



AMBITION



Emeka Ifione

Discover how your support is helping
talented students like Emeka.

Thank you for your continued and generous support for the University of Nottingham.

In this edition of Ambition, we wanted to focus on how your donations are helping students and researchers to make an impact on the world we live in, whether that is through ground-breaking medical research, representing Nottingham at global sporting events or academic success.

In particular, I invite you to read the interview with Kundai Vurayayi and Abigail McEwen – just two of the many students who are keen to tackle the climate issues facing our planet. Thanks to your donations, both Kundai and Abigail have received a scholarship that has supported them in their studies and helped ease financial concerns, allowing them to pursue their interests in climate action.

This passion for a sustainable future is shared by the university and it informs every aspect of life and work on our campuses. The University of Nottingham is the world's third most sustainable university, according to the

UI Green Metric World University Ranking and we're continuing to work toward our aspirational goals of net zero by 2040 and absolute zero by 2050.

There is also an opportunity to hear from Georgina Wilson, who received a scholarship left as part of a gift in a will. These generous gifts can help support the next generation of students, as well as funding breakthroughs in medical research or allowing us to build campus that attracts the best and brightest students.

Your support is very much appreciated, and I hope that the stories within Ambition show just what a difference your generosity helps to make. I would like to thank you in person at our next Supporter Reception, which we hope to hold later this year.

Whether you have donated to support scholarships, legacies, our Cascade or Giving Day programmes, I thank each and every one of you across our global community of Nottingham alumni for your continued support and generosity.



Professor Shearer West
President and Vice-Chancellor

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Thank you for changing lives!

OVER 700

students have received life changing support.

This is thanks to your donations to scholarships and bursaries in 2022/23.



6,429

students have benefited from alumni volunteers.

Their time and support is crucial to a new generation of graduates on the path to success.

£929,943

given in financial support in the last academic year.

This is received by students through donor funded scholarships, bursaries and prizes.

174

league titles and medals won across a wide range of sports.

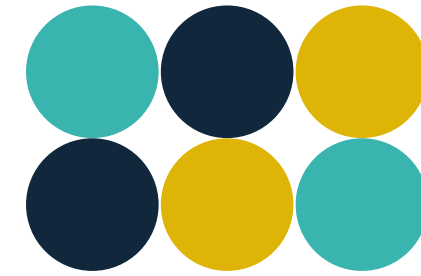
You have helped Nottingham excel on the world stage, winning Commonwealth and European titles.



8 Minutes

between donations during our second Giving Day.

The number of donors giving was the equivalent to one every eight minutes, exemplifying generosity and kindness.



54 people

attended our Guiding Lights event last June.

The event was hosted by Professor Sir Jonathan Van Tam and featured talks on the impact of leaving a gift in your will to Nottingham.

174

sports scholars helped Nottingham achieve sporting success in 2022/23.

These students combine their studies with competing at the elite level of sport.



39

people have already used our free will offer.

See the enclosed leaflet or visit bit.ly/UoNFreeWills to write your will for free.

100

Nottingham has been ranked in the top 100 of the 2024 QS World University Rankings.

It placed 100 in the world and 17th in the UK, out of 1,500 institutions.



Editor's note

Welcome to this year's **Ambition** – the magazine that celebrates your impact.

Whether you're empowering disadvantaged students, funding groundbreaking medical research or enabling talented athletes to compete on the world stage – every penny makes a difference.

When writing this issue, we heard time and time again how thankful recipients are to have your support. It's no exaggeration to say your generosity is life-changing.

Take wheelchair basketball player James Hazell, his sports scholarship is inspiring him to set his sights on the Paris Paralympics later this year. Or the group of students that used Cascade funding to learn the skills needed to deal with major medical emergencies and save lives.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and finding out how you're making a difference here at Nottingham. Thank you once again for all the generous support you've given.



Rob Burman, Editor

Contributors

Alex Kuster, Rob Burman, Georgina Wilson, James Hazell, Barbara Green, Kundai Vurayayi, Abigail McEwen, Professor Robert Mokaya, Charlotte Flint, Juliet Forsyth, Alex Roche, Emeka Ilione, Professor Matthew Brookes OBE, Professor Stephen Jackson, Eleanor Fitzpatrick, Dr Tom Hartman

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Giving Day

In just 36 hours, alumni pulled together to raise thousands of pounds for deserving causes at Nottingham.

Last November, alumni had the opportunity to join forces and raise money as part of our second Nottingham Ambition Giving Day. The theme of the event was drawn from our university motto: 'Sapientia Urbs Conditur', which means 'a city built on wisdom'. Although, judging by the results, an equally suitable motto could be: 'a city built on generosity'.

Thank you to the 452 donors and 37 ambassadors who made our Giving Day a huge success. Together, you raised almost £70,000 for four great causes, which is equivalent to one person giving every eight minutes. Alumni from India to Iraq and Thailand to Texas joined in and gave, with graduation years ranging from 1952 to 2025!



