



University of
Nottingham

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Community Newsletter

Spring 2023



**Student Living
Strategy**

**Community
litter pick**

**Pack for Good
fundraising**

Welcome

to the Spring 2023 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.

In this edition, we are delighted to be able to share the news that our new Student Living Strategy has recently been unveiled and opened to public consultation. It's the first time that Nottingham's two universities have formally worked together in collaboration with Nottingham City Council to take a concerted approach to planning for the students who will come to the city of Nottingham to live and study.

Attracting the brightest and the best students is great news for our city, not only because of the value that they bring economically and culturally, but with around 30 per cent of them also choosing Nottingham as their permanent home after graduation, many go on to take up roles where there are current shortages, including doctors, nurses, teachers and vets.

However, we understand that having a large student population brings its own challenges and to ensure balanced, harmonious communities across our city, we know that we must provide high quality and safe housing for all, including supporting more purpose-built student accommodation to increase choice, as well as working together to reduce any potentially negative issues, including noise and waste. I would strongly encourage you to take the time to read the full strategy which is available via the city council's website – see more details in the article on Page 3.

You will also read in this newsletter the many ways in which our students have been making a difference in our communities – whether it be helping to keep the streets clean, collecting donations to help feed those most in need, working with disadvantaged young people in local schools or taking care of our green spaces, we are extremely proud of the contributions they make and we thank them for all their hard work.

And as we approach Easter, do remember that our campuses provide the perfect place to welcome the more spring-like weather, enjoy a lakeside walk or even take in an exhibition or performance at Lakeside Arts. We look forward to seeing you soon.



Dr Paul Greatrix
Registrar
University of Nottingham

New plan for the future of student living in Nottingham

A new plan has been created to increase the choice and quality of student housing, maximise the benefits of a large student population and better tackle any associated challenges for communities in Nottingham.

Being home to two popular, world-class universities brings huge benefits to Nottingham. Students are important to the culture of the city, its economy and social scene and Nottingham's national and international reputation. Both universities add a combined £3.8 billion to the UK economy every year and support around 14% of the local economy, plus 25,000 jobs across the area.

The Student Living Strategy marks the first time that Nottingham City Council, the University of Nottingham, and Nottingham Trent University have made a formal commitment to work proactively together on shared priorities for housing and local services, as well as maximising the benefits that students bring to Nottingham.

Together they recently held a four-week consultation so people in the city could have their say on the proposals.

Dr Paul Greatrix, Registrar at the University of Nottingham, said: "This strategy will offer a new and positive partnership approach to dealing with challenges around ensuring the availability of good quality, appropriate housing for all Nottingham residents, building vibrant, positive communities and ensuring that we are capitalising on the talent and potential of the people who come to study and live in our city."

The Student Living Strategy sets out three main priorities:

- Improving the quality, safety, affordability and location of student accommodation, and encouraging a better balance of student housing choice across the city, which in turn will lead to more positive, diverse communities
- Encouraging neighbourliness, where students contribute to creating a clean, attractive and sustainable environment, and tackling the impact of waste and noise
- Increasing community cohesion, ensuring students are valued members of their communities and improving graduate retention in the city

Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/news/student-living-strategy-consultation-launch



Nottingham becomes the newest area to fly the purple flag in 2023

Nottingham has been awarded the prestigious Purple Flag accreditation for its evening and night-time economy, in recognition of the city's vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture, whilst promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and local residents.

Similar to the Blue Flag for beaches, the Purple Flag aims to raise the standard and broaden the appeal of town and city centres between the hours of 5pm and 5am.

In awarding the Purple Flag to Nottingham, governing body Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) highlighted the work being done through Nottingham's Safe Space Pledge which delivers practical solutions to reduce the vulnerability of women visiting the city's night-time economy.

The Safe Space Pledge, which was developed by the Consent Coalition in partnership with Nottingham Business Improvement District (BID), and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, provides eight clear actions and commitments Nottingham venues can take to improve the safety of women and girls within their premises.

Also recognised was Nottingham's investment in first aid measures for the evening and night-time economy, and the high standard of transport in the City, including the focus on environmentally conscious transport methods.



Careers fair matches students with volunteering opportunities

Students at the university were recently offered the chance to meet charities and voluntary groups and learn about the numerous opportunities they offer to get involved and give something back as part of a brand new Volunteering Careers Fair.

Held on Monday 13 February in the Portland Building on University Park Campus, the event featured stalls from a wide range of organisations, including Healthwatch Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Sue Ryder, Citizen's Advice Broxtowe, Coachbright, Foodcycle and Mojatu Foundation, to name just a few.

By chatting to the representatives from the charities and voluntary groups, students were able to find out how they could give back to their community, boost their CV with new skills, gain essential experience for their future career and make a difference in the world while having an adventure and meeting new people.



Out and about with the Community Engagement Ambassadors

The university's team of Community Engagement Ambassadors (CEAs) has met with MP for Nottingham South Lillian Greenwood to discuss the aims of the project and demonstrate what they do in the community.

The Community Engagement Ambassador scheme has so far employed 12 students to work in Lenton and Radford and engage with students about their waste and recycling, household security and how to live respectfully in the neighbourhoods. The scheme has been up and running for close to six months with the students each conducting roughly six hours of patrols per week, which has allowed them to build relationships with student and long-term residents.

After initially meeting the newly appointed CEAs in October, Lillian joined the ambassadors on one of their patrols in February to see them in action. The ambassadors and Lillian spoke about the project's progress and how they have learned to work in the community, detailing the best times of day for engagement and how they approach conversations. They were keen to take her through their reporting form which flags any issues that cannot be dealt with on the doorstep back to the Community Engagement team for action.

The ambassadors spoke about how they have personally seen improvements in the areas and received positive feedback from residents. Community Engagement Ambassador, Georgia Varunakulasingham said: "It was great to meet our local MP and to discuss how we have been working with the community. Lillian was really interested in the project, and we all look forward to working with her in the future."



Supporting nature and the great outdoors

The Conservation and Nature Society is a student union group focused on active conservation work and getting people into the outdoors.

Every Wednesday afternoon Consoc works with different organisations to help improve our local environment, previously working with council park rangers, the university's Estates Team, Waterside Care and TinyForests, to name but a few. There is also the opportunity to come along to the community garden on a Saturday and help with growing produce for the allotment, partaking in fun and seasonal activities, and maintaining the grounds.

Recently, while volunteering with Nottingham City Council's park rangers we were granted access to help conserve the Nottingham Arboretum, a very exciting and exclusive opportunity to improve one of Nottingham's best outdoor spaces. We have also been chosen by TinyForests: Earthwatch Europe, an initiative that aims to bring the benefits of a forest right into the heart of our cities and urban spaces, to work on a new community engagement scheme focused on engaging people in citizen science through university groups, powered by an UKRI: NERC grant.

Every week tackles a different challenge across the city; completing work in Beeston, Attenborough, Lenton, Bulwell and the city centre so far in 2023, while also taking trips further afield to explore conservation issues across the country. In the autumn, we spent a weekend volunteering for the Peak District National Park Rangers clearing an area of woodland to replant with native trees this spring. We look forward to returning soon!

Bryony Jarman
ConSoc President



Safe Space scheme expands to city's streets

A mobile 'Safe Space' is helping to ensure more women and girls can feel safe on a night out in Nottingham.

It builds on the success of the city's Safe Space Pledge – developed by Nottingham Business Improvement District (BID) and the Consent Coalition - which enlists the support of Nottingham venues to commit to eight clear actions to help keep women and girls safe in their premises.

The van is bringing the campaign to the city's streets and has been wrapped in the Safe Space livery to make it clearly identifiable. It is staffed by uniformed Community Protection officers to give a reassuring presence.

Two fire engines have also been wrapped in the Safe Space livery to help spread the message - Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Fire Service firefighters are often in the city centre at night and are always on hand to help vulnerable people.

Funding for the project has come from the Home Office's Safer Streets scheme.

The Safe Space Pledge launched in March 2022 and was the first time in the UK a city has included a pledge to protect women and girls as part of the Best Bar None accreditation scheme – a nationwide initiative that aims to recognise and reward responsible night-time economy premises.



A 'rubbish' day for student litter picking volunteers

Members of Karnival, the university's student-led fundraising and volunteering organisation, hit the streets of Lenton in February to organise a litter pick in partnership with Nottingham Clean Champions.

The initiative brought together more than 20 student volunteers and local residents, resulting in more than 30 bin bags full of rubbish off the streets of Lenton!

They already have plans to repeat the activity regularly, giving all students an easy and flexible opportunity to improve their local environment and take pride in their local community.



Karnival foodbank collection helps vulnerable to receive their FareShare

Karnival, the university's student-led fundraising and volunteering organisation, arranged a very successful local collection for foodbank, FareShare Midlands, before students went home for the winter break in December. They teamed up with university societies and asked Lenton and Radford residents for any non-perishable food they would be willing to donate.

In preparation for this, the Community Engagement team printed and delivered business cards with the items FareShare were looking for. Some very generous residents had prepared bags full of donations ready to be collected. Members of the Men's Football and the Dance Society were out on the doorsteps to engage with residents, encourage them to donate and inform them where their donations were going.

The donations were taken to FareShare Midlands and packed onto two pallets and weighed an impressive 400 kilograms. These donations were then divided up and distributed among different projects to help vulnerable people over Christmas.

Karnival Director, Muhammad Ali, said: "It was so amazing to see so many students supporting this initiative - whether they were knocking on doors collecting, or chasing us down the street to give us a tin of beans! A perfect example of a student-led community initiative, supported by the university."



Nottingham students 'Pack for Good' – and raise £90,000 for research to tackle heart disease

Students in Nottingham have helped to raise almost £90,000 to fund vital research into heart and circulatory diseases by donating items that may otherwise have gone into landfill.

During 2022, the students studying at the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University – both those living on campus and in privately rented accommodation in the city – donated a staggering 6,230 bags of unwanted items to the British Heart Foundation, as part of its Pack for Good Campaign.

Raising £87,220 through the sale of the goods at the charity's network of shops, the donations also diverted almost 50 tonnes from landfill, the equivalent of 294,163 kg of CO2 emissions.

To date, since becoming involved with the BHF campaign, students in Nottingham have donated up to £1.6 million and have diverted 919 tonnes of waste from landfill.

Jamie Dickinson, Head of Community Engagement at the university, said: "2022 was a particularly good year for UoN with a phenomenal £20,398 being raised as a direct result of on-campus, university-based donations. However, we worked closely with Nottingham City Council to really push the off-campus community-based banks and recorded our second-best year on record. This is testament to the generosity of staff, students and the wider community accessing the now conveniently located banks."

"Clearly the money raised is an amazing effort, but we can't forget the tremendous environmental impact this scheme is having on Nottingham. All of these donations could have ended up in the general waste stream. We also know this initiative is positively affecting the challenging end of term waste period and are seeing a much-improved streetscape year on year. This BHF project helps with our ambition to make Nottingham a clean and green place to live, work and study."

The British Heart Foundation raises money to fund research into cures and treatments for a whole range of heart and circulatory conditions – this has included supporting research projects led by scientists at the University of Nottingham investigating strokes, vascular dementia and using stem cell biology to tackle heart attacks





Bakers rise to challenge of investigating new wheat varieties

Bakers from across the UK joined an event led by the Food Innovation Centre at the university to investigate the optimum uses of different wheats.

Hosted by Small Food Bakery in Nottingham, the event was an opportunity for bakers to find out more about the wheat grown by Emma Shires at FarmEco Community Farm in Nottinghamshire, who is also a miller who uses Nottingham Milling Coop's mill at Sneinton.

It was also the chance for Emma to understand more about the different characteristics each wheat brings to a dough – helping her to market her wheat and provide better information to her customers.

Senior food Innovation advisor at the Food Innovation Centre, Alice Jones, worked with Emma to showcase four different varieties of wheat that were grown. These were April Bearded, YQ, Atle and Maris Widgeon; a mixture of heritage and more modern varieties.

Bakers from all over the UK took part in the session, which involved one group trying out the four wheats in pasta, one looking at them in pastry and one looking at them in bread doughs - with the groups then reporting their findings and agreeing descriptive words they could use to explain the textural and behavioural properties of the wheats to others in their industry.

The Food Innovation Centre, based at the Bioenergy and Brewing Science building at the University of Nottingham's Sutton Bonington campus, offers free support to eligible small and medium-sized food and drink manufacturers in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) via the D2N2 LEP, the project is run by the Food Innovation Centre at the university's School of Biosciences, in conjunction with the Chemistry Innovation Laboratory in the School of Chemistry and Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and in association with the Midlands Engine. It is a unique collaboration project that provides free specialist innovation support.

Richard Worrall, who heads the Food Innovation Centre, said: "It's great to see the Food Innovation Centre facilitating a key session for bakers which will no doubt be beneficial for the sector, helping with future development and innovation."

Football team continues commitment to holiday free school meals initiative

When the government decided not to provide free school meals for school children over half term holidays in 2020, some of our club members raised their concerns as we knew that people would be struggling. There was a wholehearted effort from the committee and the entire club to help.

Since then, we have continued to provide free school meals during half term, and each time we run it we try and make more of an impact.

This builds on a tradition of trying to be useful and do our bit as a club. Over the past few years, we have cooperated with Souprunners which distributes nourishing meals to homeless people.

Last year over half term we provided more than 200 meals, but this time we are really trying to build on this, with 70 club members volunteering, we are aiming to provide around 350 meals. We are very thankful for our partnership with Fat Cat (our venue for football socials) who are providing the meals. We hope to continue to collaborate with them for free school meals in the future, getting bigger and helping more and more people each time. Volunteering and helping the community in this way is a very rewarding experience, which explains why so many members of the club are so keen to help.

We have contacted as many local primary and secondary schools as possible and hope that we can make a real positive impact to some families' lives.

Max Swanson
Vice-President, Uon Men's Football





New student initiative opens up rowing opportunities to Notts school children

The University of Nottingham Boat Club has partnered with a national organisation to offer disadvantaged students at secondary schools in Nottinghamshire the chance to experience the sport of rowing.

The club is working with London Youth Rowing's (LYR) Active Row initiative, which focuses on engaging young people who are less likely to participate in physical activity, such as those from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, girls and individuals with special educational needs or a disability.

Currently the team has more than 20 students volunteering in secondary schools across the county. Active Row Nottingham combines indoor and on-water rowing, with a firm focus on improving equality, inclusivity and diversity.

Ethan Page-Mason, Boat Club President and third-year Mechanical Engineering student, said: "We got involved with London Youth Rowing when we saw they were setting up a new Active Row program in Nottingham as it was a great opportunity to expand our outreach program which started only a year earlier. It allows us to make a positive impact in the community and spread the sport that we love.

"It's been an incredibly rewarding experience helping run programs in 7 schools with over 150 kids attending the sessions. A big part of this is to bring rowing and opportunities to those that aren't as fortunate while helping to build on their soft skills, particularly teamwork."

It comes as part of a three-year funding partnership between Henley Royal Regatta Charitable Trust (HRRCT) and LYR. Nottingham-based Concept2, the indoor rowing machine manufacturers, has also supported the launch of the programme close to their UK headquarters.

HRRCT funding has been used to employ a full-time rowing coach to be based in Nottingham and each school taking part receives up to five rowing machines on long term loan.



Students Take You Out... to raise cash for cancer charity

Students looking for love took part in their own version of the TV dating game show Take Me Out in February at an event which helped to raise cash for a national cancer charity.

The post-Valentine's Day Take You Out event, which was held on 16 February at Spankies pub in Nottingham, was organised by Karnival, the university's fundraising and volunteering organisation, in partnership with NSTV, the university's student run TV station.

It raised £288 for Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, the UK's leading cervical cancer charity which campaigns for change and provides support and trustworthy information at every step of the way to those affected by the disease.

Join us for drinks and to watch your fellow students find love!

Let the George... See the Green

Tickets £5

Thursday 16th February @ 6pm At Spankies, NG1 5JT

Featuring: Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Basketball, Dance and many more...

All profits go to Jo's cervical cancer trust

Karnival & NSTV

TAKE YOU OUT

Christmas community carol singing in Lenton Abbey

Long-term Lenton Abbey resident, Steve Hadfield, arranged a community carol singing event on the Avenues to bring together long-term and student residents during the season of goodwill. The singing was accompanied with mulled wine and mince pies to warm attendees up in the sub-zero temperatures.

Steve applied for funding through the university's Community Chest Fund to print publicity posters and song sheets, purchase the refreshments, and buy a gazebo so the carol concert could go ahead whatever the weather. This gazebo will be used for the many community events he organises, including the Halloween event where students and long-term residents chat and have refreshments whilst dressed up for the occasion.

Steve said: "The purpose of the projects is to bring newcomers to the Avenues together with existing members of the community. We believe that working together reduces the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. The Community Chest enables us to finance these events, which helps our students settle in, and to feel that they belong here. A student once said to me that he loves it here as people speak to him and wish him good morning! Another two students thanked us for making them feel part of the community."

If you have any ideas for a local event that may benefit from Community Chest Funding, please get in touch: CommunityEngagement@nottingham.ac.uk



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Dates for the diary:

Spring term ends: Friday 31 March

Summer term begins: Monday 2 May

BUILDING IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES WITH UNITY3D

A free two-day interactive workshop that will offer the knowledge and practical skills on how to create simple virtual worlds and populate them with objects, characters and behaviours using the multi-platform authoring tool Unity3D. Hosted in-person in the state-of-the-art Virtual & Immersive Production studio by LEADD:NG experts from the university.

Monday 3 April and Tuesday 4 April, 10am to 4pm, King's Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane.

Booking is essential. Find out more at nottingham.ac.uk/arts/live-experiential-and-digital-diversification/our-events.aspx



Breathe

Lakeside:

BREATHE

Go on an extraordinary journey from the perspective of an acorn! This dazzling theatre show uses puppetry, live camera work and music to create a beautiful and hectic forest floor, thrumming underworlds and the dazzling heights of icy branches.

Sunday 16 April, 2pm & 4.15pm, Djanogly Theatre

PLANTS & PRAYERS

Healing is what makes us human – but concepts of health and methods of healing have changed much over time. This exhibition explores medicine, care, and healing before 1700 and some of the changes that led to the development of medicine as we know it today.

Thursday 30 March to Sunday 3 September, Weston Gallery.

For more information and booking information visit lakesidearts.org.uk



Plants & Prayers

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