



University of  
Nottingham

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# AMBITION

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Supporters of student aspiration

## A positive pint

How your support for Cascade is helping students turn bread into beer. (Page 18)

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## From the NE to LA

How an internship award helped take student Eleanor behind the scenes in Hollywood. (Page 8)

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## A sporting chance

How your donations are helping more students experience the benefits of sport. (Page 22)





“

I will never forget my experience at the University of Nottingham. The support of a scholarship meant never having to worry that a lack of money would limit my opportunities or stop me taking part.”

Hannah Kemp (Geography, 2019)





Contents

Four thoughts: scholarships	06
Once upon a time in Hollywood	08
Maximising opportunities	10
Alumni scrapbook	16
A positive pint	18
Changing lives around the world	20
Why I participate	22
The gift of time	26
In the frame	27
Leaving your legacy	28
Our supporter community	29
Historic headlines	30

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Cover image courtesy of Alex Wilkinson Media

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Foreword

Welcome to Ambition - the magazine celebrating your impact on our students.

You are receiving this magazine because of your generous support for the University’s students; for those who transform lives through Cascade projects, for those who aspire to academic excellence and for those who strive to compete at the highest level.

All of the activities featured within these pages are about what we call the ‘student experience’, because ultimately university is all about just that – the experience. Your time here will have been memorable and may even be the reason why you chose to give back, to help others benefit from all the University has to offer.

Ambition provides a small snapshot of the diverse range of opportunities that you have enabled students to access; from the chance to work in a Hollywood TV studio (page 8-9), to increasing the provision of mental health support for students playing sport (page 24) and even the brewing of beer in aid of child poverty (page 18-19)!

Whether it is ambition to help others, ambition to be the best they can be or ambition to experience all that the world has to offer, all the students featured and many more besides can fulfil their ambitions thanks to your dedicated ongoing support.

We would love to hear any feedback you have about what we’ve included – your contributions to the University are vital and we are always thinking about the best ways in which we can keep you updated about your impact.

Please do get in touch and I hope you enjoy the magazine.

CHRIS HICKMAN  
EDITOR

# Four thoughts – the value of a scholarship

**Thanks to your support, over 200 students have taken their first life-changing steps here at the University in the last academic year alone. We asked four people, each with a different perspective, to share their thoughts on the value of a University of Nottingham scholarship.**

## **Zach Jones (Geography, 2018)** **Recent graduate**

Even after confirming my place at the University of Nottingham, I was concerned about how I could fund my studies and how this pressure would impact on my experience at University. Receiving the Bartle Simpkins award and the Nottingham Potential Scholarship made an incredible difference to my studies and time at this amazing University.

Although I have now graduated, I still haven't left the University. I'm now working in the Widening Participation team helping students with similar backgrounds to me in their progression to higher education. Since taking on this role, I've realised the broader value that education can have as a tool for social mobility. It is incredible to see students develop in confidence through their progression to higher education. Central to this process is the financial support we can offer thanks to donors like you. To ensure that university and the opportunities beyond remain accessible to all, it is essential that financial support from bursaries and scholarships are available.



2



## **Lovemore Mokuele** **Mature student**

I enrolled onto the nursing programme in September 2018 after completing an Access to Higher Education in Nursing and Midwifery course at a local college, at the time I was working full time as a bus driver. It was a mentally, physically and emotionally challenging period for my family as I had to juggle work, assignments, revision and a new-born baby. I had to work overtime on my days off from college in order to provide for my family. A week before starting university I resigned from my job as a bus driver so I could focus on my studies and avoid the difficulties I faced during my access course.

The University made me aware of the criteria for the Nottingham Potential Scholarship. I applied and was awarded the scholarship which has drastically improved my financial situation and alleviated my worries of surviving as a student. It is helping me realise my potential as a mature student because I can spend extra time on revision, assignments and above all I can afford to take my kids to activities like my son's football matches on Saturday mornings.

3



## **Emma Szembek** **Deputy Director of Student Recruitment** **(Widening Participation and Outreach)**

We have a current focus on outreach with local communities as we build our civic programme,

employing the principles of social justice and social mobility. Working with primary school age children and their families in hard-to-reach communities we are determined to bring about cultural change to encourage and support learners at any age, really supporting their journey to university.

The support of our alumni gives us the platform to broaden horizons from an early age, which otherwise would be much more difficult.



## **Bob Denison (Mechanical Engineering, 1986)** **Scholarship donor**

Without question university, and the University of Nottingham in particular, is an environment conducive to both academic studies and building lasting friendships (and in my case with my future wife). For me now it is about the passion an individual can bring to university and their chosen subject. A guiding principle in my giving is supporting those who show the flame rather than just the spark - especially those who would otherwise be unable to gain the opportunity.

It is notable how the connection with your university is both permanent and transitory. For many, it is about the grounding university provides to go on and establish a career, but certainly once I had children and was earning well, thoughts about the concept of giving back truly crystallised.

Nottingham is a city full of opportunities - my course gave me the academic foundation for a career which I have enjoyed ever since. It is this which strongly inspires me to give back to the institution which gave so much to me.

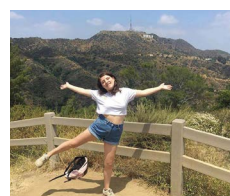
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# Once upon a time in Hollywood

**Final year Film and Television Studies student Eleanor O'Brien has gone a long way from sleepy Morpeth in Northumberland all the way to the glamorous hills of Hollywood and a three month placement in Los Angeles at Fox 21 TV Studios. She has been the latest beneficiary of the Rice International Internship Award from alumnus and chair of Walt Disney Television Peter Rice (American Studies, 1989). Here she writes about her experience.**

Eleanor O'Brien  
in the Hollywood Hills



“

**Peter Rice and the internship award have literally made what once felt like a ridiculous dream become a reality.”**

Growing up in a small town where there are next to no opportunities to gain experience within this industry, I knew I couldn't pass up the chance to live out one of my childhood dreams! The internship was actually the reason why I applied to study at Nottingham as it was an opportunity I saw no other university offer.

However, my university experience did not begin as I imagined or hoped. While I immediately fell in love with the campus and city, I still felt somewhat lonely. My friends were all leaving for different universities, some of them together, whereas I was going to Nottingham alone. Like any first-year student, I was scared about leaving home. I was worried about homesickness, about not making any friends, not liking my course, having made a mistake.

The turning point was joining the University's student TV station, NSTV. I had never picked up a camera before and didn't know the first thing about editing but I knew that I wanted to learn and create. Through NSTV, I was learning new skills, making new friends and feeling like a true part of the Students' Union. By the end of the year, I felt confident enough to run for a position on committee and I was elected Head of Entertainment for my second year.

I always felt as if my dream of working in film and TV was unrealistic because of where I come from. Even coming to university, I've often found myself envying my classmates from London or even Manchester, where there are work experience opportunities and internships right on their doorstep. This is where Peter Rice and the

internship award have literally made what once felt like a ridiculous dream become a reality.

Equally, the internship has helped me grow as a person. Living in America for three months wasn't always easy; I often found myself longing for the rain or a bar of Dairy Milk. I was also living with a group of girls who despite being fellow students, were essentially strangers to me when I first arrived. Through this experience, I learned how to deal with difficult situations and the importance of focusing on what matters in the long run.

I was placed in Fox 21 Television Studios as a Production Intern. I helped support the Production Assistants in the offices of *American Horror Story* and *9-1-1*, binding and delivering scripts and answering the phones. I was also able to help out on the set of *American Horror Story* which was a very cool experience as I'd never been on a set before!

Truthfully, I would not have been able to afford this internship without the funding from the Rice International Internship Award. Even with the funding, I was reluctant to apply as it would still cost a fair bit. I had to take up various jobs alongside my studies and my parents made many sacrifices so that I could afford to go, something which I am eternally grateful for.

I hope the internship award continues to run so that future students can benefit from it; students who perhaps weren't born into these opportunities, but who are willing to work for them. This internship award is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I think it's incredible that my university offers it.



# Maximising opportunities

A scholarship opens the door for someone who otherwise wouldn't get the opportunity to benefit from all that our University has to offer. When a student grabs the opportunity wholeheartedly it is all the more fulfilling.

We hear from three students who have gone the extra mile to make the most of their time at Nottingham.

## The explorer



**Hannah Kemp**  
(Geography, 2019)

For many of us the prospect of travelling to explore the world first-hand is an aspiration we might achieve later in life, but Hannah has already taken the opportunity during her studies to visit the USA, Mexico, Lake District and will soon be heading to Berlin.

Thanks to the financial security afforded by a scholarship, Hannah was able to fully embrace her studies by visiting Mount Saint Helens in Washington State to work for the US Geological Survey, the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico to investigate new water sources and Lake Windermere as part of her dissertation on organic carbon accumulation.

So inspired was she by these trips that she became an ambassador for the School of Geography, presenting at UCAS open days on behalf of the University.



“

My undergraduate experience at the University of Nottingham was extremely fulfilling and one which I will never forget. Being the recipient of a scholarship meant never having to worry that a lack of money would limit my opportunities or stop me taking part.”

If this wasn't enough Hannah also made the most of other extra-curricular activities: performing as 1st Oboe in the wind orchestra 'Blowsoc', touring to Amsterdam, Berlin and Barcelona (for which she also took on publicity and marketing), as well as being a member of the A Cappella and Latin and Ballroom Dancing societies and Geog Soc.

And she carried all of this out in spite of living with Meares Irlen Syndrome - a visual perceptual dysfunction - which requires her to print and enlarge work and pay for special lenses. This proved no barrier to Hannah thanks to your support, which enabled her to fulfil her potential.



## The creative



**George Smith**  
(Geography, 2019)

**The genesis of George Smith's Floreat Project came about whilst studying at the University of Nottingham. Music had always played an integral part in his life, but only when on campus did he realise the role it played in enhancing both his studies and extra-curricular commitments: aiding social cohesion, psychological wellbeing and enabling creativity in the economy.**

Fast forward to today and Floreat Studios is a buzzing space in the heart of Wolverhampton, serving as a base of operations for his music and media collective which specialises in research in the creative sector.

While his dissertation saw him investigating the spaces of education, simultaneously the support and guidance received from mentors, lecturers and peers through the Witty Entrepreneurial Scholarship programme means that today George is undertaking meaningful research into music and creativity.

Through the Witty Entrepreneurial Scholarship, George was able to attend seminars and roundtables which saw him develop a keen eye for strategies. Then competing in international business competitions such as Universitas 21 where he was runner-up and the Ingenuity Global Business Challenge which he won, he was able to apply for funding to get his business off the ground.

Although these commitments and efforts didn't contribute towards his degree qualification, it is without question that they strongly helped to develop a direction for his post-university life.

“

**I am determined to build on the work begun in Nottingham to offer our studio space to more people in the creative industry and build a media project which further showcases emerging talent. I look back very gratefully on my time at university, because I know that I wouldn't be where I am today without the support and guidance of my peers and mentors in Nottingham.”**



## The fundraiser



**Seair Qadery**  
(Civil Engineering, 2019)

Arriving in the UK from war-torn Afghanistan, Seair found adapting to his new life a struggle initially. Living on an estate “where the sound of police sirens was not unusual” he describes a struggle in adjusting, trying to fit in and most importantly receiving an education.

His secondary school was renowned for unruly pupils, below average test results and even teachers being absent, leaving him to study on his own accord. Struggling through his GCSEs and then his AS-levels, he received poor results. This was the wake-up call Seair needed and he soon began to turn things around, determined to secure a place at university.

Still struggling for direction, a conversation with an engineer at a careers fair opened his eyes to working in the industry, setting him on his future path. It was at the same time he began participating in extracurricular activity to atone for his poor grades, raising £1,000 for charity through the National Citizen Service.

During his time at Nottingham Seair continued in the same pursuit, setting up his own Afghan Society, bringing together students, teaching others about Afghan culture and fundraising. He co-ordinated the University's charity week, raising £24,000 for projects supporting families in similar circumstances to his own childhood.

Fast forward to the present day, Seair has graduated with a First, landing a top job with one of the world's leading engineering consultancies in the process, while continuing his charitable efforts.

“

**As clichéd as it sounds, I feel the need to give back for everything I have been blessed with. Growing up in Afghanistan and having experienced the way of life there, I aspired to be useful to those around me and those that are less fortunate.”**





# Scrapbook

Whether you graduated in the 1960s or just last year the memories created on our campuses are both personal and universal. Thanks to your support today's students will be creating their own memories just like the ones on these pages.



**Karnival 1973**  
Dudley George (dressed as a cabbage, above)  
(Chemistry, 1973)

There was a grassy slope somewhere between Florence Boot Hall and Trent Building. In the summer after my final exams I spent many a warm afternoon under a tree with DH Lawrence and EM Forster (well, their novels anyway).

