



University of
Nottingham

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA

Community Newsletter

Spring 2022



**Support for
Ukraine**

**Regenerating the
Broadmarsh**

**Exploring
Ancient Iraq**

Welcome

to the Spring 2022 edition of the University of Nottingham's Community Newsletter, our opportunity to share with you the many ways in which the university and our students are positively engaging with our neighbours and supporting communities across the city.



As I write this, it's fantastic to see that the familiar buzz has returned to the university, with students, staff and visitors all enjoying the spring sunshine on our beautiful campus.

This term has seen a welcome return to face-to-face teaching for our students following two long years of frustrating disruptions due to the pandemic. The feedback that we are receiving makes it clear that they are hugely enjoying the opportunity to study alongside their peers once more and to fully immerse themselves in the university experience.

Of course, we are very mindful that while Government restrictions have been lifted, the virus itself has not gone away. We are continuing to take additional protective measures to keep our university community safe and to curb the transmission of Covid-19 where we can. This includes the recommendation on campus that people should wear face coverings in busy indoor areas and observe good hygiene practices. We are advising both our staff and students to continue to self-isolate if they have a positive test and supporting them to enable them to do so and our in-house government accredited weekly testing service will remain in place until the end of the academic year.

As we process the legacy of one global crisis, our thoughts turn immediately to another international catastrophe. Our community has been shocked and horrified by the events following the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The university stands with the Ukrainian people and condemns the actions of the Russian government in the strongest possible terms. You can find out in this edition the actions we have taken, and what our community is doing to help with the unfolding humanitarian crisis that has arisen from the conflict.

And finally, as the Easter holidays approach, do make time to visit our fantastic new exhibition at Lakeside Arts Centre showcasing the treasures from Ancient Iraq, in partnership with the British Museum. Alongside the chance to view rarely-seen artefacts, we are also offering a linked programme of free events which feature something for everyone with an interest in the arts and the ancient world. We hope to see you soon.

Dr Paul Greatrix
Registrar
University of Nottingham



Support for Ukraine

The University of Nottingham condemns the actions of the Russian government in the strongest possible terms. As a university, we are bound by the values of human rights, democracy and international law that are currently being violated by the Russian government's aggression in Ukraine. We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and call on the government of Russia to desist its invasion and the violation of the human rights of civilians in the country.

The University Executive Board has determined that the university will end all formal links with universities in Russia, including current research projects, bilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding and any projects currently under development.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Shearer West said: "The university is taking this unprecedented step in response to the Russian government's invasion of Ukraine. Academic links between universities across the globe can be vital in promoting peace and understanding, and many Russian scholars and students will oppose this war.

"However, I am deeply concerned by the statement issued by the Russian Rector's Union which offers its universities' unequivocal support for the invasion of Ukraine. I am also mindful of the decision by the European Commission to suspend co-operation with Russian entities in research, science and innovation. Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Latvia and Lithuania have independently suspended academic cooperation with Russia."

The university is exploring how we can enable students and postgraduate researchers from Ukraine to study with us in the UK and for affected academic staff to continue their research, either via the Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) or possibly our own scheme.

The university is actively looking to repurpose unused buildings to provide Ukrainian refugees with accommodation and support under the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. The Veterinary School is also part of a network of UK vet schools acting as regional hubs to collect medicines, bandages, and humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

The university has contacted staff and students in our community who are directly impacted by recent events to offer support for their wellbeing and to alleviate the undoubted pressures on them at this time.

Time for a pint?

The Great Hall in the iconic Trent Building on University Park played host to a blood donation session at the end of February, with around 130 students, staff and local residents flocking along to do their bit and help save lives.

The session was organised by Muhammad Ali, the Students' Union Community Officer, who said: "On a personal note, it was an incredible way for me to make my 10th donation in a session that I had organised, having promised it in my manifesto when I ran for Community Officer.

"It was also really lovely to see a huge mixture of people taking advantage of this opportunity - students donating for the first time, staff popping in in between meetings and local residents from the surrounding area also turning up to donate.

"In particular, I spoke to two men who lived in Beeston, who talked about how close and convenient this session was to attend. Everyone is really keen for these sessions to continue, and I'll be working with the university and the NHS to try and make these sessions happen monthly."

Emma Bowley, fourth-year Natural Sciences student (pictured wearing a red jumper), was one of the people who attended the session on 28 February. She said: "It's harder to go and give blood because I'm busy during the day, so having it on campus makes it easier to fit in around lectures. Hopefully it encourages more students to give blood."

