



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

LEGACY
NEWS
2021

Uncovering Sheffield's hidden history

How one legacy revealed Sheffield's past and
supported our archaeologists of the future

Read more about Pamela Staunton's legacy on page 6

Welcome to *Legacy News*. The past year has been challenging for everyone. But at a time when support has been needed the most, our Sheffield community has risen to the challenge. From enabling vital research to continue, to providing financial help for students most affected by the pandemic, the support we have received has been remarkable. Thank you.

In this issue, we want to show you the transformational power that leaving a gift in your Will can have. We are so thankful to those who had the foresight to leave a gift to education and we hope you enjoy reading their stories.

What will be your legacy?

The University has a proud history of discovery, innovation and social change. Over 100 years in the making, our story continues to evolve every day. The University is committed to delivering life-enhancing research, innovation and education that transforms lives for the better. We're proud of the difference we've made and continue to make. But we'll never stop exploring new ways to do more. After you have considered those closest to you, please do leave a gift in your Will and join us in making the next 100 years of education and discovery even more successful.



Refugees in Za'atari have been taught by Sheffield scientists to grow their own fresh food in the desert. Read how Brian Mayes' legacy supported this project on page 5

Once a soldier, twice a legend



Colonel Leslie Wright



Simurq Aeronautics Society students

Colonel Leslie Wright had what you might call an eventful life. His wartime experiences – chronicled in his book *Once a Soldier, Twice a Citizen* – were remarkable. In 1940, he recalled being gunned from the air, stopping a bullet with only the brim of his helmet, and even jumping into the freezing sea to be the last British soldier rescued from the beach in Calais by the Royal Navy. His military career was a long and illustrious one, and these experiences were his greatest source of pride.

Leslie always spoke so highly of the University and regularly donated during

his lifetime. Awarded an honorary Master of Arts in 1986, he attended every event possible and would always carry speech notes in his pocket in case the speaker was unable to attend.

We were all incredibly honoured when he thought to leave a gift to the University in his Will. Due to his love of the military, it was truly fitting to be able to allocate his legacy donation to the Simurq Aeronautics Society. We will never forget the impact Leslie had on the University and on all of those who knew and loved him.

Here to help

If you're considering remembering the University in your Will, we'd love to talk to you. Whether you'd like to support a specific area or just want to make a difference to your University, we are here to help ensure your wishes are fulfilled.

For a confidential discussion, please contact our Philanthropy Manager for Legacies, David Meadows. David is a Sheffield graduate and happy to talk to you about all things connected to the University. Please call **+44 (0)114 222 1073** or email **d.meadows@sheffield.ac.uk**.

You can find out more on our dedicated webpage: sheffield.ac.uk/legacies

From one musician to another

Creative, fun-loving and a true inspiration, **Dr Margaret Staniforth** (LRCP MRSC 1964) left many legacies.

The legacy of a successful medical career – inherited from her father and passed on to her daughter. Her student stories of dissection labs had all she met hanging on her every word – including her future husband, Kim.

The legacy of gardening – carefully crafting a derelict tennis court into a runner up in the Great British Gardens Competition. A 20 year labour of love which will live long in the memories of those who have been lucky enough to experience it.

And finally, the legacy of music through remembering the University of Sheffield in her Will. Music was one of Margaret's passions, not only did she possess a beautiful singing voice, she also set up the now named Endcliffe Orchestra. Her generous gift of £5,000 was matched by the University to fund a Postgraduate Scholarship in the Department of Music.



Margaret Staniforth playing in the Sheffield Amateur Orchestra in 1977

Margaret's legacy will live on through the musicians she inspires and in the memory of all who knew her.

“Words cannot do justice to describe how happy I felt when I received the email saying I’d been given the scholarship. I cried, laughed and re-read it over and over again. I will be forever grateful for this gift. I choose to think of it as a vote of confidence and every day, when I’m sitting at my desk studying, I think of how lucky I am to have this support. Thank you Margaret.”

Michael Neokleous,
MA Psychology of Music,
Margaret Staniforth
Postgraduate Scholarship
recipient



Michael Neokleous

Building a garden in the desert



Refugee children meet Professor Tony Ryan and Dr Moaed Al Meselmani in Jordan

Brian Mayes was always able to see the positives in the most difficult situations. Born in Belfast, he touched many lives with his humour and was an inspiration on how to live a happy life.

