

SHAPING A BETTER WORLD SINCE 1845

This Lanyon timeline is a celebration of the 173 years of history since Queen's University was founded. The University is investing £5.5m in the conservation and restoration of the Lanyon Building named after its renowned Victorian architect, Sir Charles Lanyon. This project forms part of a £700m Capital Development Programme led by the Estates Directorate.

Explore the development of Queen's University across key achievements, progress and milestones made by the University and its continuing commitment to shaping a better world. This timeline is a snapshot of just some of the historical events that have happened since 1845 at Queen's University, in the context of events in Northern Ireland and further afield.

Share your own personal experiences, stories or photos as part of our unique story using the hashtag

#QUBTimeline

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1845

Irish Colleges Act establishes three different Queen's colleges in Ireland - Belfast, Cork and Galway.

Charter of Queen's College Belfast is ratified.



1846



Charles Lanyon appointed architect for the College.

1847

23rd June. Contract for the building signed and construction began.

1848-53

University Square numbers 4-30 are built.



1849

20th December. Queen's College Belfast opens. (90 students and 20 professors).

First three faculties are established: Arts, Medicine and Law.

11th August. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visit the nearly completed Queen's College building. (now Lanyon Building).



1850

Queen's University of Ireland is established to award degrees to students of the Queen's Colleges.

The Literary and Scientific Society (the Literific) founded.

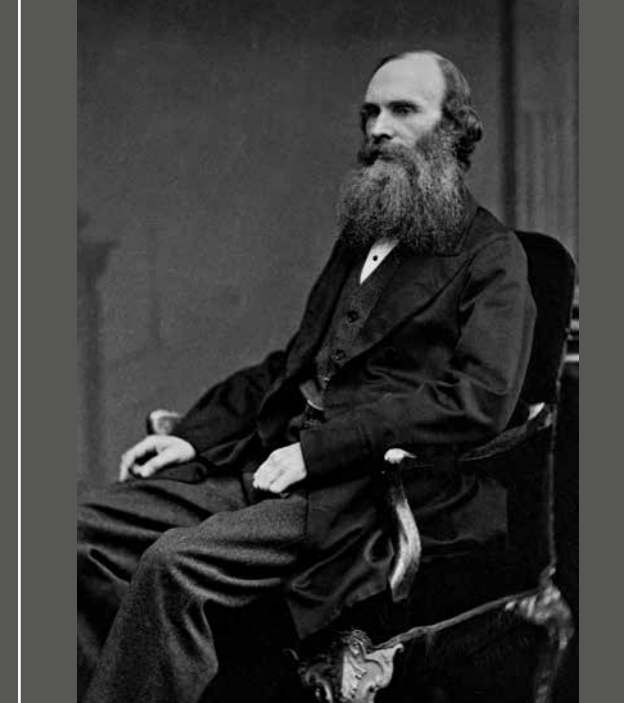


1852

British Association meets in College.

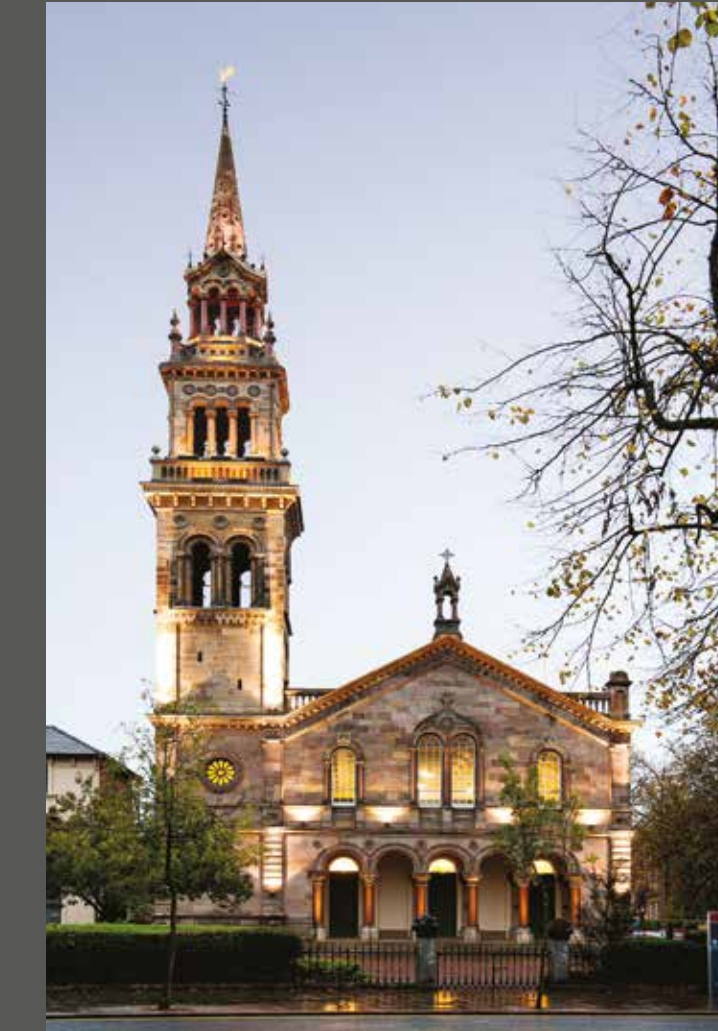
1857

Appointment of Professor James Thomson (brother of Lord Kelvin).