Anne Dickinson, a member of staff at the university, agreed. She added: "It's a fantastic opportunity for people to come and donate. The university has been very supportive to staff and let them come and donate during work hours."

Ava Dunn, a second-year Medical Physiology and Therapeutics student (pictured wearing yellow), stressed the importance of giving blood. "As a healthcare student, I see how much blood is used every day and how important it is for people to donate so that we have enough. As a first time Donor, I'd really encourage any students to donate," she said.





Programme helping youngsters in Nottingham get IntoUniversity celebrates 10-year anniversary

A learning centre run by the national charity IntoUniversity in partnership with the University of Nottingham has celebrated its 10th anniversary of working with schools and the local community to support young people to realise their ambitions.

Poor educational outcomes in the area mean that only 9% of young people go on to university in Aspley, the ward where IntoUniversity Nottingham West is located; the ward is also amongst the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. In 2011, through donations to the University of Nottingham from The David Ross Foundation and other generous supporters, IntoUniversity Nottingham West launched in the area, providing thousands of students with access to new opportunities and vital long-term support at an early age. The second centre in Nottingham, IntoUniversity Nottingham East, opened in 2012, followed by IntoUniversity Nottingham Central in 2013.

Ten years on and IntoUniversity centres in Nottingham have had a noticeable impact on young people in the area; since 2011, more than 15,500 young people aged 7-18 have been supported by the centres. Across the entire IntoUniversity network, more than 400 students have attended the University of Nottingham.

More than 9,500 IntoUniversity students have been on trips to the University of Nottingham to find out more about university life and learning. Over 700 mentoring pairs have met over the ten-year partnership, with University of Nottingham students providing over 7,000 hours of support to IntoUniversity students.

Sarah Speight, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience at the University of Nottingham, said: "The University of Nottingham is incredibly proud to be celebrating 10 years of such a strong and vibrant partnership with IntoUniversity here in Nottingham. IntoUniversity plays such a crucial role in helping to transform the lives of so many local young people through its innovative programme of academic support, school workshops, university visits and mentoring. We are delighted to play a part in supporting this great work and we look forward to many more years of partnership to come."

10 years of the Pack for Good campaign

Since 2012, the University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and Nottingham City Council have supported the Pack for Good campaign which sees items, which would otherwise have ended up in landfill, taken to British Heart Foundation shops.

The money raised supports the lifesaving research and work of the British Heart Foundation.

Over the 10 years of students being involved with the Pack for Good campaign, goods donated by Nottingham students have raised a staggering £1,257,193 for the British Heart Foundation.

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, 2021 saw a remarkable effort from our students, both those living on campus and out in the community.

Together last year they saved 2,819 bags with a combined total of more than 22,000 tonnes of waste from being sent to landfill – the equivalent of 229,462 kg CO₂ emissions – and raised £39,466 for the charity.

Our 2022 campaign launches in April with British Heart Foundation big red donation banks temporarily sited in community locations until October. We kick off the BHF donation season with our 'Spring Clean' initiative as we encourage students and the wider community to have a clear out, tidy-up and get using the newly available banks over the Easter period.

Next term, and as we move towards the end of the academic year, in June we'll be focussing on our 'Pack for Good' initiative trying to mitigate end of term moving out waste and boost donations into the banks. The banks are there for everyone to use - please donate generously.



Seeking volunteers for study into vaccine hesitancy

Parents or carers of pre-school children under 6 years old and healthcare professionals in the East Midlands are being invited to take part in a study about their experiences of vaccination.

Social scientists at the University of Nottingham are seeking to interview these groups of people as part of an international project called VAX-TRUST.

Pru Hobson-West, Professor of Science, Medicine and Society, is leading the study at the university.

She said: "Vaccination is a fascinating topic, and we are keen to understand more about the experiences of those involved in childhood vaccination in the East Midlands region.

"The study team are committed to exploring a range of perspectives, including from those who may have concerns or questions about vaccination. Our aim is to provide a non-judgmental opportunity for vaccination to be discussed."

To take part: Parents of pre-school aged children who consider themselves to have questions or concerns about vaccination, or healthcare professions involved in discussing or administering childhood vaccinations (for example, a nurse, GP, or paediatrician) are invited to find out more about the study at nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/vax-trust/interviews.aspx.



Spreading Christmas cheer with surplus food collection

Before the end of the winter term last year, the UoN Off Campus Student Affairs team joined forces with the Students' Union Carnival volunteering group, City Council Community Protection Officers and local residents to undertake a Christmas food collection activity across Lenton and Radford.

Students and residents generously donated their surplus food, which went to the charity food bank Himmah to support their emergency winter appeal as they provided food parcels to those most in need across Nottingham.

To donate food, volunteer or find out more about the work of Himmah, please visit [Himmah.org](https://www.himmah.org)

Love your neighbour? Tell us about it!

Has an individual student, student group, society or student household made a real positive difference in your neighbourhood? Then don't keep it to yourself – make sure they get the recognition they deserve as shining examples in their community.

The university is looking to recognise, celebrate and reward students that go above and beyond to contribute positively to the area in which they live and study through its Nottingham Neighbour Award.

Perhaps you have had exceptionally considerate and helpful student neighbours, or you have witnessed an individual act of selflessness, bravery or kindness. Maybe a student group or society has supported residents to make a difference where you live.

Whether it's a single student, household or student group that deserve recognition for their positive impact on you, your family or on your community as a whole, please do take the time to nominate them. A panel of judges will shortlist nominations and decide on a winner.

The university welcomes nominations from students, non-student residents, charities and community groups.

For more information, please visit: nottingham.ac.uk/nottinghamneighbouraward



Respect your local community

**Please remember
I have school in
the morning**



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Nottingham Trent
University



Nottingham
City Council

Speak to your Student Union to find out how you can support your community

Calling all gin distillers and fans!

A University of Nottingham researcher is appealing for gin producers to get in touch to work with them to develop new flavours.

From 2020 to 2022, the number of UK gin distillers increased by 15%, fuelling the surge in consumer demand for gin. With well over 6,000 brands worldwide, UK gin distillers have to innovate to remain relevant in this dynamic industry.

Dr Hebe Parr, a research scientist in the Flavour Research Group at the University of Nottingham, is helping UK distillers to understand unique aspects of the gin they produce and how to emphasise them.

"If it's commercially available, I would like a small sample of it," said Dr Parr, who completed her PhD in the flavour of roasted malts in beers at the University of Nottingham in 2020.

"We are looking for 5ml samples of as many gins as possible, but my target is around 1,000 different gins. The samples will not be consumed and will be used for instrumental analysis only," Dr Parr, a beverage flavour development specialist, explained.



Hope for hard to recycle plastics

Plastic film waste is a huge environmental challenge. These types of plastics are difficult to recycle yet are produced and used in huge quantities each year.

However, a project using the expertise at the School of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham is working on a solution.

The COtooCLEAN project aims to deliver a revolutionary commercial process that can decontaminate plastic film so that they can be recycled.

The process is waterless and non-toxic, using low-pressure super-critical CO₂ combined with green co-solvents to remove oils, fats and printing inks.

Once this process is perfected, it will be integrated into mechanical recycling operations meaning that more plastic waste can be recycled.



Image courtesy of Nottingham City Council/Heatherwick Studio.

Broadmarsh regeneration plans to reclaim pedestrian streets

Archaeologists and historians from the University of Nottingham have launched a new project to bring the city's hidden history to life as part of the regeneration of the Broadmarsh area – one of the largest city centre redevelopment projects in Europe.

The City of Caves project mission is to make Nottingham's famous underground caves a signature feature of the new development and to highlight Broadmarsh as a leading example of heritage-led place-making, vital to the growth of tourism and the visitor economy.

The partnership, which includes Nottingham City Council, the Nottingham Project, Nottingham Museums and Galleries Service and the National Justice Museum, aims to capitalise on the city's rich history in the design of the new public spaces and visitor attractions. From humble roots as an Anglo-Saxon settlement and later a Danelaw borough, Nottingham became an important royal outpost with its medieval castle which was eventually demolished in 1651. The city's extensive network of manmade caves dates back 1000 years. These were carved into the soft sandstone underground and used as dwellings, workplaces, and storage spaces for many centuries.

The medieval 'Broad Marsh' was an important and busy waterside zone with a Franciscan friary and burial ground, but it later declined into an area of slum housing. The streets were only cleared in the 1970s to make way for the modern Broadmarsh shopping centre.

Academics are working with community groups and societies to map local knowledge of the city's street system before the Broadmarsh centre was built. The plan is to restore some of the long-lost medieval street networks.

"We're very excited to start this project and hope our input in the regeneration will put Nottingham firmly on the map as a centre of historical interest like York or Chester," said Dr Chris King, from the university's Department of Classics and Archaeology.

"We also want to work with community groups and societies, such as the Nottingham Historical and Archaeological Society, Nottingham Civic Society and The Thoroton Society, to map local knowledge of the caves and the city's street system before the 1970s Broadmarsh centre was built. At the moment, the knowledge and archive resources are scattered, and we want to bring it all together to embed this fascinating aspect of the city into the regenerated area."

Stunning antiquities from Ancient Iraq go on display at Lakeside Arts

Stunning ancient artefacts from the 'cradle of civilisation' are on display at Lakeside Arts as part of a new exhibition being held in partnership with the British Museum.

Ancient Iraq: New Discoveries marks the first time that the British Museum has toured new Iraq field research alongside key objects from the museum's collection and the first time that some artefacts have been displayed outside London.

The exhibition runs at Lakeside's Djanogly Gallery until Sunday 19 June. It offers people in the East Midlands the chance to learn more about the cultural significance of Ancient Iraq and the challenges around protecting Iraq's archaeological treasures. For Iraqi communities in the region, the exhibition gives a rare opportunity to connect with their ancient cultural heritage through 80 remarkable objects from some of the earliest cities in the world.

On display in the exhibition for the first time outside of London is a statue of Gudea, ruler of the ancient state of Lagash, which would have originally been erected within a Sumerian temple complex dating back to c.3000–2000 BC.

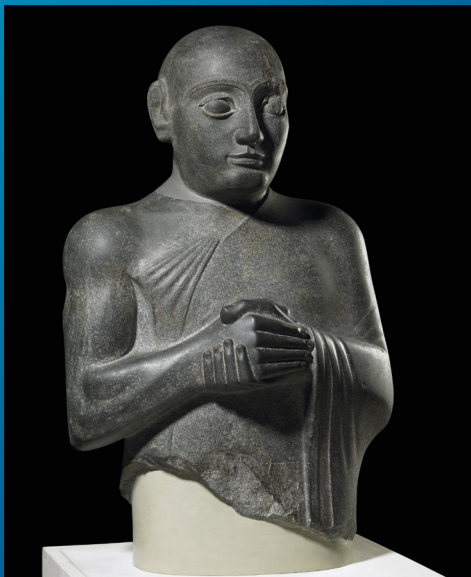


Stunning artefacts from the 'Royal Tombs' of Ur in present-day Iraq provide a fascinating insight into life and death in these early cities. Luxurious grave goods crafted from gold, silver and lapis-lazuli demonstrate how the ruling elite displayed power through spectacular burial customs.

One section of the exhibition addresses the appalling destruction of Iraq's rich cultural heritage over the past 30S years and the new cultural heritage initiatives focused on research, training and site conservation which are being launched throughout Iraq.

To accompany the exhibition, the University of Nottingham Museum is running an exciting public engagement programme to encourage members of the local community to dig deeper behind the tales of Ancient Iraq. It includes talks from colleagues in Iraq and the UK; exhibition tours; music; videos; and activities for children.

More information is available at lakesidearts.org.uk/AncientIraq





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Dates for the diary

Take Care, a new opera based on research into the working lives of professionals who care for people with dementia at home - Sunday 2 April to Sunday 3 April, Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts.

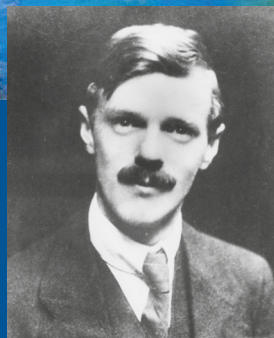
Sutton Bonington Farmers Market – Wednesday 6 April 11am to 3pm, Sutton Bonington Campus.

Editing Magnus public lecture by Professor John Worthen, linked to the Editing DH Lawrence Exhibition – Thursday 7 April, Djanogly Theatre, Lakeside Arts, University Park.

Play in 3 Days, offering children the opportunity to devise, rehearse and perform a play inspired by the Brothers Grimm Tales – Wednesday 13 April to Friday 15 April, Performing Arts Studio, Lakeside Arts.

Graduation for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 – Saturday 7 to Friday 13 May at East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park.

To find out more about events at Lakeside Arts and how to book, visit lakesidearts.org.uk



D H Lawrence



Play in 3 Days

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University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this newsletter was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

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