



TRANSFORMING LIVES AT QUEEN'S FOR 25 YEARS AND BUILDING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE

Earlier this Autumn, it was my great pleasure to welcome hundreds of donors, volunteers and legacy pledgers to our Supporter Thank You event at Queen's - my first as Director of Alumni Engagement and Philanthropy.

Together, we celebrated 25 years of impactful philanthropy through the Queen's Foundation, recognising the dedication and generosity that have profoundly shaped Queen's University over the years.

I continue to be amazed by the generosity of our supporters. Donations are funding scholarships and widening access to Queen's for deserving students; contributing to transformational building projects like The Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine and the One Elmwood Student Centre and Students' Union; and of course, supporting vital medical research in areas such as cancer, Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

With your help, Queen's is making a difference; you are changing lives.

Legacy gifts are a crucial part of this support, and we are enormously grateful to those who choose to remember the University in their Will. By leaving a gift in your Will to Queen's, you are making a remarkable commitment to the University's future and to the enduring value of education and research. Gifts in Wills represent faith in what we can accomplish together, today and for generations to come.

You're receiving this newsletter because at some stage you have considered leaving a gift in your Will to Queen's. Whatever stage of the process you are at, and whenever the time is right for you, rest assured your charitable legacy gift will make a huge difference.

Donors choose to leave a gift to Queen's for many different reasons, but always to support a cause close to their heart. In this newsletter, you can read about the motivations of some of our pledgers and about the enormous impact legacy gifts can have on our students and staff.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for being part of this journey with Queen's,

whether as an alum, friend or supporter.

Together we can build on years of success and ensure a future of innovation, inclusion and discovery as we move into the University's 180th anniversary year.

Thank you for your support.



Warm wishes,

Eddie Friel

Director of Alumni
Engagement and Philanthropy

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will to Queen's, or how your gift can help, please contact our Legacy Manager, Louise Carey, at L.Carey@qub.ac.uk or on +44 (0) 7747 234 282.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN BECOME MANY THINGS. THESE TWO INSPIRING LEGACY STORIES SHOW HOW YOUR GIFT CAN TRANSFORM LIVES AND CREATE A REAL LASTING IMPACT.

FUNDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF RESEARCHERS

Professor Denise Fitzgerald's research into multiple sclerosis (MS) is set to benefit from a generous legacy gift that will greatly expand the scope and ambition of the research her team can undertake. The team works to understand the details of how our brain tissue can become repaired after it has been damaged.

At 21, Prof. Fitzgerald was diagnosed with a rare condition called transverse myelitis which caused inflammation and damage to her spinal cord. She was paralyzed and had to learn to walk again. It was this personal experience that led her in her pursuit to understand why and how the damage in



her spinal cord repaired so well, and why that doesn't happen with MS and other neurodegenerative diseases.

This legacy gift will help to train the next generation of researchers and push the boundaries of their research, helping to improve the lives of patients who are affected daily by a neurodegenerative disease.

"I THINK PEOPLE CHOOSE TO LEAVE A GIFT IN THEIR WILL TO MEDICAL RESEARCH BECAUSE OF THE PROFOUND IMPACT IT CAN HAVE ON THE LIVES OF PATIENTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND CARERS."

— **Dr. Denise Fitzgerald**
Professor of
Neuroimmunology

THE GIFT OF A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION

From a young age Jessica Murphy admired doctors. She always wanted to study medicine but believed it could be beyond her reach. However, when the team from the Queen's Pathway Opportunity Programme visited her school and explained the additional support available to students who might need it, Jessica knew that medicine was possible for her.



Through the Pathway Opportunity Programme students receive an annual bursary in addition to other support, including an introductory course to the different areas of study at Queen's and visits to campus.

The first in her family to go to University, the medical student says the Programme gave her the confidence to come to Queen's and is the reason why she felt so comfortable away from home. The generosity shown by donors is something Jessica believes she will never forget.

"THE VALUE OF LEAVING A GIFT TO SUPPORT STUDENTS IS IMMEASURABLE. TO HELP SOMEONE YOU'VE NEVER MET, GUIDING THEIR FUTURE, IS AN INCREDIBLE THING TO DO. IT'S AN AMAZING CYCLE TO BE PART OF."

— **Jessica Murphy**
QUB Medical Student

CONOR SHARKEY

Fermanagh-born and London-based, International Business graduate Conor Sharkey says he has a lot to thank Queen's for and has left an unrestricted gift in his Will as a way to give back.

“ I gained so much through the University, both as a student and alum. Queen's gave me the skills to map out where my professional life may go, as well as providing connections

and friendships all around the world: from emotional reunions at a classmate's wedding in Kazakhstan, to being greeted at King's Cross station and put up on a friend's sofa for the first two weeks of calling London my adoptive home.

Although I currently support student-focused initiatives like the Pathway Bursary Fund which helps many students fulfil their potential regardless of their circumstances, I have also left an

unrestricted gift in my Will and trust that it will be used to fund the area of work that will have the greatest economic, research or societal impact at the time.



LORRAINE LAVERY

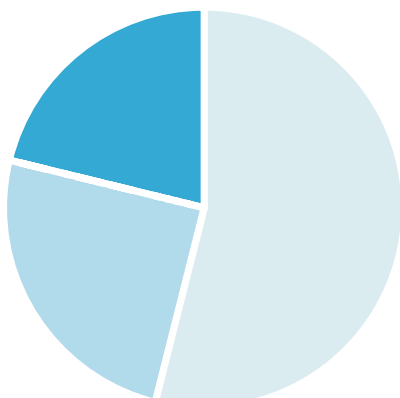
Having dedicated her entire career to further and higher education, Lorraine Lavery has always placed great value on learning and understood the opportunities it can present.

“ Pledging a gift in my Will to provide student bursaries at Queen's feels like a fitting way for me to give back. Having worked at Belfast Metropolitan College for 25 years, I have seen how a bursary can provide that extra bit of

encouragement needed for a student to decide to take the next step in their education - a decision that can be life-changing.

Having written my Will, I feel such a sense of relief that my affairs are now in order. Knowing my family has been looked after and that my gift will do something substantial for others is very fulfilling. I've since made the decision to extend this gift and also give during my lifetime.

Education is something I've always felt passionate about and I'm determined that students now and, in the future, will have my support.



CHARITABLE LEGACY GIVING IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2023

1,723 LEGACY GIFTS LEFT TO CHARITABLE CAUSES

54% WERE A SPECIFIC CASH AMOUNT (PECUNIARY)

25% WERE A PERCENTAGE OF AN ESTATE (RESIDUARY)

21% WERE OTHER GIFT TYPES
(A SPECIFIC ITEM, CONTINGENT OR REVERSIONARY)

**Dr. John Richard Browne
McMinn BA (1968), PhD
(1979), Dip Ed (QUB) OBE**

By leaving a gift in his Will to the University's Pathway Bursary Fund, Dr. Richard McMinn was able to continue his lifetime support of an initiative very close to his heart.

The former Principal of Stranmillis University College and Honorary Professor at Queen's, identified with the Pathway Bursary Fund's mission to make higher education accessible for young people who may not have previously considered Queen's a possibility for them. Coming from a modest-income family with no history

of university education, Dr. McMinn was only able to pursue an academic career due to the help of financial grants and a summer job driving a bakery van.

He credited his career achievements to this financial support and the mentorship he received at University, particularly from his friend Dr.

Richard H. 'Dickie' Hunter, former Secretary of Queen's.

Supporting the Pathway Bursary Fund was a natural continuation of Dr. McMinn's dedication to encouraging young people from non-traditional backgrounds. It allowed him to support others in the same way that helped shape his own future.



THANK YOU

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming our donors, volunteers, and legacy pledgers to a special Supporter Thank You lunch at Riddell Hall, which also marked 25 years of the Queen's Foundation.

From monthly contributions to major gifts, the invaluable support of donors has played a vital role in enhancing the campus infrastructure, advancing research and innovation, and supporting students through scholarships and bursaries.

Speaking to donors, Dr Ryan Feeney, Vice President (Governance and External Affairs) and Registrar at Queen's, said:

"We are enormously grateful to the Queen's alumni, friends, companies and charitable foundations for their contributions over the years.

The Foundation's success and that of the University over these 25 years serves as a powerful reminder of what we can achieve together."