1859

Elmwood Church is designed by architect John Corry.



1860

Botany is first taught at Queen's.

1861-65

Second Charter granted to the College.

1863-68

Single storey added above south cloister by JH Owen.

Construction of new library began in 1866 and completed in 1868 (now the Postgraduate Centre) designed by William Henry Lynn.



1870-71

Numbers 1-3 University Square are built.



1876

Lennoxvale House (designed by Young and MacKenzie) constructed, now Vice-Chancellor's Lodge.



1879

Queen's University of Ireland dissolves.

1881

Creation of the Royal University of Ireland as degree awarding body.



1882

First admission of female students. Helen Waddell pictured below was one of the early female students coming to Queen's in 1909.

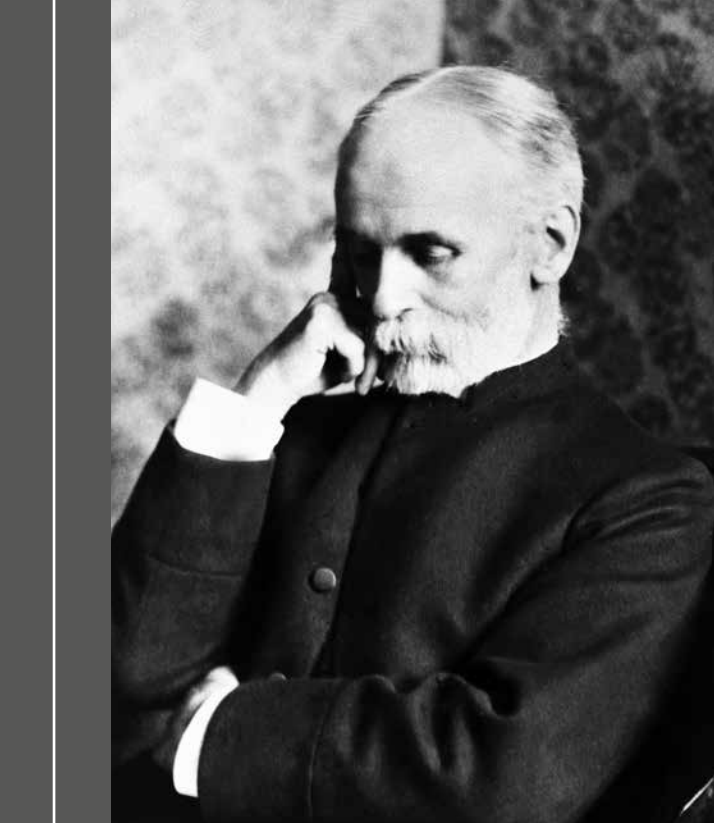


1894

New Chemical and Pharmaceutical Laboratories opened.

1889

Reverend Thomas Hamilton was elected as President of Queen's College, Belfast.



1900

Students' Representative Council Founded.

1849 Dr. Poesley Shuldham Henry First President Rev

1849 Professor Thomas Andrews First Vice-President

1879 Rev. Josias Leslie Porter President of Queen's College

1889 Rev. Thomas Hamilton President of Queen's College

1845



The Irish Potato Famine.

1846



Outbreak of Mexican-American War.



Ballywalter Park designed by Charles Lanyon.

1847



Brontë sisters publish 'Jane Eyre', 'Wuthering Heights' and 'Agnes Grey'.



Cholera epidemic in Belfast.

1848



The Communist Manifesto is published.

1849



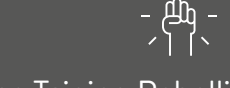
The Gold Rush continues across the United States.

1850



Walt Whitman publishes 'Leaves of Grass'.

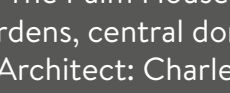
1851-54



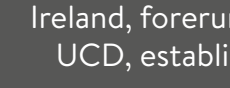
The Taiping Rebellion (China).



The Great Exhibition.



The Palm House, Botanic Gardens, central dome installed. Architect: Charles Lanyon.



Catholic University of Ireland, forerunner of UCD, established.

1855



The Daily Telegraph begins publication in London.



End of Crimean War.

1859

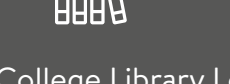


Charles Darwin publishes 'The Origin of Species'.

1860



Abraham Lincoln elected as President of the United States.



Trinity College Library Long Room transformed by Deane & Woodward.

1861-65



American Civil War.

1863-65



Emancipation of slaves in United States.



Lincoln assassinated.

1869-71



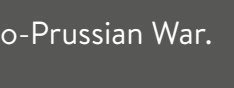
Tolstoy wrote 'War and Peace'.



Suez Canal opens.



Houses of Parliament constructed by Charles Barry and Augustus Pugin.



Franco-Prussian War.

1876



The telephone is invented.

1879



Thomas Edison invents the light bulb.

1881



Chief Sitting Bull surrenders to US federal troops.

1882



Britain's first electric trams run in East London.

1894



First Sino-Japanese War.



Grand Opera House designed by Frank Matcham.

