

## A Development Manager for the Charterhouse



### Background

The Development Office at the Charterhouse was established in 2011. The first task was to raise the necessary funds to open a new museum and associated facilities. This was successfully completed and the museum was opened by HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in February of this year.

The Charterhouse, set deep within stone walls at the heart of Clerkenwell, offers a private community for elderly people in financial and social need. More than 40 residents make their home there – and we provide for them to live independent, purposeful lives in the modern world. The story of the Charterhouse is more than the story of the almshouse, for we have been living the nation's history since 1348. Peer closely through the half light of the Master's Court at dusk and you might make out the ghosts of Victorian physicians or plague victims, catch a glimpse of Elizabeth I or Oliver Cromwell's widow sheltering from uncertain times following Parliament's decision to invite Charles II to return as King of England.

The story of the Charterhouse is the story of our nation. Now, in the spirit of hospitality of our founder, Thomas Sutton, we are opening the gates of the Charterhouse to visitors.



## The Community



Joining the community from the age of 60 and in good health, the residents live out Thomas Sutton's legacy. Until recently only men could apply and teachers and butchers, cooks and clergymen, actors and singers all thrive here, dividing their time between the Charterhouse's common spaces and the privacy of their modest personal apartments.

The Brothers (as they have been called for centuries) spend their days serving others or pursuing their interests as they wish. A retired actor catalogues the books in the library, then wanders over to the British Museum or to a play at a pub theatre. A clergyman, who marks the rhythm of life with morning and evening prayer at the Charterhouse chapel, pens sermons on living for the common good. An archivist strolls in the calm of the Charterhouse gardens to the strains of musicians rehearsing for that night's concert.

Life at the Charterhouse is punctuated by nurturing meals prepared in our kitchens and eaten together in the splendour of the Great Hall. It is a community of independence, support and companionship, where the Brothers may stay for the rest of their lives. For those unable to manage on their own, there is a ten-bed infirmary that provides 24-hour nursing care. The Brothers have their own burial ground at St Mary the Virgin in Little Hallingbury, Essex.



## A History of the Charterhouse



Over its long history, the Charterhouse has witnessed many of the events that have shaped our nation. The story begins in 1348 during the Black Death, when the land was used as a burial ground for victims of plague. In 1371, the Charterhouse was built – a Carthusian monastery, which flourished throughout the later medieval and early Tudor period.



With the dissolution of the monasteries, the Charterhouse became a mansion for wealthy noblemen and a refuge for royalty. Elizabeth I convened the Privy Council here in the days before her coronation in 1558, while James I also visited. But it was in 1611 that Thomas Sutton bought the Charterhouse and established the foundation that now bears his name.

Thomas Sutton's will provided for up to 80 Brothers: 'either decrepit or old captaynes either at sea or at land, maimed or disabled soldiers, merchants fallen on hard times, those ruined by shipwreck of other calamity' as well as for 40 poor scholars (this number increased and Charterhouse school grew from the charity). James I retained his connection with the Charterhouse, becoming the first Royal Governor of Thomas Sutton's foundation.

Since then, the Charterhouse story has continued. Wellington, Gladstone and Cromwell have all been Governors. The Charterhouse appears in the writings of Daniel Defoe, Charles Dickens and William Makepeace Thackeray. Indeed, Thackeray, Robert Baden-Powell and John Wesley attended school here. When the school moved to Godalming in 1872 it separated from the core charity while the Brothers remained at the Charterhouse in Clerkenwell.



The Charterhouse story lives on. Damaged during the Blitz, it was faithfully restored and nowadays, more than 40 residents make their home there. The Charterhouse still has Royal Governors who, alongside the 16 other Governors, guide our development well into the future.

## The Development Office

First and foremost, the Charterhouse is a home for the Brothers – a public and private space in which the charity provides a home to the beneficiaries and, in accordance to Thomas Sutton's wishes, we continue to provide bursaries at the school in our founder's name. But it is 400 years since Sutton established his foundation. His bequest makes no provision for conservation of the Charterhouse or its collections, indeed the charitable objects preclude expenditure on these activities.

The Development Office was established in order to raise funds to benefit the charity. This work is largely focussed on our heritage. We have successfully raised the funding to open the museum and also a space in which to house a large collection of papers pertaining to William Makepeace Thackeray who was a Charterhouse school pupil in the early nineteenth century. We are currently raising funds for another HLF supported project to refurbish the Great Chamber.

We have opened the museum so that we can share its extraordinary history with a wider public. This is of considerable public benefit but by opening we aim to enhance the range of donors and potential donors to the charity. A key objective is to solicit donations for the new endowment fund which will support the history and heritage of the site. We will also continue to raise funds for other activities when appropriate.



If you are interested in the position, please reach out to Dominic Tickell on 020 7336 7520 or email [development@thecharterhouse.org](mailto:development@thecharterhouse.org) for further details.