



University of  
Nottingham

# Community Newsletter

Spring 2021



**Extra funding for  
CPO support**

**Staff and students  
support the vaccination  
programme**

**First Responders  
celebrate major  
milestone**

# Welcome

to the Spring 2021 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.



At the University, our researchers are playing an active role in helping to develop our understanding of the virus and how we might live safely alongside it in the future – whether it be through the development of vaccines that are effective in fighting new strains or finding ways to protect the most vulnerable in our society, including the care home residents who have been so disproportionately affected during this pandemic.

We know the period of successive lockdowns has been a challenging time for the city and its residents, including many of our own students. We want to ensure both continued adherence to all the rules and a safe exit from the restrictions for everyone.

The University continues to work with students to underline the crucial role they can play in the successful unlocking of the country by accessing regular testing and continuing to stick to the Covid-19 regulations, and we are working closely with local partners to tackle any instances of antisocial behaviour.

With this latest edition of the Community Newsletter, you should have received a guide which outlines our Code of Discipline for students, the consequences for anyone breaking the rules and, most importantly, the help and support that is available to residents and how to access it.

We want to see a return to a community experience which is positive and respectful and where all residents can enjoy the quality of life they expect.

As always, we are keen to hear your feedback on the newsletter, and whether you would prefer an electronic version, so please do let us know by emailing [offcampus@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:offcampus@nottingham.ac.uk)

**Dr Paul Greatrix**  
Registrar  
University of Nottingham

Easter always feels like a time of new beginnings, but as we progress along the Government's roadmap, and hopefully meeting each of the milestones necessary to facilitate the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, there feels like an even greater reason for optimism this year.

Vaccination for the adult population will play a huge role in life returning to something which feels a little more familiar to us all. The University has been very proud to play a part in the city's vaccination programme by hosting two vaccination sites at our Cripps Health Centre on University Park Campus and at our King's Meadow Campus on Lenton Lane. Many of our staff and students have been working at the sites, doing their bit to help administer vaccinations. The sense of excitement from people receiving the jabs been palpable, as it represents the first steps to freedom.

The anniversary of the start of the pandemic and the first UK lockdown in March was an opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly difficult year for so many people but also the chance to ponder what comes next.

## Students achieve fabulous fundraising despite challenges of the pandemic

This year UoN students and student groups have come together to achieve incredible things for charities. The current combined total of their efforts so far this academic year stands at £212,000. Highlights include the University's Movember campaign, where more than 1,000 students helped to raise over £115,000 for men's health and the £17,793 raised by the Islamic Society during their charity week in October.

In December, UoN Sport Water Polo raised more than £7,000 by completing Miles for Mind.

Millie Washington, Director of the University's student-led fundraising organisation Karnival, said: "Karnival has raised over £60,000 already this year for charity, through providing events and challenges for students showing that UoN students are continuing to fundraise, despite the struggles of fundraising in a global pandemic."

## Extra funding from University for CPO support

**The University has provided extra funding to Nottingham City Council's Community Protection Officers (CPOs) in response to the challenges posed by Covid-19 in supporting local residents that experience anti-social behaviour.**

For a number of years, the University has made up to £30,000 available to enable the officers to patrol longer, later and more often in the Lenton, Dunkirk and Radford areas, providing high visibility reassurance for those communities and dealing with issues including noise nuisance, litter and waste.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have invested an additional £20,000 in the service. The £50,000 is used flexibly to adapt to demands as they become a priority. Service delivery is coordinated in partnership with the University, NCC and Nottinghamshire Police based on crime data and feedback from local residents.

The University regularly joins with the CPOs to run Operation Corridor when senior members of the University, including the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar, have been out on patrol with

the team, seeing the challenges of supporting neighbourhood cohesion first-hand, and speaking to both residents and students about their experiences.

Tom Lynk, Senior CPO for Lenton, Dunkirk and Radford, said "Thanks to the University funding we have been able to offer an additional foot patrol service between the hours of 10pm and 2am every night of the week in March, something we haven't done before.

"As we move into a position of easing restrictions, I will further add an additional foot patrol team for April, doubling that resource yet again. Because CPOs work closely with Nottinghamshire Police, we are dispatched through the Police radio system and residents should call 101 to report issues."

## A message from Amy English, Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Radford, Lenton and Arboretum:

**I fully understand the impact that antisocial behaviour is having on both long-term residents and students in the local area.**

It's unacceptable and we will fully support people in the Arboretum, Lenton and city centre who have been impacted in this way by taking firm action against those who have no respect for the impact that their behaviour has on their neighbours.

We have shown that the dispersal order is an effective tool in our response to dealing with antisocial behaviour. The orders will be in place every weekend for the foreseeable future and we will continue to take positive action at every opportunity in order to take action against those individuals who harm the community the most.

We continue to listen to concerns from the community and would like to reassure them that we will do everything we can to tackle the issue.

Alongside Covid-19 restrictions, antisocial behaviour remains a neighbourhood priority for the team at Radford Road Police Station.

Residents have reported ongoing concerns around antisocial behaviour and my officers see it every day. I am using all policing powers available to me to prevent and enforce on those who are intent on causing issues in the community.

Nottinghamshire Police and partners are committed to reducing anti-social behaviour in our local communities and taking action against anyone engaging in criminal or antisocial behaviour.

When we placed the order on Saturday 20th March we said we would adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards people who ignored our previous warning by showing a blatant disregard for the Covid-19 rules or acted in an antisocial manner.



The reduction in incidents and our increased number of fixed penalty notices show that our action throughout that weekend was a success.

We continued an increased police presence and operational patrols in the targeted antisocial behaviour areas including green spaces across the city and we were able to disperse crowds away from these locations.

The number of reports of similar incidents we attended reduced from the previous days. We'd like to thank the vast majority for staying out of the area following the order.

For those who continue to disrespect the community and this city we are urging them to respect their neighbours more and we thank the vast majority of residents who already do. Particularly during these times where we need to work better together.

## University staff and students step up to support the NHS vaccination programme



**The University of Nottingham is supporting the NHS Covid-19 vaccinations programme, with two local vaccination services across its campuses and staff and students stepping up to help administer the vaccine.**

The University's King's Meadow Campus is hosting one of the largest sites in Nottinghamshire providing the vaccine to people from across the city and wider county.

One vaccination hub is based in Studio 7 – home to the filming of dramas and gameshows including Supermarket Sweep and Family Fortunes in the campus' former life as Carlton TV studios.

Student Luke Halls is one of the people vaccinating at KMC. He said: "For me as a first-year physiotherapy student, it just allows me to make a difference. You can play your part at the moment by following the rules but this is actually making a big difference and it's how we are going to see our way out of this crisis."

At the University-supported vaccination site at Cripps Health Centre on University Park Campus, 40 University staff and students have been recruited to administer the jab.

Among the University of Nottingham students who successfully applied to work at the Cripps centre was 24-year-old Shahzeb Ali, a fourth year medical student, who said: "The opportunity to get involved in a national vaccination programme in the middle of a pandemic that will have a huge impact on getting the country immunised and back on its feet was a once in a lifetime opportunity. We all have to do our part in these unprecedented times, this is my way of contributing."

Traci Hudson, Assistant Professor of Midwifery, is one of 14 members of staff from the University's School of Health Sciences who put themselves forward to be seconded to the vaccination service at the University.

She said: "This pandemic has impacted on us all in so many different ways and as a midwifery lecturer, I have been watching from the sideline feeling both frustrated and guilty that I cannot do my bit alongside my clinical counterparts. I am so proud of this university, as we know it has contributed a lot to the pandemic efforts and I am very much looking forward to being a further part of this."



## Covid-19 – What’s it like to work on the frontline?

Olivia Payne, fourth-year medical student, talks about life as a student and a key worker.

“At the beginning of September the situation seemed to be easing and there was a lot of hope. As cases rose, there was a shift in the attitude among healthcare staff. Doctors and nurses seemed increasingly worried, and more hesitant to bring people into the practice to examine. Patients became nervous about attending the practice and would speak with resentment about how it was the students bringing Covid-19 back to Nottingham. This was awkward for me, being both a student and a key worker. This has been a recurrent theme with the media and various sources blaming students for the rise in cases and attributing the reckless behaviour of a minority to spreading the virus around. I think this blame is very misplaced, students have had to deal with confusing rules, no rent or bills breaks and a new isolated lonely life away from home. It is not an easy time to be a young person, and when a lot of students are working really hard on placements with the NHS, the bad reputation doesn't seem entirely fair.

I've been working on a number of different wards and clinics seeing people of all ages. Most recently I've been on Obstetrics & Gynaecology placement in King's Mill Hospital in Mansfield. I have encountered a few pregnant women with Covid-19 in the last few weeks, which has been quite difficult.

I have recently spoken to a doctor about one of the women presenting to the labour ward with abdominal pain, who then tested positive for Covid-19 and has continued to deteriorate. She is experiencing severe breathing problems and has been transferred to intensive care. There has been debate surrounding all aspects of her care, is the baby's life endangered due to the mother's worsening condition, and what is the correct step to take next regarding both of their care? It is uncharted territory for a lot of cases on the labour ward and difficult decisions for staff to make.

On more than one occasion I have found healthcare professionals of all levels crying in the staff room, or on their short breaks. Working tirelessly everyday with Covid-19 patients, and then reading about how people don't think it's real, is extremely upsetting.

I live in a student area of Nottingham and hearing about house parties still going on is really hard. I try to defend student's reputation but it can be difficult when selfish behaviour is blatant. I believe that if anyone spent one day in a hospital, seeing the effect Covid-19 has on the patients and the staff, they wouldn't be so eager to flout the rules. I want to be proud of the way I acted in this pandemic when I tell stories of it when I am older, and I think this is the attitude everyone should adopt.”

## The University First Responder volunteers celebrate a major milestone in March

A group of trained student volunteers who give up their time to support the East Midlands Ambulance Service helping patients with life-threatening emergencies are celebrating a very special milestone.

The University of Nottingham First Responders, a team of 50 students, has reached an incredible 20,000 volunteered hours this month and have been called out to 8,000 real-life medical emergencies since the initiative was first launched in 2014. Since then, they have attended various emergency calls from allergic reactions to strokes, including 383 cardiac arrests, 1,288 breathing problems, 1,265 chest pains, 1,110 unconscious patients.

Community First Responders (CFRs) are trained and dispatched by the ambulance service to attend 999 medical emergency calls in their local area. They are taught lifesaving skills and carry specialist equipment to provide patients with initial care before the arrival of paramedics. The University scheme includes a large number of medical students, which enables them to practise their skills in a pre-hospital environment.

Using two cars based at Portland Building on University Park, the team can be tasked with 999 calls anywhere in the East Midlands. This academic year alone they have responded to 804 medical emergencies and in 71% of the cases they arrived first on the scene, enabling them to provide the

patient with vital emergency care quicker than it would otherwise have come. The scheme is completely financially independent from the ambulance service and relies on fundraising and donations, as well as support from the University of Nottingham and its Students' Union.

Adam Balogh, a Responder and final-year chemical engineering student said: “Being a First Responder is the best thing I have done during my time at Nottingham. I have been responding with the Scheme for three years and I absolutely enjoy it. I have attended to more than 260 patients, including a successful resuscitation, severe asthma attacks, choking and reassuring a worried family as their four-month-old baby was having a seizure. It is the most satisfying feeling when we can help patients. However, we should not always think of huge ‘lifesaving procedures’, sometimes a kind word and quality care can change lives. It is so valuable to give back to the local community, meanwhile meeting other students from a diverse background with the same interest.”

## Misogyny researchers hail new police action to record harassment of women

The national roll-out of a police requirement to record data on hate crimes motivated by misogyny has been welcomed by a team of campaigning researchers at Nottingham's two universities, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping.

It follows a government decision to direct all police forces to trial a system of recording misogyny hate crimes on a routine basis. The new system will cover all crimes motivated by hostility to women and could become part of the Domestic Abuse Bill currently going through Parliament.

The University researchers have already contributed to the Law Commission review and hope the new data collected by police forces will inform their decision on whether to make misogyny a hate crime in law.

Nottinghamshire was the first police force in the country to treat misogyny as a hate crime in 2016, which was evaluated in 2018 by university researchers Professor Louise Mullany in the University of Nottingham's School of English and Professor Loretta Trickett from Nottingham Law School at Nottingham Trent University. They found that 93.7% of women had experienced harassment and 87% of the public wanted the police to treat this behaviour as a hate crime and for this to be rolled out nationally. The research recommended that gender or sex should be protected in hate crime law and has directly informed amendments to the Upskirting Bill.

Professor Mullany said: "It's six years since Nottinghamshire Police trailblazed this initiative, and our research has consistently shown the immense value of this policy for women and girls in Nottinghamshire. The next step is for the Government to approve the Law Commission Review's recommendation of making sex/gender a hate crime category, so that this can be properly reflected in law."

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping, added: "It's good news for everyone involved and I'm grateful to all those who have worked so hard to achieve this. At the end of the day, everyone has the right to go about their daily business without harassment and abuse."

## World's first Covid-19 vaccine alternating dose study begins

**Participants have received their first vaccine at Cripps Health Centre at the University, as part of the world's first Covid-19 vaccine study researching alternating doses and intervals of approved vaccines.**

111 participants turned up to receive their first vaccine as part of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-supported study.

The aim of the study is to determine the effects of using a different vaccine for the second dose to the first dose, in addition to two different intervals between doses.

The study, classified as an Urgent Public Health study by the NIHR, is being undertaken by the National Immunisation Schedule Evaluation Consortium (NISEC) and the Oxford Vaccine Group, and is backed by £7 million of government funding from the Vaccines Taskforce.

Dame Professor Jessica Corner, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange at the University of Nottingham, was one of the participants to receive the first vaccination as part of the trial.



She said: "I am so pleased to be involved in a study which is asking crucial questions about the efficacy of combining different vaccines and the important question of the timing of the booster injection. From a personal perspective, it is great to be able to contribute in a very small way to the efforts scientists and medics across the globe have been making towards vaccine development. In my professional role, I am very proud to see such world-leading work being done from the University of Nottingham Health Service. This is just one of numerous studies that have already been carried out here, and it is a real team effort. I'm looking forward to taking part and to seeing the benefits of these alternating doses."



## Leading eye expert appointed High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire

**Harminder Singh Dua, Professor of Ophthalmology in the University's School of Medicine, has been appointed as High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire for the next 12 months.**

The High Sheriff is one of the oldest roles in the country going back over a thousand years, and pre-dating Robin Hood by several hundred years.

The High Sheriff plays an increasingly active and supportive role within the county both in relation to the Police and emergency services and in lending encouragement to public sector agencies such as the probation and prison services and to voluntary sector organisations involved in crime reduction and social cohesion. The principal formal duties of High Sheriffs today include attendance at royal visits in the county and support for Her Majesty's High Court Judges when on Circuit.

Professor Dua, who was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2019, is best known for the discovery of a previously undetected layer of the human cornea in 2013. His work to develop our understanding of this Pre-Deemet's layer – also dubbed Dua's Layer – has already informed three new surgical techniques and made lamellar corneal transplantation safer.

Professor Dua said: "Being High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire is a high honour and rare privilege. I will work to support charities and local voluntary organisations and focus on Community health and Religion and the Environment (CARE). To care for those who serve us and for those who we serve."

## New trial to test drugs for preventing Covid-19 in care homes

A new trial has been launched recently that will look at reducing the transmission of Covid-19 and its severity in care homes, thanks to funding from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The team of University experts are recruiting up to 400 care homes to take part in the ground-breaking trial called PROTECT.

Researchers will test drugs that already show promise for treating Covid-19, but will use them to prevent Covid-19 instead. The team will focus on care home residents because they are at high risk from Covid-19, and although priority has been given to them for vaccination, the effectiveness of vaccines in this group has not yet been fully established. The aim is to reduce the number and severity of Covid-19 cases in those homes.

The UK has more than 21,000 care homes looking after 420,000 residents, many of whom have dementia or physical care needs. Up to half of all Covid-19 deaths in the UK have occurred in care homes. If PROTECT can identify an effective drug to reduce the severity of Covid-19, and the likelihood of transmission, then this, alongside other measures, could help enable a return to a more normal life for care home residents and their families, including more liberal visiting policies.

Professor Philip Bath, who is leading the trial, said: "Apart from vaccines, there are no drugs for preventing serious Covid-19 and we believe that the PROTECT trial has a good chance of finding one or more drugs that might reduce the awful death rates seen in care homes."

## Support for food bank in Kegworth is helping to feed families in need

Staff and students at the University's Sutton Bonington campus have been helping to support a new pop up food bank in neighbouring Kegworth village.

The donation point for the Kegworth Larder in the campus café and shop was among nine locations hosted in local shops, pubs and private residences and for five weeks at the end of 2020, more than 56 families were supported with three large carrier bags of food per family.

Supplies also went to the local Carpenters Arms (Christian Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation association) for more than 50 residents, the Falcon Centre (for street homeless) which has enough to help 200 people and lastly three large boxes of baby supplies were given to three local families.

The Kegworth Larder volunteers also established a Go Fund Me account which raised more than £765 and 11 new volunteers came forward to help with the collection, sorting distribution, with Kegworth Parish Council allowing the use of their offices as a storeroom and focal point. The key distribution point was the use of the beer garden at the rear of The Coach House Pub and the Co-op accepted the initiative into their Food Share scheme.

## Free face masks project helps protect vulnerable in the community

A project funded with a £250 grant from the Community Chest, has seen free face masks and information packs handed out to local residents. As student Neha Harrish, who led the initiative, explains:

"Given the rules on face masks when indoors, we wanted to use our artistic skills to sew face masks and provide them to students and other local residents living in Lenton, Dunkirk and Beeston.

To encourage social responsibility and community engagement, we wanted to provide fun and artistic masks to students and local residents in Nottingham, particularly the elderly and vulnerable. We accompanied the masks with pamphlets advising people on how to stay safe.

"We want to encourage community engagement and link students to their community by ensuring they follow safety procedures. As students come from all over the world, it is important that they take responsibility for the safety of Nottingham's community, especially high-risk individuals."



## University working with local representatives to tackle Lenton Rec issues

The University is working with local residents and councillors to take action, following concerns raised over the misuse of Lenton Recreation Ground.

The Off-Campus Affairs Team has organised for prominent new signage to be placed at the ground after reports of damage by people, a number of whom were students, wearing prohibited football studs on the grass.

In addition, issues with illegal gatherings and littering have also been reported.

The University has communicated with students to remind them that a no studded footwear policy is in place for the recreation ground and to underline that any students deliberately ignoring the rules around use of the park and Covid-19 regulations may be subject to action under its Code of Discipline.

Instead, they are being re-directed to the nearby Charnock Field on Jubilee Campus where ball games are permitted (while following current Government Covid-19 guidelines).



The damaged area of Lenton Recreation Ground has now been roped off and the University will be contributing to the cost of repair to the grass, in addition to its annual sponsorship of the ground. Re-seeding of the area is due to take place in the near future.

In addition, the University has also made funding available to increase patrols of the park by Community Protection Officers and Student Ambassadors, organised and funded by the University, have been conducting regular litter picks at both Lenton and Radford Recreation grounds.



# Nottingham experts join forces with Aardman to tackle mental health crisis

Experts from the University have joined forces with Aardman, the award-winning independent studio, on a campaign to encourage young people to become more aware of the factors that may be having a negative impact on their mental wellbeing.

Called 'What's Up With Everyone?', the campaign features a series of short films aimed at young people aged 17-24, and has been co-created with the young audience it sets out to support.

The films, which have been shared on social media alongside a supporting website – [whatsupwitheveryone.com](http://whatsupwitheveryone.com) – introduce five characters, each of whom is contending with an issue related to loneliness, perfectionism, competitiveness, independence and social media – five of the most common issues negatively impacting young people, according to the campaign's research.

The campaign was led by Professor of Health Humanities Paul Crawford, with support from Dr Sachiyo Ito-Jaeger and Dr Elvira Perez Vallejos at Nottingham, along with research teams including Loughborough University, the London School of Economics and Politics; the Mental Health Foundation; mental wellbeing charity, Happy Space; and young people's mental health expert, Dr Dominique Thompson.

Professor Crawford said: "These wonderful short animated stories should help all our young people to think about, and explore solutions to the kind of mental health challenges that come with difficult life transitions, such as heading off to university or college or starting in training or employment. The films and supporting online resources will be very welcome at this time, with all the disruption and anxieties in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic."



## Stay in touch

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