1896



Olympic Games revived in Athens.



Brem Stoker publishes 'Dracula'.

1900



1895-1906. Belfast City Hall designed by A. Brunnell Thomas.



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Mapping the development of Queen's University 173 year history.

1901

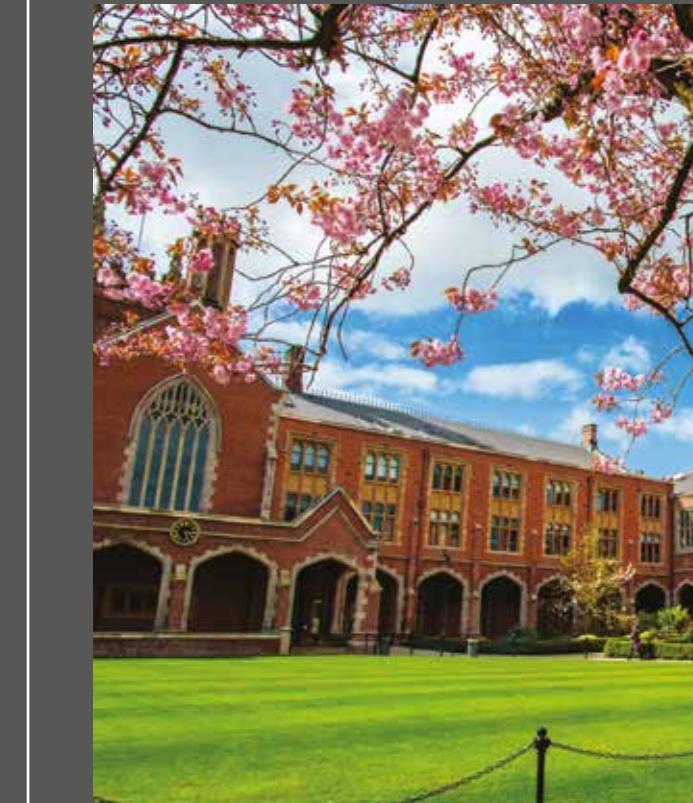
The Betterment Fund was established. Provided University with the means to erect many new buildings and employ new staff.

1902

Royal Commission on Irish University Education sat in Queen's College.

1904

Second storey added above north cloister by Robert Cochrane.



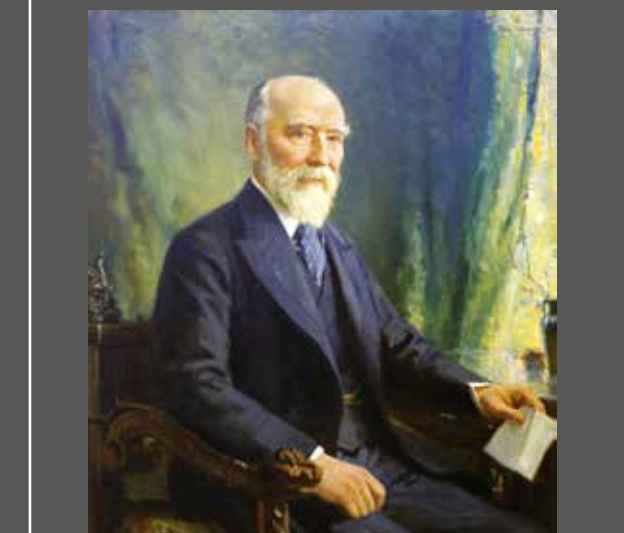
1908

Charter of Queen's University Belfast ratified.

9th Earl of Shaftesbury appointed as Chancellor of Queen's University.

Rev. Thomas Hamilton becomes the first President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University.

Sir Robert Hart is appointed as Pro-Chancellor.



1911-12

Old Library extended by William Henry Lynn.



1914-19

William Whitla appointed Pro-Chancellor.

Ulster Volunteer Force Hospital at the University.



1920

University acquired the original Queen's Elms later converted into a men's hall of residence. Demolished in 1963 to make way for the Students' Union.



1921

Faculty of Applied Science and Technology established.

1922

Introduction of agricultural research to Queen's.

1923

7th Marquess of Londonderry appointed Chancellor of Queen's.



1924

Sir Richard Livingstone appointed President and Vice-Chancellor.

Faculty of Agriculture is established.

1926

Faculty of Theology is established.

