

William Blake was a poet, artist and visionary, and one of the most radical thinkers the world has ever seen. He challenged the limitations imposed upon us by Society and found a gateway to escape the 'mind-forg'd manacles' that limit our growth as individuals.

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That gateway was a dynamic Imagination; Blake went out and made things - poetry, paintings, exquisite illuminated books ... and the means to create them. He invented a new method of colour printing and was the first artist in England to discover the monoprint. Untiring and industrious, he also unfettered the poetry of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century as he propelled it to Romanticism's shores.

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He vowed to build 'Jerusalem in England's green and pleasant Land'. Through his art and words, he did. His Jerusalem though knows no frontiers : every day someone is inspired by William Blake somewhere in the world. He's studied in universities, books and articles are published about him all the time and new generations of artists and thinkers create stirred by his fierce spirit.

Yet there is no home for Blake. We are asking you to help change this, to create an extraordinary house where dreamers, artists and visionaries might find respite on their difficult journey through this world.

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The Cottage will also be your home, a place to visit, and a forge for the Imagination that shares its creations with you - a family of supporters around the world.

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**BUYING THE COTTAGE** During his lifetime, Blake lived in nine different lodgings, and today only two of these buildings survive. One is a small Georgian house in the centre of London; the other is a Cottage by the sea in the village of Felpham on the Sussex coast.

This is the first time the Cottage has come onto the market since 1928. The Blake Society has negotiated a 'legal option' that means if we can raise £520,000 by the end of the month then we can buy the Cottage and create a home for Blake and all that he stood for - creativity, imagination and 'mental fight'.

**So let's support this celebration of an artist for whom Execution was 'the chariot of genius'.**

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To find out more about William Blake, the plan for the Cottage and this campaign, please click [Blake Cottage Appeal](#)



**REWARDS** Blake inspires so many creative artists, writers and musicians that we are asking them to create special rewards for you. Some of these gifts will be delivered digitally while others require shipping and some, of course, must await the opening of the Cottage itself. New rewards will be announced in due time as more artists join the Blake Cottage Appeal.

**THE RISKS** So far we have raised £62,500 towards the target of £520,000 - that's 12% of the goal - through pledges from Local Government, Grant Giving Trusts, and Individual donors. Once the goal is reached, that's not the end of course; the Cottage has to be architecturally restored, but we are confident this can be achieved because we will then have the lead-time to approach many more sources of philanthropy. The long-term economic model is robust and rests on fine-tuning a balance between the income from guests who pay to stay in the Cottage and the outgoings of offering hospitality to visionaries. In addition the public will be encouraged to visit the Cottage.

**A VISION** The long term plan is to acquire Blake's London home and join the two houses through an axis of creativity that links the city to the sea, allowing work to be originated in Felpham and displayed in the capital.

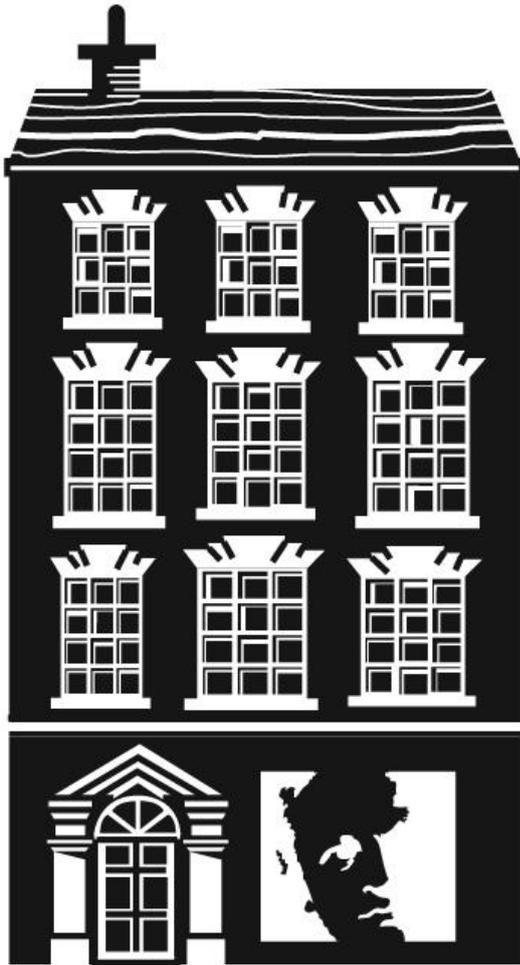
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**LEGAL NOTE** The Blake Society was founded in 1985 and is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity. All the monies raised go into a designated charity bank account unique to this appeal. If the money raised should exceed the sum needed to buy the Cottage then any excess funds will be applied to its renovation and refurbishment. If the appeal should fail to reach the sum needed to buy the Cottage then all the monies donated will be used to leverage a loan to complete the purchase or to secure occasional public access to the Cottage or to Blake's other surviving residence in London. The lawyers advising the campaign are Bircham Dyson Bell, one of the leading law firms in the UK.

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**THANKS** Our gratitude to the BBC for permission to use footage from the Omnibus programme 'William Blake : Singing for England', to the actress Kelly Burke for playing Blake, and to the pianist & composer Guy Pearson.



*The Imagination is not a State; it is the Human Existence itself*

Help make it happen for Let's make a visionary home for Blake !

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