Here's a roundup of the causes and how the money raised will be used to change lives at the University of Nottingham and beyond.

“The University of Nottingham remains so close to my heart. It's an honour to donate for such a nice cause.”

Lucia Vazquez Rocha
Giving Day donor

Scholarships for disadvantaged students

Scholarships were once again at the heart of the Giving Day, showing that many of you agree that no talented student should miss out on a place at Nottingham. Almost 300 alumni donated to this cause and these funds will be used to help a new intake of scholarships in 2024.

Cascade: Student led projects

Cascade grants have helped students get many projects off the ground. We heard from the University of Nottingham Co-Responders on how your donations fund things like new specialist medical equipment. The Co-Responders have been allocated to more than 11,000 incidents since 2014 and, in these instances, reached more than 70% of emergencies before the ambulance. The amount raised during Giving Day will make sure students can continue to take advantage of the Cascade programme to gain valuable skills away from campus, while making a positive impact on the world.

Medical research at the University of Nottingham

We have a history of world-changing innovation in medical research at the University of Nottingham. From the development of MRI, to leading studies on antimicrobial resistance, to life-changing work in our cancer research centres. Your donations will be supporting the future of MRI technologies, and you can read more about this groundbreaking technology on page 22.



Mental health support at the Students' Union

This was our second most funded cause, ensuring that we can increase student-led mental health provisions, so that individuals can get the vital help they need when they're feeling low. One of the initiatives that will benefit from your generosity is Nightline, a student-run support service that's available to all University of Nottingham students when they need it the most. Donations will be used to raise awareness of Nightline on campus and ensure students know the service is available in times of need.

“Thanks for doing what you can to help disadvantaged students.

I believe this can help a lot of students to have their lives changed positively.

” Lam Le
Giving Day donor



A Will to Succeed

For Georgina Wilson, it looked like a career in medicine would be out of reach, until a scholarship set her on the path to becoming a surgeon.

Georgina has always wanted to go into medicine, but after finishing her A-levels, that ambition seemed more like a dream than a reality. The costs of entrance exams and application fees meant that a medicine qualification seemed impossible.

Undeterred, Georgina applied to study Medical Physiology and Therapeutics at Nottingham. "I thought this degree would be good because you learn about anatomy, clinical skills and physiology," explained Georgina. "This is a great basis for applying to study at medical school."

Now in her final year, she has been ranked in the top two throughout the course and, thanks to her determination, she has been able to sit the medicine exams required to get into medical school. However, none of this would have been possible without a scholarship.

"The scholarship has made a real difference," said Georgina. "It's quite an intense course and there's a lot of content and assessments, which would have been daunting if I'd been working lots of hours in a part-time job, just to make ends meet."

"When I first arrived at university, it was kind of overwhelming, but when I received the email saying I was going to get the scholarship, it was a huge relief and it felt like someone really believed in me. It's given me

such confidence."

In fact, this sense of belief and financial freedom has given Georgina the chance to pursue opportunities outside of her studies. "Without the pressures of working in a part-time job I've been able to volunteer for the St John Ambulance.

"When I had the interview with them, I said how receiving the scholarship has made me want to give something back. Now I've been attending events, going to hospitals and helping patients. I'm not sure I would have had the confidence to do that without the scholarship, but I just believe in myself now, which has allowed me to grow as a person and a student."

“

I just believe in myself now, which has allowed me to grow as a person and a student.

”

Georgina Wilson



her two sisters and younger brother have followed in her footsteps and joined the St John Ambulance too. "They're even considering a career in medicine," she added, "but they also want to give something back because I think they've seen how much the scholarship has helped me."

After applying to medical school, Georgina is now on the way to her dream job as a trauma surgeon in the Royal Army Medical Corps. This journey started with a generous gift left in a will and, although Georgina can never meet her donor, she described feeling inspired when she thinks that someone believed in talented students like her and wanted to support a student with their studies

"They've given you this help through university and it's transformative," explained Georgina.

“

It's given me such confidence and every time I do something or I'm successful at something, I just think back to them and be like: I've done that because they were there for me.

”

Georgina Wilson

If you're interested in leaving a gift in your will, please call our Alumni Giving Manager Rebekah Spencer on +44(0)115 951 3997 or email legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk

From Passion to Podium

For one Nottingham sports scholar, your support is giving him the opportunity to set his sights on competing at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

At just 23-years-old, James Hazell has some big goals in the pipeline. He's hopeful about making it to the Paralympics in Paris 2024 and to continue his competing until at least 2040, when he says the Paralympics could make it back to the UK just in time to round off his career.

Growing up on a farm near Kettering meant wheelchair basketball was not on James' radar as a child but as soon as he tried it, 10 years ago, he knew it was the sport for him.

