

LEGACY LEGALESE

CHANGES TO INHERITANCE TAX

Are you aware of the changes to Inheritance Tax (IHT) introduced on 6 April this year?

The new main residence nil-rate band of £100,000 is being introduced for domestic residences passed to direct dependents. This allowance is in addition to the current £325,000 IHT threshold. For a couple, it increases the tax-free amount from £650,000 to £850,000, an amount that will rise to £1 million by 1 April 2020 through annual increases.

Inheritance Tax is currently charged at 40% on assets above the £325,000 threshold of an estate, with a tax break reducing this rate to 36% for those who leave at least 10% to a charity.

Please seek professional advice on the full details of these changes and how they may apply to your personal circumstances.

LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Fees for setting up a lasting power of attorney (LPA) have been substantially reduced from 1 April 2017.

LPAs, which can be set up by consulting a solicitor for specialist legal advice, are able to grant relatives, carers or close family members the authority to handle the property and financial affairs of a loved one who is no longer able to look after themselves, or has lost the mental capacity to do so.

The reductions are as follows:

- The fee for an application to register an enduring, or a lasting, power of attorney will fall from £110 to £82.
- The fee for a repeat application to register a lasting power of attorney will fall from £55 to £41.

An LPA can be drawn up quickly by seeking specialist legal advice, yet a worrying 44 million adults in the UK do not have one, and are unprepared for what the future may hold.

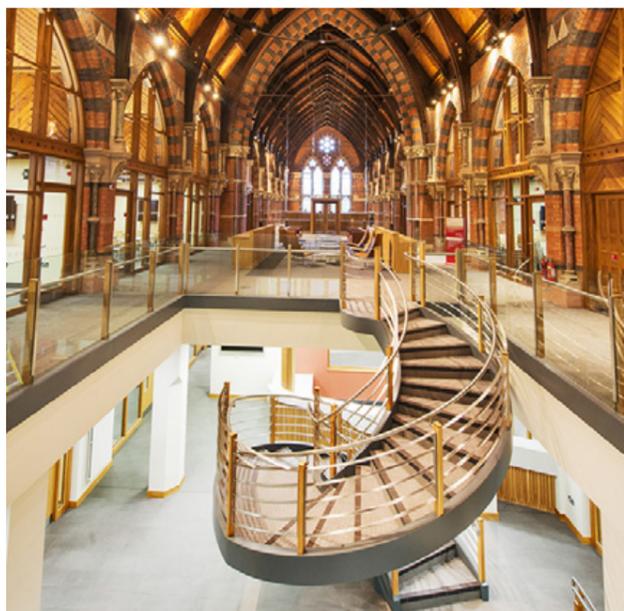
A 'FOREVER' GIFT

A 'FOREVER' GIFT IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE – NAMING A ROOM IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School is an intellectual and social hub that connects postgraduate students across all disciplines to one another, as well as to mentors, leaders and future employers.

You can choose to name a room in our beautiful Graduate School building, while at the same time supporting postgraduate students at Queen's. Rooms can be named from £10,000.

Your gift will help to fund postgraduate activities designed to support these students to be thinkers, innovators, leaders and communicators.



If you have any feedback about this newsletter which you would like to share, or suggestions for topics to be included in future editions, please contact:

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The information contained in this newsletter is general in nature. It does not constitute legal or financial advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for professional advice.

The Legacy Newsletter
from The Queen's University
of Belfast Foundation



The Lanyon Society

YOU CAN DO SOMETHING AMAZING

SUMMER EDITION 2017



The Queen's DeLorean project

CHANGE LIVES. SAVE LIVES.

Think back to your days as a student at Queen's... did a particular lecturer have an influential impact on your studies?

Did your time here shape your career, your character or your life opportunities? And, if you had the chance, would you consider passing on that opportunity to a future generation?

In this newsletter, you can read about how legacy gifts are helping to support our most talented students – enabling them to come to Queen's despite financial obstacles. You can also learn about a selection of research projects and how they are shaping our future.

You can inspire the greatest minds
Think about the impact your legacy gift could have on a first-year student like Seanna - the recipient of a legacy scholarship at Queen's. Seanna is the first in her family to go to university. This scholarship will change her life and the lives of many other students long into the future. See article on page 2.

You can invest in world-class research
Imagine if you woke up one day and you couldn't remember your name or recognise your family? One in 225,000 people will develop dementia in the UK this year: that's one person every three minutes (ref: Alzheimers.org). Playing your part in the fight against dementia through a legacy gift will help our researchers push boundaries in the quest for solutions to some of our most urgent challenges.

Your gift will be free from tax and 100% will go to your chosen area
Rest assured that, as the Queen's Foundation is a registered charity, your gift will be free of tax and may reduce the inheritance tax burden on your estate. And 100% of your gift will go towards your chosen cause.

When the time is right for you, and after providing for your loved ones, join us as we inspire the greatest minds, invest in world-class excellence and build a brighter and stronger future.

Warm regards

Susan Wilson



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HOW QUEEN'S IS CHANGING LIVES

Queen's has launched "Pathway to Opportunities", a dedicated programme of support offered to Year 13 and 14 students to encourage their progression into university.

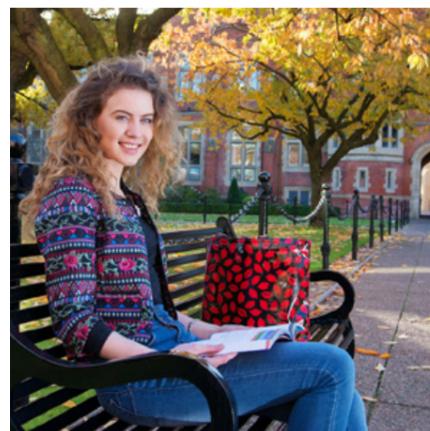
The programme targets young people who have the potential to study at Queen's, but who are less likely to attend, whether this is because they are the first person in their family to apply or because they are a care leaver.

The initiative, which is part of the University's commitment to promote equality of opportunity and diversity among its students and staff, includes a series of workshops and seminars, both at Queen's and online, as well as a summer residential at the University.

Ms Wilma Fee, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, said: "Queen's is committed to embracing a diverse student body that reflects our community. We understand that some students may face additional barriers in accessing university, which is why we have developed this initiative, aiming to remove those barriers and support talented students from all backgrounds, and give them the opportunity to pursue a quality education."

"We are delighted to welcome 60 'most able though least likely' students to this programme, who we hope will feel inspired to continue their education and to progress to a Russell Group university."

As a further incentive, participants who successfully complete the programme will be offered a guaranteed place at the University with up to a two grade reduction. Students may also receive financial support by way of a bursary.



HOW LEGACY DONATIONS ARE CHANGING LIVES



Seanna

The Jean Crawford Cochrane Scholarship was set up to encourage women to further their education through an undergraduate degree course at Queen's. The legacy gift was established by Frances Carpenter through a deed of variation of Jean's will. Jean was a member of Queen's Women Graduates, attending regular meetings and events. She had a passionate ambition to support women's education, a subject area which Jean pursued through her own career – as a teacher, a head teacher and a representative of the National Association of Head Teachers.

The award was granted to first-year student, Seanna Turner. Seanna said:

"As a 25-year-old mother of two returning to education, I found the financial struggle to be greater than I imagined. Social work is something I have always wanted to do. I am passionate about promoting equality, helping others and empowering socially disadvantaged groups. I am determined that my financial situation will not unfairly dictate my future and I am thankful for this amazing support."

The DeLorean outreach project

Des Clarke, an alumnus of Engineering (1968), now living in Australia, visits Queen's every few years, catching up on events and news around campus.



Des with DeLorean and St Malachy's pupils

As well as supporting Queen's through a gift in his will, Des has very kindly helped to fund projects of particular interest to him over the years.

Last year his gift enabled the School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science to develop an activity pack for local school pupils which helped demonstrate the basics of electricity. The schools were also delighted to have the opportunity to see the university's electric DeLorean car.

In June Des, an avid car enthusiast, presented the activity pack to pupils from his former school, St Malachy's College, Belfast. Des said:

"I am inspired to see how my gift is helping to bring together my old school and my alma mater. The pupils here will benefit from learning about the real-life application of engineering and electricity, and hopefully be inspired to consider an education and a career in this area."



Make **Changing Lives** part of your story by leaving a gift to Queen's in your will to help the students of the future.

HOW QUEEN'S IS SAVING LIVES

RESEARCH UNCOVERS ILLEGAL LEVELS OF ARSENIC IN BABY FOODS



Queen's researchers have found that half of baby rice food products contain illegal levels of inorganic arsenic despite new regulations set by the EU.

In January 2016, the EU imposed a maximum limit of inorganic arsenic on manufacturers in a bid to mitigate associated health risks.

Researchers at the Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's have found that 50 per cent of baby rice food products still contain an illegal level of inorganic arsenic.

Andrew Meharg, Professor of Plant and Soil Sciences at Queen's, said: "This research has shown direct evidence that babies are exposed to illegal levels of arsenic despite the EU regulation to specifically address this health challenge. Babies are particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of arsenic, which can prevent the healthy development of a baby's growth, IQ and immune system to name but a few."

Chronic exposure to high levels of arsenic can also cause a range of health problems including developmental problems, heart disease, diabetes and nervous system damage.

HOW LEGACY DONATIONS ARE SAVING LIVES



One in three of us will suffer from cancer in our lifetime. So it was heartening when, in 2010, local businessman Tom Simms left a bequest of £2 million to Queen's to be used for cancer research trials. His gift has offered fresh hope to thousands of individuals with cancer. It was a hugely generous act which has already made an enormous impact.

Tom's nieces, Alison and Rita, recently met up with Professor Richard Wilson, Director of the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Unit at Queen's, and his team (pictured above) in the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital to learn more about the impact of their late uncle's gift and to recognise the bequest by a plaque in Tom's name.

The Tom Simms Research Team is currently working on treatments including personalised therapies, genetic links, inhibitors and biomarkers. All of these offer more targeted individual treatments, a higher cure rate, longer life expectancy and a better quality of life.

The group is also behind the trial of the first ever anti-cancer drug developed entirely in Northern Ireland.



Make **Saving Lives** part of your story by leaving a gift to Queen's in your will to help the students of the future.

MAJOR BRAIN REPAIR DISCOVERY IN FIGHT AGAINST MS

Researchers at Queen's have discovered that specific cells from the immune system are key players in brain repair. The new research is being hailed as a landmark study in unravelling the mysteries of how the brain repairs damage.

This is crucial in the fight against Multiple Sclerosis (MS), which affects 2.3 million people worldwide.

MS is the most common neurological disease affecting young adults. In MS, the immune system wrongly attacks the myelin sheath, which can lead to symptoms such as vision loss, pain, fatigue and paralysis. The exciting aspect of this new research is that the team has uncovered beneficial effects of immune cells in myelin repair that have potential to reverse myelin damage.

Dr Fitzgerald, one of the researchers, commented: "We continue to work together to advance knowledge and push the boundaries of science for the benefits of patients and society, in a bid to change lives, across the globe."

