



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

LEGACY NEWS
AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

THE LASTING POWER OF LEGACIES

“A SOCIETY GROWS GREAT WHEN OLD MEN PLANT TREES WHOSE SHADE THEY KNOW THEY SHALL NEVER SIT IN.” – GREEK PROVERB

When someone chooses to leave a gift in their Will to Queen's - supporting our students, advancing research, or strengthening the University community - it is an act of faith in the future; an investment in generations to come. These donors will help to create opportunities and discoveries they may never personally witness, but whose impact will endure long into the future.

In this edition, you can read about the incredible legacy of Dr Claire Slattery, whose generous gift will be used to help prevent a future shortage of medical educators, ensuring that excellence in teaching and healthcare continues for generations to come.

Through initiatives like the Pathway Opportunity Programme, legacy gifts will continue to empower talented students from

underrepresented backgrounds, ensuring excellence is defined by potential and passion - not circumstance. You can read more about this inspiring initiative on page 2.

You'll also find practical guidance on writing a Will — an essential step to take to ensure that your wishes are fulfilled and that the causes you care about most, including Queen's, can continue to benefit from your foresight and generosity. Every gift in a Will, no matter its size, can make a real impact.

To those who have already chosen to remember Queen's in this unique way, and to those contemplating it, we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your support reflects a shared belief in the University and the lasting impact we can create together.



With sincere gratitude,

Eddie Friel

Director of Alumni
Engagement & Philanthropy
Queen's University Belfast

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.

**Dr Claire Slattery,
MB BCH, BAO (1962)
Died 19 March 2025, aged 86**

One of nine women in a class of 60, Dr Claire Slattery graduated in Medicine from Queen's in 1962. She went on to become a consultant in the highly competitive field of Paediatrics and was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

An accomplished and well-respected doctor, Claire was invited to speak at a conference in the Mayo Clinic in the USA where she met her future husband, Dr Aidan Carney. They married at the Queen's chaplaincy in May 1987 before settling in Minnesota where Claire spent the rest of her life.

A proud alumna and passionate medic, Claire left a generous gift in her Will to Queen's to support undergraduate medical students with their tuition fees, specifically those who do an extra year of study to explore an area of medicine in greater depth and gain an additional degree.

This path is an excellent way to encourage a career in medical academia, so through her gift, Claire is helping to prevent a future shortage of medical educators.

Dr Slattery's niece, also named Claire, believes that her aunt would be delighted with how her gift is being used: "Although she came from humble beginnings, my aunt had the opportunity to pursue her dream, and with a lot of hard work

was able to reach the highest level of her career. I think she would have wanted others to have the same opportunities, without any financial burden."



"WITH HER GIFT BEING USED
IN THIS WAY, HER PASSION FOR
MEDICINE WILL BE REMEMBERED
AND CONTINUED THROUGH
FUTURE GENERATIONS."

PATHWAY OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME

The Pathway Opportunity Programme (POP) is an outreach initiative at Queen's, committed to widening participation in higher education and investing in young people. It engages with pupils in years 13 and 14 in schools across Northern Ireland to support and empower talented young people to overcome barriers in accessing a university education. This can include living in an area of social deprivation, coming from a low-income household or being the first in their family to attend university.

Through workshops, seminars and campus visits, the Programme helps them realise their capabilities and equips them with

the skills they need to excel at university. On entry to Queen's, every POP student also receives a £1,000 bursary which can support them with some of the basics that students can struggle to afford.

Kaylem McShane, Computer Science student said: "As I see it, the bursary is someone betting on us and saying, 'I believe in you.' With this support, I have been able to focus more on my studies, gain essential experiences, and grow in ways I couldn't have without it."

Our ambition is to provide annual bursaries to these young people for the duration of their time at Queen's.

A lifetime or legacy gift to support disadvantaged students will enable Queen's to continue to provide these impactful bursaries for deserving students. Find out more at qub.ac.uk/alumni/PathwayOpportunityProgramme.



DILYS HARKINS

“ I have long since understood the value and importance of medical research. I nursed both my father and then mother when they were ill with cancer, so I’ve seen first-hand how vital it is, not just to prolong life, but to improve its quality.

What I have seen and heard about the medical research that’s carried out at Queen’s has impressed me greatly. Over the years I have had the opportunity to visit the University’s research centres at Open Days and have heard some of the researchers speak with passion about their area of work.

That’s why I’ve chosen to leave a gift in my Will to support medical research at Queen’s. I trust the University to decide how best to use it when the time comes — whether that’s funding promising early career researchers, supporting new discoveries, or helping to develop the next major breakthrough.

I’ve lived an interesting and fortunate life - one filled with opportunities, adventures, and many reasons to be grateful. I like to think that my legacy gift will, in some small way, make a positive impact on others in the future.”



A DONOR THANK YOU

This Autumn we welcomed over 100 supporters to our Donor Thank You event at Riddel Hall. Guests heard from Dr Victoria Dunne, whose research into prostate cancer is funded by the Lonergan Family Trust, and from student Peter Corvan on how he has benefitted from the University’s Pathway Opportunity Programme.

Speaking to donors, Dr Ryan Feeney, Vice President (Governance and External Affairs) and Registrar at Queen’s, said: “We are enormously grateful to our alumni, friends, companies and charitable foundations for your contributions over the years. You are funding scholarships and bursaries, helping us widen access to higher education to all, irrespective

of background. Each donation, no matter the size, is a step toward creating a brighter future for the University and for Northern Ireland.”

From monthly contributions to significant lifetime or legacy gifts, each donation helps Queen’s make important things happen.



Writing a Will is a task many of us put off, but having a Will is the only way to ensure that the people and causes you care about are provided for in the way you want.

To help you get started, Queen's has put together a number of resources:

GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR WILL

Our free **Guide to Making Your Will** is a digital booklet that outlines what you need to consider when writing your Will, practical steps you'll need to take (there's even a checklist for you to follow), and how you can include a gift to Queen's if you wish to do so.

VIDEO RESOURCES

We have a series of **in-depth videos** featuring Honorary Senior Lecturer at Queen's and Barrister at Law TEP, Sheena Grattan, who explains what Wills are, why they're important, what you might want to include in yours, as well as some information on Inheritance Tax.



WILL-WRITING WEBINAR

We're planning another **online Will-writing session** for 24 March 2026. The key guest speaker will be Michael Graham, Director at Cleaver Fulton Rankin and Head of the Private Client Department, who will provide guidance on writing your Will and can answer some of the questions you may have at the end of the session.

FREE WILL SERVICE

As an alum or friend of Queen's, you're also eligible for our **free Will-writing service**. You can do this in person with a local solicitor or over the phone. It's completely free and there's no obligation to leave a gift to Queen's. But for those who might choose to do so, there's the added opportunity to support students and research that changes lives.

Find out more at go.qub.ac.uk/writing-your-will

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

QGA NETWORKING EVENT

When:

13/11/2025
6PM – 8.30PM

Where:

One Elmwood Student Centre,
Belfast

QUAL ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER

When:

3/12/2025
6:45PM - 11:30PM

Where:

The Royal Thames Yacht Club,
London

WILL-WRITING WEBINAR

When:

24/03/2026
12PM – 1PM

Where:

Online (register at
go.qub.ac.uk/will-webinar)

