



University of  
Nottingham

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# Community Newsletter

Summer 2023



**Welcome to  
Castle Meadow**

**First look at  
new campus**

**Community  
Open Day**

# Welcome

to the Summer 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 special edition of the newsletter, alongside our usual news items, we are delighted to offer you a sneak preview of the university's newest acquisition, our Castle Meadow Campus, which boasts a city centre location in the shadow of Nottingham's historic castle and on the site of the former Nottingham headquarters of the HMRC.

Officially opening by 2025, the campus will be a hub for collaboration for the whole community – from local schools and businesses to academics and industry, everybody will be welcome.

This exciting space will provide an additional new base for Nottingham University Business School (NUBS), which will capitalise on the city centre location to develop new opportunities for teaching, research and partnership activity, enabling it to grow its postgraduate offer and increase collaboration with strategic partners. This is in line with our intention to create a dynamic campus to encourage the development of practical skills for postgraduate students, creating an environment where employers and students can work and learn together, ultimately preparing our students for life after university.

Joining NUBS on Castle Meadow will be our Digital Nottingham project, which will harness digital and data knowledge and innovation to support a thriving regional digital sector and help solve challenges across the city and region. We envisage opening up the campus as a venue for events, installations, demos and digital showcasing – including immersive technology, AI and Robotics and digital 3D mapping tools which could, for example, aid with local authority planning. In addition, we hope to be able to offer digital skills education for local professionals and young people as well as regional networking opportunities for small and medium sized businesses.

Of course, the university is renowned for its green campuses and commitment to sustainability and Castle Meadow campus looks set to be another jewel in our estate – read on for a first glimpse of how we expect the campus to look when finished and then come and see the progress for yourself at our Community Open Day in July. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Dr Paul Greatrix**  
Registrar  
University of Nottingham



## Welcome to Castle Meadow Campus

Castle Meadow Campus, the university's new city centre campus sits on the site of the former HMRC headquarters at the foot of the historic Nottingham castle. It is designed to be a dynamic hub for innovation and entrepreneurship and is poised to become a driving force for economic growth and positive change in the region. Encompassing seven buildings and 32,500 square metres of space, it will feature state-of-the-art facilities and a vibrant community of academics, students, and industry partners.

The campus is being developed to inspire and encourage collaboration, with a focus on sustainability and inclusivity. It features cutting-edge digital and data laboratories, research facilities and collaborative workspaces and meeting rooms. Castle Meadow is the ideal place to innovate and create, from students looking to develop their skills and gain real-world experience at Nottingham University Business School to businesses seeking a dynamic, collaborative space to work and grow and members of the local community interested in exploring new ideas and opportunities to help solve local challenges.

A phased refurbishment plan is underway, with the campus expected to be fully operational by 2025. In purchasing Castle Meadow Campus, the university also became landlords for law firm Browne Jacobson which is currently based at the site. In an exciting development, professional services firm KPMG has announced it will relocate its East Midlands office to the campus in 2023 and the university is currently accepting applications for other early occupiers.

An open day in July will offer the local community the chance to tour the campus, attend workshops and exhibitions, network with staff, and learn more about the opportunities available at Castle Meadow.



## Castle Meadow and the city

**At Castle Meadow, the university is aiming to collaborate with the local stakeholders to achieve meaningful societal impact. Digital Nottingham, a University of Nottingham initiative situated at the heart of the new campus, will bring together students, staff, local businesses, and communities to inspire, explore, collaborate, and develop solutions. The initiative will offer opportunities to engage in civic and community research, gain access to digital skills development, utilise exhibition space, and participate in community events.**

The Nottingham University Business School (NUBS) will move to Castle Meadow to expand their postgraduate education offering. NUBS is renowned for its global reputation in business and management education and by relocating to Castle Meadow, will create an ecosystem of learning and growth that connects cutting-edge research and practical skills development with the needs of businesses and industries. Working in collaboration with local partners such as Browne Jacobson and KPMG, they will work together to identify key areas of growth and develop innovative solutions to drive growth in the economy and create job opportunities, such as local apprenticeship schemes.

At Castle Meadow, the university is also committed to finding solutions to local issues. Students and staff will work together to conduct research and develop practical initiatives to address challenges, with the aim of creating a more sustainable and equitable future for all residents of the city.

The university believes that everyone has a part to play in finding solutions, so will welcome and encourage residents to participate and be involved in this collaborative work.



## Phasing of work

The next three years will see the university pass a series of design phases before Castle Meadow becomes fully operational. Over the summer, it will be starting works on blocks A, D, and F. Building contractors will be working closely with the university to develop a programme of works and the local community will be kept informed on the detail and timescales as the project progresses. The initial works will primarily focus on general refurbishment and the creation of new spaces around the blocks.

In addition to these works, site-wide infrastructure surveys and feasibility studies are also progressing. This will ensure that the facilities are up-to-date and aligned with the university's strategic goals and targets.

Finally, the landscaping master planning works are still in progress and members of the local community will be able to find out more about how the university is creating a more vibrant and attractive environment for everyone on campus at the community open day in July – see page 9 for more information.



## First glimpse of the new campus

A series of artist illustrations for the site offer a first look of what the new campus may look like, revealing the modern architecture and state-of-the-art facilities that Castle Meadow will offer to students, businesses and the wider community.



**Proposed landscape view looking towards Central Building from Wilford Road**

Our aim is to provide extensive opportunities to re-green and open up spaces, making accessible and safe transport routes for staff, students, and visitors. With easy access to the train station and the cycle paths of the Nottingham Canal, the university will be promoting sustainable and green transport options. The campus has a sustainability strategy that will assess each development to ensure the university and Nottingham City meet their ambitious carbon-neutral targets. The campus is seen as an exemplar opportunity for how the city can retrofit existing buildings to create modern and sustainable facilities.



**Proposed landscape view looking towards Central Building from canal towpath**

A key driver for the university is to ensure the campus aligns with our other welcoming and green campuses. Improvements to the two access points from Wilford Road and the canal towpath will be improved and enhanced. The university has appointed specialist consultants to review all aspects of the development to ensure each building and external space meets its vision of being 'ambitiously inclusive'.



**Proposed internal view of event and social space in Central Building**

The university is undertaking renovations to the Central Building to enable it to become the hub of the campus for commercial and social activity. The building will have a new 'walkable roof' inserted into the main space to create a fully heated and ventilated event and social space for approximately 200 visitors. The roof will be accessible from the first floor to enable users of the building to have a winter garden to access, an unheated ambient space which will provide another great facility within the building. A bistro/cafe with associated kitchen facilities will be incorporated into the development, as well as social study spaces.



**Proposed external view of blocks D & F**

The remaining buildings on campus will have various levels of refurbishment to bring them up to modern standards, including new entrances to enhance the access and visual identity.

Images of Castle Meadow Campus courtesy of Bond Bryan and Ares.



## Castle Meadow: The Community Commitment

The university is mindful that some members of our local community may have concerns about the potential impact of our new Castle Meadow Campus on noise levels and traffic disruption. It understands the importance of being a responsible neighbour and is keen to assure local residents that it is taking every necessary step to minimise any possible disruption that may occur during the phased construction process.

Gary Moss, Director of Estates and Facilities at the university, said: “We understand that maintaining our natural surroundings is important to our community. That’s why we have recently completed some necessary tree removal works along the canal and Tinkers Leen. These works were essential to ensure that our campus remains a safe and sustainable environment, without any knock-on effects on other buildings and spaces. As a university, we are committed to sustainability, and ensuring that our campus is a desirable place for all visitors. We are working closely with the local authority to ensure we are meeting their requirements and the needs and expectations of our neighbours and visitors.”

Other steps being put in place to support the local community include:

### Community Engagement Team:

The university’s dedicated Community Engagement Team serves as a point of contact for any community-related issues or concerns. If you have any questions or would like to report any issues, you can contact them at [CommunityEngagement@Nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:CommunityEngagement@Nottingham.ac.uk).

For more information, please visit [nottingham.ac.uk/yourcommunity](https://nottingham.ac.uk/yourcommunity)

### Construction Practices:

The university understands that construction can be disruptive and is committed to minimising any potential negative impact on neighbours. It will be taking steps to reduce noise and traffic disruption during our phased construction process. These steps include scheduling very noisy construction activities during specific hours, implementing traffic management plans, and ensuring that contractors adhere to responsible construction guidelines.

### Communication:

The university is committed to keeping the community informed about progress and any potential issues that may arise during the construction and operation of the new campus. It is currently working on a new website but in the meantime, you can keep updated with any latest news by visiting:



[nottingham.ac.uk/about/castle-meadow/castle-meadow-campus.aspx](https://nottingham.ac.uk/about/castle-meadow/castle-meadow-campus.aspx)

You can also get in touch with the team directly at: [castlemeadowcampus@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:castlemeadowcampus@nottingham.ac.uk).



## Castle Meadow Campus Community Open Day: Explore the new campus

The university will be throwing open the doors to its Castle Meadows Campus on Thursday 27 July between 9.30am and 2.30pm for a Community Open Day.

This event offers a unique opportunity for local people to visit the new campus and find out more about the vision for the site. The day will also offer the chance to ask any questions about the campus and its impact on the local community.

### Highlights on the day will include:

**Exhibitions:** The open day will feature a variety of exhibitions showcasing illustrations and plans of the modern facilities and resources that will be available on campus.

**Networking Opportunities:** Attendees will have the chance to not only meet with key members of the Castle Meadow team but also with representatives from local businesses and organisations, providing opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals and foster new professional relationships.

**Q&A Session:** A Q&A session will be held with members of the CMC team. This will provide attendees with the opportunity to ask any questions they may have about the campus and its development.

**Tour:** Guided tours of the campus will allow attendees to explore the site. The Castle Meadow team will provide an overview of the campus and showcase the amazing resources that will be available to students and the local community once fully operational.

Booking is required, so please register an interest in attending the Open Day by emailing [castlemeadowcampus@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:castlemeadowcampus@nottingham.ac.uk) by 7 July. The university is keen to reach as many members of the local community as possible so please help spread the word by sharing this event with your friends and family.





## Nutritious recipes created using only food bank ingredients, a kettle and microwave

**A University of Nottingham student has created a series of recipes using common ingredients provided by food banks that are cooked with just a kettle and microwave, in a bid to help families create healthy and filling meals.**

Third year student Sophie Conant is studying dietetics and has developed 12 recipes using only tins and packets after identifying the need for these whilst volunteering at a local food bank.

Sophie said: "When I handed a package over to a lady at a food bank she looked in and said 'I don't know what to do with all this as I only have a microwave and kettle, how will I make meals for my kids?' That made me realise that there is a need for some sort of guidance for people to help them make the most of the food they are given, and as a dietetics student I had the skills to try to do this."

Sophie enlisted the help of some other students to create meals that could be cooked just using the kettle or microwave. Some of the dishes they created include; shepherd's pie, creamy mushroom pasta, sausage casserole, Mexican rice and risotto. Only one of the recipes, chickpea burgers, needed a cooker.

"By combining ingredients and introducing tinned veg or fruit we were able to boost the nutritional value," added Sophie, "One good example of this was when we took a pot noodle, which isn't particularly nutritious in itself and added hot dog sausages and tinned vegetables to increase the quantity and nutrients."

All of the recipes have been put into a recipe booklet, 'Easy Budget Meals', with step-by-step instructions and pictures to make them easy to follow. They will be distributed free of charge at food banks in Nottingham and Loughborough.

Community Chest Funding of £420 has enabled the students to get the recipes printed so that they can be handed out at food banks in the local area. An online version will also be made available so that anyone can access them free of charge.



## Students stage Responderthon to fund vital medical service

**The university's team of student Co-Responders, which work along the East Midlands Ambulance Service responding to 999 calls, to provide life-saving pre-hospital care across Nottingham are taking part in a week of action to raise vital funds to support the service.**

With current huge pressures on the NHS affecting ambulance waiting times, the UoN Co-Responders attend to 999 calls from the local community to perform the necessary observations and life-saving medication and care while the patient is waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

The organisation is made up of 60 students who volunteer as responders alongside their studies. Since the scheme's launch in 2014, they have volunteered more than 20,000 hours and have been dispatched to 8,000 emergency 999 calls - including cardiac arrests, breathing problems, chest pain, allergic reactions, diabetic emergencies, fitting, and falls.

As if responding alongside their studies wasn't difficult enough, the team has pledged to provide its services for a whole week 'Responderthon' in June. From 6pm Saturday 17 June to 6pm Saturday 24 June, both the UoN Co-Responder emergency vehicles, each with two volunteers, will be attending 999 calls continuously, 24/7 for the whole week - a total of 672 volunteer hours.



