverse, demographic

What will your gift enable?



To support a growing membership



To help provide a more diverse range of books for all ages and interests



To continue to add new titles to our growing library



To expand our community outreach, including telephone and physical book groups, to help reduce social isolation and loneliness, whilst improving mental health and wellbeing



To embrace new technology to provide our audiobook service in the best and most preferred format for our members; this will help attract younger members



To continue to adapt to our members' needs as a member-led organisation



To enable Calibre to continue to be cost-effective and to diversify our income streams to protect the future of our service to members

Further Information

If you would like to talk to us about leaving a gift in your Will to Calibre Audio, please contact Terry Squire by calling 01296 380 558 or email terry.squire@calibre.org.uk

Leaving a gift in your Will is not as difficult or expensive as some people fear.

The average cost of a simple individual Will is around £150, for a joint Will the cost is usually around £300. More complicated Wills can cost more.

If you already have a solicitor, they will be able to help and advise you.

If you do not have a solicitor, you can find one through the Law Society solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk

Further advice on wills can be found here:

calibreaudio.org.uk/support/legacy

gov.uk/make-will/updating-your-will

lawsociety.org.uk/public/for-public-visitors/common-legal-issues/making-a-will



After looking after those most important to you, if you would like to leave Calibre a gift in your Will this can either be a specified amount or a share of your Estate which can be as little as 1%. Any gift you choose to leave will ensure that future generations of members can continue to enjoy their love of books.

The only details that you will need to give to your solicitor is Calibre's name, address and registered Charity number which are as follows:

Calibre Audio
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP22 5XQ

Charity Commission number: 286614


Thank you for your
interest in leaving a gift
in your Will to Calibre.




Calibre audio

 Calibre Audio, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5XQ

 01296 432 339

 calibreaudio.org.uk

 enquiries@calibre.org.uk

    @calibreaudio

 Registered charity no. 286614



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