



Brotherton Circle Newsletter

The newsletter for University of Leeds legacy supporters

2020

ACADEMIC'S GIFT HONOURS HIS LIFE'S PASSIONS



This kindness has enabled me to take every opportunity on board without financial worries." Chemistry student Amy Wilkinson expresses her gratitude for the scholarship which she received through a legacy from former Leeds academic John Hulett.

Dr Hulett's gift marries two of his passions – chemistry and coin-collecting – to open opportunities for the chemists and engineers of the future. His vast collection of coins is being auctioned to raise money for several organisations he remembered in his Will.

At Leeds, the funds are providing much-needed widening participation scholarships, which open up a university education to talented students from less privileged backgrounds.

This wonderful legacy will help students enrolling on courses in chemistry and chemical engineering for years to come. It is a fitting gift, given that during Dr Hulett's career as a lecturer at Leeds, he performed the role of the admissions tutor for chemical engineering courses for more than 20 years.

Dr Hulett's own academic career began with a scholarship. After leaving St Albans School in 1948, he was awarded an Open Exhibition to read chemistry at Oxford – where he remained until 1955, having completed undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and a doctorate.

His coin collecting had begun many years earlier. When a family friend handed the 11-year-old a bag of old coins, little did they know that it was the start of a collection that would go on to change the lives of so many. While still at school, Dr Hulett augmented his collection with 17th and 18th century English silver coins, buying whatever his pocket-money would allow – and his voracious collecting continued while he was a student.

After being appointed to a lectureship in chemical engineering at Leeds in 1960, Dr Hulett expanded the collection through local dealers in Yorkshire. By the time he passed away in 2017, he had amassed one of the largest and most interesting collections of modern times – including many significant pieces from the reign of King Charles I.

Chemistry student Amy is one of the first to benefit from Dr Hulett's legacy. Her decision to go to university brought anxieties regarding how she would support herself, but the scholarship has enabled her to focus on her own development as a chemist.

"I will forever be thankful," she says. "Without the scholarship, my first year experience at Leeds would not have been anywhere near as successful or memorable as it has been. I've been able to take every opportunity without economic worries. Although the year has been affected by coronavirus, it has been packed with joy and happy memories that will stay with me forever. None of this would have been possible without my scholarship."

THANK YOU

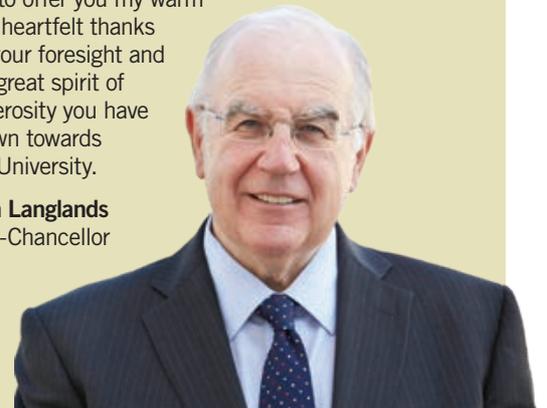
This has become a year quite unlike any other. The global coronavirus pandemic has touched each one of us, changing the way we live, work and interact with each other.

Whatever the current challenges, one thing that will not change is the University's enduring mission to provide an outstanding education, create new knowledge, and make a positive difference in the world. We were placed 3rd in the UK and 11th globally in the recent Times Higher Education's Impact rankings on the UN Sustainability Goals and this is testament to the commitment and creativity of our staff and students. From reducing inequalities to combatting climate change, our education and research will continue to be sharpened through the lens of the social, medical, economic and environmental needs of the future and we will continue to play a central role in the cultural life of our city.

Your support, as members of the Brotherton Circle, is one of the foundations of our success. Your pledge of a legacy is a precious commitment to the future of the University, for which we remain truly grateful.

My time as Vice-Chancellor is now drawing to a close but I am certain that your support will be a source of inspiration and strength for the University in the years ahead. It has been my pleasure to meet so many of you during my time at Leeds – and I would like to offer you my warm and heartfelt thanks for your foresight and the great spirit of generosity you have shown towards the University.

Alan Langlands
Vice-Chancellor



**Making a World
of Difference**

UNIVERSITY STEPS UP TO TACKLE CORONAVIRUS

As one of the UK's largest research-focused universities, Leeds is marshalling world-leading expertise and equipment as well as influential networks in the collaborative fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Colleagues from medicine, biology and data analytics have joined the nationwide research effort. We have contributed equipment and expertise to a new national testing centre, are analysing data to give a clearer picture of how the disease spreads – and have worked to improve infection control on hospital wards. The University has also opened up pathology and microbiology laboratories to the research effort, and contributed staff and equipment – as well as practical measures such as offering car parks and accommodation for NHS staff.

The University's 200-plus clinical academic staff, jointly-funded with partner NHS Trusts, are now prioritising front-line activity over research and academic duties, while many other staff who hold healthcare qualifications have volunteered to return to the NHS, including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

Leeds researchers are also part of the world's first group dedicated to monitoring the impact of Covid-19 on cancer patients. Alongside colleagues from the Universities of Oxford and Birmingham, members of the Leeds Institute for Medical Research have established the UK coronavirus cancer monitoring scheme to track cancer patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, to ensure that high quality cancer care is being delivered across the country to safeguard patients.

NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR APPOINTED

Professor Simone Buitendijk has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds and will take up the post in September, as Sir Alan Langlands steps down.

For the past four years, Professor Buitendijk has been Vice-Provost (Education) and Professor of Maternal and Child Health at Imperial College London. She was previously Vice-Rector at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

Professor Buitendijk said: "I am honoured to be appointed as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds. The University has an impressive track record in education and research. It has clearly been thriving under the leadership of Sir Alan Langlands and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to build on these strong foundations.

"I am looking forward to collaborating with the extremely engaged and talented community of students, staff and alumni to further strengthen the University's role regionally, nationally and globally. Together we can enhance its impact through excellent, societally-relevant research and through training the next generation of global citizens with high quality, innovative education."



HELPING STUDENTS FACE THE PANDEMIC

Established with the support of our donors, the University's 2020 Student Support Fund is helping students who are facing financial hardship due to the Covid-19 crisis, and who need urgent help during these challenging times.

Since the crisis began, the University has received a growing number of calls for help – and we have already provided many bursaries to help students address their particular needs. But faced with growing demand, and the prospect of continued disruption, the fund is helping students to overcome barriers thrown up as a consequence of the pandemic, and succeed in their studies. Gifts are:

- Covering urgent and immediate financial needs which have arisen through the crisis;
- Enabling students to study from home while isolated from peer groups, support networks and University facilities;
- Supporting the most vulnerable among our student body, such as care leavers, single parents, those estranged from their families and those facing homelessness.

Professor Tom Ward, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Student Education said: "The generous gifts to this fund are ensuring that more of our deserving students are supported in meeting the unprecedented challenges of Covid-19."



As the Brotherton Circle Newsletter goes to press, the fund has topped £120,000. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported the fund. If you would like to make a donation, visit crowdfunding.leeds.ac.uk.

ARTISTS ENSURE THAT THE SHOW GOES ON

The final year degree show by students from the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies has opened online and finalists are embracing the opportunity to innovate and to challenge tradition.

The show at simmer.leeds.ac.uk showcases a range of works as well as e-vents and interviews hosted by students. On entering a virtual lobby, visitors are presented with six gallery environments, ranging from the traditional 'white cube' to the virtual 'void.' They can explore these environments and observe each work in a purposeful setting, just as they would in a traditional gallery.

Head of School Dr Joanne Crawford says: "This exhibition is not just about the objects on display, it is also about tenacity, frustration and acceptance. It is about each student digging deep within themselves and finding new levels of strength and determination".

WHY I CHOOSE TO REMEMBER LEEDS

– Maureen Spencer

“I was born at the right time.”

Maureen Spencer readily admits her good fortune: “My parents were Austrian Jews and came to England in 1939. They got out just in time.”

They joined relatives in Coventry where Maureen and her twin brother were born a year after the end of the war. “I had a good education including seven years at grammar school and the encouragement to pursue a university education.”

In the summer after sixth form Maureen learned she had secured a place at Leeds: “During the holidays I worked as a tour guide for British tourists in Austria. I got a phone call from my parents at the hotel to say I had been accepted by Leeds.”

Maureen had never visited Yorkshire before stepping off the train in Leeds in September 1964 to enrol on her course in Sociology. “It was very black and dirty, but the campus was very impressive.” After spells in digs in Horsforth and Beeston, Maureen spent her third year in the newly-opened Henry Price flats. “There was central heating and a shower. I thought I’d died and gone to heaven.”

She looks back fondly on her three years in the city: “I learned how to work independently, how to access resources, how to grasp subjects that were new to me. I believe university is about training the brain and those skills stood me in good stead. I was just so happy to be there, enjoying being away from home, learning to be independent and meeting new people from all over the world.”

These friendships sparked the next phase of Maureen’s life: “I met some American students and stayed with them in the States. My roommate Sheila and I thought it would be fun to go and work there for a couple of years. We could spend our last summer of freedom travelling all over North America by Greyhound bus – \$99 for 99 days!”

In the meantime, they received an intriguing job offer. Through contacts, they met the research director for the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada. The mandate of the commission was to recommend steps to ensure for women equal opportunities with men in all aspects of Canadian society. “He took us out for dinner – and offered us jobs as research assistants.” And though Maureen found Ottawa bitterly cold – and her friend decided not to go – she loved the job, the first in a string of roles centred on equal opportunities, job creation and human resources.

She gained a Masters in Adult Education from the University of Toronto, became involved in the feminist movement, and met her British-born partner Michael, a mechanical engineer who had emigrated to Canada a few years earlier.

In 1975 she worked for the federal government on a scheme creating summer work opportunities for young people. In 1981 Maureen joined the City of Toronto to design and implement a programme to employ people with disabilities: “It was a very exciting and rewarding time.” This proved the beginning of a long career with the City doing a number of different jobs in human resources, including policy development, project management, training and designing electronic human resource procedures.