**Jane Hardy**  
(English and Linguistics, 1978)



**Raft race on Highfields Lake 1983**  
Keith Rowley  
(Chemistry, 1985)



**The Ministry of Science  
Masquerade Ball 1999**

Discover more memories or submit your own on our online scrapbook at [nottingham.ac.uk/scrapbook](http://nottingham.ac.uk/scrapbook)



**Beer Race 1966**  
Jim Middleton  
(Civil Engineering, 1966)

One of my favourite places on campus was hidden in the forest over the right side of the lake, feeding squirrels and having some peace and quiet on a Saturday morning. After the business of the whole week and everyone else catching up on sleep after a late night it was lovely to take some space and spend time in nature on your doorstep.

**Dr Shelley Henry**  
(Medicine, 2008)

The courtyard at Cavendish was great for discos (though bare feet dancing brought up the earthworms). Great for summer studying too, if you had a ground floor room - open the window, leave your coffee on the sill rather than carrying it out (but mammoth spiders in those ground floor rooms...)

**Fiona Lee**  
(Geography, 1975)



**Lake Battle 1956**  
Professor Robert Parfitt  
(Pharmacy, 1958)

The lake was lovely in summer and autumn, but, to be honest, my favourite place from 1955 to 1961 was The Buttery. The Bass Blue Label with which I hydrated myself there proved to be an efficacious cerebral nutriment.

**Graham Padgett**  
(French, 1959)



# Students brew a positive pint thanks to your support

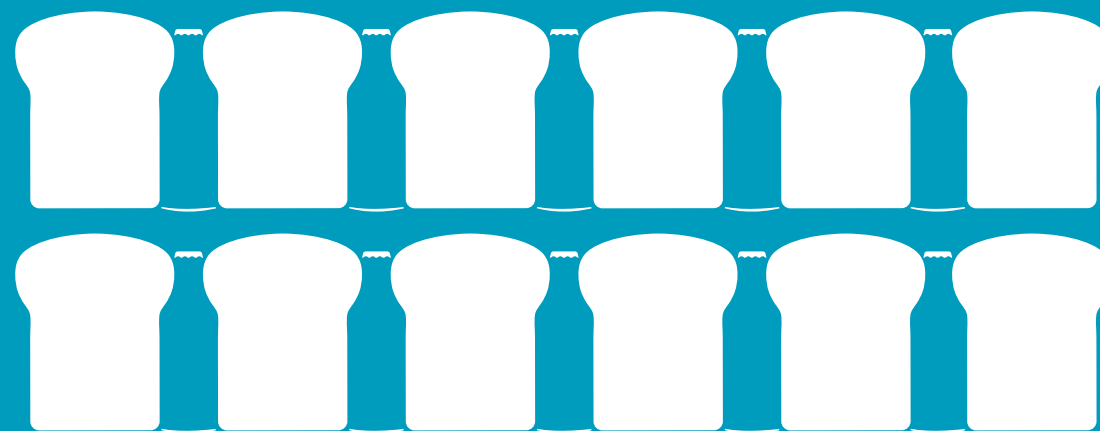
**Thanks to your support for Cascade, a group of entrepreneurial students are simultaneously tackling food waste and child food poverty using craft beer. We met up with student James at Nottingham pub the Crafty Crow to find out how your support is helping them brew a positive pint.**

Every day, over one million loaves of bread are discarded. Meanwhile, it's reported that 38% of children in Nottingham are living in poverty. The student-run Bread Brew'd Project

is addressing these issues by using waste bread to brew craft beer with the profits benefitting local children through breakfast clubs. Through partnerships with local breweries Magpie Brewery and Lincoln Green Brewing Co. the project has been able to brew two beers and sell them to pubs around the UK.

"We use bread that would otherwise be thrown away to brew our beer. The bread replaces 30% of the normal malt used in the brewing process - we used around 100kg of bread in our first batch.

In each pint of 'Bakers Pale Ale' and 'Use Your Loaf' there is one slice of upcycled bread, with the profits going towards Foodprint's local breakfast clubs.



We've been able to make use of our partnerships with the breweries to get our beers out into pubs around the country. Our profits then go back to Foodprint who run breakfast clubs for children around Nottingham," said James.

Foodprint is a student-run social supermarket in Sneinton, which also got started thanks to generous donations to the Cascade fund. Since the project started in 2017, over 26,000kg of food that would otherwise go to waste has been sold for low prices with the proceeds covering the running of the shop. The project has since expanded, redistributing food to community cafes, food banks and school breakfast clubs.