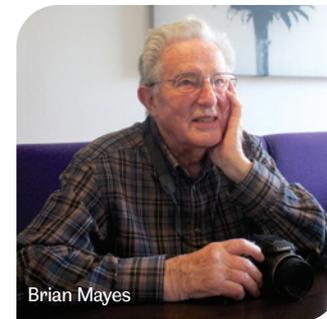
As the person responsible for overseeing the building of the Octagon Centre, the renovation of Firth Court and the recladding of the Hicks Building, his service to the University as the Estates and Buildings Officer will never be forgotten.

Brian left a gift of £5,000 to the University in his Will. After a discussion with his family, his gift was allocated to the Desert Garden appeal. The project partners Sheffield researchers with Syrian refugees to help them grow fresh food in the desert. The initiative uses discarded mattress foam as soil, enabling families to grow a range of vegetables and herbs in an otherwise arid landscape. Alongside Brian's support, over 800 people have donated to give hope to those most in need.

As well as his passion for supporting humanitarian causes, Brian developed a love for poetry and music. He retired in 1985, and took with him fond memories of Sheffield, not only of the University but also the people he encountered when out and about. Brian later moved to Edinburgh, but retained a very close link to Sheffield up until his death in 2019. Brian would often bring his family back to visit the city he loved and these visits were always treasured by the Mayes family.

We are extremely grateful to Brian for his gift and for his many years of dedicated service to the University.

sheffield.ac.uk/giving/causes/desert-garden



Brian Mayes

Loving legacy helps unearth Sheffield's long-lost castle



Sheffield Castle computer generated reconstruction

The story of Sheffield Castle is a rich and varied one. Initially one of the most significant castles in northern England, it was sold for redevelopment during the Civil War then turned into steelworks,

slaughterhouses, pubs and markets. Most famous though for serving as the prison of Mary Queen of Scots, the city's archaeologists knew there was more to be discovered about Sheffield's medieval past.

“Sheffield is known for steel production and its rich industrial heritage, but its roots lie in the middle ages. If it wasn't for its demolition following the Civil War, Sheffield's skyline might still be dominated by its castle.”

Professor John Moreland,
Department of Archaeology



Pamela Staunton

Enter Sheffield Archaeology alumna **Pamela Staunton** (BEd 1982, MA 1993), who left the department a generous legacy gift following her death in 2014. Her

passion for the archaeology of the local region inspired her gift, which enabled the team – made up of professors from the universities of Sheffield and York alongside Wessex Archaeology – to write a book. Free to download, *Sheffield Castle: Archaeology, Archives, Regeneration, 1927-2018*, is the first time that findings from all of the major excavations at the castle have been published in one place. The

team behind the book believe this material belongs to the people of the city and they are now able to share it globally too. In collaboration with the National Videogame Museum, virtual reality has also made it possible to view this fascinating castle for the first time in almost 400 years.

Pamela's legacy is not only shaping Sheffield's history, but its future too. Her legacy has supported two postgraduate scholarships for students in the Department of Archaeology and helped to establish the Sheffield Centre for the Archaeology of Childhood.

Pamela's own early life was severely disrupted by the Second World War and she left school at the age of 15 with no formal qualifications. Following her retirement from teaching, her interest in archaeology led her to take an MA in Prehistory and Archaeology at the University of Sheffield. Thanks to Pamela's foresight and generosity, Sheffield Castle's lost history has been found and shared with its rightful owners.

[sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/
sheffield-castle](https://sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/sheffield-castle)

Inspiring the next generation of engineers



Sheffield University Nova Rocket
Innovation Design Engineering team



Sheffield Rover Robotics - a rover
designed for Lunar and Mars explorations

Dr George Horn (BEng 1953, PhD 1956, DSC 1983) studied Fuel Technology in the 1950s when the corridors were still lit by gas. After a successful career in engineering, he went on to become a member of the University's Advisory Liaison Committee in his former department from 1983 to 1993.

George was a proud Sheffield alumnus and made regular donations to support our students. He was especially proud of the progress the University had made, commenting that it was a remarkable achievement for the institution to have grown from such humble beginnings to become part of the Russell Group.

We're delighted that George's gift to the University will be used to support the Sheffield Space Initiative – a project that aims to engage students in the science and engineering challenges involved in the exploration of space.

ssi.group.shef.ac.uk

A lifetime supporting students



Aged just 12 years old when the Second World War broke out, **Monica Walker** had first hand experience of hardship from a young age. But this did not stop her going on to excel at school and eventually study maths at university.

Monica's degree launched her career which went from strength to strength. She later found herself attending a maths conference in Edinburgh where she met her future husband, Andrew Morris Walker.

After having two children together, the couple moved to Sheffield when Morris became a professor in the Department of Probability and Statistics from 1968 to



1982. Monica also joined the University as a member of staff – first as a statistician and later as a criminological statistician in the Faculty of Law.

Monica and Morris supported the University with many donations during their lifetime and it was their wish that their legacy would continue the good work they had started. The gift in their Will set up the A M and M A Walker Scholarships fund that will support students in hardship for the next 10 years. The fund has been put to especially good use during 2020,

supporting the University's Hardship Fund that has seen a surge in applications due to Covid-19.

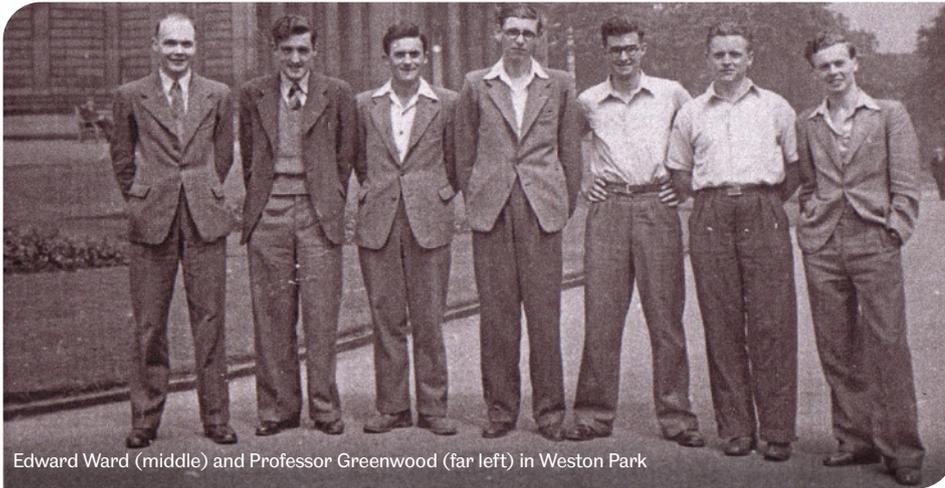
The Walkers enjoyed many adventures together including travel (Monica even helped to build a railway in Yugoslavia in her younger days), walking, gardening, music and reading. But it was their shared desire to help students find a way around financial hardship, and to enable those students to have an adventure of their own, that will be their parting gift to the institution that meant so much to them.



“The day I received the news about the financial support was my birthday and it truly felt like a gift or a sign, which brought tears of joy to both my family and I.”

Nellie Wanyama, MA Legal Practice 2020

Passing on a love of physics



Edward Ward (middle) and Professor Greenwood (far left) in Weston Park

Dr Edward Ward (BSc 1950, PhD 1955) was passionate about passing on his love of physics to the next generation. Now, thanks to an anonymous legacy donation of over £671,000, the Dr Edward Ward Scholarship Fund has been created in his memory to support students in the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Edward was one of the first people to live in student accommodation at Ranmoor over 70 years ago. After graduating, he spent his

career working in government laboratories on civil and military projects. In his later years, Edward developed a passion for restoring Morris Minor cars.

Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Greenwood, who was a peer of Dr Ward's, wrote in a letter to the University, *"He always appeared grateful for what he had gained from the University and this no doubt was the basis of his legacy."*



Usman Sheikh

Many students are already benefiting from this generous donation, including first year student Usman Sheikh (BSc Physics and Astrophysics).

"I have never really stepped out of my comfort zone before but this scholarship pushes me to. It gives me a reason to broaden my experiences and develop myself by taking up new opportunities. I am truly grateful to have been accepted as part of this scholarship."

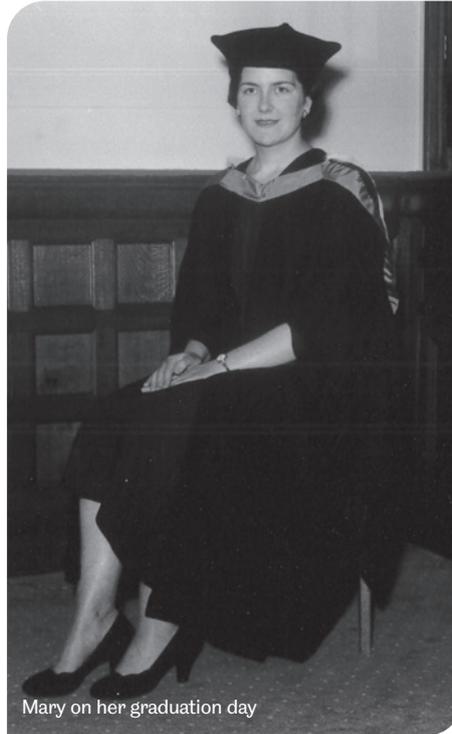
The scholarship fund will provide a fitting tribute to Edward and we're grateful this has been made possible by the generosity of someone who truly cared about him.

