

**p13**  
**You're hired!**  
*The Apprentice* star  
Karren Brady's top tips  
for interview success

**p16**  
**What an Impact**  
How £150 million is  
changing lives at Nottingham  
and around the world



**The University of  
Nottingham**

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

# CONNECT

**Linking Nottingham alumni  
around the world**  
Issue 1 | Autumn 2015



**How safe are we?**  
Former MI6 Chief  
Sir John Sawers on his  
extraordinary career

# CONTENTS

## NEWS

—4—

### World-leading Nottingham research

We're ranked 7th for research impact in the latest REF report

—5—

### Welcome Victoria

Our alumni community reaches a milestone as we welcome our 250,000th graduate

—7—

### United by dementia

Students Ben and Tom tell us why they took to the saddle for Life Cycle 5

## FEATURES

—8—

### How safe are we?

Read our exclusive interview with former MI6 Chief Sir John Sawers on his extraordinary career



## FEATURES

—13—

### So why should I hire you?

Karren Brady CBE gives us some of her top interview tips in our careers feature

“Tell me something about my business I don't know and tell me how you'll fit in.”



## FEATURES

—10—

### Did your era have it best?

Professor John Beckett shares his thoughts on how student life has changed over the decades



—16—

### What an Impact

We celebrate raising £150 million for charitable causes here at the University and look to the future

## REGULARS

—14—

### Inspiring alumni

We catch up with extreme adventurer and explorer Adrian Hayes on life after Nottingham

—25—

### Reflections

Letter to my younger self – what do you wish you had known when at university?

—27—

### Spotlight: then and now

Hockey gold medal-winning Olympian Robert Clift and his son Ali on the changing face of sport



## VICE-CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME

“I want to thank you for your support and urge you to join us, as we try to reach even greater heights.”

2015 has been a year of transformation. Our GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory which was destroyed by fire last September is now back on track; work has begun on our new David Ross Sports Village at University Park; and we celebrate 15 wonderful years of The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. You may have noticed that we have made some changes to this magazine too in response to your feedback last year.

I am also incredibly proud of the way our Impact Campaign has helped transform lives at home and around the world. Looking back four years, I remember some of our closest friends raising an eyebrow at our goal of raising £150 million to support transformation at our University. Now we are celebrating meeting this milestone a year ahead of schedule.

I have been truly inspired by all those who have ridden their bikes with me on all our Life Cycle challenges, just as I have been inspired by the commitment shown by our donors and the alumni community at large. I want to thank you for your support and urge you to stay with us, or join us, as we try to reach even greater heights by raising a further £50 million and involving 1,000 volunteers in our Impact Campaign. Alumni support has already changed thousands of lives – with your contribution, we can change even more.

David Greenaway

Professor Sir David Greenaway

## CONTACT

Alumni Relations Team, The University of Nottingham, Portland Building, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD

t: +44 (0)115 823 2408  
e: [alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)  
w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumni)  
t: @UniofNottalumni

## GET INVOLVED WITH OUR WORK

Give your time:  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime)  
Support the Impact Campaign:  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign)  
Update your details:  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumniupdate](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumniupdate)

CONNECT is the publication for graduates, former students, staff and friends of The University of Nottingham.  
Design: Together Design  
[www.togetherdesign.co.uk](http://www.togetherdesign.co.uk)  
Issue 1 © The University of Nottingham

## A FRESH NEW LOOK

Welcome to your new University of Nottingham alumni magazine. It's a new look for an old friend, all part of a wider makeover to give you the stories, news and opportunities you want to see. Please do write, email or tweet to let us know what you think to the changes we've made.

Victoria Hodson Editor – CONNECT



ONLINE EDITION  
available at:  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline)



# NEWS

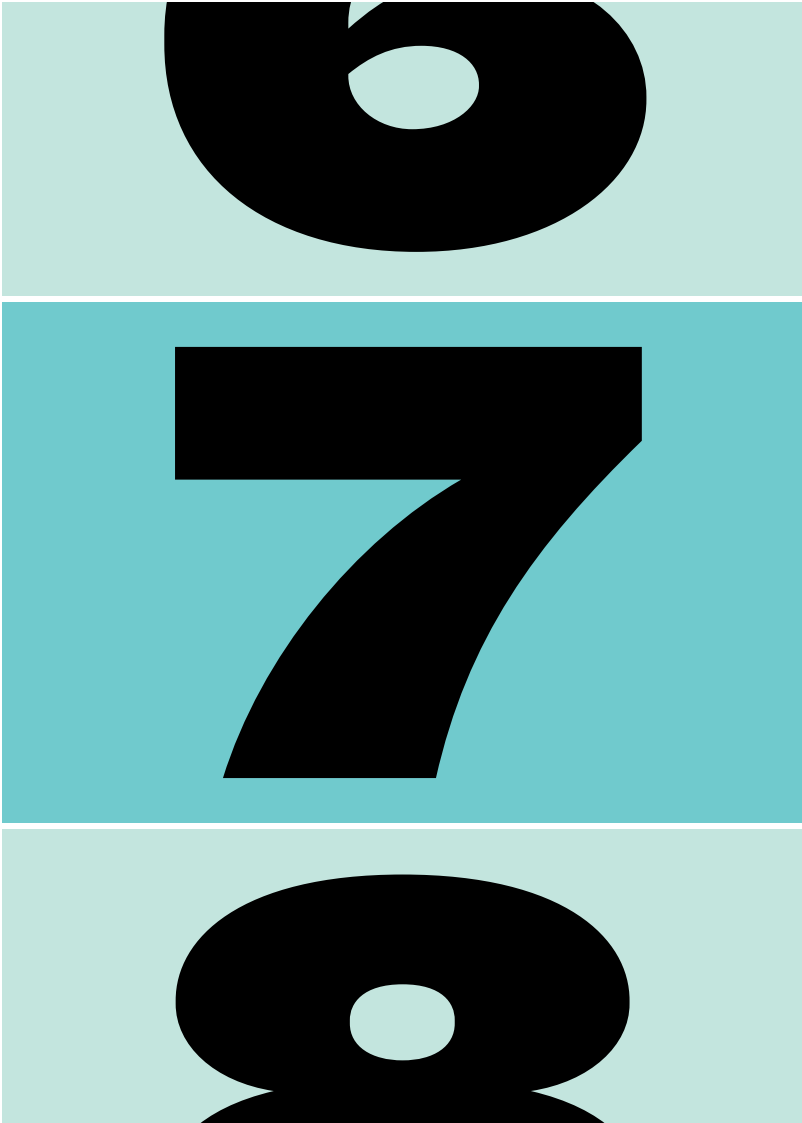
## WE'RE 7<sup>TH</sup> IN THE UK FOR RESEARCH POWER