The scheme is completely financially independent from the ambulance service and relies entirely on fundraising and donations. It has set itself the target of raising £3500 from the week-long Responderthon to allow the service to continue to thrive.

Anyone who would like to support the Responderthon can visit the UoN Responders' JustGiving page by scanning the QR code on this page.







## Successful second year for Emmanuel House's on campus winter shelter

**A winter shelter set up on campus for the second year running at the university, in partnership with local charity Emmanuel House, has helped provide safety, warmth and food for more than 100 people affected by homelessness.**

The news comes as the university has announced its continued commitment to supporting the charity by hosting a shelter on its University Park Campus for the third year this coming autumn and winter.

Between 17 October 2022 and 11 April 2023, the shelter on University Park Campus provided 3922 nights' protection for a total of 107 people who would otherwise have been rough sleeping during the worst of the winter months. Each night, an average of 26 people were accommodated. Emmanuel House supported 58 of these people into accommodation.

Whilst staying at the Winter Shelter, guests received shelter, warmth, 24-hour support and three meals a day.

Forty individual people volunteered at the 2022-2023 Winter Shelter, as well as 19 different groups from local organisations that cooked an evening meal for the guests.

Ashley Roberts, Head of Campus Services at the university said: "For the second year in a row, we've been able to support this initiative and it is amazing to see the impact that Emmanuel House have had, using the university as a base.

"Homeless charities provide such an essential service, particularly through these challenging times, and Emmanuel House deserve enormous credit for the number of individuals they have managed to support. Over the winter the university community has once again come together to support this fantastic cause, demonstrating the values that are at the core of everything we can do."

Denis Tully, CEO at Emmanuel House, said: "Without the support of the University of Nottingham this would have not been possible. The partnership is about more than just providing a building.

"The service has also benefitted from marvellous support from staff and students. Their commitment to offer us the accommodation again next year is a terrific contribution to being able to get plans under way for November. We look forward to our partnership continuing over the next year."

The many reasons for seeking shelter and support from the Winter Shelter included relationship breakdown, domestic violence, eviction, immigration issues, hospital discharge, having no income, release from custody, fleeing violence and long-term homelessness.

### Arab Society student support for refugees

Students from the University of Nottingham who have been providing support with translation and opportunities to socialise for a family of Syrian refugees who arrived in Beeston last year. The students from the university's Students' Union Arab Society answered a call for volunteers put out by the local charity organisation Erewash Community Sponsorship, which has worked with Citizens UK to resettle the family in the area through its community sponsorship project.

## University donates research ambulance and supplies to support those living in Ukraine

**The university's Faculty of Engineering has donated a research ambulance and medical supplies to Ambulance Aid to support those living in Ukraine.**

Nineteen medical oxygen concentrators, which produce a continuous supply of oxygen and negate the need for regular bottled gas deliveries, were donated by Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and loaded into the ambulance, with a further 30 also due to be donated.

Professor Donal McNally, Professor of Bioengineering, said: "We used the ambulance as a testbed for technologies to make transporting very premature babies less stressful and safer. Now that this project is over, it is fantastic that it is going to continue saving lives and I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to this incredibly important cause."

Launched in March 2022, Ambulance Aid's mission is to fund the purchase of former ambulances and deliver them in partnership with Medical Aid Ukraine to where they are needed most. To date, 16 ambulances filled with medical supplies have already been delivered to Ukraine, with volunteers driving them across Europe to get there.

Claudine Pearson, Volunteer Director at Ambulance Aid, said: "Our strength comes from teamwork. So many local people have stepped up to do what they can, where they can. I'd like to express my thanks to those who have continued to support the cause, meaning we are able to deliver on the gifting of this vehicle from the University of Nottingham to help save lives in Ukraine."

Professor Sam Kingman, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Engineering, said: "After a successful project, I'm happy to see our research ambulance being put to another crucial cause and would like to congratulate Donal for coordinating such a fantastic assortment of supplies.

"The fact Donal has been able to collect such an impressive variety of equipment is a testament to how many people want to aid those affected by the war in Ukraine."





## Palmer Court residents hosted for lunch on University Park

In April the university hosted residents of Palmer Court, a Nottingham City Homes independent living scheme for older residents, for a three-course community lunch provided by the catering operations team on University Park campus.

Situated in Lenton, Palmer Court and the surrounding bungalows (some of whose residents joined the lunch) were built in 2016, replacing high-rise flat blocks. The residents live in self-contained flats in the building, but the sense of community is fostered amongst tenants with activities like a weekly bingo night. The lunch was a wonderful chance for the University to help extend the residents' sense of community into the wider NG7 area.

The University's Community Engagement team accompanied the residents to and from lunch, which took place in Nightingale Hall, on a University minibus. Jamie Dickinson, the Community Engagement Manager said: "We are grateful to our university catering and hospitality team for opening up our excellent campus facilities for the residents of Palmer Court for a free community lunch. We know that times are tough for a lot of people at the moment, and this has been a small gesture to support some of our more vulnerable local residents.

"This project has been a great opportunity to extend the university's impact beyond the classroom and into our valued local communities. The Community Engagement Team will continue to seek opportunities to link with local groups and organisations as part of our civic commitment to be present and have a positive impact locally."



## Microscopic message on 50p coin sent to King Charles III

A microscopic message of congratulations milled onto the side of a 50p coin was sent to King Charles III from the university to celebrate his Coronation on Saturday 6 May.

A team of academics from the Nanoscale and Microscale Research Centre (nmRC) etched the names of all the Windsor monarchs, from George V to the new King Charles III, along with the dates of their coronations, onto an uncirculated Charles III 50p coin.

The team made the etching using a Focused Ion Beam Scanning Electron Microscope, which is usually used by the nmRC to cut into surfaces and observe their internal structure, or to analyse materials on a microscopic level.

Dr Nigel Neate, Materials Characterisation Technician, said: "The width of the inscription is around 30 to 35 microns, which is about half the width of a human hair, and we chose the space next to the back of the neck of King Charles because it was a flat area for us to put the inscription. The actual milling for this commemorative piece we've produced took a little over half an hour."

A floating coin holder, designed by Mark Strickland, has also been manufactured by the team at the Precision Manufacturing Centre (PMC) to display the coin, with the University of Nottingham logo engraved on.



Dr Luke Norman, a Knowledge Exchange Research Fellow in the School of Chemistry, who led on the project, said: "It was very much a team effort. A few of us came up with the design, we really wanted to celebrate old versus new. The old where we're celebrating the Windsor lineage all the way back to 1911 where it started and etching that uses focused ion beam scanning electron microscopy, which is a relatively new and cutting-edge technique so it's all about this idea of old meeting new."

The team at the nmRC have previously etched a message to the late Queen Elizabeth II onto a corgi hair to celebrate her 90th birthday. The hair was donated from two Corgis living in Nottinghamshire that were from the same bloodline as the Queen's beloved Corgis.





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## Dates for the diary:

**Summer term ends:** Friday 23 June

**Autumn term begins:** Monday 25 September

**Open Day:** Saturday 29 June and

Saturday 1 July 2023

**Graduation:** 18 to 26 July

### UNIVERSITY PARK'S ANNUAL 'PICNIC IN THE PARK'

Sunday 2 July, 12 noon to 3pm

Hosted in the Millennium Garden, which is centrally located on University Park Campus, this annual event returns and once again includes live music by the Newstead Brass Band, together with activities for the family. Please bring a picnic and join us to enjoy a relaxing afternoon. Free event and no advance booking required.

For more events hosted by Friends of University Park go online at [nottingham.ac.uk/go/friends](https://nottingham.ac.uk/go/friends)

### Nottingham Playhouse and Lakeside Arts Present:



### TWELFTH NIGHT: OPEN AIR THEATRE

Sunday 9 July, 1pm & 4pm

Saturday 15 July, 3pm & 6pm

£12 (£8 concessions)

1 hour 15 minutes (no interval)

Suitable for ages 7+ and families

Following the success of their co-production of *The Tempest* in 2021 and *Midsummer Night's Dream* last year, join Lakeside and Nottingham Playhouse for more outdoor Shakespearean fun this summer.


Expect laughs, mixed-up identities and a whole lot of outdoor fun!

For more information and booking information visit [lakesidearts.org.uk](https://lakesidearts.org.uk)

### Stay in touch

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