"The fact that so much food is wasted and that there are children who rely on breakfast clubs for their breakfast is such a terrible contradiction, especially when we go to pick the bread up and you see first-hand how much is thrown away. We have to do more.

"This project has opened my eyes, it's changed a lot of my predispositions about poverty and social mobility. I'm fortunate that worrying about where my next meal was coming from wasn't something I had to often think about. In my first year I was in catered halls and food is always there, but being involved in something

like this has really made me aware of these issues." James initially applied to work on the Foodprint project, but jumped at the chance to be involved in the Bread Brew'd project when he heard about it.

"I've learned a lot. In a working environment like this you have to be pragmatic and be able to adapt. Being able to communicate and organise yourself well is also really important, especially when we're all working on this project alongside University degrees. It's been an incredible project to be involved in and we're all so grateful for the support from Cascade."

Search 'Bread Brew'd Project' to find out more about the project and where you can find a positive pint for yourself.

**The Bread Brew'd Project and Foodprint are two of more than 120 student projects made possible by your donations to our student project fund, Cascade, since it was established in 2007. In the last 12 months alone, the University has received over £250,000 from over 850 donors.**



# Changing lives around the world

Thanks to your donations, University students have led projects with a global impact with the support of a Cascade grant. Here's a snapshot of how your support is helping students make a difference.

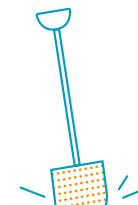


## 2 Portugal The Barnard Effect

Thirty years ago, Professor Chris Barnard from the School of Life Sciences set up an innovative module called Behavioral Ecology at a field centre in Portugal. It is now one of the longest running bird ringing studies in the world, carried out collaboratively by University academics, students, and representatives from a Nottinghamshire bird ringing group.

The legacy of Professor Barnard, who died in 2007, continues to this day, as every year the school sends students to Portugal to carry out research.

Thanks to your support several students joined the study to document the research and share with the wider world – a fitting tribute to the work of Professor Barnard, who strongly believed in the value of a hands-on approach to scientific studies.



## 4 Ukraine Chernihiv Archaeological Expedition

With the support of a Cascade grant, four Nottingham students studying Viking age history have participated in an archaeological excavation in Chernihiv, Ukraine. The students recovered archaeologically significant artefacts, shedding new light on the Viking fort. The project includes joint publications with a Ukrainian team, which share valuable knowledge and learning gained from the diverse archaeological excavation methods.



## 1 USA Sutton Bonington Singers

The Sutton Bonington (SB) Music Society is one of the most vibrant musical setups on campus, welcoming not only students, but members of staff and the local public too.

One of its four ensembles, the SB Singers, was asked to perform in 'The Music of Will Todd', held as part of the Distinguished Concerts International New York's concert series at the prestigious Lincoln Center. Thanks to your support, the SB singers were able to take this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. They joined 22 other ensembles from around the world under the guidance of Dr James Meaders, a renowned conductor and voice coach, to perform in the 3,000-seat capacity concert venue in the Big Apple.



## 3 South Africa Project Myemyela

For a number of years students and staff from the Department of Architecture and Built Environment have made it their personal mission to support communities in Limpopo, South Africa – one of the poorest, least developed parts of the country. In this time, they have overseen the construction of 10 buildings, changing the lives of thousands of people.

One example is Project Myemyela, which saw 38 students help construct a nursery in the village of Lephepane, creating a bright, clean and safe environment to teach basic skills to children from birth to the age of seven. It also provides employment for local women who teach in the crèche, cook meals and sing and play with the children, as well as somewhere for the village community to both come together and have a sense of ownership of.

## 5 Sri Lanka Project Hope

Four politics students completed a three-week long internship with the Rosie May Foundation, a charity from Nottingham which runs orphanages and women's refuges in Sri Lanka. Its mission is to empower young girls and women in underprivileged circumstances and to strengthen families in crisis through education.

The students spent three weeks in Sri Lanka to evaluate the effectiveness of the Rosie May Foundation's Project Hope, a family strengthening programme, by visiting the homes of families supported, spending time first-hand to assess their living situation. The project was an exciting opportunity for the students to engage with, and make a direct, positive, long-lasting impact on communities in Sri Lanka.



