

An introduction to house membership

WHO WE ARE

Historic Houses is a not-for-profit cooperative association of well over a thousand historic houses, castles, and gardens,

THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF INDEPENDENTLY OWNED HERITAGE IN THE UK

We have been representing and fighting for the interests of Britain's independently and privately owned heritage and gardens since 1973.



Most of our member houses are lived in, but while some are purely private homes, many open their doors in one way or another.



By representing and advising our members, we help preserve places and objects with an important place in the nation's story.

IS IT FOR ME?

Grade I and II*, and larger Grade II, listed houses (or the equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland), plus listed gardens, are eligible. Ownership ranges from families to charities, businesses to institutions.

Member properties do not have to be open to the public to join us and play an important role. We want engaged members who believe in the principles of cooperation and mutual aid.

If you believe in solidarity among the independent owners of Britain's historic houses, or want to take advantage of our range of benefits, your listed property should join us.

WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We advocate for a fiscal and regulatory framework in which our member places can thrive. Our dedicated policy team works closely with governments in London and in the nations and regions, with stakeholders, politicians, and regulators, to shape policy for the benefit of independently owned heritage.

We robustly represent our members' interests in policy areas such as **taxation**, **de-regulation**, **planning** and **tourism** through engagement of all kinds.



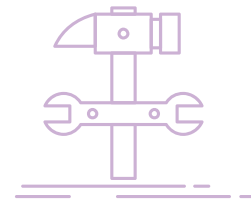
- ◇ Direct discussions with ministers and civil servants.
- ◇ Meeting MPs of all parties, and their equivalents in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- ◇ Producing robust evidence and case studies to support policy-making.
- ◇ Responding to government consultations and calls for evidence.
- ◇ Generating and supporting new research partnerships.
- ◇ Representing members at policy and industry conferences.
- ◇ Working with partners across the heritage and tourism sectors and contributing to collaborative projects.

JOIN NOW

For more information, contact
info@historichouses.org
or call 020 7259 5688

TECHNICAL ADVICE AND EXPERTISE

- ◇ We provide **technical advice** on everything that might be of use to the owner of a historic house, from succession to commercial activity, repairs and maintenance to grant applications.
- ◇ We have a team of expert advisers covering **security, access, health & safety, and education** (including grant applications). First-line advice is available free from our professional services sponsors, drawn from the fields of **estate management, tax, accountancy, investment, insurance, and law**.



- ◇ The members' section of our website contains a library of hundreds of **guidance papers** on subjects from fire regulations to business rates, intellectual property to planning controls, filming to moth damage.

SEMINARS AND PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

- ◇ We offer a range of **seminars, workshops and learning events**, open to owners, staff, and volunteers, covering topics from housekeeping to marketing, conservation to weddings.



- ◇ Our network of regional member groups across the UK enables owners to learn from one another, **sharing their insights and experiences of running historic houses**.
- ◇ Our members regularly meet at regional and national AGMs and other **networking opportunities**.
- ◇ An online opportunities board brings the most valuable time-limited opportunities to your attention, from **film location** searches to **grant funding** streams, **discounts** and offers to competitions and **awards**.

SUPPORT FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

- ◇ Our **member-access scheme** can help boost the footfall and income of houses that open as tourist attractions.
- ◇ Our **'Invitation to View'** platform allows houses that don't typically open to sell tickets for owner-guided tours on dates and times convenient for them.
- ◇ We produce **dedicated listings, in print and online, for houses offering accommodation in historic settings**, from hotels and B&Bs to one-off overnights.

- ◇ We **publicise member places** on our website, in our quarterly magazine, and on our social media channels, raising the profile of wedding and event businesses, corporate hire or film location opportunities, and shows and festivals.
- ◇ We offer **advice on handling media enquiries** from press, radio, film and TV.



IN ADDITION

House members also receive the benefits available to general members.



1. Your membership card gives you **free admission** to hundreds of house and garden attractions.
2. You'll receive the **quarterly Historic House magazine**.