Retirement in 2009 afforded a host of new opportunities. She and Michael have travelled widely, she attends lectures at the University of Toronto’s School of Global Affairs and in 2019 she spent a poignant time in Vienna, researching her family history. Maureen also volunteers with Times Change Women’s Employment Service, an organisation that provides career and educational counselling.

Maureen has also continued her 25-year fitness regime with regular visits to the gym – and during the Covid-19 pandemic, goes for daily walks with Michael. “I am fitter now than when I was at Leeds,” she says. She has also reconnected with the University, attending reunions in Toronto, making regular gifts to the Footsteps Fund, and pledging a gift in her Will to support scholarships for students from less advantaged backgrounds.

“My parents weren’t well off. My father trained as a lawyer in Austria, but the legal system is very different in the UK and he wasn’t able to practice. Had there been substantial fees I doubt they could have afforded to send me to university. Not only was my tuition free but Coventry gave me a grant. I want other people to have this same opportunity.

“My generation was so lucky. We thought, given the social reforms of the post-war welfare state, that free education was the going to be the norm. Sadly it was just a blip.”

LEEDS ALUMNI BOOK CLUB

Why not connect with Leeds alumni around the world while enjoying the simple pleasure of reading?

We have created a virtual book club specifically for Leeds alumni. Members connect through a private forum to discuss books from a broad range of genres. Joining is free; you just have to get a copy of the book to read along. Members will choose a new title every two months so you will have plenty of time to enjoy your reading.

Our June to August selection is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

To find out more and sign up go to:
<https://alumni.leeds.ac.uk/book-club>

GIFT SUPPORTS LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS

A lover of classics with a broad interest in subjects from geography to foreign languages, Professor Oswald Dilke had a huge impact on student education. After lecturing in Hull and Glasgow he joined the University of Leeds in 1963, becoming Chair of Latin and retiring as Emeritus professor in 1980.

In later life, he and his wife Margaret made remarkable contributions to the study of ancient cartography. Now, thanks to a gift in Margaret's Will, Leeds students will continue to benefit from the Dilkes' legacy.

The couple's son Stephen inherited his parents' flair for research, and both he and Margaret were credited by Oswald for contributing to Mathematics and Measurement, published in 1987. Tragically, Stephen died in 1992, followed a year later by Oswald.

The Dilkes' gift, following Oswald's passion for languages, classics and the ancient world, has been used by the Library to support teaching and research in arts subjects. Many arts and humanities courses are particularly book intensive, with the University's libraries providing an invaluable resource for scholars – both staff and students alike. Thanks to this generous gift, between 2017 and 2018 the Dilke legacy has enabled the purchase of over 800 books on subjects ranging from Archaeology to Socialism, but with a particular focus on Classics. It has also enabled the Library to increase its access to online resources for students.

Crucially, the bequest has provided a welcome opportunity for the Library to invest in developing the University's book collection. Each year, limits are imposed on the amount spent on individual research areas. These funds have made it possible to be more generous when considering subject requests, allowing the Library to increase the breadth and depth of its collection, and provide a truly invaluable resource for both students and researchers.



BROTHERTON CIRCLE EVENT 2020

The continuing impact of the coronavirus pandemic sadly means we will not be able to host a 'real' event on campus this summer. We are, however, hoping to arrange a virtual alternative and will be in touch with more information soon. If you are interested in joining the event but are not sure if we have your current email address, please get in touch.

LEEDS TO HOST UK POETRY CENTRE



A collaboration with Leeds City Council and a number of other key partners will see the city host a new National Poetry Centre. The development will mark the appointment of our Professor of Poetry Simon Armitage as Poet Laureate and create a lasting legacy to mark his decade-long tenure.

The centre will be home to an extensive poetry collection with research facilities, rehearsal and performance spaces, a café, and spaces for literary prizes and events.

Simon, who spoke at the Brotherton Circle event in 2018, has kindly allowed us to print his new poem *Lockdown*, influenced by both the 17th century plague in Derbyshire and the epic Sanskrit poem *Meghaduta*:

And I couldn't escape the waking dream
of infected fleas
in the warp and weft of soggy cloth
by the tailor's hearth
in ye olde Eyam.
Then couldn't un-see
the Boundary Stone,
that cock-eyed dice with its six dark holes,
thimbles brimming with vinegar wine
purging the plagued coins.
Which brought to mind the sorry story
of Emmott Syddall and Rowland Torre,
star-crossed lovers on either side
of the quarantine line
whose wordless courtship spanned the river
till she came no longer.
But slept again,
and dreamt this time
of the exiled *yaksha* sending word
to his lost wife on a passing cloud,
a cloud that followed an earthly map
of camel trails and cattle tracks,
streams like necklaces,
fan-tailed peacocks, painted elephants,
embroidered bedspreads
of meadows and hedges,
bamboo forests and snow-hatted peaks,
waterfalls, creeks,
the hieroglyphs of wide-winged cranes
and the glistening lotus flower after rain,
the air
hypnotically see-through, rare,
the journey a ponderous one at times, long and slow
but necessarily so.

GET IN TOUCH

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