## 6 Australia Bamboo and Digital Fabrication Techniques

Your support has enabled four students from University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) to attend workshops, continuing a collaboration in which students from China and Australia work together remotely to creatively address sustainability issues.

The students learned how to combine traditional bamboo construction with digital design and fabrication techniques to produce innovative building and product solutions for low-income communities in China and Australia.

UNNC and University of Western Australia staff are planning to attend the World Bamboo Conference in Taiwan and co-author journal publications based on the outcomes of the project.





# Why I participate in...

From archery to wakeboarding, participating in sport or exercising is key in helping us live happy and healthy lives, both physically and mentally. In the last two years, over 130 of you have donated more than £750,000, helping hundreds of students benefit from these sports and more at all levels.

Here we highlight four sports where your support is taking students to the next level.

## Rugby Ella Wyrwas

Ella Wyrwas is a second-year biology student who has been awarded a scholarship in recognition of her potential on the pitch. Playing rugby from the age of six she has represented England at under-20 level.

“It’s quite daunting really. When I first came I wasn’t aware of the strong history the University has in rugby, with Brian Moore and Chris Wyles, both alumni who are heroes I have looked up to since I was such a young age. Brian came in the other day and I got to talk to him – it’s quite surreal really. It just shows how the support the University provides has a purpose and creates elite athletes.

“The most valuable aspect of the scholarship for me is the additional support and structures which I’m provided with. I tore the two ligaments in my knee in March 2019, which

is literally any rugby player’s worst nightmare. It resulted in two surgeries within about four months and the minimum time then on the sidelines is 12 months.

“The injury occurred at a crucial time in my development as a player because I was on the brink of breaking into the senior national side. The scholarship is invaluable because of the support it enables – I have been following a tailored programme with a dedicated strength and conditioning coach who really goes above and beyond. To have a member of staff who is so invested in my welfare is so important.

“Without this I would really be struggling to fulfil my potential and have any chance of being an elite women’s rugby player. The sport is on the up, so the support at this time is crucial.”

## Inclusive climbing Martha Evans

Initially established in 2017, running just a handful of sessions per term, Cascade funding has enabled the University’s Inclusive Climbing group to now meet every Sunday during term time. Designed for those who are disabled, have a mental health condition or are new to climbing, the club has significantly developed the prowess of around a dozen students thanks to dedicated support and supervision.

The group has also thrived thanks to a helping hand from several volunteers, including Martha Evans, a second-year sport and exercise science student who during the sessions discovered she had a natural talent for paraclimbing, an offshoot of the sport.

“The sessions give people the confidence to try something they wouldn’t otherwise get to do and they helped me personally develop to the stage where I was competing nationally too.”

Last year Martha represented Great Britain at the International Paraclimbing Championships, coming third.

“Competing at the World Championships was amazing, it just felt so surreal to actually be there! Now I’m going to train even harder so I can make podium again, and hopefully first place, at Moscow 2021.”

The group isn’t just looking to train potential world beaters but give all students the opportunity to escape the pressures of studying and try something new.

“I and a lot of people find that when we’re on the wall climbing, they’re just thinking about the climb and nothing else. It’s just you in the moment.”

“The injury occurred at a crucial time in my development as a player because I was on the brink of breaking into the senior national side.”





## Wheelchair Basketball

### Harry North

"I don't know what it is about the sport, but it just attracts great, friendly, sociable people who are prepared to try something they wouldn't normally and so are extra enthusiastic. There's a great social scene as well!"

Harry North, a third-year maths student sums up the unique appeal of the University's Wheelchair Basketball Club, which is increasingly popular thanks to your support.

You might assume that wheelchair basketball is only for students with a disability, but the inclusivity of the club is something which Harry is proud of.

"Once you're in the chair, disability or not, you're equal. And it's just incredibly fun crashing into people in chairs - even though that's not technically allowed!"

The club has recently benefitted from a £2,500 grant from the Bruce

Wake Charitable Trust, enabling the purchase of two sports wheelchairs and provision of specialist coaching.

Integral to the running of the club is University Volunteer of the Year, Martin Austin, recognised with an MBE in The Queen's New Year's Honours list. The commitment of over 250 hours of his time has been instrumental in the development of wheelchair sport at the University.

"It's not like a football club where you just need some balls, vests and cones - you cannot play this game without the right equipment.

"A decent chair is not cheap as each one is made bespoke for a player and they can't play to their potential otherwise. We want to give the team the best chance possible to progress in the league. It's impossible to run this club without support from donors."

## Football

### Alex Cozens

Alex Cozens, third-year ancient history student and Vice-President of the Men's Football Club in one sentence sums up the impression which troubles men's football at all levels but is fast becoming a thing of the past at Nottingham: "There is still a stereotype among male footballers that all 100 blokes within the club are 'lads' who buy into the typical culture but certainly in recent years it doesn't feel like this is actually the case."

Alex, alongside Football Development Officer Dan Smith, are developing the programme of activity which is transforming mental health provision for students at all levels.

Thanks to a donation from alumna Linda Almond (Applied Biochemistry/Nutrition, 1980), the two were among the first 20 club welfare officers who attended training from Mental Health First Aid England, the only organisation accredited to provide specific support in this area. Over 150 students and staff across seven sports clubs have received welfare and mental health awareness training.

"Once there's someone who you know is trained to provide support it becomes a lot easier for a player to open up. And otherwise they just may not do so. We've also enabled all the captains to undertake a level of mental health training at a workshop which just gives players the option to talk to someone they're more comfortable with rather than a welfare officer."

"I would never have expected to become someone who would have a role to play in supporting mental health like this. I think this is also recognition of how the University itself has developed its provision and made more students aware of the support available to them."

**"I would never have expected to become someone who would have a role to play in supporting mental health like this."**



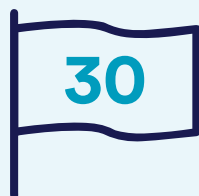


## The gift of time

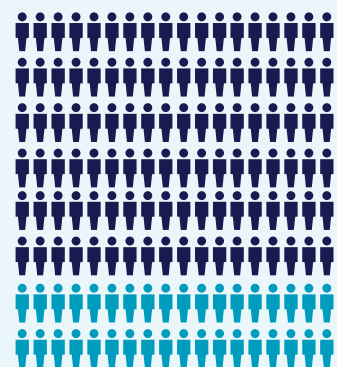
As well as supporting the University financially nearly 1 in 10 of you go even further and give us the gift of your time by volunteering, which we are hugely thankful for.

Some of you reading will have volunteered for many years but many of you may not even be familiar with the range of opportunities on offer across the University. On this page is a snapshot of the activity which has taken place over the last 18 months and its impact.

Some are one off roles for an hour and some can be much more involved, so whatever your specialism or time commitment keep an eye on the volunteering page online or register your interest with us directly. We would love to hear from you!

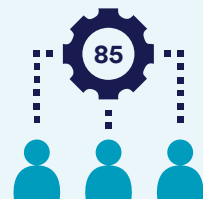


Number of countries our volunteers are from: 30



No of volunteers: 870

■ 75% alumni  
■ 25 % non-alumni



Number of different roles: 85

**Most popular role:** career mentoring (160 matched mentors)

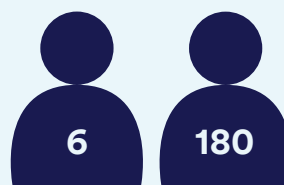
**Other popular roles:** faculty careers talks, international hosts, social impact game advisors and business partners, mature alumni ambassadors, inspiring women in engineering, Black, Asian and minority ethnic career development panel members, education enhancement advocates.



The number of students who have received support from our fabulous volunteers: 1,496



**University departments:** Volunteer roles have supported all five faculties (Arts, Engineering, Medicine and Health Sciences, Science and Social Sciences) as well as the Department of Sport and other strategic partners across the University.



6 volunteers have supported the University for over 20 years  
180 volunteers have supported the University for six years

## Get involved!

View our latest volunteering opportunities or register your interest at [nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime](http://nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime)



## In the frame

75 years on from VE Day, at the age of 95, donor Dr Ronald Fearn (Physics, 1952) reflects on his time at the University following the end of WW2 and how things have changed in the present day.



Dr Ronald Fearn in his military uniform and in the present day

A watercolour of the interior of the Basilica of San Vitale by Dr Fearn

I was demobbed after WW2 in 1948, after five years of war service, married and with a house in Derby. So I travelled in to the University every day on the bus. My best man, Bill Bailey, was in the same position and we travelled in together. We signed in to study engineering. After several weeks we were in great trouble. To come back to study after five years was bad enough, but the course required us to study several different subjects at the same time and that defeated us.

We debated whether to pack it in, but in the end we thought that perhaps we could manage one subject and so chose physics. We went to see the professor, L H Bates, who received us as war veterans with sympathy and agreed to take us on. We justified his decision by graduating some years later. I was fortunate enough to have the support of my wife May, as I did for the 68 years of our marriage.

My time at Nottingham was very different to what a present day student would experience. Between studies I worked as a draftsman in a Derby firm; I joined the TA - the 5th Foresters based in Derby - which took up quite a bit of

my free time. Was my time at Nottingham worthwhile? Yes. It gave me basic knowledge and skills. It opened up a wide field of opportunities. I made lifelong friends, and had several professional contacts over the years with the University.

I retired on a good pension and have published several books on such subjects as violin restoration and war poetry. Currently I spend a lot of time painting in watercolour, mainly buildings. To round it off, a couple of years or so ago, I had the great honour of being awarded the Legion d'honneur.

What would I say to a student starting at University today? No matter how difficult it is stay with it and be flexible. It is well worthwhile. Enjoy the social life the University offers as you will make many friends. Give some thought to your future career.

**If you have a story to share for a future 'in the frame' send us your image and story to [alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)**



# Leave a gift in your Will and help transform our world

Your days at the University of Nottingham were perhaps the most formative of your life - inspiring careers, building lifelong friendships and even meeting a spouse or partner. Whatever it was that Nottingham gave to you, by remembering the University in your Will, you can give something equally lasting back.

Whether it's backing our world leading cancer research, providing the platform for student-led Cascade projects which change lives or enabling talented young people from all backgrounds to realise their potential by securing a place at the University - leaving a gift in your Will is an act which could make a lasting difference to an area of activity of your choosing.

Over 450 alumni have already made a pledge to leave a gift in their Will, helping to ensure the University of Nottingham will continue to shape lives and enable change, just as it will have done in your time studying here.

If it's something you wish to consider why not get in touch and have a conversation to discuss how your legacy could make a difference to your University.

Contact Andrew Wright our Legacy Manager at [legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:legacyenquiries@nottingham.ac.uk) or visit [nott.ac.uk/giftinyourwill](http://nott.ac.uk/giftinyourwill)



Peter Kingsbury  
(Geography, 1976)

“

As someone who came from a less affluent background with no tradition of attending university I am aware how the financial commitment of a three (or more) year degree can deter people from applying. I hope my support will help others to benefit from attending the University of Nottingham as I was fortunate to do.”

Peter Kingsbury (Geography, 1976)



## Our supporter community

Here's some snippets from around the supporter community which you may have missed!

### Supporter Reception and Volunteer Awards

Always a highlight of the year, we welcomed over 150 of you to Lakeside Arts on University Park for our annual Supporter Reception and Volunteer Awards in November. Hosted by University Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Shearer West, the Supporter Reception gave attendees a first-hand taste of how the generosity of supporters is helping change lives.



### Hong Kong scholarship

Last summer we launched an exciting new scholarship especially for prospective students based in Hong Kong. Thanks to the incredibly generous support from dozens of alumni we're delighted to say that we will soon be in a position to welcome our first Hong Kong Alumni Scholarship recipient!



### Bag yourself a bookplate

Leave a little part of yourself right here on campus! Did you know we issue bookplates to recognise donors who have been giving to the University consecutively for 5, 10, 15 or 20 years?

Each bookplate is signed by the donor and takes pride of place in a book newly deposited on the bookshelves of one of our libraries - over 200 are now in residence across campus.



# Historic headlines

Ambition magazine is all about current students who are making the headlines thanks to your support - but here are some headlines from this time in decades past which made the front page of our student magazines. Do you remember what was in the news when you were here?



## May 1975

From exam chaos to a last-minute gig cancellation by the band Nazareth, 45 years ago the headlines covered all manner of trials and tribulations on campus.

All covers are provided courtesy of University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, which has been holding archive material for almost 70 years.



## May 1960

60 years ago saw heated debate over the plans to build Derby Hall, in particular the decision to base the design on that of Cripps Hall, which had come "under heavy fire".



## May 1970

50 years ago the Gongster headline revealed plans to increase grants from £290 to £305! This would be equivalent to just over £4,100 in today's money.





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## Thank you

Your belief and backing  
turns aspirations into  
reality at Nottingham.

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