



A celebration of **150** years of our institution

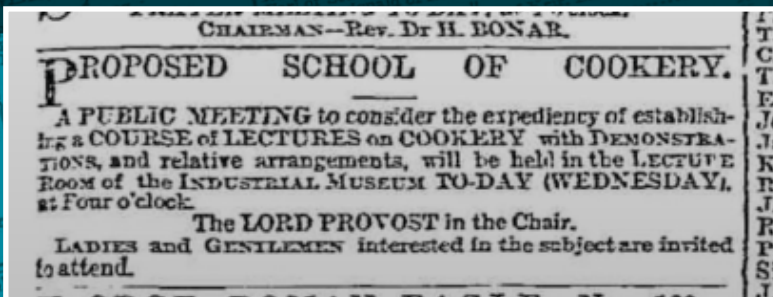
QMU 150



Queen Margaret
University
EDINBURGH

OUR BEGINNINGS

On 21 April 1875, the Scotsman newspaper carried an advertisement for a public meeting 'to consider the expediency of establishing a course of lectures on cookery with demonstrations and relative arrangements'. This meeting led directly to the opening of the Edinburgh School of Cookery, the institution that would ultimately become Queen Margaret University.



THE EDINBURGH SCHOOL OF COOKERY WAS FOUNDED

The public opening of the Edinburgh School of Cookery took place on Tuesday 9 November 1875 in temporary classrooms in the Royal Museum, now the National Museum of Scotland.

The institution emerged in a period that was notable for real economic progress, but which was also characterised by many social and economic divisions and inequalities, and widespread poverty. The School was established as a voluntary effort to address two key problems facing society at the time: (1) the need to provide educational opportunities for women: (2) to promote public health, specifically through improving the diets of working-class families.

OUR FOUNDERS

Louisa Stevenson, who founded our institution along with Christian Guthrie Wright.



Louisa Stevenson

Louisa Stevenson was a member and honorary secretary of the Edinburgh Ladies' Educational Association, which later became the Edinburgh Association for the University Education of Women (EAUEW).



Christian Guthrie Wright.

Christian Guthrie Wright

Christian Guthrie Wright was a founder of the Edinburgh Ladies' Debating Society and, like Louisa Stevenson, an officer of the Edinburgh Association for the University Education of Women (EAUEW).

College of Domestic Science colours

After 1950, the colours of the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science (as our institution was called back then) – green and purple – were chosen. They mirrored the colours of the women's suffrage movement, reflecting our founders' involvement with the Edinburgh National Society for Women's Suffrage, one of the first three suffrage societies in Britain.



EXPANSION AND RELOCATION TO ATHOLL CRESCENT

ATHOLL CRESCENT

Atholl Crescent, which was the home of our institution from 1891 until 1970, provided training in subjects such as domestic sciences and institutional management. Many of our graduates went on to become domestic science teachers in schools in Edinburgh and across Scotland.



Helen, Lady Leslie Mackenzie CBE

Helen Mackenzie was a Scottish suffragist and public health campaigner, who conducted an important study which ultimately improved the health of children and families.

HELEN MACKENZIE AND OUR INSTITUTION'S EARLY ROLE IN PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Helen and her husband, Dr William Leslie Mackenzie, collaborated on a 1903 Royal Commission for Scotland report on the health of school children in Edinburgh. The report confirmed there was an inverse relationship between affluence and children's health. The duo argued that teachers should be trained in health issues, and many of their recommendations were adopted into the 1908 Education (Scotland) Act, which introduced free school meals for needy children, and centralised the organisation of domestic education. This was a major milestone in the development of home economics in schools and the rise in prominence of our institution as a provider of teachers in the subject.

THE SCHOOL'S REACH BEYOND SCOTLAND

During its early years, the School operated a branch in Manchester to provide lectures to communities throughout the north of England. As was intended by the founders, this branch eventually became independent, and it is now a constituent part of Manchester Metropolitan University.

DURING THE TWO WORLD WARS

We have always focused on making a practical difference, and never was that truer than during the two world wars. Based on our expertise in nutrition, during both world wars, we advised on the formation of rationing allowances and on drawing up guidance for households on how to make the most of chronically scarce food and other supplies.

Perhaps the College's "finest hour" was in 1944 when, at the request of the Secretary of State, relays of final year students travelled to London (at a time of heavy "flying bomb" attacks) to take over and run a hotel for bomb repair workers. These building workers, from all over the country, had been downing tools and returning home because of their unsatisfactory living conditions. However, the arrival of the students quickly transformed the hotel and restored the situation.

