

Are you really making the most of your charitable donations?

Just a few simple steps can enhance their value; by setting up a Lodge Relief Chest and making the most of gift aid. Gift Aid allows a charity to reclaim basic rate tax and thereby maximise individual donations. Making a Gift Aid declaration costs a member -

NOTHING MORE THAN HIS AGREEMENT

but it will enhance the value of all future qualifying donations, for example a £1 donation from a basic rate tax payer will be worth £1.25 to a charity after it claims gift aid (subject to certain HMRC rules being satisfied) – details available <https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/gift-aid>

The Gift Aid scheme was first introduced in 1990 and saw £10m in tax savings claimed by charities in its first year. In 2014/15, the savings were worth nearly £1.2billion.

In April 2016 HMRC simplified this scheme and shortened the model Gift Aid declaration at the same time clarifying that if an individual has not paid sufficient tax to cover the tax reclaimable, that individual is responsible for paying the difference to HMRC.

Charity Stewards will be able to assist by providing a simple declaration form which ensures all future donations are treated as Gift Aid donations. While a separate form is usually required for each charity it is much simpler to open a Lodge Relief Chest to collect monies on an individual basis from which donations can be made to any properly registered charity.

Setting up a Relief Chest is a very easy thing to do and apart from an annual review by the Charity Steward there is very little management to do. Further details of how to set up a Relief Chest and other fund-raising ideas can be found in the CHARITY STEWARD'S HANDBOOK which can be downloaded from [www.grandcha](http://www.grandcharity.org/handbooks) HYPERLINK "<http://www.grandcharity.org/handbooks>"r HYPERLINK "<http://www.grandcharity.org/handbooks>"ity.org/handbooks , or from reliefchest@the-grand-charity.org