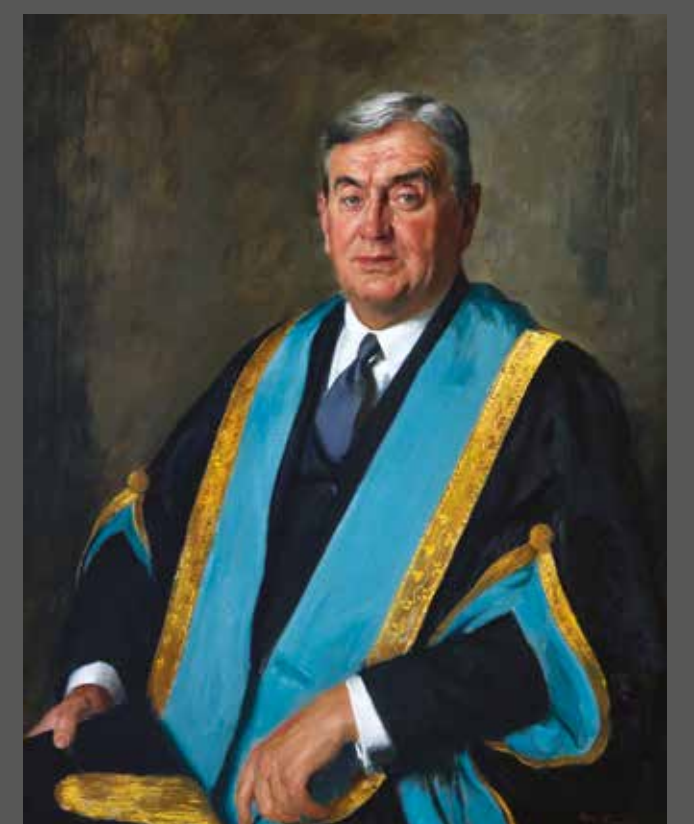
School of Dentistry developed within Faculty of Medicine.

1927-33

Women Students' Hall established in 20-21 University Square.

1930-50

Sir David Keir facilitates an appeal for the Centenary Endowment Fund to raise £250,000 towards construction and employment.



1931

Mary Johnstone Lynn was the first female to be appointed to a permanent lectureship. This was in Botany.

1932

Women's pavilion erected at Cherryvale to replace accommodation "barely suitable for sardines".

1936

Whitla Hall designed by John MacGeagh and Edward Maufe. Construction not completed until after the war in 1949.



1939-45

Stained glass window in the Black & White Hall designed by JE Nuttgens but not installed until after World War II.

Alexander Fleming visits the University to give the Robert Campbell Oration to the Ulster Medical Society.

Vegetables were grown on the lawns in the Quad during World War II.



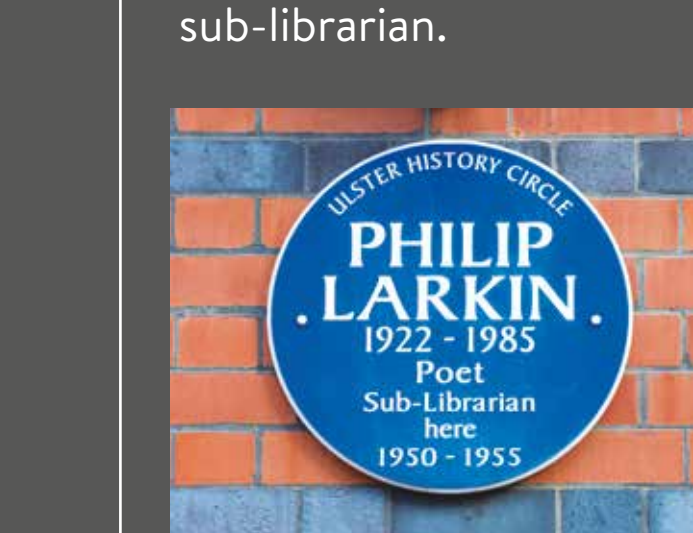
1947

The Viscount Alanbrooke appointed as Chancellor of Queen's.

1950

Lord Ashby of Brandon elected Vice-Chancellor and President of University.

Philip Larkin appointed sub-librarian.



SHAPING A BETTER WORLD SINCE 1845

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2700 STUDENTS ENROLLED

1908
9th Earl of Shaftesbury
Chancellor of Queen's

1908
Rev. Thomas Hamilton
First President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's

1923
7th Marquess of Londonderry
Chancellor

1924
Sir Richard Livingstone
President and Vice-Chancellor

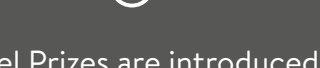
1935
Sir Frederick Walf Ogilvie
President and Vice-Chancellor

1939
Sir David Keir
President and Vice-Chancellor

1947
Viscount Alanbrooke
Chancellor of Queen's

1950
Lord Ashby of Brandon
President and Vice-Chancellor

1901



Nobel Prizes are introduced.

1902



Hill House designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

1904



Marconi Co. establishes "COG" as 1st international radio distress signal.

1908



National University of Ireland is established.

1912



The Titanic cruise liner sinks.

1914



World War I breaks out.

1916



Easter Rising in Ireland.

1917



Russian Civil War.

1919-21



Anglo-Irish War.

Government of Ireland Act.

1921



Partition of Ireland - Northern Ireland is created.

1921-32



NI Parliament meets at Union Theological College.

1922



James Joyce publishes 'Ulysses'.

1923



Benito Mussolini forms a government in Italy.

1924



Death of Lenin.

1926



Sagrada Família in Barcelona designed by Antoni Gaudí.

1927-33



Stormont designed by Arnold Thornely.

1929



Stranmillis College designed by Roland Inghis Smith and Thomas Francis O'Id Roppsingham.

1930



1930 Chrysler Building designed by William Van Alen.

1931



Empire State Building completed in New York City by Shreve Lamb & Harmon.

1933-34



King's Hall designed by Letch & Partners.

1936



Edward VIII ascends the throne in January and abdicates in December.

1939



Outbreak of World War II.

1947



The Cold War begins.

1950



Walt Disney's animated film 'Cinderella' premieres.



Mapping the development of Queen's University 173 year history.

1953

Queen Elizabeth II visits with the Duke of Edinburgh shortly after her coronation.



1955

The Gown, Queen's University student magazine, is established. Now the longest running student publication.

1956

Peter Rice, structural engineer of worldwide importance, graduates.

1958

1958-9 QUB Gaelic football team won Sigerson Cup for 1st time.

1959

Golden Jubilee celebrations to mark founding of University.



Large scale building programme implemented with new university facilities notably in medicine, engineering and science.

1960

3570 students now enrolled in the University. 3001 full-time, 569 part-time.

3570 STUDENTS ENROLLED

1962

Inauguration of Queen's Festival by Michael Emmerson.

Queen Mother opens new Physics Building.

Students' Union designed by architects Ostick and Williams.

1963

Sir Tyrone Guthrie appointed Chancellor of Queen's University.

Queen's Elms demolished.

1964

First woman professor, Professor KMT Atkinson, was appointed to the Chair of Ancient History.

Work on library tower block by John McGeagh commences.

Bell's theorem is published by John Stewart Bell (graduate 1948, hon. graduate 1988).

1965

Prof. Frank Pantridge invents the portable defibrillator.

Ashby Building opened.



1966

Social Sciences Building opened by the Queen.



1967

Students' Union opened.



1968

Formation of People's Democracy and start of civil rights marches.

1969

Doctor of Literature conferred on Philip Larkin.

Medical Biology Centre and Science Library opened.

1970

6836 students in the University. 5964 full-time and 872 part-time.

Lord Ashby of Brandon appointed Chancellor of Queen's.

6836 STUDENTS ENROLLED

1971

PE Centre opened.

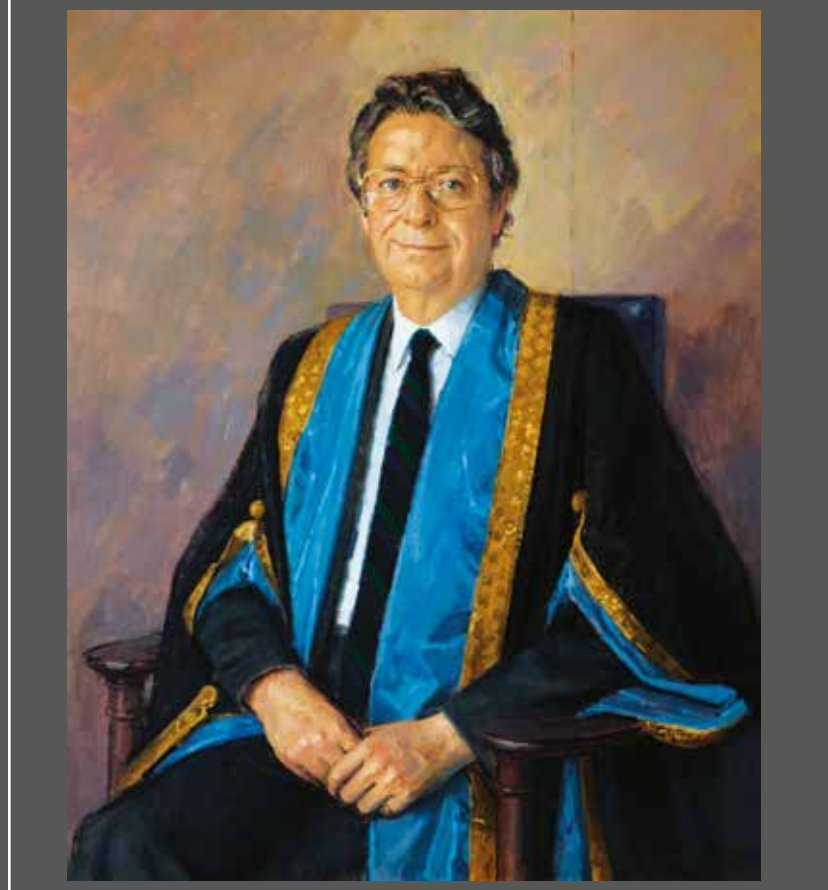


1972

University Grants Committee visits Queen's.

1976

Sir Peter Froggatt elected as President and Vice-Chancellor (until 1986).



QUB graduate Stewart Parker won the Evening Standard Award for most promising playwright.

1979

Chilver Committee (Higher Education Review group) visited Queen's.

Bomb attack on Computer Centre.

Petula Clark gets standing ovation at concert in Whitla Hall.

1980

7053 students enrolled in the University. 6105 full-time and 948 part-time.

7053 STUDENTS ENROLLED

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SHAPING A BETTER WORLD SINCE 1845

1959
★ Dr Michael Grant
President and Vice-Chancellor

1963
★ Sir Tyrone Guthrie
Chancellor

1966
★ Sir Arthur Vick
President and Vice-Chancellor

1976
★ Sir Peter Froggatt
President and Vice-Chancellor

1951



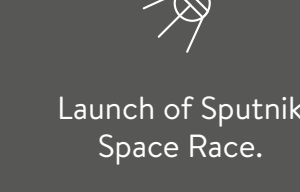
Winston Churchill is elected UK Prime Minister for the second time.