OPENING OUR DOORS

During both world wars, Atholl Crescent often opened its doors to the public, hosting events demonstrating how to effectively feed and care for children under the prevailing conditions. During the First World War, from 1917, the institution ran demonstrations, and produced pamphlets, to support the community in the best use of rations.



PLAYING OUR PART

Students belonged to various school houses. Each house adopted a unit in the army or navy. This allowed students to support the services, such as patients in the military hospital based in Edinburgh Castle or service personnel on the minesweeper HMS Goodwill (which was tragically lost in November 1940 after striking a mine). Also, many students and alumni would serve in various branches of the armed forces in both wars.



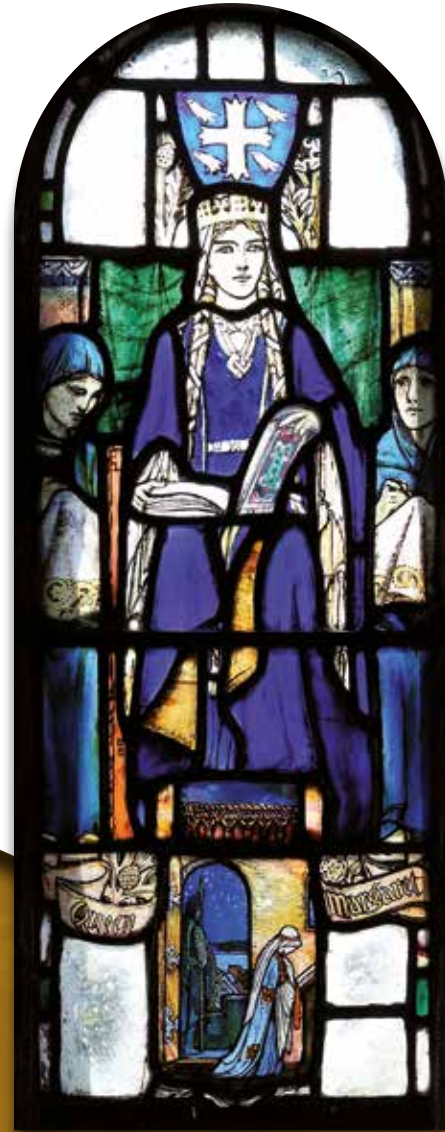
HEAD, HEART AND HAND

In 1950, the year of our 75th anniversary, we adopted the motto 'Head, Heart and Hand'. While this is no longer our official motto, its ethos still holds true today.

RELOCATION TO CORSTORPHINE AND WIDENING THE PORTFOLIO OF COURSES

RELOCATING TO CLERMISTON IN CORSTORPHINE

To coincide with becoming Queen Margaret College, and to allow further expansion of the courses offered, our institution moved from Atholl Crescent to a new campus in Corstorphine. The new location, near the top of Clermiston Hill, would become the main base for QMU for the next 30 years. Thousands of graduates from the UK and overseas have many fond memories of their time there.



HRH PRINCESS ALICE LAYS FOUNDATION STONE AT THE CORSTORPHINE CAMPUS

On 7 June 1968, our then Patron, HRH Princess Alice, formally laid the foundation stone at the site of our new campus in Clermiston.



BECOMING QUEEN MARGARET COLLEGE

In 1972, the decision was made to change the name of our institution to reflect its expanded course portfolio and remit. The name Queen Margaret was chosen because the venerated 11th century queen was seen to personify our key values of serving the community and enhancing the quality of life.

Queen Margaret University (as we are today) is the only Scottish university to have a royal title.

Many bands and DJs played in our Corstorphine campus Students' Union, including celebrated Scottish Celtic rock band Runrig in the 1980s.



Scan the QR code to read more about the institutions and subjects introduced to QMU over the years.

LEITH ACADEMY IN DUKE STREET

This building in Duke Street, Leith, was built as Leith Academy. From the 1990s until 2007, it was home to some of Queen Margaret's healthcare provision. It is now private housing.



EARLY ADOPTERS OF TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

In the 1990s, we became early adopters of transnational education, through which students can study for our degrees in their home country at partner institutions across the world.

Since then, we have witnessed a significant growth in the number of our transnational partners, the range of courses offered, and the numbers of students studying with our partners. The staff, students and alumni of our transnational partners are a very important part of the QMU community.



GATEWAY THEATRE ON LEITH WALK

Originally built as a veterinary college, the Gateway thrived for many years as a theatre. It was STV's studio in Edinburgh for a time, before it became home to our institution's performing arts provision from 1998 to 2007.



BECOMING QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

In 1998, our institution was granted full degree powers, which enabled it to award its own research and higher degrees. In 1999, we were empowered by the Privy Council to change our name from Queen Margaret College to Queen Margaret University College.

2002 QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY PRIZE

In 2002, we were proud to receive the Queen's University Prize for the clinical application of speech science.

This prestigious award specifically recognised the way we had integrated research, clinical practice and education, which in turns reflects QMU's ethos of producing research that has a practical application and directly improves people's lives.

Along with this work, we have world leading or internationally excellent research and knowledge exchange work, right across the University, ranging from global health and development to business and management studies.

CELEBRATING TEACHING MILESTONES

Throughout our history, we have celebrated many teaching milestones including 50 years of drama and performing arts in 2022. Hear more from notable alumni, such as 'Grey's Anatomy' star Kevin McKidd, and award winning playwright Stef Smith, on our celebration pages. Scan the QR code to hear our podcast with Stef Smith.

50 YEARS
of Drama &
Performing Arts



ON THE MOVE AGAIN: RELOCATION TO MUSSELBURGH AND FULL UNIVERSITY STATUS

BECOMING QUEEN MARGARET UNIVERSITY

In January 2007, Queen Margaret University College was awarded full university status, becoming the institution we know today as Queen Margaret University.

RELOCATING TO MUSSELBURGH

In 2007, just months after becoming Queen Margaret University, we moved to our purpose-built campus in Musselburgh.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II OFFICIALLY OPENS OUR NEW CAMPUS IN JULY 2008

Queen Elizabeth II officially opened Queen Margaret University's new campus in Musselburgh on 4 July 2008.

This was an important day in our institution's history, and a very happy one for all the staff, students, and UK and international partners, who took part in this royal visit.



A GIFT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The University Mace was created to mark the award of university title to Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. It was designed and hand-crafted by Grant McCraig, silversmith and tutor at Edinburgh College of Art, and gifted to Queen Margaret University by the University of Edinburgh in 2007.



COLOURED GLASS

This coloured glass window was originally situated in our old campus in Clermiston, and now makes up part of the large window in our campus food court.

It was presented by the 'Old Students Guild' to the institution (then known as the Edinburgh College of Domestic Science) on the occasion of the relocation from Atholl Crescent to Clermiston. It was designed and executed by Alfredo Avella and Dympna Foy Avella.

A POEM TO MARK THE OPENING OF OUR NEW CAMPUS

To mark the official opening of our campus in 2008, Tessa Ransford, poet and founder of the Scottish Poetry Library, wrote a praise poem on Queen Margaret University.



HONORARY GRADUATES

Part of the thrill of our graduation ceremonies is the presentation of honorary degrees. Over the years, we have awarded honorary degrees to many impressive individuals - including actors, entrepreneurs, broadcasters, and charity and healthcare leaders - who have made significant contributions to society or their specialist field.



A QMU TRADITION

Queen Margaret University's graduation ceremonies feature a lovely tradition: before receiving their honorary degrees, recipients sign the University's official guest book. This creates a lasting, tangible record of their connection to QMU and their contribution to its history.



Dame Prue Leith
Restaurateur, broadcaster,
cookery writer and novelist



Mostafa Salameh
Explorer and adventurer



Jane McCarry & Mark Cox
'Still Game' actors



Paul Ewing
Actor, voice artist, presenter,
producer, singer, songwriter, and
music composer



Alice Thomson
Co-Founder of The Social Bite



Dame Judy Dench
Actor



Brian Cox
Actor



Wafa Shaheen
Humanitarian & Head of
Services at the Scottish
Refugee Council



Dr James Robson MBE
Former Chief Medical Office
for Scottish Rugby

Scan the QR code or
check QMU website for more
QMU honorary graduates



For our centenary, in 1975,
staff presented the institution
with a commemorative artwork
(see backpage).

TEMPORA MUTANTUR, NOS ET MUTAMUR IN ILLIS.
TIMES
CHANGE
AND WE
CHANGE
With them.



Queen Margaret
University
EDINBURGH