Hitting the right notes

When **Mary Lill** (BA Hons 1957) was offered a place at the University of Sheffield in 1954, only a small proportion of the population studied in higher education, and only a small percentage of those who did were women. Mary studied History with Economics, Statistics and Latin, and graduated with more than just a degree – she made friends for life she would come to refer to as “her family”.

After pursuing a career in education, Mary returned to live in Yorkshire when she retired – such was her affinity with the region. As an only child with no surviving relatives, she bequeathed £10,000 to the University’s Medical School. This was used to fund scholarships for students taking up medicine as a second degree.

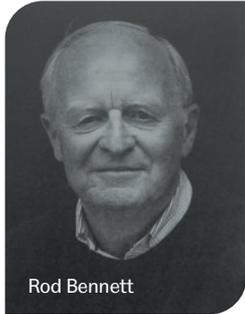
Aside from education, music was Mary’s true passion. She was particularly fond of classical music, regularly attending operas and concerts. We’re delighted that a further gift of £85,000 will help support the musicians of the future through the Mary Lill Scholarships in Music.



“I find it hard to express how thankful I am for this scholarship; it’s given me and my family hope. The University had my perfect course as I dream of being able to make music and perform on stage. I hope to inspire others to follow their dreams.”

Bethany Brooks, BA Music and Korean Studies, Year 1

The sailing scientist



Rod Bennett

Born in Sheffield, **Dr Roderick Bennett** (BSc 1959, PhD 1962) studied alongside only 12 other students in 1956 when he started his biochemistry degree. Having been greatly

inspired by the staff within his department, he went on to have a successful career teaching in higher education.

However, as Rod put it, his degree was in 'sailing as much as science'. Having never been in a boat before, Rod tried sailing in his first week as a student. This ignited a passion for the sport that saw Rod go on to be captain of the Sailing Club for three years, winning more trophies than he could count.

One of Rod's many donations during his lifetime helped the Sailing Club purchase a fleet of Firefly dinghies. One of the vessels was named 'Mary C' after Rod's



Sailing club in the 1950s

beloved Aunt with whom he lived whilst at University. Rod's widow Morag has honoured his wish to leave the University a gift in his Will by making a very generous

donation in his memory. Rod's legacy will help future scientists find their passion in the same way he found his.

Supporting students in need



Susan Spence

Often referring to Sheffield as “her University”, **Susan Spence** (BA 1999) enjoyed a varied career here. She joined in 1965 and worked in a number of different roles before settling in the Department of Philosophy. She even completed a part-time degree in humanities at her beloved workplace.

As a supporter of student scholarships during her lifetime, Susan made the generous decision to leave a gift to the University in her Will. Her heartfelt donation has been

used to fund an Experience Sheffield scholarship. It will give talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance of a university education, alleviating financial pressure and allowing them to get the most out of their experience.

We're sure that Susan would be pleased to know that her gift is giving students the chance to truly appreciate the University she loved so much.

“As a first generation student from a working class family, receiving this scholarship was a huge relief. I'd like to thank the donor for putting faith in people like me who are trying to break out of their past and make a future for themselves and their families.”

Experience Sheffield Scholarship recipient

Can you help a Sheffield student?



Holly Ellis – Welfare Officer

I'm Holly Ellis, a 2020 Sheffield graduate and the Welfare Officer for our Students' Union. Recently, I've heard from many students who are struggling. They have lost their part-time jobs, making it difficult to cover the cost of essentials such as rent, bills and course materials. Every expense is a concern.

I know the challenges we face are far from over and the uncertainty will continue to affect our most vulnerable students. I am calling

on you, our tremendous Sheffield community, to help make a difference. Because giving something back means the world to those who are most in need.

Please make your gift today and help keep the Sheffield community spirit alive during these difficult times.

sheffield.ac.uk/giving/causes/hardship-fund-appeal

Campaigns and Alumni Relations,
The University of Sheffield,
40 Victoria Street, Sheffield, S10 2TN
shef.ac.uk/giving

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