

Group visits and guided tours

The Friends offer guided visits around the gardens of our award-winning University Park, where you can visit the gardens or take a heritage walk around the park to discover the historic buildings and the people who lived there. Suitable for horticultural societies, social clubs and other interested organisations.

Volunteers required

Friends of University Park are always looking for more volunteers. Would you like to get involved? Could you help with organising our events or would you like to be trained as one of our tour guides?

To find out more about visits, tours and volunteering, please email BW-FOUP-Events@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk

University Park map

Download a map of University Park at nottingham.ac.uk/maps

Visitor information

For visitor information, visit nottingham.ac.uk/go/visitors

For more information about the Friends of University Park

 nottingham.ac.uk/go/friends

Accessibility

University campuses are accessible to the public and provide disabled parking (Blue Badge) and disabled toilet (RADAR) facilities. The campuses have many fully accessible pathways. Please note that not all events start or finish adjacent to accessible facilities. If you are participating in one of our outdoor events, please be aware that there will be a degree of walking on uneven or undulating grassed/wooded areas – which may or may not be suitable for wheelchair/mobility scooter use or difficult for visually impaired. Please expect to travel distances of 1-3 miles on some of the walking events – most with resting places. The indoor 'lecture style' events are fully accessible with indoor facilities, ramped access and parking close by.

If you have any specific queries relating to accessibility of any published event please e-mail BW-FOUP_Events@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk



The Friends of University Park

Public events 2023



The Friends of University Park

Spring Foraging

Led by Charles Powell & Yi Wang

Saturday 22 April, 10am to 12 noon

Join 'The Friends' in a hunt for wild food from our fields and hedgerows. We will look at different edible species to eat – from berries, nuts and fungi, herbs and spices to roots and flowers. We will explore the University's parkland for good seasonal items to pick and eat.

Fee £5 per person. Numbers limited to 25 people; advance booking required. Please see accessibility notes.

Character Encounter Tour around University Park

Saturday 13 May, 10am to 12 noon

Join us for a guided Character Encounter Tour around the grounds of some of University Park's historic houses. Discover more of the rich history of the properties and some of their inhabitants and gain an insight into one or more of the prominent and colourful individuals with a strong connection to the Estate. This insight is given in the form of dramatic sketches covering the life of the individuals. These are both informative and great fun.

Fee £5 per person. Numbers limited to 25 people; advance booking required.

Tree walk around Sutton Bonington Arboretum

Led by Graham Pierce

Saturday 3 June, 10am to 12 noon

Sutton Bonington Campus is a rural location on the edge of Nottinghamshire & Leicestershire. Development of the Arboretum was commenced by Professor Harry Smith. The initial impetus for the development came from National Tree Planting Year 1973 (with its slogan of "Plant a Tree in '73"). Professor Smith's initial tree plantings were based on unusual plants sourced from Hillier's Garden Centre.

Meeting point for the walk is the Arboretum entrance.

Fee £5 per person. Numbers limited to 25 people; advance booking required.

University Park's annual 'Picnic in the Park'

Sunday 2 July, 12 noon to 3pm

Hosted in our Millennium Garden, which is centrally located on University Park Campus, our 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. Please note only a limited cafe service will be available on the day. Complimentary parking available on campus.

Summer Spectacular – National Garden Scheme

Sunday 13 August, 12 noon to 3pm

A feast of summer colour in the Millennium Garden, Walled Garden and throughout the Park with complimentary shuttle bus service to move between locations. Hosted mini walking tours, plant sale and refreshments offered. Dogs on a lead are welcome. Complimentary parking available on campus.

Fee £5 per person; free for under 16s.

Advance bookings online at www.ngs.org.uk or cash on the day at the Millennium Garden, all proceeds to National Garden Scheme.

History of Jubilee Campus

Led by Richard Wigginton, Head of the University's Capital Projects team
Thursday 14 September, 2.30pm-4pm

Jubilee Campus is a modern purpose-built campus which now extends to 65 acres and is located only one mile from University Park Campus. The initial 30 acre phase was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in 1999. The state-of-the-art facilities now include a sports centre with outdoor pitches and GSK-Carbon Neutral, Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing buildings. Richard will provide details of the history for this relatively new campus and how it has grown to be an exemplar of brownfield regeneration with impeccable green credentials.

Free event held in a Lecture Theatre TBC. Meeting point is the Exchange Building, Ground Floor Foyer.

Numbers limited to 80 people; advance booking required.

Parking is pay and display.

Programme of events 2023

Autumn Fruit, Nuts, Seeds & Fungi

Led by Charles Powell

Saturday 21 October, 9.30am to 12 noon

A guided walk around the beautiful pathways, woodlands and grassed areas to discover common fruits, nuts, seeds and fungi around University Park. Learn to identify some of the fruits and how they are used in cooking.

Fee £5 per person. Numbers limited to 25 people; advance booking required. Please see accessibility notes.

Education and Business: the Victorian Houses and their owners on University Park

Led by Professor John Beckett

Monday 13 November, 6pm for a 6.30pm start, to conclude at 8pm

John Beckett is an Emeritus Professor of English Regional History in the Department of History, University Park. University College, Nottingham, moved to University Park in 1928. Subsequently, the College acquired various Victorian villas which had been occupied by Nottingham business people. In this talk John Beckett will explain which families lived in these houses, and how they came into the hands of the University.

Fee £5 per person, to include tea/coffee on arrival. Event to be held in Law and Social Sciences Building, meeting in the Foyer.

Numbers limited to 80 people; advance booking required.

Book an event

Early booking is advised due to limited numbers for some events. To book, please email

BW-FOUP-Events@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk