A fairer future
We explore how the University is supporting social mobility

Forever friends
Alumni on the special friendships that began at Nottingham
The world is changing - and so are we. We are committed to contributing to our communities, whether locally, nationally or internationally. This issue, we explore our University’s role and impact in a changing world. On page 6, we consider how the University is embracing a new civic mission, while on page 16 we investigate how Nottingham is working to break down barriers for social mobility. Elsewhere, on page 20, alumnus Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, outlines how our research can contribute to closing the global health gap and addressing inequality. We hope you enjoy this edition, and share your thoughts by emailing or writing to us.

Faye Haslam (History, 2012)
Editor
A global sense of place

The national conversation in the UK raises many questions about the country’s future local and global perspective. The University of Nottingham has resolved to reinforce its civic mission in the region we are proud to call home and its global mission in the 195 countries that our alumni call home. Acting both locally and globally is not an oxymoron: in a post-Brexit culture, powerful relationships with the world will be essential to our local communities.

More than 45,000 students from 150 countries study at our campuses in the UK, China and Malaysia, and a global network of 280,000 alumni live and work all over the world. Our international presence delivers economic, social and cultural benefits for the city of Nottingham and our global research base enables experts to work with communities to address local problems.

In Malaysia, we are developing a plant-based vaccine to prevent dengue fever. In Ningbo, we host innovation clusters to support the city’s industrial strategy. In the UK, we are helping to regenerate the Trent Basin, one of the largest eco-housing developments in Europe.

While our global society faces competing trends of nationalism and globalisation, it is important to return to the principles of what universities should be for – the flow of ideas, knowledge and talent across international borders, while also being rooted in their local communities. The University of Nottingham will continue to embody these principles in an increasingly complex world.
University of Nottingham Malaysia has embarked on an ambitious research project with Sarawak Energy on a hydroelectric power project in Borneo, bringing together academic and engineering expertise to develop responsible and sustainable energy production.

Nottingham academics and alumni were among those recognised with awards in the Queen’s Birthday and New Year Honours. Professor Melanie Lang and Professor Stacy Johnson received MBEs, Rosie Tressler (English and History, 2011) received an OBE, and Professor Harminda Dua received a CBE.

University of Nottingham Ningbo China has established the Beacons of Excellence Innovation Institute, focusing on Smart Manufacturing, Green Chemicals and Energy, and Life Science and Healthcare, to meet local development goals.

University of Nottingham Ningbo China marked its 15th anniversary in April with a series of special events to celebrate 15 years of transforming lives locally, nationally and internationally.

We launched our Institute for Policy and Engagement, helping to put our academics and research at the forefront of shaping public policy and debate. Inviting the public to experience our research first-hand, we also welcomed thousands of people to University Park Campus at our family-friendly open day, Wonder, this June.

Two inspirational Nottingham scientists have been recognised by the Royal Society. Professor Liz Sockett has become the first female University of Nottingham scientist to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, while Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff has been awarded the Michael Faraday Prize for his Periodic Table of Videos series.

Associate Professor Dr Khoo Gaik hosted a series of events in Malaysia to engage with local communities on current and future trends of Malaysian cuisine, from sustainability and environmental challenges to culinary creativity with local ingredients.
The purpose and value of universities has become a major topic of political debate.

Putting the University in its place?

In the UK, a political and media critique has emerged that alleges that UK universities have become too focused on their global activities, to the detriment of the communities and places in which they are based.

With our international campuses in Ningbo, China and Semenyih, Malaysia, the University of Nottingham has become a distinctively global institution over the last 20 years. But has this come at the expense of a focus on our civic responsibilities to communities in the East Midlands? Or is the accusation of a zero-sum game between the University's global and local engagement inaccurate?

“In the UK and other countries, there has been a sense that universities risk losing public consent for the way in which they operate, with politicians now challenging our autonomy and independence,” explains Alex Favier, Director of Global and Political Affairs at the University.

“While universities have started to talk about their local societal, cultural and economic impact, these messages haven’t always been effective or meaningful. We’ve been a lead player in establishing a national ‘Civic University Commission’ to look at the role and responsibilities of universities in the 21st century. Historically, we haven’t always been the best at telling the stories of what we do locally – I think because we have over-relied on highlighting our incidental economic impact as opposed to what we want our intentional contribution to be.

“This is why we are embedding a renewed global civic mission within our new University strategy and have launched a number of new initiatives in this area that demonstrate our intent to deliver real benefits to the communities in which all of our campuses are based.”

Nottingham has some difficult problems to solve. It was recently named by the Office for National Statistics as the UK’s ‘poorest city’ for the fifth time in seven years - and it was ranked as having the worst prospects for children and young people out of 150 local areas in the Youth Opportunity Index.

“One of the first things we’ve done is to establish the ‘Universities for Nottingham’: the name of a new civic engagement partnership with Nottingham Trent University. Rather than having two separate strategies to support our local area, it makes more sense for us to join things up where our efforts could complement each other. This gives us the ability to drive greater change when working with other civic partners. This could include tackling the major social mobility deficit we have in the region for example, or promoting Nottingham as a place to live, work, study and invest,” continues Alex.

“This is not about being overly presumptuous or telling others how they should do things. Nor is it about us seeking to exceed our remit or capabilities as a world-class university. Instead, it is about encouraging a more sensitive ‘civic conscience’ to our core activity. It’s about engaging with partners, identifying where their needs and our strengths align. This unique ability to think, convene and deliver for a city was one of the founding principles of this University. We are committed to improving the prosperity, life chances and opportunities for the people of Nottingham and beyond.”
The Ingenuity Event has become one of the UK's biggest entrepreneurship competitions, awarding £150,000 in prize money at the 2019 final. Open to the public for the first time this year, the event attracted people from corporate, civic and community organisations, as well as other universities. In its four-year history, Ingenuity has attracted over 2,000 innovators, awarded over £500,000 of seed funding and created some world-class businesses. With partner support, we now plan to reach out from Nottingham to deliver greater social impact.

Discover how you can get involved – email: ingenuity@nottingham.ac.uk

We were delighted when internationally renowned fashion designer Sir Paul Smith visited our Ingenuity Lab and gave a Vice-Chancellor’s lecture last year. Now, we are thrilled to announce a new “Paul Smith for University of Nottingham” limited edition collection of merchandise, which will launch globally on the Paul Smith website in spring/summer 2020. We hope the partnership will support local jobs and exports, and give two great Nottingham institutions the chance to jointly fly the flag for the city on the international stage.

We're creating the Universities for Nottingham

Building on our pioneering Nottingham in Parliament Day in 2016, this sector-leading partnership with Nottingham Trent University will transform the way we work together to deliver civic good. Launching in early 2020, we will be the first in the UK to undertake a combined economic, social and cultural impact assessment. This will become the foundation of a “Universities for Nottingham Civic Agreement” with local partners, focused on driving transformative change for the people and place of Nottingham.

Ingenuity: ideas to “Change Nottingham, Change the world”

The Ingenuity Event has become one of the UK's biggest entrepreneurship competitions, awarding £150,000 in prize money at the 2019 final. Open to the public for the first time this year, the event attracted people from corporate, civic and community organisations, as well as other universities. In its four-year history, Ingenuity has attracted over 2,000 innovators, awarded over £500,000 of seed funding and created some world-class businesses. With partner support, we now plan to reach out from Nottingham to deliver greater social impact.

Discover how you can get involved – email: ingenuity@nottingham.ac.uk
Chocolate – many of us say we just couldn’t live without it. In times of strife, joy or just plain boredom, that rich, velvety taste can prove irresistible. But cocoa is so much more than a quick pick-me-up after a hard day at work – for millions of cocoa farmers across the world, it is everything.

90% of the world’s cocoa is grown on small family farms in Africa, Asia and Latin America. But rising production costs, competitive global trading markets and new regulations, make growing cocoa a challenging task. Vulnerable to pests and diseases, cocoa trees take 5 years to reach peak production levels and can continue for 10 years with the right care. Yet despite a lucrative global cocoa trade, few farmers see the real economic benefits of their efforts.

Our researchers are working across the cocoa supply chain to help improve the livelihoods and outcomes of cocoa producers. By building a global stakeholder network that includes corporate, research and industry partners, we can drive sustainable change and help smallholder farmers obtain the best deal possible for their cocoa.

To find out more, visit: nott.ac.uk/magicbeans
Once the beans are harvested, what happens to the pod husks? Our researchers have spotted a unique opportunity to turn this waste product into a new bio-fuel, helping support Ghanaian farming communities who currently have little or no access to mains grid power.

“Ghana is the second highest producer of cocoa in the world and every ton of cocoa beans harvested generates 10 tons of cocoa pod husks. In the past, this waste material was underutilised,” explains principal investigator Jo Darkwa, Professor of Energy Storage Technologies in the Faculty of Engineering.

Feasibility studies indicate that cocoa pod husks could be converted into valuable bio-fuels, an important energy supply for rural areas that have only 15% electricity coverage at present.

In addition to energy production and distribution, local jobs would emerge for the collection, treatment, storage and processing of this potentially lucrative by-product. In a further step to help reduce poverty and improve outcomes, a community energy cooperative model will also help the farmers to make money from their new bio-energy source.

“In January 2019, the European Union introduced legislation that reduced the allowable limits of cadmium in cocoa beans. This could prevent some farmers from accessing the higher-paying ‘bean to bar’ market. In collaboration with the Cocoa Research Centre, University of the West Indies, we have been investigating ways to produce cocoa beans that are naturally low in cadmium, wherever they are grown.

“We know there is a large natural variation for cadmium accumulation,” explains Professor David Salt, Future Food Director and Professor of Genome Enabled Biology. “We sampled over 500 different cocoa plant varieties, thanks to the germplasm hosted at the Cocoa Research Centre in Trinidad and Tobago. Variation occurred even when the plants grow in the same soil, suggesting that this variation in cadmium accumulation is in the beans.

“Because of the urgency, we’re exploring two solutions to help growers. In the short-term, we’re testing a grafting approach. This is where we graft the shoot stock of the variety the farmer wants onto the rootstock of a low-cadmium variety.

“Long-term, we’re identifying the genes which control cadmium accumulation. We can then use molecular assisted breeding to grow plants that have the right genes for low cadmium cocoa. With our work in the public domain, it means we can offer all farmers low-cadmium plants in the varieties that they know and love.”

The Future Food Beacon is working to help female smallholder cocoa producers in Columbia get more for their beans by directly accessing the UK’s premium chocolate market. And not just any chocolate maker but Luisa’s Vegan Chocolates in Sneinton, Nottingham, who advocate a ‘bean to bar’ approach to chocolate production. Consumers can enjoy this luxury product knowing where the chocolate is farmed, and the farmers who grow and tend the beans.

“By enabling growers to understand their cocoa bean post-harvest fermentation processes, we can help them to consistently produce a much higher-quality product,” explains David.

“Fermentation is really important for the flavour. Our researchers are sequencing the DNA in the fermentation process, exploring how the microbial population changes and how that connects to the end flavour. We can then work with the farmers to develop practical ways to help them drive the way their fermentation behaves.

“These new technologies are helping to bring the consumer and producer much closer together. By working with a range of partners including the Federación Nacional de Cacaoteros, Casa Luker and supported by Innovate UK, we can create stronger, fairer relationships and a better deal for everyone involved.”

Controlling cadmium uptake

From bean to bar

Turning waste to wealth
Tim Pollard, Nottingham’s official Robin Hood

Photography: Marcus Holdsworth

Words: Tom Hills
Taking aim at breast cancer

When Sally Pollard sadly lost her life to breast cancer, her husband, and real life Robin Hood, vowed to take the ongoing challenge head on.

“Will you be my Maid Marian?” Can you think of a better chat-up line for a man whose job it is to play the heroic outlaw, Robin Hood? This was the very line that Tim Pollard said to the then Sally Chappell, who accepted.

“We spent several years working together as colleagues, playing Robin and Marian. We were chatting all the time, got to know each other really well and after a few years we got together as a couple. It was brilliant because we didn’t have to pretend to be anything to each other, we already knew each other really well and it was just glorious,” said Tim.

Away from the tales of Robin Hood, Sally was a talented researcher in human genetics and dedicated teacher here at the University of Nottingham. Sadly, Sally was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015.

“Unfortunately, by the time it was diagnosed it had spread. She was an incredibly positive person and she didn’t let it get it her down but it was incredibly cruel. We had recently had the little baby girl that she’d wanted for her whole life. I promised her that I would do my absolute best to bring Scarlett up and she seemed comforted that everything was going to be ok.

“We used to talk a lot when she was very poorly – we knew what the eventual outcome was going to be – but Sally kept up with all the research. We said that if she was going to die of cancer then we wanted her to be one of the last people to die from the disease. The research that the Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre is doing is really tackling breast cancer head on. There are advances being made every day and I just want to support that as much as I possibly can. It’s why I took part in the Nottingham 10k in June, running dressed as Robin Hood to help raise funds. It’s important to me to do what I can for Sally, and for everyone else who has been affected by cancer.”

Continue the fight

Thanks to the support of many alumni and friends like Tim, we launched the Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre in 2018. Now thanks to the generosity of donors, we are launching three new pilot projects that will test some of our most novel research. Ideas like blocking DNA repair in advanced breast cancers to improve treatment and using targeted drugs to stop a protein that provides nutrients to growing cancer cells.

Every day, 150 people are diagnosed with breast cancer. With your help, our researchers at the Nottingham Breast Cancer Research Centre can make the next breakthrough faster.

Find out how you can get involved at: nott.ac.uk/nbcrc
“Fintech has a huge impact to make across the globe,” echoes Katie. “In developing countries, it’s giving people access to banking and helping to alleviate poverty. You only have to look at M-Pesa in Kenya – a mobile money transfer service with 25 million Kenyan users – and how that revolutionised money for local people. FinTech is accessing a whole new group of people and enabling them to be part of the economy.”

So far, so good. There are tangible advantages for consumers in this new digital economy. But, there is a dark side to FinTech. Rapid changes through disruptive technology inevitably brings new risks.

“One of the major concerns people have towards using products and services offered by FinTechs is security,” said Melike. “With growing technology usage, we hear more and more about data breaches affecting even established companies and major platforms. Cybercriminals are leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning to access customers’ personal and financial data, which leads to an increase in the cost of data breaches. As the FinTech industry is young and growing fast, the regulators’ role is crucial to help change customers’ attitudes. The Financial Conduct Authority’s regulatory sandbox is a good example of a regulator supporting the industry’s sustainable growth while encouraging companies to innovate.”

“There are new risks that emerge with technology,” adds Meryem. “In particular, money laundering is particularly relevant as terrorism and modern slavery continue to grow. We’ve been working with the Rights Lab and partners in China to introduce an artificially intellectualised anti-money laundering system to help banks have more accurate and efficient money laundering transaction identification processes, preventing the financing of terrorism and modern slavery.”

The Nottingham Fintech Research Network, led by Meryem and launched by the University in 2018, is bringing together researchers, practitioners, regulators and policymakers to advance our understanding of this new technology. A centre of excellence for FinTech scholarship, the Network seeks to identify and understand the new business models emerging through FinTech and their implications on the financial services industry.

“There is little doubt that FinTech represents the future, we just need to understand what shape that future might take,” said Meryem. “In the last years, we’ve witnessed a rapid growth in the FinTech industry, especially in emerging markets in Africa and Asia. If we think from the point of view of a new paradigm in the FinTech industry, an ‘eco-system’, FinTech is an eco-system that has the following pillars: demand for services, infrastructure, talent, capital and regulations. Around the world, most of the FinTech hubs are more or less missing one of these pillars. In short, a perfect FinTech eco-system is yet to exist. So we expect the industry to continue to evolve as we witness FinTech expansion and the perfection of key eco-system pillars such as accommodating yet robust regulatory systems.”

So, the future of money is here with FinTech at the heart of the revolution. But as technological innovation drives progress, the power of the consumer will be more important than ever to shape a financial services industry for the benefit of all.

“The financial services industry was ripe for disruption and evolution,” summarises Katie. “In the past, it was very competitive, every bank out for themselves. In the FinTech space, we’re seeing a more transparent, collaborative environment, where people are focused on providing better services for customers. I think that’s a really positive trend moving forwards. I’m a little idealised in my view on technology, but I believe it’s about empowering the human race and making us better, across the board.”

(Top to bottom)
Melike Belli, Katie Mills, Professor Meryem Duygun
Sally Hanford
Learning Technology Consultant
—
“One of my favourite places on campus is the Chemistry Quadrangle. It’s a bit unloved but the grape vines are voluptuous and overhanging the seat so enthusiastically that it’s possible to lose yourself in the leaves and breathe in the aroma of the plant – it’s the most relaxing lunchtime spot.”

Kiri Madhani
Club Development Coordinator, University of Nottingham Sport (Psychology, 2014)
—
“Highfields is the home of all the green and gold sports teams. It’s the place I trialled for the football team as a first year. It’s the place I won and lost games for three years. It’s the place students go to represent their University with pride. It’s the place that was most important to me every Wednesday afternoon.”

Rachael Lamb
Assistant Professor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation (MBA Business Administration, 2003)
—
“I studied for an MBA between 2000 and 2003. Most of the time other students weren’t even aware my son was born in 2003, and I wrote much of my dissertation in the Djanogly Learning Resource Centre with my son in his carrycot asleep under the table. That’s why it’s my favourite place on campus.”

“Then & Now”

“Now”

“Then”

“I studied for an MBA between 2000 and 2003. Most of the time other students weren’t even aware my son was born in 2003, and I wrote much of my dissertation in the Djanogly Learning Resource Centre with my son in his carrycot asleep under the table. That’s why it’s my favourite place on campus.”

“Now”

“One of my favourite places on campus is the Chemistry Quadrangle. It’s a bit unloved but the grape vines are voluptuous and overhanging the seat so enthusiastically that it’s possible to lose yourself in the leaves and breathe in the aroma of the plant – it’s the most relaxing lunchtime spot.”

“Then”

“Highfields is the home of all the green and gold sports teams. It’s the place I trialled for the football team as a first year. It’s the place I won and lost games for three years. It’s the place students go to represent their University with pride. It’s the place that was most important to me every Wednesday afternoon.”

“Then”

“Now”
Our beautiful campuses are places of treasured memories for many. Six alumni and staff share a location which means something special to them.

**Dawn Hazle**
ESIT Training Administrator, Hearing Sciences (German and Russian, 2006)

“The lake will always be special because it was a base for many Live Action Roleplaying (LARP) sessions on a Saturday night. I ran the University’s LARP for four years and stayed involved for a long time. I met my now-partner in Fresher’s Week during our first session of LARP and made so many friends through it and the Role-Playing and Wargames Society.”

**Tez Hill**
Retired Civil Engineer (Civil Engineering, 1970)

“The grassy slope down the hill towards Lincoln and Derby halls brings back great memories of sledging down the hill on a “nicked very large temporary road sign”, with at least six on board, all bailing out before we hit the wall at the bottom of the hill. I’m sure Ashworth, Aveyard, Edwards, Evans, Liddle and others will all remember!”

**Julian Wiseman**
Emeritus Professor of Animal Production (Animal Production, 1979)

“Alumni from Sutton Bonington will remember the iconic cupola and weather vane originally atop the Dairy. The building was demolished in 2012 to make way for The Barn. The cupola is now in the new landscaped area. As for the weather vane, well it has parted company with the cupola and is now featured on a wall in The Barn.”

**Dawn Hazle**
ESIT Training Administrator, Hearing Sciences (German and Russian, 2006)

“...
Natalie Haydon-Yeung (Law, 2012)
Photography: Anthony Pileggi
Words: Faye Haslam (History, 2012)
Our University is proud to call Nottingham home. We have deep roots in the city and strong connections with our local communities. But our city has its struggles. Figures released by the Office for National Statistics this year revealed that Nottingham has the UK’s lowest disposable household income per head, at just £12,445, with the city named the UK’s ‘poorest city’ for the fifth time in seven years. Meanwhile, the Youth Opportunity Index has ranked Nottingham as having the worst prospects for children and young people in the country.

“When I was at secondary school in Nottingham, we didn’t really have careers advice,” reflects Natalie, today an Associate Solicitor at Geldards Law Firm’s Derby office. Driven by an ambition to be a lawyer from a young age, it was a summer school at the University that convinced Natalie studying law was possible. “I knew from about 14 or 15 that I wanted to be a lawyer but I didn’t know what it entailed or where to start. When I was 16, I attended a summer school at the University. It was a one-week taster of university life, with law lectures, writing workshops, CV and application sessions. It made me feel like I could fit in at a university. If it wasn’t for that summer school, I definitely don’t think I’d be doing what I’m doing now.”

Through a comprehensive outreach programme, the University delivers aspiration-raising activity to Nottingham’s young people, from engaging educational activities in primary schools through to information and guidance on applying to universities for sixth-form and college students.

“Nottingham sits in an area of social and educational deprivation,” explains Emma Szembek, Deputy Director of Student Recruitment (Widening Participation and Outreach) at the University. “Part of our civic role as a University is to aid educational attainment and aspiration in the area. We really want to engage with our local communities. So for example we run three Nottingham Potential IntoUniversity centres, in partnership with the charity IntoUniversity, in Hyson Green, Broxtowe and St Ann’s. These are disadvantaged, hard-to-reach communities. By directly working with Nottingham families and communities, we can try and bring about change.”

While crucial, raising aspirations and creating pathways to university are just one part of the picture. With undergraduate course fees currently at £9,250, and ever-increasing living costs, financial barriers are another obstacle that prevent disadvantaged students from pursuing their university dreams. That’s where philanthropically-funded scholarships and bursaries can make all the difference. After her father passed away when she was 11, and with pressure on her mum to raise Natalie and her younger brother as a single parent, a scholarship was instrumental in enabling Natalie to study law. “It definitely, definitely helped,” said Natalie. “I used it to buy my books, especially because law textbooks are so expensive. Sometimes it would cost a substantial amount for the smallest book! There would have been a lot more pressure on my mum if it wasn’t for the scholarship.”

Against a challenging background, the University’s approach to widening participation is paying dividends.

“...The power of education to transform lives and shape the future of society is unparalleled...”
In 2018, 70% of IntoUniversity centre school leavers progressed to university, while in the 10 years from 2004 to 2014, the University's intake of low-income students rose by nearly 10 percentage points from 17% to 27%. At a national level, the Social Mobility Commission found an increasing proportion of students from low-income families entering university, at 26% compared to 43% of their better-off peers. Yet getting into university is just one step. New research by the London School of Economics shows there is still a class employability gap, with those from privileged backgrounds who get 2.2s more likely to get a top job than working-class students who went to the same universities and got a First. The focus on access to education can often mask the other half of the picture; that disadvantaged students still face barriers even once they are in or have progressed through higher education.

"I remember my first law lecture – I think it was contract law – and thinking that nothing made sense, I had made the wrong decision studying law and that I could not do it," recalls Natalie. "I knew very few lawyers growing up. My parents ran a Chinese restaurant and my grandparents ran a Chinese takeaway. I grew up in this environment. Before I knew it, I was sitting in a big lecture hall trying to learn contract law. It just didn’t feel like I necessarily fitted in at first."

Role models like Natalie are significant to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to navigate the unfamiliar environments of higher education and the careers to which they aspire. Alongside her professional career, Natalie volunteers for the University, mentoring students, sharing her experience at career events and hosting work placement students interested in a legal career.

"I sympathise so much with young people," said Natalie. "There's a lot of pressure on them. I think when you are real and yourself, they open up to you and tell you their worries. They listen to you because you've been there before. It's really important for students to be able to interact with a real person they can relate to. I have many work experience students come to shadow me and I try to get them to see this could be a path for them. I think it’s fair to say in law that it’s still quite who you know, as it is with lots of industries. There's something that motivates me about aiming high. I would love to be a judge one day. I hope this would then inspire others from similar backgrounds to mine that they too could do it."

"I think sometimes the conversation around disadvantaged students can either lead to feeling sorry for people from these backgrounds or conversely to feeling that they are being helped through just because they are disadvantaged. That really misses the point. I don’t think there should be positive discrimination, but how can you argue with the fact that low-income families have fewer opportunities? Disadvantaged students that come to universities like Nottingham are all high achievers but they may well need extra encouragement and reassurance. We need to create a better world where more people can enjoy opportunities to succeed.”

The role of universities in facilitating social mobility cannot be understated. But as much as creating more opportunities, the next step is to create the right opportunities, reflecting the issues and nuances of the local educational environment.

"We've got lots of new initiatives to launch," said Emma. "The 'Universities for Nottingham' programme is a big step forward, working in particular with Nottingham Trent University and the city councils to look at educational work in the area and how we can join together to make more impact. We’re also looking to increase our higher degree apprenticeship routes, opening up higher education through a more vocational pathway. Our end goal is to have a university education where all students can take part and succeed."

The power of education to transform lives and shape the future of society is unparalleled. Yet to ensure this potential can be realised we need to break down barriers at each stage, not just in accessing higher education, but through a degree and beyond. Together, as a university community, we can realise Sir Jesse Boot's vision, to create a brighter future for each succeeding age.

"They listen to you because you've been there before. It's really important for students to be able to interact with a real person they can relate to.

Towards a better future, together

Thanks to alumni donations, 218 new students from disadvantaged backgrounds have received a scholarship as they started their University experience this September. And once here, amazing alumni volunteers like Natalie inspire and support our students to fulfil their potential.

You can make a big difference. Get involved at: nott.ac.uk/socialmobility
Closing the health gap

In an exclusive public lecture at the University Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, argues health care should be an inalienable human right. Yet, all too often, access remains a privilege.
Forever friends

The friendships we make at University are among the most defining in our lives. Three friendship groups reflect on the special connections that began here at Nottingham.

It had actually been 15 years, but it's clear their friendship is one which transcends any concept of time. As the University enters the Rugby Union Club's centenary season, it's clear both men place considerable value on the bond produced during their time on the pitch.

They namecheck several teammates who still form a strong friendship circle: "Steve Johnson who was my best man, we see him when he comes over from America, probably every year to 18 months. If he landed in that chair now the one thing we'd never have to say 'do you remember the time when?' We're immediately off again, laughing and joking," said Colin.

"I can't put my finger on exactly the length of time since we last saw each other, but you would guess from this conversation it might have only been a fortnight." So says Colin Maber (Architecture, 1977) as he sits down with his friend of over 40 years, Steve Cartwright (Medicine, 1978).

"I don't think it would be the same bond had we met in halls or through our studies. If somebody's getting a right kicking then you're not going to stand back - that's a short friendship. It's a lot to do with sport and a great deal to do with rugby," Colin continues.

Steve adds: "There were times where if things weren't going well on the rugby pitch your confidence would be knocked, but the team enabled me to overcome difficulties on my own. Everyone in that team was going to make a success of their lives."
OBITUARIES

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of those members of our University community who have died.

MICHAEL IERODIACONOU 1926 – 2009
(Physics, 1957)

Deputy headmaster and former head of the Mathematics Department at The English School, Nicosia, Cyprus

It’s not every day you hear about a degree spanning 12 years - Michael first entered the University as an undergraduate student in maths/physics combined in 1945. His student life proved episodic: he completed the three-year course, took the maths final exam, but collapsed during the physics final due to tuberculosis. He returned via slow boat to Cyprus and spent two years in a sanatorium, and upon recovery took up a position as assistant teacher at The English School Nicosia. In 1955 he returned to Nottingham on a two-year sabbatical and was able to complete his degree. He was officially awarded a BSc in Physics in 1957, before returning to Cyprus. The University remained dear to his heart throughout his life. A keen sportsman as an undergraduate, he joined the University Air Squadron, and was also on the hockey first eleven and a rambler, activities of which he retained fond memories.

PAM WHITE 1953 – 2018

Tireless supporter and fundraiser for the Nottingham Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC)

Setting up the Sam White Legacy in memory of their son Sam, who died of a brain tumour at the age of 16 in 2013, Pam and her husband Mike dedicated their time to raising awareness and fundraising for the CBTRC, becoming hugely loved and respected across the University in the process. The charity has since raised over £100,000 to pay for equipment, research, and respite holidays to help other young cancer sufferers and their families.

DR STEWART ADAMS 1923 – 2019
(Pharmacy, 1945)

Pharmacologist responsible for the world-changing discovery of the painkiller ibuprofen

Most famously, Dr Adams first self-tested what would become a world-changing drug following a heavy night on the vodka in the former USSR. The next day he was due to be speaking at a conference! Responsible for what is now a multi-billion dollar industry, Dr Adams was incredibly humble about his achievements, living in the same modest house in West Bridgford for over 60 years. In an interview he cited his honorary degree from the University in 2008 as his proudest scientific moment, and thanks to his generosity with his time, generations of students and scientists were fortunate to benefit from his wisdom.

DR ROGER GODFREY 1930 – 2019
(Law, 1950)

Former Council President and highly respected law professional

Dr Godfrey entered University College Nottingham as a student in 1947, just before it became the University of Nottingham. He was one of the first undergraduates in the newly established Department of Law and graduated with a First class honours degree in 1950. He joined University Council in 1954, elected by Convocation, and represented fellow graduates for 26 years. He was appointed Deputy Treasurer in 1980 after being a long-standing member, and then Chair, of Finance Committee. He went on to become President of Council from 1983 to 1993 and Pro-Chancellor from 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1996. He served a total of 42 years on Council.

PAUL CONDON 1970 – 2019
(English, 1992)

Much-loved TV expert and author

Paul’s passions were television and film. Not only did he get to work with what he loved at the BBC but he also had several books published on the subject and - even during his student years - ran some of the most successful television conventions in the UK. While at Nottingham he was President of the Sci-Fi Society and worked hard to include anyone with an interest in television - with Paul in charge, no one was ever left out. The days following his death brought tributes from around the world, including a shout-out from Graham Norton during Eurovision, testimonials in Doctor Who magazine (including from the show’s producer) and words from the many, many people whose lives he had touched.

PAM WHITE 1953 – 2018

Tireless supporter and fundraiser for the Nottingham Children’s Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC)

Setting up the Sam White Legacy in memory of their son Sam, who died of a brain tumour at the age of 16 in 2013, Pam and her husband Mike dedicated their time to raising awareness and fundraising for the CBTRC, becoming hugely loved and respected across the University in the process. The charity has since raised over £100,000 to pay for equipment, research, and respite holidays to help other young cancer sufferers and their families.

We record the passing of alumni and staff on our website if you wish to inform us of a death or obituary:

nott.ac.uk/obituaries
Margaret Hempsell (Economics, 1948) recalls life at Nottingham during the post-wars years, a time of hardship but with hope for a brighter future.

“This is my graduation photograph from 1948. I started at Nottingham in 1945, when I was only 16. My father always wanted me to go to university. He believed in educating girls in the same way as boys. It was fairly unusual to go to university at 16, but it was only because of the war. They used to take the boys at 16 or 17 so they could study for a year before they were called up. When they came back, they went straight into their final degree course.

“The demobbed didn’t speak much about the war. It was a very serious atmosphere, but there was hope for the future because the war was over. We didn’t have much though as we were still rationed. It lasted a long time, when I got married in 1952 we still had ration books.

“Being at University is one of the best times of your life. You’re fairly free of responsibilities, you’re doing what you want to and studying what you enjoy. I didn’t really go far from campus, there was everything you could want here. We had ‘hops’ in the Great Hall – when we’d sing the University song! – and I performed on stage there with the Drama Society.

“You never forget your old university, do you? I’ll always think back fondly to these times.”

Do you want to appear ‘in the frame’ in our next issue? Send your image and story to: alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk