

Dander the Queen's Quarter: Experience Your Surroundings (Pink Route)

Transcript of Podcast

Frank – 0:14

Queen's pink route. As we start our pink "dander" I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to welcome both new and returning students to Queen's University. I want to particularly welcome those of you who aren't familiar with our beautiful city of Belfast. My name is Frank, and I'm your guide for today. As we head off on our "dander", as you spend your time in Belfast, you will discover our rich, colourful dialect and you'll be introduced to many new words "dander" being one of them. "Dander" is a colloquialism for a mindful stroll filled with curiosity and wonder. Our dander is informed by a variety of photographs, that we have been numerically positioned on your map. Let's begin at the beginning at photograph one. This is Galileo situated on what's known as the black and white Hall. We shall commence our dander from here.

Frank – 1:29

As we head out of the building. You will notice picture two on your left. This is the Whitla Hall. As we exit the black and white Hall you will notice picture number two. With the hall it's most notable 20th century addition to the campus of Queen's University. It was designed by John McGeagh in 1936 and constructed between 1939 and 1949 due to an interruption during World War Two. Let's take a moment to pause and explore the beautiful Whitla hall with our eyes. What do you see? What do you notice?

Frank – 2:24

Without judging or analysing or interpreting, what do you notice with your eyes? Just take a moment to notice contact with the ground beneath your feet, notice the temperature. Now, gently with kindness, bring your attention to your breath. And notice how you breathe. Taking in the smell of the beautiful flowers. Now let's continue with our dander as we leave the Whitla Hall and we leave the main campus.

Frank – 4:13

Let's turn to our left and walk along to picture number three, which is the entrance to Botanic Gardens. Botanic Gardens has tropical plants, giant bird feeders, a rose garden and Alpine garden, mature trees, flower beds and sculptures.

Frank – 4:40

The place was established in 1828 by the Belfast Botanic and Horticultural Society. In response to the public interest in horticulture and partly It was originally known as the Belfast Botanic Garden. The site was sold to the Belfast Corporation and

reopened as a public park, known as Botanic Gardens. The gardens contain exotic trees, species and impressive plant collections from the southern hemisphere, many of which can still be seen in Botanic Gardens. The park is popular with residents, students and tourists. It is a venue for concerts and festivals.

Frank – 5:27

As we entered through the gates of Botanic Gardens let's continue walking to the right towards picture number four. The Ulster Museum.

Frank – 5:57

The museum has galleries covering the history of Northern Ireland, from the earliest times to the very recent past collections of art, mostly modern or ethnographic, historic and contemporary fashion and textiles, and also holds exhibitions. The scientific collections of the museum contain important collections of Irish birds, mammals, insects, mollusks, marine invertebrates, flowering plants, algae, and lichens, as well as an archive of books and manuscripts relating to Irish natural history. The museum has also maintains a natural history website named "Habitat".

Frank – 6:39

In the late 1980s, and the early 1990s, it had a permanent exhibition of dinosaurs, which has since been scaled back considerably. There is also a collection of rocks, minerals and fossils.

Frank – 7:01

Again, let's pause and take in our surroundings with the beautiful Ulster Museum, the large fir trees of the gardens, and let's take a moment to listen. What do you notice? Birdsong? Movement? If you find yourself being distracted, notice and gently returned to sound.

Frank – 8:34

Now let's continue our dander talk towards picture number five, which is the Tropical Ravine.

Frank – 8:52

Between 2013 and 2018, the Ravine was restored to how the Victorians designed the original building in 1887. Old features were reinstated and unique details reserved. The building has a reception area next to the lily pond, and has been modernised so it is more energy efficient. The red brick walls and Windows sills have been restored pathways widened and triple glazed windows installed to retain heat.

Frank – 9:23

As well as a complete restoration, modern twists were added such as an elevated state of the art fogging and misting system, a frameless glass facade, accessible lift, and interactive and engaging information panels. The ravine houses plant species such as the Killarney Fern, orchids, banana, cinnamon, bromeliad, and some of the world's oldest seed plants.

Frank – 10:03

Let's take a moment to take in this impressive building noticing the glasswork, the brickwork, the overall design. Now let's continue along the side of the Ravine Hose. As we come to the end of the pathway, let's take a short left

Frank – 11:07

and then, over to the right, you can see picture number six, the Palm House.

Frank – 11:27

The Palm House contains a range of tropical plants, hanging baskets, seasonal displays, and birds of paradise. And is one of the earliest examples of a glass-house made from curved iron and glass. It shows how advances in glass-house technology allowed horticulturists to grow exotic plant species during the Victorian period. The building was designed by Sir Charles Lanyon, who also helped design parts of the nearby Queen's University. The foundation's dome was led in 1839 and the two wings were completed in 1840 by leading ironmaster Richard Turner.

Frank – 12:06

The dome was added in 1842. If you get the opportunity, please enter the beautiful Palm House, and notice the temperature.

Frank – 12:51

Become aware of the scent of the plants, and take a moment to explore with your eyes: the beautiful displays.

Frank – 13:48

And when you're ready, let's exit the Palm House, and explore the beautiful flowers. A flower bed is in front of us and all around us.

Frank – 14:16

Let's take left and continue on. Again noticing birdsong, the scent of flowers, the pace of your walk, as you walk, and continue along the parkway. You'll notice the open space to your right. This space is usually filled with students in the summertime, resting, relaxing and playing sports.

Frank – 15:46

And as we continue on our destination is picture number seven the P.E.C: Queen's Physical Education Centre. The Physical Education Centre, known as PEC is the hub of sport at Queen's.

Frank – 16:23

It facilitates a state of the art fitness area with over 200 pieces of CV (cardiovascular) and resistance equipment, a functional training and weights area, with six bar cages and Olympic lifting platforms, four Studios, 25 metre swimming and diving pool, two

Multi-Purpose sport halls, martial arts area, two climbing walls, eight squash courts, two handball courts, four exercise and dance studios, and outdoor 3G grass pitches.

Frank – 16:58

With over 75 weekly classes to choose from, you will find a class that suits your needs and your fitness level. We aim to provide everyone with the opportunity to be part of the Queen's Sport 'game plan' through World Class sporting participation programmes that will connect you with other students in an environment where you feel safe, supported and happy to exercise and enjoy sport.

Frank – 17:41

Now let's continue along the pathway. To your left hand side you'll notice a children's play area.

Frank – 18:02

Let's exit through this gate and continue right. To the left is the River Lagan.

Frank – 18:31

Again as you walk notice sound of traffic, the sound of birdsong. Taking the time to notice the colour of the trees, the shades of leaves, and as you continue, you'll notice straight ahead, picture eight: the Lyric Theatre. This is Northern Ireland's only full time producing theatre. The Lyric Theatre has two performances spaces: 389 seat Danske Bank stage, and 120 seat studio space.

Frank – 20:09

With its continually full programme, there's always a production worth seeing, no matter when you visit. The theatre has breathtaking views of the River Lagan, and its gourmet café makes it venue well with a visit on its own merits. Described by the Daily Telegraph's architectural critic, Ellis Woodman, as "one of the best British buildings built in this century", the stunning 18 million building has won a series of awards for its architecture over the years.

Frank – 20:56

Again, let's take a moment to explore the view. The Lyric Theatre is situated at the bottom of Ridgeway Street. So now let's climb the Ridgeway Street hill, step by step.

Frank – 22:14

Notice contact with the pavement, step by step,

Frank – 22:31

Notice any movement in your body.

Frank – 22:54

At the top of Ridgeway Street, we take a right, and as we continue our dander, we are now entering into what I would call Strammillis Village. A relaxing area to dine, or have a quick rest and a cuppa alone, or with friends.

Frank – 23:40

Stranmillis Village is a very popular area for students and can be quite a busy area.

Frank – 24:13

And as we exit the shopping area, to the left you'll see picture number nine, the Ashby Building.

Frank – 24:27

the Ashby is a noted 1964 building complex, with the Queen's University of Belfast providing accommodation to several engineering faculties.

Frank – 24:48

Let's continue our dander towards picture number 10. This is the Queen's University, Sir David Keir Building. The David Keir Building is named after the eminent Vice Chancellor of Sir David Lindsay Keir (1895-1973). Opened in 1959, the construction of the building marked the beginning of a great expansion of the University, following the Second World War.

Frank – 25:22

The David Keir Building, which was described as "the greatest addition to the University property and its history". The building houses the University's first combined heat and power plant. This technology works by generating electricity, while also capturing the heat produced during the generating process. The heat is then used to warm buildings and provide hot water.

Frank – 25:47

Located opposite the David Keir building is picture number 11. And this is the Friars' Bush graveyard thought to be Belfast's oldest Christian burial ground and close to the site of a former monastic settlement. Believed to date back to the third or fourth century A.D. The David Keir Building has its own share of ghost stories. These centre on the dark underground tunnel connecting the Ashby and the David Keir wings.

Frank – 26:45

Let's continue towards picture number 12. And as we head towards picture number 12, to our right hand side we'll see the museum. As we continue on, at the bottom the road you can see the SGC: the Student Guidance Centre. The Student Guidance Centre brings together a number of support services that guide and advise you throughout your time at Queen's for managing your student record, developing your academic and employability skills and offering support for times when you may feel under pressure. All of our services work together to ensure you have a successful and enjoyable student experience.

Frank – 27:49

Well, listener, this brings us to the end of our dander. I hope you enjoyed our dander and most of all, enjoy your Queen's University experience. Thank you.

If you have any questions about this podcast, please contact QUBeWell@qub.ac.uk