1955



Outbreak of Vietnam War.

1957



Launch of Sputnik Space Race.

1958



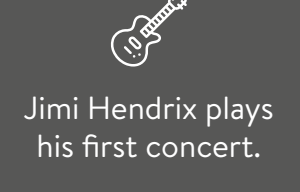
Edmund Hillary reaches the South Pole.

1959



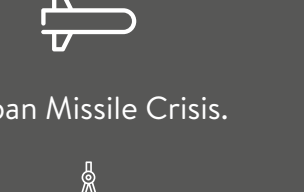
Charles de Gaulle inaugurated as President of France.

1960



Jimi Hendrix plays his first concert.

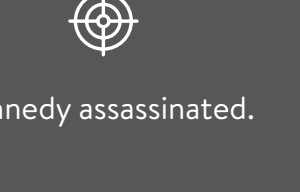
1962



Cuban Missile Crisis.

Ashby Building designed by Cruckshank & Seward.

1963



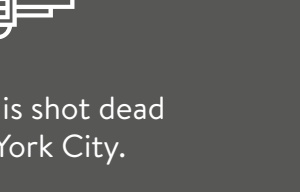
Kennedy assassinated.

1964



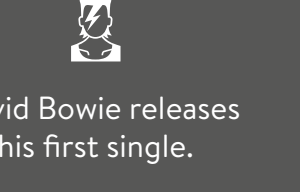
Vin Morrison's (hon graduate) Gloria released by NI rock band Them and becomes a R&B classic.

1965



Malcolm X is shot dead in New York City.

1966



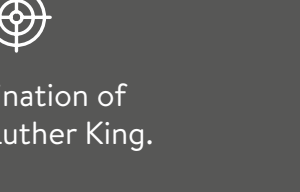
David Bowie releases his first single.

1967



The Beatles release Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

1968



Assassination of Martin Luther King.

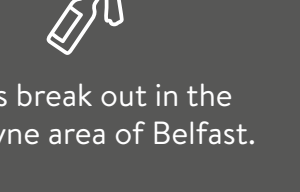
1969



First manned mission to the moon.

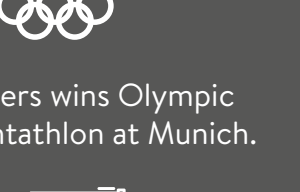
Abolition of death penalty.

1970



Riots break out in the Ardoyne area of Belfast.

1972



Mary Peters wins Olympic gold in Paracanoe at Munich.

Bloody Sunday.

Direct rule comes into force in Northern Ireland.

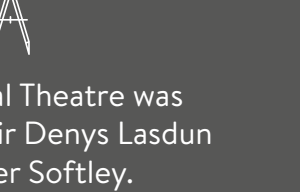
1973



Sydney Opera House opens in Australia, designed by Jørn Utzon.

President Nixon denies Watergate.

1976



The National Theatre was designed by Sir Denys Lasdun and Peter Selfley.

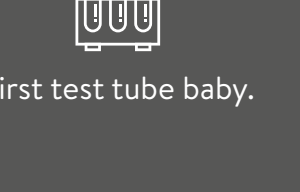
Apple I invented, the archetype of every modern computer.

1977



Centre Georges Pompidou designed by Piano and Rogers.

1978



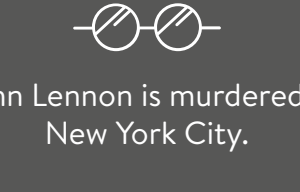
First test tube baby.

1979



Margaret Thatcher becomes the UK's first female Prime Minister.

1980



John Lennon is murdered in New York City.



Mapping the development of Queen's University 173 year history.

1981

Queen's won University Challenge.

1984

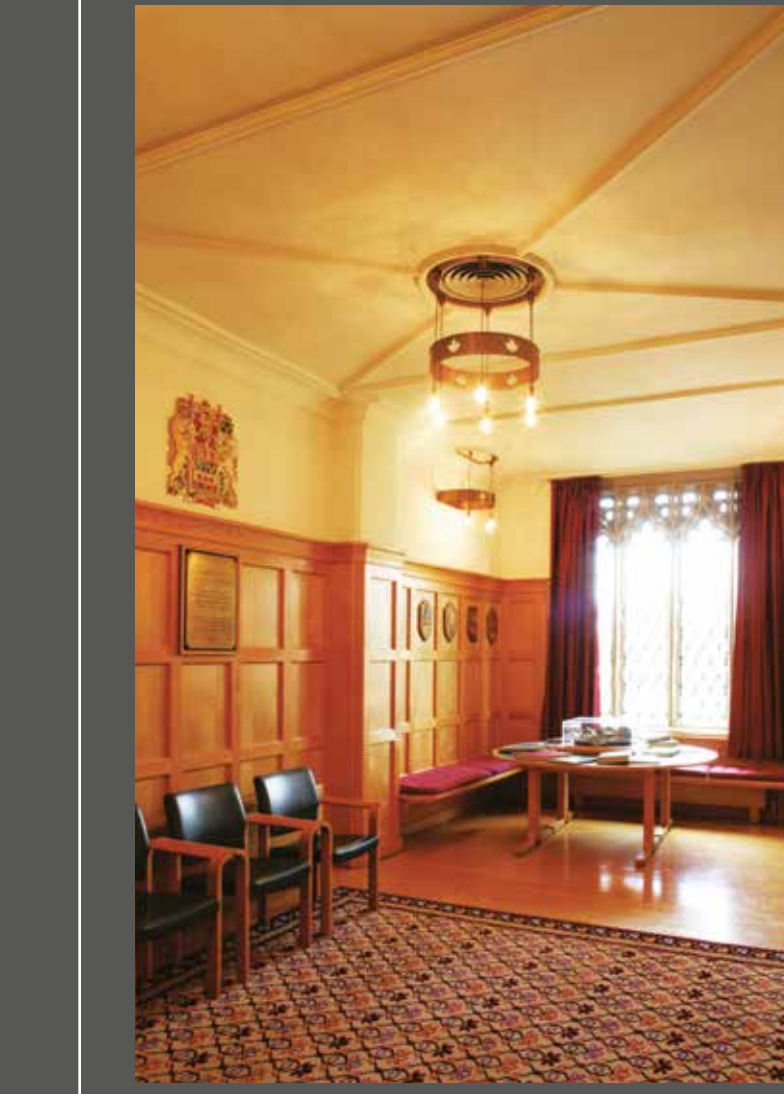
Sir Rowland Wright elected as Chancellor.

Prof. Sir David Bates awarded honorary degree.



1986

Completion of major improvement scheme carried out by Robert McKinstry to create the Council Chamber and Canada Room.



9676 STUDENTS ENROLLED

9676 students enrolled at Queen's. 7876 full-time and 1800 part-time.

1984

Sir Rowland Wright Chancellor

1990

9676 students enrolled at Queen's. 7876 full-time and 1800 part-time.

1986

Sir Gordon Beveridge President and Vice-Chancellor

1991

Prof. Mollie McGeown awarded honorary degree.



1992

Sir David Orr Chancellor

1995

Welcome Centre is established in the Lanyon Building.

Seamus Heaney (QUB faculty 1966-72) awarded Nobel Prize in Literature.

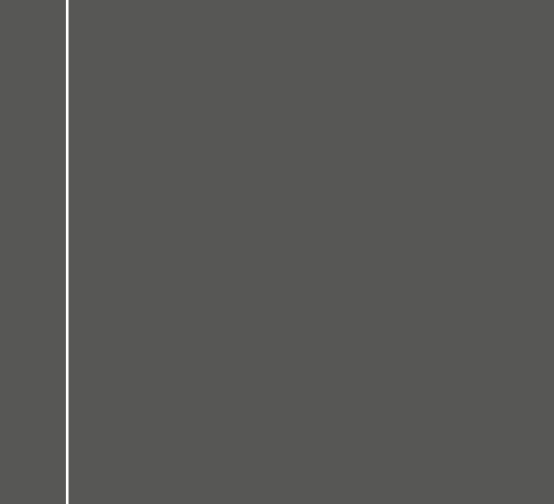


1998

Sir George Bain President and Vice-Chancellor

1997

Senator George Mitchell awarded an honorary degree.

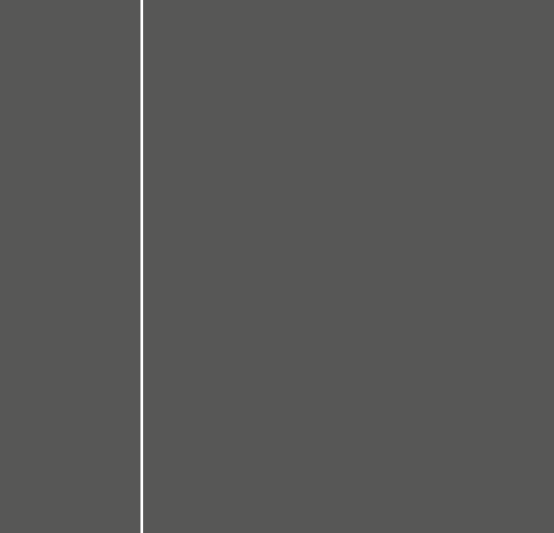


1999

Senator George J. Mitchell Chancellor

1998

David Trimble (QUB faculty) and John Hume awarded Nobel Peace Prize.



2000

The Tate Modern opens to the public.

1999

James O'Kane became Registrar and Chief Operating Officer in 1999. He has played a leading role in the ongoing transformation of Queen's to become a university of global impact and excellence.



2001

World Trade Center attack.

2000

16,135 STUDENTS ENROLLED

Refurbishment of Great Hall by Consarc Conservation (RIBA Award 2001).



2003

Completion of Human Genome Project.

2001

President Clinton awarded Doctor of Laws honorary degree.

The statue of Galileo, by Pio Fedri, was installed in the Black and White Hall.



2004

Facebook formed.

2005

Formation of UK's first Institute of Agri-food and Land Use.

The International Research Centre for Experimental Physics (IRCEP) opened.



2007

First iPhone is released.

2008

Centenary celebrations to mark the establishment of the Royal University of Ireland in 1908. Queen Elizabeth II visits and unveils the centenary stone.

Nelson Mandela named the University's Centenary Honorary Graduate.



2009

Barack Obama becomes the first African American President of the United States.

2009-10

Mr. Kamallesh Sharma GCVO appointed Chancellor of Queen's.

The McClay Library is opened.



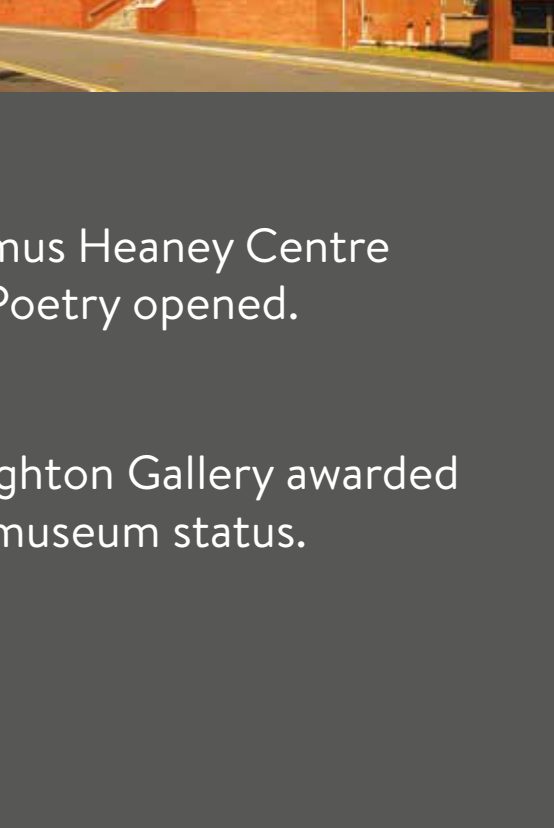
2012

Higgs boson discovered.

2012-13

Formation of The Institute for Global Food Security.

Refurbishment of the physics building.



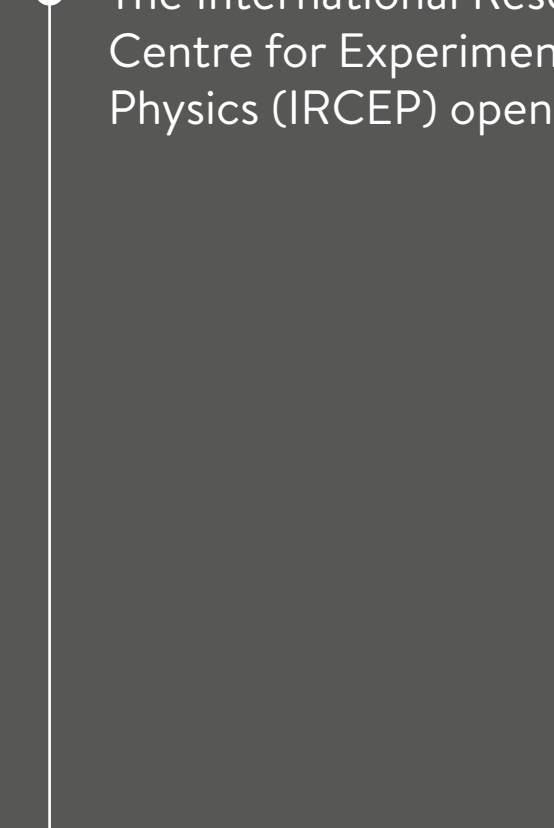
2014

Scotland narrowly votes 'no' in an independence referendum.

2015

Award-winning restoration of The Graduate School, which was sympathetically restored and remodelled.

Dr. Thomas J. Moran appointed Chancellor of Queen's.



2015

Tim Peake becomes the first British astronaut to board the International Space Station.

1981

Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer marry at St Paul's Cathedral.

1985

The soap opera EastEnders debuts its first episode.

1986

Return of Halley's Comet.

1989

The Berlin Wall comes down.

1990

John Major becomes UK Prime Minister.

Tim Berners-Lee creates the World Wide Web.

1992-1996

Waterfront Hall designed by Robinson & McInerney.

1996

Dolly the Sheep is cloned.

1997

Tony Blair becomes UK Prime Minister.

Mary McAleese (QUB faculty 1987-97) elected President of Ireland.

1998

Good Friday Agreement is signed.

1999

Millennium Dome is designed by Richard Rogers.

2000

The Tate Modern opens to the public.

2001

World Trade Center attack.

2003

Completion of Human Genome Project.

2004

Facebook formed.

2005

Hurricane Katrina.

2007

First iPhone is released.

Gordon Brown becomes UK Prime Minister.

2008

Large Hadron Collider completed.

2009

Barack Obama becomes the first African American President of the United States.

David Cameron becomes UK Prime Minister.

2012

Higgs boson discovered.

2014

Scotland narrowly votes 'no' in an independence referendum.

2015

Tim Peake becomes the first British astronaut to board the International Space Station.



24,000+
STUDENTS
ENROLLED

2017

2016

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is established.

Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences is established.

Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences is established.

24,000+ students enrolled.

Lanyon Conservation Project.



2017
James McElnay
Acting President and Vice-Chancellor

2018
Prof. Ian Greer
President and Vice-Chancellor

2016



Britain votes to leave the European Union.

2017



Donald Trump is inaugurated as President of the United States.

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