"I've always had a mentality of adapting where possible because of being around a farming culture, but when I first started trying different experiences, sport wasn't something that I enjoyed," James shared. "That was because of my disability and the stereotypical idea at the time that because you're disabled you shouldn't do sport. However, I found the opportunity to get into sport through wheelchair basketball and I've loved it ever since."

Having access to the facilities at the university's David Ross Sports Village has been another game changer for James. "I would say Nottingham is the best university for disabled people, because of the facilities and funding opportunities in place," he added.

Being able to train in the high-performance zone and alongside some of the best coaches and personal trainers in the country opened a lot of doors for him in his first few months at Nottingham, and there is so much more to come.



Alongside his master's degree in international business studies, James plays wheelchair basketball for the University of Nottingham, the Jaguars WBC and Team GB. With such a busy schedule, his scholarship has been enormously important in helping him find a balance between his training and studying, as well as providing financial stability. "Without my scholarship, I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be doing this. I still live at home and drive an hour and a half each way three to four days a week because I can't afford to live in halls or accommodation. Having that support to put towards fuel costs and buying the right foods for my nutrition has been amazing. I would not have progressed to where I am now without it."

"Thank you so much. Without your support and if I wasn't at Nottingham, I honestly would not have had the opportunity to go to Paris. I wouldn't have set my dreams on it. It will make my family so proud."

"The opportunity that you have provided me has made me realise what I'm capable of."

“

Without my scholarship, I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be doing this.

”

James Hazell

Igniting Inspiration

The University of Nottingham has been fortunate enough to receive a very special gift to inspire future generations of athletes.

Barbara 'Barb' Green, paid a visit to the David Ross Sports Village to kindly donate the Olympic torch that she proudly carried through Nottingham in 2012, when London hosted the games.

Barb was nominated to carry the torch by her community for being an exceptional example of community spirit. Whether she was cracking jokes with students during her time as a cleaner in university halls or rallying the troops for a Duke of Edinburgh expedition, Barb has been an endless source of joy.

"12 years ago, I never imagined that I would be carrying the torch out of Nottingham Castle. I was so proud," she recounted. "Over the past few weeks, my family and friends [who knew how much this meant to me] have been asking, 'why now?'"

"I am growing old, and health issues restrict what I can and can't do. So now is the right time because I want to inspire others and show them that anyone can do anything."

Barb's Olympic torch is now proudly displayed in the David Ross Sports Village. Thank you, Barb, for passing the torch onto the next generation.



Making a Brighter Future

Hear from two scholarship recipients that are determined to create a cleaner and greener future, thanks to your generosity.



“

A scholarship is about empowering people not just to complete their studies but to enrich their lives.

”

Kundai Vurayayi

Giving a donation is a little like throwing a stone into a pond. Your support creates ripples that spread out long after the donations have been made. Students impacted by your kindness go on to achieve great things and become the world changers of the future.

One of the greatest threats facing our planet is climate change, but it's a challenge many of our students and the university are determined to face head on. To hear how your support for scholarships is inspiring the next generation to develop a future of cleaner and renewable energy, we met Kundai Vurayayi (5th year, Chemical Engineering with Environmental Engineering) and Abigail McEwen (2nd year, Geography).

“I think as an engineer we've got a lot of potential to make a real impact on the world,” Kundai told us and from the moment she started speaking it was clear she is intent on making an impact herself. Now in her fifth-year, Kundai is fresh from a work placement where she gained an insight into how the chemical sector can become more sustainable. Alongside her studies she is now applying for jobs within the chemical industry or energy transition, with a focus on water treatment and companies that are looking at more sustainable production or decarbonising their sectors.

“There are so many opportunities just with things like energy transfer. You've got hydrogen, biomass, nuclear, wind and solar,” explained Kundai. “Now we have more knowledge of the impact we have when we're releasing things into the air and water or contaminating the land.

“We're more aware of the harm it can do. I think there's a lot of opportunity and responsibility to ensure that we are making the right choices and that we are impacting people positively rather than negatively. I'm excited to be part of the change to a more sustainable future.”

Although Kundai had an interest in sustainability before coming to university, her time at Nottingham has cemented that passion. Not only have university staff helped her to write CVs and job applications, but their own research has also been inspirational for her.

“It's good to know the university is so focused on achieving net zero,” said Kundai. “A lot of the academics in our department are involved in this area, like my tutor who is looking into things like decarbonising the steel making industry. It's interesting to hear their research.”

Although Kundai is only just starting her journey to make the world a more sustainable place, she already

realises the importance of inspiring future generations. “I was involved with the inspiring women in engineering programme and part of that was to speak to year nine and ten girls at school. We gave them a presentation on green cities and green buildings, as well as sustainability in day-to-day life. It's good that even though we're students we've also got a part to play in teaching the younger generation about a green future.”

Kundai's love for learning also started at a young age and she was inspired by her mum. After being born in Northampton, Kundai lived with her grandparents in Zimbabwe until she was six-years-old, when she moved back to the UK to live with her mum.

“She has always instilled in me the importance of getting an education and really encourages me to follow my interests.”

Kundai's scholarship has been instrumental in making sure she has the funds necessary to pursue her passion for sustainable causes outside of her studies. “My scholarship has been helpful in allowing me to have more opportunities to pursue activities outside of my course like the Women's Engineering Society Student Conference,” explained Kundai. “A scholarship is about

empowering people not just to complete their studies but to do more with their time at Nottingham and enrich their lives.”



A scholarship for second-year Geography student Abigail McEwen has allowed her to pursue non-academic activities related to her interests in sustainability, climate change and conservation.

"I am able to volunteer at Beacon Hill and Bradgate Park during term breaks and the scholarship helps fund my travel expenses," said Abigail. "I can volunteer more hours, not having the pressures of needing to work a part-time job to support myself alongside my studies. So far, I have helped run multiple nature-themed craft workshops for the general public, an apiary open day, and tried dry stone walling to help establish habitats and help with park maintenance."

Abigail has also been helping to promote conservation in the natural spaces on campus, which have become so important to her during her time at Nottingham.

"The open spaces and wildlife made me excited to study here. I regularly take strolls to immerse myself in the wildlife and enjoy the Millennium Garden as a peaceful area to relax," Abigail told us.

"I joined the Conversation Society and it's nice to be giving back already. You can see you're making a difference in the local area and when you're walking around campus you can see things you've done, which is inspiring. I'm proud of the things we've achieved already."

Without the worry of increasing accommodation costs or travel expenses, thanks to her scholarship, Abigail has become more independent and developed core skills that will become a foundation for her desired future career in environmental consultancy.

“

I would like to thank the donors for their support and generosity.

This scholarship has definitely opened many doors for me and is making a positive difference to my university experience.

I am so grateful.

”

Abigail McEwen



Sustainability at Nottingham

The University of Nottingham's commitment to sustainability has been recognised by an international league table, which has ranked it among the top 40 of the world's 'greenest' universities.

Nottingham jumped a remarkable 85 places in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024 up to 33rd out of 1,403 global institutions. The university is placed 17th out of 493 European universities and 12th in the UK.

The rankings highlight the ways in which universities are taking action to tackle the world's greatest environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Through research, teaching, strong governance and community engagement, universities have the expertise and opportunity to drive sustainable development forward to tackle the planet's most pressing problems and ensure that generations of students are educated in the importance of the topic.

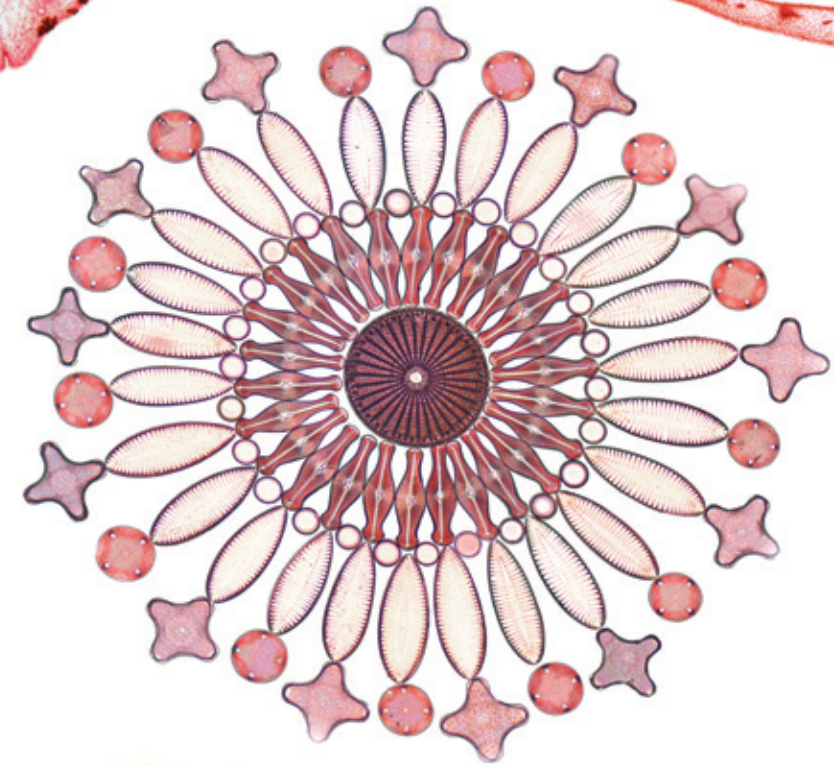
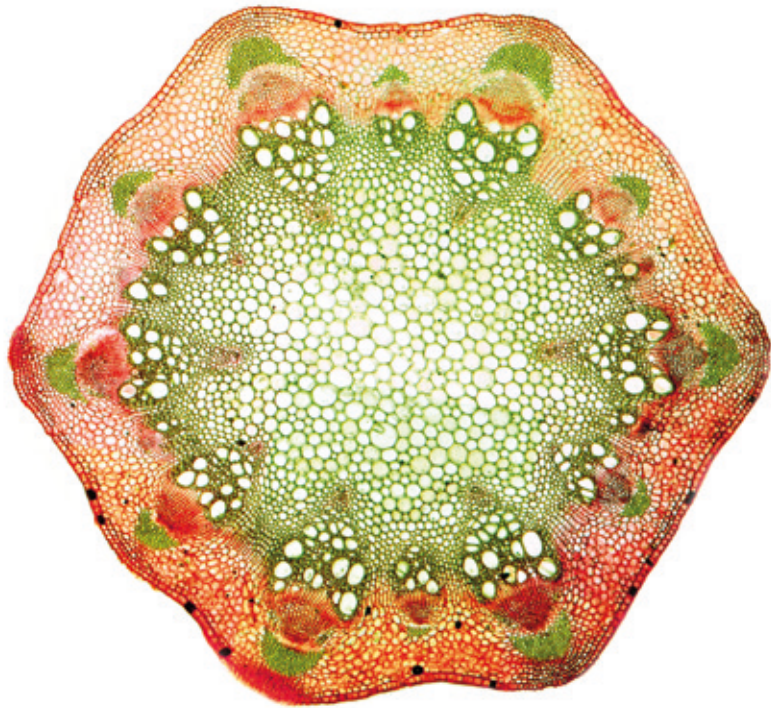
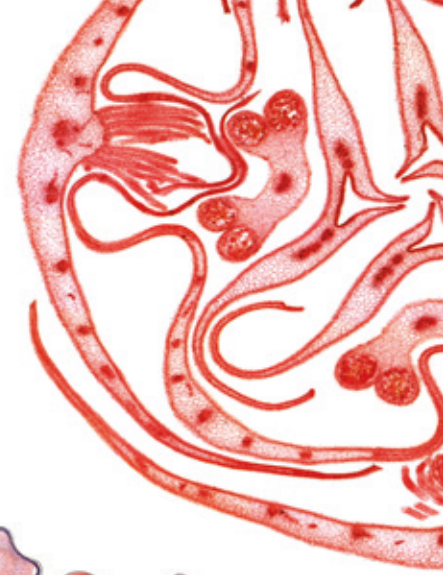
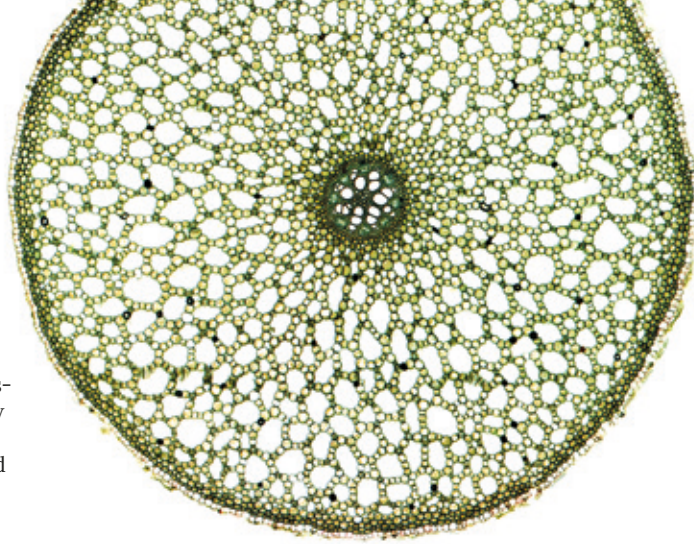


Professor Robert Mokaya, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the university's Environmental Sustainability Committee

"I am very pleased that our work and efforts at being an environmentally sustainable university are being recognised with these significant achievements. Our environmental sustainability ambitions require a collective approach that cuts through research, teaching and the way we choose to operate across many activities."

Green Unseen

The university is full of all sorts of oddities and curiosities—all of them telling their own stories. This tale is about how a long-forgotten cabinet of plant slides, which had been rescued from a skip by staff member Tom Hartman ended up being restored and displayed in their own exhibition, thanks to your donations to our Cascade programme.



Budding plant scientist student, Eleanor Kilpatrick was in her first year when she came across the collection of plant slides and was moved by their beauty.

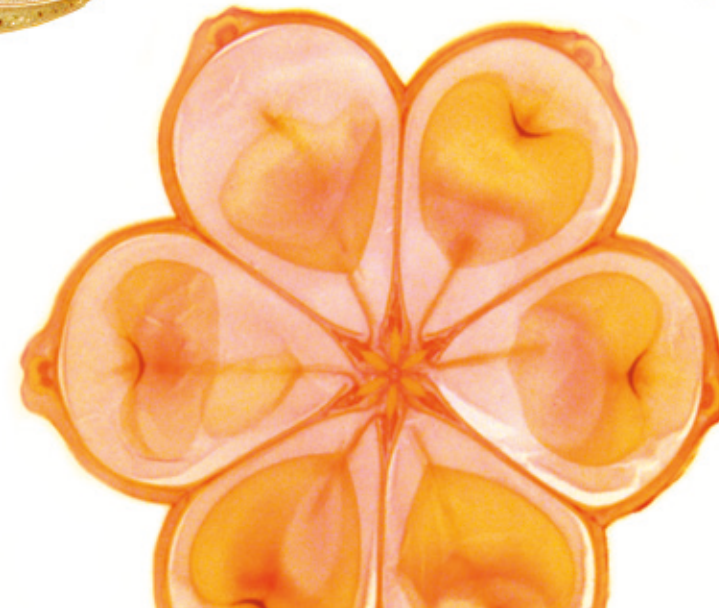
She dedicated her time to sorting through the old collection of slides, cleaning them up and generating a database. The more she went through, the more beautiful pieces she uncovered. She thought that they deserved to be shared with her wider community rather than hidden away.

“I have always been passionate about plants and nature but know that as a scientist I am in a privileged position and not everyone is aware of the beauty and importance of them,” said Eleanor. “The specimens that were saved really inspired me to bring what is only usually seen by scientists under the microscope to the public.”

“That’s when I applied to the Cascade grant scheme. Our dream came true and Green Unseen flourished, thanks to Cascade.”

Eleanor organised a very successful exhibition at Lakeside Arts Centre, showcasing the slides alongside other pieces of art and herbarium specimens. None of which would have been possible without your generosity.

She hopes that the exhibition and project will have educated people and “reignited a spark of recognition of our shared connection to nature.”



“

Our dream came true and Green Unseen flourished, thanks to Cascade.

”

Eleanor Kilpatrick



“
 Their support will continue to inspire and empower, ensuring that the university’s spirit of innovation and excellence thrives for generations to come.
 ”

Growing a Legacy

Take a first look at the plans to reimagine the Walled Garden on University Park as a place to remember those who have left a gift in their will.

Leaving a gift in your will is a powerful way to impact the lives of future generations. It can help students from low-income backgrounds find a place at Nottingham, assist in medical breakthroughs or ensure we continue to have a campus to attract the brightest students.

To recognise the generosity and kindness of those who remember the university in their will, we’re pleased to announce plans to reinvigorate the Walled Garden, to the east side of Highfield House on University Park, as a tangible place to remember and celebrate donors who leave a gift.

These generous bequests will be commemorated by plaques mounted on a ‘donor wall’ to acknowledge their contribution towards the university and their impact on the wider community.

“I am delighted that we are enriching the Walled Garden and dedicating it to those who have left a gift to Nottingham in their will. The garden will act as a lasting tribute to their kindness, as well as offering a beautiful and tranquil space for future students, alumni and family members to reflect on the lasting impact of their generosity,” said Charlotte Flint, Donor Relations Manager in the Campaign and Alumni Relations Office.

“Their support will continue to inspire and empower, ensuring that the university’s spirit of innovation and excellence thrives for generations to come.”

The existing garden is a special place to many, so the nature of the proposed improvements will be subtle and in keeping with the garden’s existing character. These include improving accessibility, new plants, relocating

existing features and seating, creating new seating and refurbishing the wall at the northern end of the garden to create the donor wall.

The garden will continue to provide a peaceful, secular space that can be used for contemplation and reflection by the wider university community to support the mindfulness and wellbeing of our students, staff and alumni while also celebrating legacy giving.

Funding for this project has been made possible thanks to an inspiring legacy gift left to the university. It is envisaged that work will begin on site in spring 2024 and will be completed by June.

If you’re interested in leaving a gift in your will, please call our Alumni Giving Manager Rebekah Spencer on +44(0)115 951 3997 or email legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk

A Surgeon in the Scrum

We caught up with Emeka Ilione to find out how the support of donors like you is helping him tackle his two passions simultaneously: medicine and rugby.



By making a generous donation to a sports scholar, not only do you give them important financial assistance, but you also unlock the opportunity to train at state-of-the-art facilities and access an expert support team to help balance their studies and training, giving them the chance to achieve their sporting and academic dreams.

This is certainly the case for Emeka Ilione, a fourth-year Medicine student who is also a back-rouver for Leicester Tigers. When a student enrolls for a medical degree, they know it will involve hours of gruelling study across several years, lots of late nights in the library, tough exams and commitment to placements. Now add on being a professional rugby player to all that and it almost seems an impossible task.

"I got into rugby at my secondary school, Nottingham High School, when I was 11," said Emeka. "I really enjoyed playing. From there, one of the lads took me down to the local rugby club, which was Nottingham Corsairs, and I've just been playing ever since."

Emeka is in a different position to most sports scholars because he declined the financial element of his scholarship offering, due to his income from playing rugby. He humbly stated that he'd rather "it can go to someone else who might benefit more from it."

However, your donations to sports scholarships continue to make a crucial difference to Emeka's time at Nottingham because the scholarship team helps manage his schedule and exams, ensuring he catches up on missed work.

"If I missed a day [of placement], the university team organises me so I can catch back up potentially on weekends when I'm not playing games," he explained. "I've done quite a few days in the hospitals on a Saturday or Sunday just to get those hours back that I might have missed in the week."

"If I didn't have the support I get from my scholarship, I wouldn't still be at uni. I'd have dropped out by now. Or I'd have quit rugby, there's no way I'd still be doing both."

For Emeka, a day off is a rarity. "I think the last day I had fully off with no

university and no rugby would have been more than a year ago," he shared. His hard work and dedication are continuing to pay off though and he hopes to one day become a surgeon.

In terms of his rugby successes, a bright future lies ahead for the dynamic young player. At just 21-years-old, he's already captained England's under-18 and under-20 squads and had his Premiership Rugby debut, which he described fondly as "something I'll remember forever."

Although striking the balance is no easy feat, Emeka takes it all in his stride. "It's quite tough and free time is a premium, but these are the things I enjoy doing. I'm incredibly passionate about playing rugby and I want to achieve as much as I can in that, and play to the highest level I can, but I also want to be a surgeon. If it was easy, everyone would do it."

Thank you for continuing to enable sports scholars like Emeka to fulfil their university dreams.

“
If I didn't have the support I get from my scholarship, I wouldn't still be at uni. I'd have dropped out by now. Or I'd have quit rugby, there's no way I'd still be doing both.
”

Emeka Ilione



Supporting Sporting Success

With 42 teams winning their leagues and 16 team national championship titles, Nottingham remains the number one UK University for team sport.

We were also named Sports University of the Year in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024 – the third time we have been awarded the accolade since 2018.

Boosted by 132 podium finishes from our individual athletes, we finished 2nd overall in the BUCS rankings, with a record points score of more than 7,800 – nearly 2,000 points clear of our third-place rivals.

Our cohort of sports scholars were instrumental in this year's success. You supported 174 student athletes (59 postgraduates) to combine their studies with competing at the elite level of their sport. We remain very grateful to those who continue to support these programmes.



The University of Nottingham stands as a beacon of groundbreaking research, particularly in the area of advanced medical imaging technologies. Read on to see how your support has made science fiction a reality.

Exploring new frontiers



Among its many pioneering initiatives, the university's Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) research has been a catalyst for transformative breakthroughs in understanding and diagnosing various health conditions for more than 50 years now. Many of these discoveries wouldn't have been possible without donations from supporters like you.

MRI, an essential tool within the world of modern medical diagnostics, has undergone a transformation in recent years, thanks to the relentless pursuit of innovation by researchers at Nottingham.

"Developments in Nottingham have underpinned the improvement of [MRI] technology over the years," said Professor Richard Bowtell, Head of the Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre (SPMIC).

"Technology is still developing, and new things are happening. It's not a technique which has become frozen. New things are coming through."



Professor Matt Brookes OBE



Professor Richard Bowtell

Through interdisciplinary collaboration and cutting-edge technology, the MRI research team has been pushing the boundaries of what's possible in imaging, enabling unprecedented insights into the human body's intricate inner workings.

Throughout our Giving Day last year, you may have seen the university's work with Neupulse on wearable technology. Your generous donations are going to further support this research, which will empower individuals with brain health conditions and give them a choice over controlling their symptoms.

Musician and songwriter Lewis Capaldi paid our university a visit to look at how the wristwatch like device could help him overcome some Tourettes symptoms, which he's said are heightened before he performs. Lewis found that the device helped immensely and was given a device of his own to take along on the rest of his tour.

Stephen Jackson, Professor in Cognitive Neuroscience Psychology at the University of Nottingham, shares how new research could treat potentially life-changing brain disorders.

"Mental health and brain health issues affect millions of people around the world. In the UK, the NHS is overwhelmed with the numbers of people that they are trying to help, with only 25% of those requiring treatment receiving it. Building on Sir Peter Mansfield's groundbreaking MRI developments at our university more than 50 years ago, we're now using MRI to provide solutions for those living with such conditions."

"We think this non-invasive technology could be effective in treating other brain disorders in the near future, such as Parkinson's disease, tremor, obsessive compulsive disorder, ADHD and anxiety."

Wearable technology has also expanded at Nottingham with the creation of a scanner that can measure brain function whilst people are standing and walking around. This breakthrough could help better understand and diagnose a range of neurological illnesses that affect movement.



The unique wearable brain scanner system uses small sensors – called optically pumped magnetometers (OPMs) – to measure magnetic fields generated by cellular activity in the brain – a technique called Magnetoencephalography, or MEG. These sensors are incorporated into a lightweight helmet.

The unique design means the system can be adapted to fit anyone, from newborns to adults, and sensors can be placed much closer to the head, dramatically enhancing data quality. This is much more accessible than conventional brain scanners, which are large and fixed and require the patient to stay very still during scanning.

Professor Matthew Brookes OBE leads MEG research in Nottingham and said: "Just five years ago, the idea of acquiring high resolution images of human brain electrophysiology whilst people walk around a room would have seemed like something from science fiction."

The wearable system has already been installed in several research institutions across the globe, cementing our research within the world of MRI.

The future is bright for trailblazing technology developed in Nottingham. Thank you for all that you do to empower our advancements.

“It’s incredible to think how far this technology has come, and even more incredible to imagine where it’s going.”

”
Professor Matthew Brookes OBE

Making an impact:

IN THE FIELD

Your donations to Cascade have helped a group of Medicine students learn valuable new skills to deal with major medical incidents to potentially save lives.



The course was an opportunity to learn and use new practical skills.



Getting hands-on with new equipment outside the lecture hall.



Across three days, the students worked together in different situations.



Multi-vehicle collisions are a key part of the MIMMS course.

“

It gave a great insight to what goes on behind the scenes at major incidents to ensure as many people are helped as possible.

”

Alex Roche

Cascade grants give students the opportunity to gain vital experience outside of their studies and develop skills they can share with fellow peers, as well as helping them later in life. Last year nine members from the Wilderness Medicine Society were able to attend the Major Incident Medical Management and Support (MIMMS) course.

A major incident is one of the most difficult challenges faced by the NHS, often involving a large number of casualties or deemed to present a serious threat to the health and safety of the public. Examples include multi-vehicle road traffic collisions, mountain and cave rescue or even explosions. The course gave students the hands-on experience and skills to deal with these stressful and dangerous situations. A rigorous three-day course saw the group put through their paces as they learned from the experts about what happens behind the scenes of a major incident to ensure the best quality patient care.

Without your donations, the society would not have had the funds to attend and it's not just the nine students that participated in MIMMS that will benefit from what they learned. The Wilderness Medicine Society is passionate about sharing knowledge, so the lessons from MIMMS will be a key part of their teaching throughout the upcoming year, helping more medical students develop the skills to learn potentially life-saving skills.

Alex Roche, fifth-year medical student, described the benefits of the course. "It gave a great insight to what goes on behind the scenes at major incidents to ensure as many people are helped as possible. The benefits to me were increased confidence in accurate triaging in an emergency situation, plus the development of my communication and critical thinking skills.

"I want to focus on these skills to help other students grow confident in effective triage, ensuring the right person receives the right treatment, and goes to the right hospital the first time."

Hidden Gems: Guess the Artefact

Tucked away just a stone's throw from Highfields Lake, lies a cornucopia of treasures from thousands of years ago, carefully and lovingly preserved within the University of Nottingham Museum.

Here you'll find a selection of treasures, most of which are currently on display. Try and guess what each item is. The answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.



01



02



03



04



05



06



07

The museum's new exhibition, 'Fascinating Finds from Nottingham's Caves, Places of Work and Play' features a beautiful selection of objects and is available to visit now. It is free and open to everyone from Thursday to Sunday from 12 noon – 4pm.

ANSWERS

- 01: Mammoth tooth
- 02: Roman gaming counters
- 03: Palaeolithic hand axes
- 04: Roman hair pins
- 05: Roman soldier's cooking pan
- 06: Roman ear pick
- 07: Decorative medieval tiles from Keighton UoN's very own excavation site

You're helping to change lives

Thank you for all your generosity over the past year – no matter how large or small, every contribution makes a potentially life-changing difference. Here are some ways you can continue to be involved.

LEARN MORE

If you would like to hear more on how you can make an impact, please visit:

bit.ly/support-uon



Leave a Gift in your Will

By remembering the university in your will today, you can make a difference tomorrow.

Once you have taken care of your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to the university. Just like the donor that generously helped Georgina, you can help transform the lives of talented

students from low-income backgrounds, contribute to world-changing research or help to protect the beautiful spaces that you loved, long into the future.

For more information, please complete the enclosed form or email legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk



Become a Volunteer

One of the greatest gifts we can give is to help others and here at Nottingham you can do something amazing to help our students and alumni as a volunteer.

Volunteering for the university is a great way for you to learn new skills, make professional connections and give back to the community.

We have opportunities available throughout the year that you can be involved with. Register your interest at: bit.ly/uonvolunteer

Donate to Nottingham Potential Scholarships



A place at university can transform a young person's world. But too many bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds find barriers are in their way.

We believe that talented students, like Kundai who you read about in this issue, should not miss out on higher education because of where they come from or how much money they have. Donate today and you can help students from all backgrounds say 'yes' to their university dream.





To support a student at Nottingham, see the enclosed form or visit: bit.ly/UoNScholarships



Thank you

Your belief and backing turns aspirations into a reality at Nottingham.

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If you'd like to make a gift to Nottingham today, or update your details, please scan the QR code or complete the enclosed form.