Welcome to the second edition of Remember Birmingham: the annual report for those who have chosen to remember the University in their will.

From ensuring we have the support to undertake life-saving research, to supporting students and developing our beautiful campus, the University has benefitted from people remembering Birmingham in their wills throughout its 100-year history. Remembering the University with a gift in your will means you will continue to have a transformative impact on students and staff for generations to come, and be a part of Birmingham forever.

This year marks the close of our Circles of Influence campaign, which launched in 2009 with the aim of raising £160 million to push the boundaries of research, transform campus and support our students. Thanks to your generosity this campaign has been hugely successful. On behalf of the University I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks, your support will make a meaningful difference to ensure the excellence of our research and teaching continues.

I look forward to thanking you in person at our annual Rowbotham Reception, for which you should already have received your invitation.

Once again on behalf of the University, thank you for remembering Birmingham.

Professor Sir David Eastwood
Vice-Chancellor and donor to the University

“For me, pledging a legacy was about finding a way to recognise and be grateful for the opportunities I was given, whilst at University, to follow my hopes and dreams in my proposed career and also to remember and appreciate the people I met, of whom many, without knowing, influenced the roads I went on to travel in life. I believe Birmingham continues to offer those possibilities and make a difference to the lives of others. And that is what I celebrate in leaving a legacy.”

Dr Sally Bennett (MBChB Medicine, 1979)

“I benefitted enormously from my time at Birmingham and I would like to help others experience this too. By helping to remove financial hurdles, I hope my gift will encourage outstanding students to choose higher education, achieve their dreams, and realise their full potential.”

Dr Iain Simm
(BSc Biological Sciences, 1969; PhD, 1974)

Did you know?

£250,000 has been pledged towards student support. That’s the equivalent of 70 A2B scholarships!

10% of legacies to the University are left by past members of staff

310 You are one of 310 people who have informed us about their legacy gift and been inducted into the Rowbotham Fellowship
The donor
Professor Sir Kenneth Murray FRS (BSc Chemistry, 1956; PhD, 1959; Hon DSc, 1995) and Professor Lady Noreen Murray CBS FRS (PhD Microbiology, 1959; Hon DSc, 1995) met at the University of Birmingham whilst studying, and married in 1958.

Sir Kenneth developed the vaccine against Hepatitis B. Longstanding donors to the University during their lifetime, part of their legacy is supporting our exceptional new library, which will provide an inspirational space for future generations of students to study and learn.

The impact
“The new library will enable our students and staff to take advantage of new ways of working and access the considerable amount of materials we hold in the most straightforward way. The new library will be the most fantastic space for students and researchers to be able to interact with these resources and we are so excited to see it taking shape before our eyes.”

Diane Job, Director of Library Services

The donor
Professor Geoffrey and Mrs Lilo Gilbert had a long affiliation with Birmingham, working in the Department of Chemistry between 1947 and 1985. When not in the labs, they enjoyed spending time in the gardens at Winterbourne. They left a gift in their will to ensure future generations could continue to appreciate the house and grounds.

The impact
“The new Gilbert Orchid House is a real success story that benefits, students, staff and Winterbourne’s visitors. The spacious glasshouse allows more exotic and wondrous species of plants to be grown. Our collection now boasts carnivorous plants, South American climbing plants and Australasian ferns as well as a diverse collection of Orchids. We are very grateful to the Gilberts, whose donation enabled us to realise our vision for this new glasshouse.”

Lee Hale, Winterbourne Curator

The donor
A generous legacy from alumna Lydia Lloyd (BSc Zoology, 1947) is helping students from across the University to increase their employability and gain valuable work experience. Her gift has supported students like Lee Tsz Yiu Brian who was awarded a bursary to complete an internship with Birmingham City Council.

The impact
“My internship enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of the public sector, which it is my aspiration to work within. I also developed new skills, such as working in a team, problem solving and research. I am beyond grateful to be awarded this bursary to support my work experience. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the donors who support this programme.”

Lee Tsz Yiu Brian, (BA International Relations with Political Science)

Could it be you?
We would love to share your story in the next issue of Remember Birmingham, please get in touch with the Donor Relations Team at: donorrelations@contacts.bham.ac.uk

If you would like to speak to one of our team about your legacy, please contact Emma Hazlewood (Legacy Officer) on 0121 414 7957 or legacies@contacts.bham.ac.uk