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM** is ranked 7th for research impact in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF), which assesses the quality and volume of research at 154 UK universities.

More than 97% of our research is recognised internationally with wide-ranging impacts on society, the economy, health and welfare, culture, public policy and the environment. The amount of Nottingham research regarded as world-leading has almost doubled since the last review in 2008 – increasing from 18% to 31%. Pharmacy had more than 50% of its research classified as world-leading with five other clinical and medical units having more than a third of their research achieve this top categorisation.

In 16 subject areas, the University featured in the UK top ten by research power with education, law, classics, nursing, architecture and the built environment and physics all ranking highly.

A good REF score is important not only in recognising the strength and breadth of our research but also in influencing the allocation of research funding. This strong result confirms Nottingham's place in the top tier of the UK's elite higher education institutions with only Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Edinburgh and the London universities ranking higher.



### UNIVERSITY IN THE NEWS

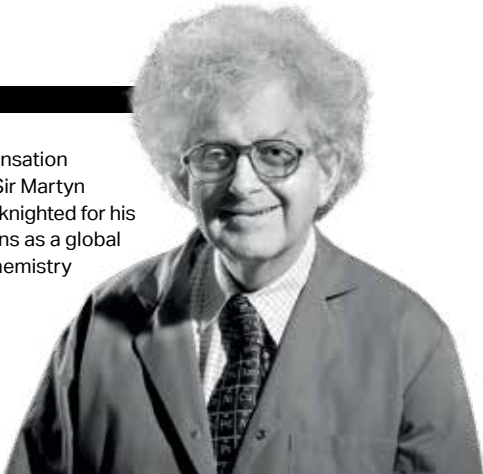
Nottingham team awarded £2.3 million grant to solve the world's seven most famous maths problems



Four Nottingham sports teams win British Universities and Colleges Championships trophies making it one of our most successful seasons

Sherwood Hall celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala dinner and special exhibition

YouTube sensation Professor Sir Martyn Poliakoff is knighted for his contributions as a global leader in chemistry



## WELCOME VICTORIA – OUR 250,000<sup>TH</sup> GRADUATE

**FIRST CLASS LAW GRADUATE** Victoria Rowley is officially the 250,000th person to join our worldwide alumni community. A JCSmith Scholarship recipient, Victoria studied on three continents during her course including spending time at our campus in Malaysia and taking a study year abroad in America. “My scholarship really helped me with the costs of studying,” said Victoria, who has now started a Legal Practice Course. “It’s great to be part of this amazing community. I’m so proud to be representing the University that has given me so much and I knew it would stand me in good stead for my future career.”



**Did you know?** Your alumni community includes graduates living in nearly 200 countries. Our oldest alumnus is 96 years old and was born before the invention of household radio. Our youngest is 19 and born after the invention of the DVD.

## ANCIENTBIOTICS MEDIEVAL MEDICINE TACKLES MODERN-DAY SUPERBUG

**A MEDIEVAL REMEDY** for eye infections which originates from a manuscript in the British Library has been found to kill the superbug MRSA. Dr Christina Lee, an Anglo-Saxon expert from the School of English and microbiologists from the Centre for Biomolecular Sciences recreated the 10th-century potion for eye infections from *Bald's Leechbook*, an Old English leatherbound volume, to see if it really worked. The results were astounding. The recipe calls for two species of allium (garlic and onion or leek), wine and oxgall (bile from a cow's stomach). It describes a very specific method of making the topical solution including straining to purify it and leaving the mixture for nine days before use. The solution has been found to have remarkable effects on MRSA, one of the most antibiotic-resistant bugs.



© The British Library Board



Visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline) to see a video about this amazing research.

Nottingham ranked number two in the International Student Satisfaction Awards 2014 – one of only five UK universities to receive a rating of 'outstanding'

Leading recruiters make Nottingham one of the top choices for UK graduate recruitment

University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus wins the 7th Nottingham Tri Campus Games for the very first time



Multi-award winning British band London Grammar won Alumni Laureate Awards in recognition of their phenomenal success since graduating



### 5 minutes with... our Students' Union presidents

We asked outgoing President **HARRY COPSON** and incoming President **ANGHARAD SMITH** about the biggest challenges facing students today.

**H** Students want their education to be more than just study. University is more than a degree – setting yourself up for a career is increasingly important. And because we pay more, we expect to be more involved in our education.

**A** I think people still worry about the pressures of university life – how to succeed, moving away from home or just fitting in. Coming to university is a big change.

**H** One thing I'm really proud of is the change we made to volunteering, making the process for getting involved easier and more inclusive. Now we have lots of great people on hand to help welcome new students for example.

**A** Volunteering is a great way for alumni to help students. It's hard to get ahead so having support from those with experience makes a big difference. It's why I'm going to pick Harry's brains before he stands down!

See page 22 for more information about alumni volunteering.



# THE CHOICE OF KINGS

Though many alumni may not have walked through its doors, the beautiful 125-acre University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus (UNMC) in Semenyih is a sight to behold. Opening the first ever British overseas campus in Asia in 2000 was ambitious, yet just 15 years later one look at the bustling lecture halls proves this bold venture was worth it.

How did this special bond between Nottingham and Malaysia begin? To know that, we must look back to a post-war Britain when future Malaysian kings, ministers and judges made Nottingham their university. They sought the best possible legal training and were attracted by the worldwide reputation and teaching prowess of academics like Sir John Smith, one of the most outstanding criminal lawyers of his generation.

These early students include the late HRH Tuanku Ja'afar (Law, 1951), former King of Malaysia; the late HRH Sultan Azlan Shah (Law, 1953), also a former King of Malaysia and Ruler of

Perak; and Tengku Rithauddeen (Law, 1954), a barrister and former government minister and the current Chairman of the UNMC Board. They shared their love of Malaysia with staff and students and took a new-found passion for Nottingham back with them. Their journeys helped attract the brightest and best Malaysian students, as Prasad Abraham (Law, 1974), now a Court of Appeal Judge, explains: "They were pioneers in their respective fields in a nation in its infancy where the emphasis on overseas education was at its early stages."

Current Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Razak is an industrial economics graduate and HRH Tunku Imran, current President of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is another law graduate. Without those early students blazing a trail to Nottingham all those years ago, the history and future of this thriving young campus could have been very different.

Their legacy continues to flourish, with UNMC graduates playing key roles in Malaysian society. As we celebrate the 15 year anniversary of this young campus, we also take a moment to remember that the hands of Tengku Rithauddeen, among other alumni, all helped push open the doors in more ways than one.



Be part of the 15 year celebrations. Share your memories of life at UNMC at: [Blogs.nottingham.edu.my/campusnews](https://blogs.nottingham.edu.my/campusnews)

#UNMC15



*I think the University taking on dementia is fantastic. I heard a talk about the research here and knew I wanted to get behind it.*

Kathleen Fennemore – who rode ten miles at the Life Cycle 5 community day in honour of her mum who has severe dementia and her dad who has recently been diagnosed with the disease.

*There's so much research that needs to be done. Even though grandma can't benefit, it will help people in the future.*

Lucy Woodhead – who rode ten miles at the Life Cycle 5 community day with her dad in memory of her grandma who died from the disease.



# NITED BY DEMENTIA



For the last four years our Vice-Chancellor has led a team of intrepid cyclists on challenging rides across the UK, raising more than £1.7 million for the Impact Campaign through Life Cycle. Thousands more have taken to the saddle, joining our annual Life Cycle community day rides. With this year's Life Cycle 5 raising much-needed funds for dementia research, we asked two riders to tell us why they decided to push their pedals.



**I thought about my mum and that gave me the boost I needed to keep going. Pain from cycling is temporary, dementia is not.**



Talk about dementia to PhD students Ben Beranek and Tom Wicks and it is clear to see that they are two young men who understand how much life can change. Tom's dad suffered with a form of the disease for two years before his death last year and Ben's mum is being cared for by his sister back home in the United States after she too was diagnosed.

"I took part in the Way of the Roses ride because helping raise funds and supporting the fantastic Nottingham research is my way of doing what I can – not just for my mum but for everyone affected by the disease," said Ben.

"My dad was full of life before dementia, very active and very sure of himself," added Tom, who took part by riding 75 miles in the Life Cycle 5 community day, "but within two or three years he was just completely taken out by it. You lose the person very gradually over a long period of time."

"Dad was held back by the failure to get an early diagnosis and that was why I wanted to support Life Cycle 5. Dad couldn't get treatment and we struggled to get funding for his care because there wasn't a diagnosis. When we did get it, it was too little too late."

Ben's Way of the Roses Life Cycle 5 ride was tough but his mum was never far from his thoughts. "When my legs were burning and my head was down, I thought about my mum and that gave me the boost I needed to keep going. Pain from cycling is temporary, dementia is not."

"I believe the University has the capability to make a breakthrough using world-leading MRI technology – it just needs people to support the programme. We don't know exactly what will be discovered but with a Nobel-prize winning team at the helm, I can't think of anywhere else better placed to try."



## THANK YOU

to everyone who has helped us raise over £200,000 towards our £350,000 target. This research needs more support. Read more on page 21 and please give a gift. [www.nottingham.ac.uk/lifecycle](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/lifecycle)



# HOW SAFE ARE WE?

In the face of shocking attacks on holiday destinations, anniversary reminders of world atrocities and the ever-present threat of cyber-terrorism, if you're worrying about what could be next, you won't be alone. But we know a man who understands exactly what it is like to be responsible for protecting our national security. So we arranged a rooftop liaison on campus – free from prying eyes and suitably clandestine – to quietly ask **Sir John Sawers** just how safe are we really?

“I turned 60 this year and have been reflecting on the world into which I was born,” says former MI6 Chief and alumnus Sir John Sawers. “It’s a much safer place than it was. There are fewer conflicts and far greater security in places like Africa, Asia and Latin America. GDP per capita has increased tenfold and life expectancy by 20 years – these are extraordinary developmental leaps that the world has taken.

“Of course we face big threats, not so much state-to-state threats (although President Putin has reminded us he does have a nuclear arsenal that he’s prepared to brandish if we don’t respond to his concerns), but the bigger and more immediate threats come from terrorism and cyber security issues. So I think the world is a better place and will carry on being so but there are challenges and threats we have to manage, contain and deal with.”

Sir John is tall, slim and softly spoken but with a steely gaze – every inch the diplomat and former head of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). Back at University Park Campus to receive an Alumni Laureate Award following a long and distinguished career in public service, one journalist even made favourable comparisons between him and James Bond actor Pierce Brosnan.

After finishing a year as secretary to the Students’ Union and completing his civil service exams, Sir John (Physics and Philosophy, 1976) was all set for a career in the Foreign Office when one day he received a tap on the shoulder.

“Someone asked me if I would like to do something ‘a little more interesting’. I realised I was being steered towards the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and if you’re 21 and offered the chance to work for MI6, you don’t turn it down.”

So began a 36-year career in foreign affairs, diplomatic relations and national security, ending with a five year stint as the Chief of MI6, the role commonly known simply as ‘C’.

“This last job was my most challenging during a period where the country faced, as it still faces, a very serious terrorist threat and where there are challenges from different countries and organisations that are hostile to our way of life.”

So how did he cope with the inevitable stress?

“When you’re under pressure, with difficult decisions and fine judgements to be made, you need to identify the values which are most important to you. It’s easy to adhere to your values when life is easy but when you’re facing life and death, that’s when there’s a temptation to cut corners, to do something you hope someone won’t

“  
...if you’re 21  
and offered  
the chance  
to work for  
MI6, you  
don’t turn  
it down.  
”

notice or do someone down for what you think is a wider good. That’s when you need to hang on to your values most.”

Public interest in the world of SIS never wanes but does the fiction come anywhere near the reality?

“Of course James Bond is entirely fiction and a lot of fun, although I did find elements that were quite real in the movie *Skyfall* – like threats coming at you in your home territory, terrorists coming to London and the fact that Dame Judi Dench (she played the MI6 Chief) had to work under the constraints of a Parliamentary committee. Plus the gadgetry, Q does exist in real life and is in charge of all the operational technology that we use inside MI6.

“The biggest difference is that Bond is a loner operating on his own while in reality, the modern intelligence officer is part of a team. You can achieve far more through teamwork than any individual could possibly do. At university your achievements tend to be your own but once you get into work, your performance is about working with others.”

In his early days, after a few years with MI6, Sir John realised he was more interested in ideas, policy and politics so he switched to the Foreign Office embarking on a career as Foreign Affairs Adviser to Tony Blair, Ambassador to Cairo, Political Director, and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He has been closely involved in all the UK’s major foreign policy issues for the last 20 years, including policy on Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans, the Kosovo conflict and the Northern Ireland peace process.



## VIDEO INTERVIEW

**Do you have what it takes for a career in intelligence or a job at the Foreign Office?**

Watch our video interview with Sir John including his tips on what it takes to get into Her Majesty’s Diplomatic Service.  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline)



His philosophy studies at Nottingham triggered his interests in ideas and argument while his physics degree came in remarkably handy when negotiating with the Iranians over their nuclear programme.

“Most issues are susceptible to diplomacy and negotiation. There’s no point bringing yourself together with organisations like Islamic State – they have to be contained and the threat from them progressively diminished – but I think issues, especially between states, are solvable by negotiation.

“Part of the role of diplomacy is to build personal connections and enable different sides to understand one another. It’s about creating a group of people with different skills, backgrounds and ways of thinking to work together – whether that’s bringing an end to apartheid in South Africa or reaching an agreement with Iran after 12 years. That is the essence of how MI6 works.

“I’ve made mistakes in my career but you recover from them when you recognise them. No career is smooth or gilded; you have to work hard for it. If you hang on to a sense of ambition, a commitment to team work and clarity about your own values, I think you’ll be successful in life.”

“I think any career in public service is enormously rewarding. I can’t think of a career where you add greater value, whether it’s working for the government, an agency or maybe an NGO engaging with these issues outside government, you can really make a difference. I think most 21-year-olds are surprised at the fact that they can actually make a contribution to these global and national challenges that we’re facing.

“But I also think it’s very important for young people to do what they believe in. If you’ve got a passion then follow it. The most important thing in life is to do things that interest you, that inspire you. Don’t just do things because your parents did them or for a decent salary or job security. Those aren’t unimportant – but you’ll get them if you do things which really give you a reward in life, which motivate you and where you’re giving your best.”



Hear more from Sir John Sawers by registering to attend his guest lecture in London on 25 November – part of our exclusive Chancellor’s Lecture series.  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumnievents](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumnievents)



# DID YOUR ERA HAVE IT BEST?



As he gets ready to launch his new book on the history of the University, we asked **Professor Beckett** to settle an old debate by telling us when the best time was to be a Nottingham student.

**P**rofessor John Beckett takes a moment to think. “It’s always been good here,” he says thoughtfully, “every era has its highlights but University life has changed dramatically over the decades. A student in the 1950s would struggle to recognise the experience of those following just ten years later, let alone that of someone studying here today.”

We’re sitting in historic Lenton Grove, surrounded by grainy photographs, old copies of *The Gongster* and papers. A member of staff for more than 30 years and professor of English Regional History, when it comes to the University’s past, John Beckett is the man to ask. He’s just finished writing a fascinating new book about the social history of the institution, packed full of alumni memories, rarely-seen photographs and testimony. Its pages explore the impact of political and cultural shifts on generations of Nottingham students.

“Looking back, in the post-war years people thought a university education was a privilege” said John. “Arriving here in the 1940s and 50s was, for many, an astonishing revelation – perhaps the first time they’d had a room of their own or experienced central heating. But it was a 9 to 5 University with no entertainment after lectures, unless you had a transistor radio, and hall doors were unlocked so the wardens could come round to inspect the rooms.”

“But a few years later, attitudes were changing as students began to express themselves. Hair length increased, shirt collars and trousers got wider

and skirts got shorter. Arriving at university was a liberating experience and people took the opportunity to be whoever they wanted to be. More women were also coming, altering the make-up of the student population.”

Gender equality wasn’t the only driving change. The reduction in the age of majority in 1970 from 21 to 18 also had a significant effect. People started to branch out from living in halls, seeking more freedom in areas like Lenton or Dunkirk.

“At that time, students still received government grants and in the 1980s, there was a move away from shared accommodation,” explained John. “20 years earlier universities were also the places to see live music but students started gravitating more to the pubs and clubs in the city. Places like The Black Orchid, Rock City or Ocean will be familiar to many alumni.”

But with grants coming to an end in the 1990s, the introduction of tuition fees and growth of new universities, student life was evolving again. “Students were becoming customers with high expectations. Alumni visiting any of our campuses will spot the ongoing investment in our facilities – the much-talked of University Park cowsheds are no more! But technological change has transformed how we teach and study the most. Students used to write copious lecture notes with pen and paper – now they press record on a tablet or mobile. There’s an ocean of information on all subjects at our fingertips. It’s easier to research but harder to be unique,” said John.

“An alumnus told me that his 1950s generation absorbed a lot of information but he wasn’t convinced how much they actually learned because the teaching was unimaginative. Now we work hard to help students think for themselves, giving them the skills needed for success in the future.”

John Beckett’s new book *Nottingham: A history of Britain’s global university* will be available to buy in 2016.

#### Calling the Chickerah!

The Chickerah was once a mascot bird for Nottingham students. Do you still have one? If yes, we would love to hear from you on +44 (0)115 823 2408.



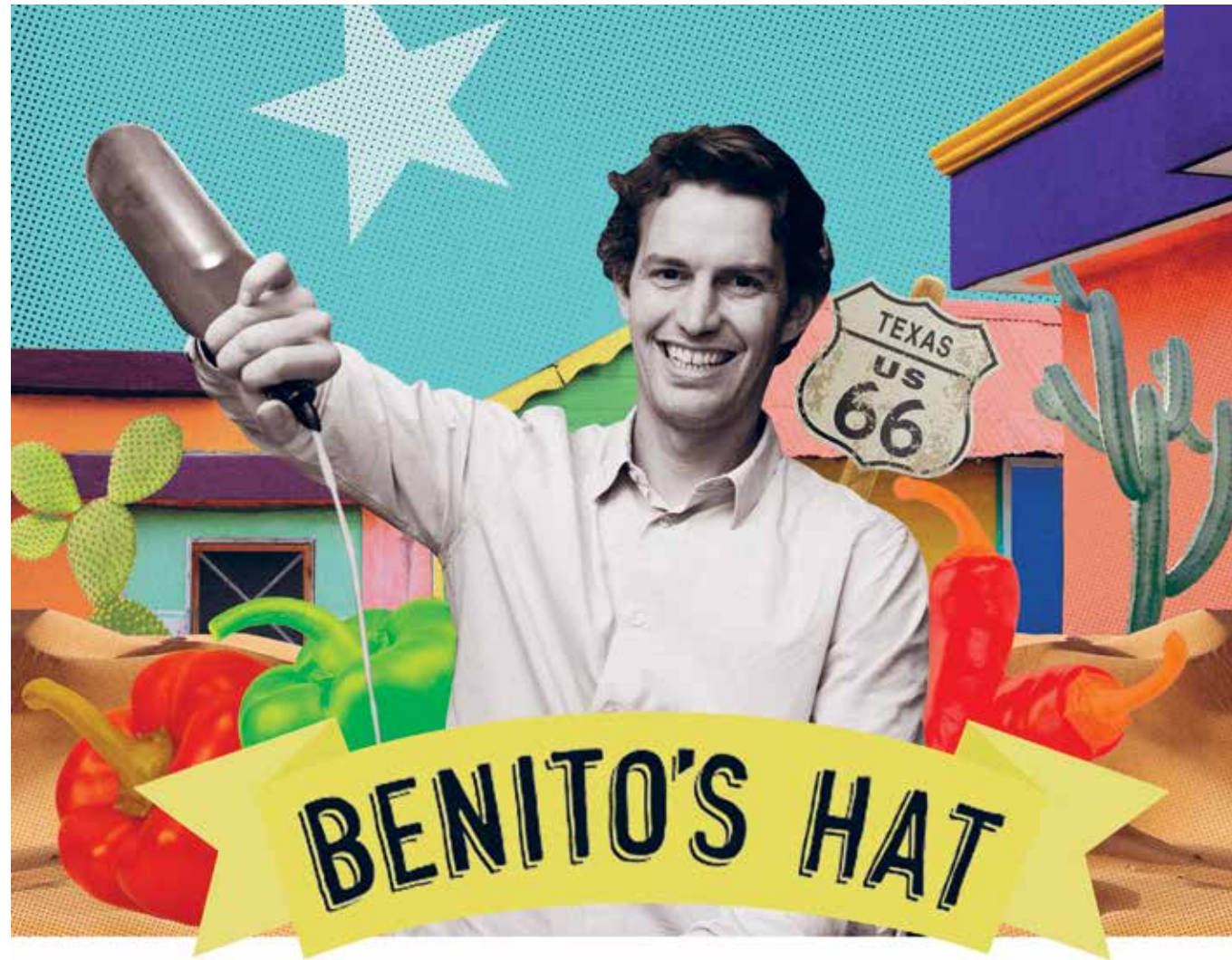
#### EXHIBITION

**Free University history  
exhibition open now**  
Nottingham Lakeside Arts  
until 3 January 2016

Exclusive alumni event on 26 November  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumnievents](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumnievents)

View our online magazine for  
a photo gallery of never-before-seen  
artefacts from the exhibition  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline)





# HATS OFF TO BEN

Restaurants are notoriously tricky businesses. Yet in 2008, with the country on the brink of recession, law alumnus **Ben Fordham** opened an authentic Mexican restaurant in London. Seven years later, employing over 120 staff and turning over £4.1 million, his Benito's Hat chain is now firmly on the menu. We asked Ben to tell us how he did it.

"My year studying abroad as part of my law degree changed my life. I went to the University of Texas to learn about the US legal system but came back with so much more. International study is a chance to immerse yourself in the culture. I met my future wife and discovered great Mexican cuisine.

After tasting the real deal, coming home I realized that Mexican food in the UK was a poor parody. Authentic Mexican is about freshness, vibrancy and flavour.

I finished my degree and started work at a law firm but the restaurant idea wouldn't go away. Then I met Felipe, a true Mexican chef, and I knew I'd found someone special. He shared my feelings about UK Mexican food and we began developing ideas. I used my skills to write a business plan and secure investment. Five years after that incredible year abroad, I handed in my notice and the first Benito's Hat opened.

It hasn't been easy. You need to be strong to start a business in tough financial times and really believe in what you're doing. It's bloody hard work

– long hours and set-backs. If you're not committed, you won't succeed.

In the early days we were losing money every week with only 70 customers a day. Lots of great feedback but it wasn't until we had an amazing review in the *Metro* – four out of five stars and a fantastic write up from one of the most respected food critics in the business – that things started to change. That day we served over 600 people. Everything grew from there – now we have nine restaurants across London and are opening our tenth this autumn.

I have learnt a huge amount in the last seven years and haven't really had time to sit back and think about what we've done but I know I'm hooked. I love this industry and I'm grateful that my study year abroad inspired me to go for it. Great food is definitely my passion."



Visit our website for Ben's top tips on how to start your own business.  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline)

## SO WHY SHOULD I HIRE YOU?

You've got seven seconds to make a strong first impression, seven minutes to land the job, killer questions reducing you to a gibbering wreck. So how do you ace an interview? Knowing what your interviewer is thinking is vital so we asked three experienced experts for some top tips.



**KARREN BRADY** CBE

She's one of Britain's most recognised and respected business figures. As Lord Sugar's right hand woman in the BBC TV show *The Apprentice* she has interrogated interviewees in the programme's final stages and her stellar career in football, publishing and leadership means she knows what it takes to get to the top.

**1** "If I'm interviewing I tell people I'm happy for them to ask me anything. I will ask them two questions and at the end of those the interview will be over or it will continue. They are: 'tell me something about my business I don't know' and 'tell me how you'll fit in.'"

**2** "I have determination and a great deal of enthusiasm – it's what I look for when I employ people. It doesn't matter what qualifications you've got, people do business with people so having a personality and being able to communicate well is vital. Doing relevant research is also key."

**3** "If you don't champion your career no-one is going to do it for you. Before you become successful you will suffer defeat and failure but it's what you do at that point which is the measure of who you really are. Challenges are just testing how good you are."



**VAL WATSON**

As Head of the University's Counselling Service, alumna Val Watson (Education, 1981) has extensive experience in helping others realise their potential. From dealing with stress, anxiety and managing unexpected interview outcomes, Val understands how a positive mindset helps achieve the results you want.

**1** "Interviews are a two-way process and you're going to be spending the majority of your quality time at work so it's got to be the right place. The interviewers are questioning you but remember this is your chance to check them out too."

**2** "Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the goal we forget that whatever the outcome, we've got to live with it. The most important thing is to be yourself and to learn from the experience – whether it's been good or bad."

**3** "During the interview take time to smile and breathe properly – mentally remind yourself of your qualities and what you're good at. Stay positive. Remember too that you've got a global business network and supportive community of 250,000 fellow Nottingham alumni to call on."



**MAMTA SAHA**

As Senior Learning and Development Manager for global drinks company Lucozade Ribena Suntory, alumna Mamta Saha (Occupational Psychology, 2003) manages the Development Scheme, bringing her face to face with hundreds of eager undergraduates looking for that first career opportunity.

**1** "Think about your personal branding. This doesn't start when you walk into the interview room but begins the second you leave your house. Think about what you want other people to see in you – these are the things you want to portray in your actions and answers."

**2** "Remember that words only account for about 7% of your overall message. Tone of voice is 38% while body language is most important at 55%. Ask someone you trust for honest feedback on how you come across to others – it'll help improve your interview technique."

**3** "A mistake I often see is over-confidence. It's ok to be nervous – it shows you care about the position. Employers want people who will roll up their sleeves, no matter what the task. You don't need to have all the answers – a thirst to learn and the right attitude matters more."



## LIFE AFTER NOTTINGHAM

**BRITISH RECORD-BREAKING** polar explorer and adventurer, business coach and MBA alumnus **Adrian Hayes** is not the average man. He has achieved more personal goals in the last decade than most of us will manage in a lifetime, mastering Everest, K2, the North Pole, South Pole, the length of Greenland by kite-ski, the Arabian Desert by camel, two Guinness world records, two documentaries and one book. With such an adrenalin-packed life story, we asked Adrian to share what these thrilling experiences have taught him about how to conquer goals and banish fears.

Visit our online magazine to watch a short interview, hear his advice and get tips on how we could all be a little more adventurous.

 [www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline)

EVEREST  
K2  
NORTH POLE  
SOUTH POLE  
GREENLAND





# WHAT AN IMPACT



“Universities are places of transformation. Our ambition for Impact was for it to be transformative but I did not anticipate that so much could be delivered so quickly. That it has is a tribute to the loyalty, commitment and generosity of so many alumni and friends.”

It's no surprise that Professor Sir David Greenaway feels this way. In 2011, he launched our biggest ever fundraising campaign to help students reach their full potential and deliver world-leading research here at The University of Nottingham. Just four years later and thanks to our supporters, we are delighted to announce that Impact: The Nottingham Campaign has met its £150 million target a year ahead of schedule! As we celebrate this milestone, it is clear to see that charitable support for life-changing research and student support is still needed. Bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds continue to face barriers in accessing higher education and diseases like cancer and dementia are major global health issues. It is why we are challenging ourselves again, increasing our fundraising target to £200 million and creating exciting new ways to involve 1,000 volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Impact Campaign so far. You have proved that alumni are passionate about giving current students the same opportunities to excel as generations before, and that you believe in our innovative research as much as we do.→



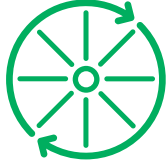
£1,948,357 raised to fund student-led projects through Cascade



Five new professorships created

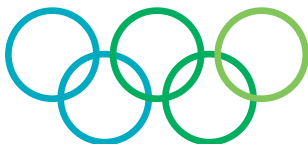


30,000 cups of tea consumed by our student call team over five years



14.6 million Life Cycle pedal rotations raising over £1.7 million for Impact

*raised in charitable donations to*



Five gold, silver and bronze Olympic medals won by alumni and students at London 2012

95%

*of the genes known to cause dementia were discovered by our researchers*

50%

*reduction in the average time taken to diagnose brain tumours in children through Head Smart*



Countries with Cascade projects:  
UK, Malaysia, China, Malawi, South Africa, Ghana, India, Tanzania, Kenya, Sri Lanka

3,145

*students have taken their place at the University thanks to a scholarship*

*transform lives locally, nationally and internationally*

180

*local schools have taken part in our Nottingham Potential programme*



**Without the work at the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre, we wouldn't be here today with our daughter Rebecca.**



David Clark, father to Rebecca who was diagnosed with a brain tumour when she was four years old



£11,414.07 raised by University staff by donating the small change from their pay packets



→

## Changing lives around the world

What have we done with this mind boggling sum of money? The answer lies in the lives of all those at the University, in the UK and around the world who are benefitting. Just this summer, over 1,000 alumni kindly donated over £100,000 to Nottingham Potential Scholarships, giving 100 talented young people from disadvantaged backgrounds the chance to take their seat in our lecture theatres and experience life as an undergraduate. By supporting Nottingham Potential summer schools and our community education centres, the generosity of alumni is ensuring that talent and a desire to learn are what define a Nottingham student – now and always.

Bright students and leading researchers need outstanding facilities that are fit for the future. Our new GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory at Jubilee Campus is back on track after the fire last September, while on University Park Campus work is underway on The David Ross Sports Village, our new cutting-edge sports centre generously supported by Campaign Co-Chair and law alumnus, David Ross. By sponsoring seats, alumni also enabled the redevelopment of our Nottingham New Theatre – the only student-run theatre in England – into a high-quality space fit for launching the careers of the next generation of theatrical alumni, following in the footsteps of Golden Globe winning actress Ruth Wilson and film star Theo James.

Inspirational spaces fuel inspirational ideas. Thanks to donations to Cascade, over the past five years more than 200 student-led volunteer projects have been set up to help local and international communities. From tea and therapy for homeless people in the East Midlands to transforming the lives of fishing communities in Malawi – our students have proved that with support, there are no issues too big for them to tackle.

The ripples of the Impact Campaign are being felt far beyond our students and campuses. Thanks to the ground-breaking work at our Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC), hundreds of families can celebrate their special milestones with children who are surviving brain cancer. Donations from alumni and friends haven't just changed lives – they have helped save them.



## Impact

The Nottingham Campaign

“  
If it hadn't  
been for my  
Nottingham  
Potential summer  
school experience,  
I don't think I'd  
be at university.  
It gave me  
confidence to  
believe in myself.  
”

Amy Cox, second year biochemistry  
and biological chemistry student

# LOOKING BACK

## AMY'S STORY

**THREE YEARS AGO**, Amy Cox attended a Nottingham Potential summer school. A focused A-level student from a low income background, Amy knew she wanted to come to university but lacked confidence and was concerned about cost.

“I knew that university would open doors for me that were closed to my parents. Summer school made me realise that I could do it, that I had to push myself if I was going to be the first in my family to come.”

Amy's week-long summer school experience introduced her to a range of academic sessions and new people.

“My biggest fear before I went was feeling that I didn't belong. If I hadn't had that week to prove to myself that I was good enough I don't know if I'd have had the confidence to really go for it.”

Cost was still a worry. Growing up, her family were incredibly supportive but Amy knew she needed additional financial support and her Nottingham Potential Scholarship helped ease the pressure.

“Receiving a scholarship means so much. I bought a laptop with some of the money; without it I'd have had to study in the computer rooms on campus all the time, which would have been hard doing a challenging course and commuting to University from home.”

Amy is now thriving in her second year of a biochemistry and biological chemistry degree. She also works as a summer school ambassador helping other young people realise their full potential.

“It's great to share my experience with others. I love it here – my course is fantastic and I'm doing a research laboratory placement. I'm incredibly thankful for Nottingham Potential – it really has changed my life.”

# REBECCA'S STORY

## “WHAT DOES THE IMPACT CAMPAIGN MEAN TO OUR FAMILY?”

Without the work of the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre, we wouldn't be here today with our daughter Rebecca.”

12 years ago, David and Sue Clark's world was turned upside down when they received the devastating news that their four-year-old daughter had been diagnosed with a brain tumour. After a difficult and long period of treatment and recovery, the family finally got the confirmation they had been waiting for – Rebecca had responded well to treatment and was winning the battle.

Sadly, five years later another brain tumour emerged, caused by the effect of her previous radiation therapy. Despite efforts through surgery the tumour remains today. Rebecca now lives with various side effects of the treatment including changes to her sight, hearing and walking. But, having seen the powerful and positive effect of some treatments, Rebecca's parents are determined to see further progress in research.

“Now aged 16 Rebecca is living proof that the research is working. Her treatment at the centre saved her life and we are hopeful that more research will give us new treatments with fewer side effects. It could mean so much for the futures of Rebecca and other children like her.”

Thanks to donations to Impact, children being treated at the CBTRC will soon be benefiting from an intraoperative MRI scanner, where scans of the brain can be taken during operations, helping increase the chances of a successful procedure.

“Rebecca physically skips into the CBTRC and that's a massive testament to the staff. We give our heartfelt thanks to everybody who supports this work and to all those who devote their efforts and energy to this cause. You are all heroes to us.”

# THE PROJECT LIMPOPO STORY

**IN 2011**, a group of architecture students embarked on an ambitious Cascade funded project to build a school in the Limpopo region of South Africa. Working with international charity Education Africa, the project aimed to offer local children under the age of six a safe and stimulating learning environment, and provide a community centre for the local village.

Students were integral to the design of the new pre-school and were able to get hands on construction experience. Student Francesca Attard recalls that she “learnt about the things that can go wrong, things that come out in yourself that you realise you're good at. I learnt so much through being hands on.”

Another member of the student team, Pippa Grayson said “it was great being able to spend time with the kids. You can see what use they're going to get out of it and you know you're doing something that is going to dramatically change their lives.”

The team of over 50 students and staff taught basic construction techniques to the local community and used only inexpensive, locally sourced materials to help local people maintain the school in the future, giving the project its true longevity.

Today, four years after its completion, Project Limpopo remains a resounding success. The school continues to educate local children and has become a centrepiece of village life.

Professor Tim Heath, Head of the School of Architecture and Built Environment, joined the students on the project and reflects that “the way our students embraced this challenge was remarkable. As a team, we remain immensely grateful to all those who support Cascade; without that continued support this project, and many others like it, would never have become a reality.”





# LOOKING FORWARD

 **Impact**  
The Nottingham Campaign



**It's not time to hit the brakes**

Alumni support has already made a real impact but with your help, we want to continue changing lives and tackling global issues. It's why we are being bold yet again – aspiring to recruit 1,000 volunteers and setting our sights on a new total of £200 million by the end of 2017.

The need is real. In the UK, one in three of us is likely to have a loved one affected by dementia. Worldwide, there are over 12 million new cases of cancer diagnosed each year, a figure predicted to rise to 26 million per year by 2030. Employers are expecting more from graduates than ever before while people from wealthier backgrounds are still twice more likely to pursue a university education than those from lower income families.

**Together we can make a bigger impact**

We have a range of transformational projects within Impact that need your help. Scholarships will give future students who work hard the chance to pursue their education and enjoy university life like generations before. Cascade, our student projects fund, is becoming increasingly popular as more students develop ideas to help communities. Right now, we have more requests for support than we can fund.

Now is also the time for us to develop the Portland Building at University Park into a thriving hub. It was built in the 1950s and deserves a new lease of life as a 21st-century Students' Union building – a home to the exceptionally wide range of student societies for which the University is renowned, while retaining the charm it has always held for students from every decade.

We also want to keep pushing the boundaries of medical research and early diagnosis. Our dedicated researchers are working to develop the world's first blood tests to detect breast and bowel cancers. As the only UK university using the latest MRI scanning technology to study dementia, we also have the unique opportunity to use our expertise to better understand how the disease affects the brain.

Universities remain places with the independence of thought to drive inventive and critical advances yet funding for the initial stages of research can be hard to access. This is where alumni support makes a vital difference. By giving to the University, you can be confident that 100% of your donation goes directly towards our work.

**Please join us**

We have proved that great things can be achieved when alumni, friends and the University come together. Alumni support empowers the University to reach beyond its grasp and change lives for the better. Please join us as we go up a gear into the next phase of Impact: The Nottingham Campaign.



**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

Visit Impact online to make a donation and find out how you can give your time.



Watch our new video and see how we are changing lives  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/impactcampaign)



**CANCER – CATCHING THE DISEASE AT THE EARLIEST, MORE CURABLE STAGE**  
Professor John Robertson, Director of the Centre of Excellence in Autoimmunity in Cancer (CEAC)

“The moment I realised we had made a breakthrough was intense. After years of research, we had discovered a way to spot early-stage lung cancer through a blood test, with the potential to help save lives by detecting the cancer early and treating it before it can spread.

How our test works is by detecting the microscopic anti-bodies our bodies naturally produce when cells start to mutate and become a cancer. It is already making a big difference in the USA and a large scale clinical trial is underway in the NHS in Scotland.

I am very proud of what we have achieved but lung cancer – the world's most common cancer – is one of many. Now, with the help of Impact, we want to develop tests for breast and bowel cancer, the second and third most common types. Currently the majority of individuals diagnosed with these cancers rely on detecting symptoms or signs such as a lump in the breast or blood in the stool; the cancers are often at a later stage and have already spread. When screening techniques such as mammograms or stool analysis are used they reduce deaths but only by about one fifth. Our new tests will detect these cancers even earlier, meaning doctors can give swift and effective treatments that help patients survive.”



**DEVELOPING TESTS FOR BREAST AND BOWEL CANCER WILL COST £2 MILLION**

“I am asking for your support to help us access cutting-edge diagnostic equipment and to recruit a senior research fellow, lab technicians and data analyst. With the right people and equipment in place, we can make detecting cancer at an early stage a reality, which will allow a cure for millions.”



**I believe we can create the world's first blood test to detect early-stage breast and bowel cancers.**



## RESEARCH WITH REAL-WORLD IMPACT



**By using DNP, we gain a ten-thousand fold improvement, giving us a unique opportunity to analyse how dementia affects the brain. I believe this will be a game-changer for dementia research.**



**TEN THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFUL – A NEW VIEW ON DEMENTIA**  
Professor Peter Morris, Director of the Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre at University Park

“I had the pleasure of being part of the team alongside Professor Peter Mansfield when the first MRI scanner was developed here at Nottingham in 1976. Since those early days, we have continued to lead the world in developing MRI technology as a diagnostic medical tool. As arguably the major health and social issue of our era, I can't think of a more pressing or worthy research topic than dementia.

Dementia turns independent, healthy people into individuals who struggle with basic tasks and are reliant on others. Globally, over 40 million people are already living with the disease; by 2050, this figure is predicted to rise to 135 million.

Thanks to a grant from the UK government, we are installing a dynamic nuclear polarization (DNP) system at the University. This technology is thousands of times more sensitive than conventional scanning, meaning we can study tiny changes in the brain. Previously, we couldn't detect dementia until damage to the brain had occurred but DNP offers new information. We will be able to detect the minute chemical changes that take place before structural damage begins. I believe this will pave the way towards earlier diagnosis for dementia and move us one step closer towards developing treatments that can be tailored to the needs of individual patients.”



**WE NEED £350,000 TO FUND TWO NEW RESEARCH POSTS**

“I am requesting your help to bring a new clinical research fellow and PhD student into our team to drive this research forward. We are the only university using DNP for dementia – you can help us get this innovative research off the ground.”



# SHARE YOUR SKILLS GIVE YOUR TIME



“The expert advice from mentors has been invaluable in launching my new nutrition company. I now have the knowledge and confidence to pursue my passion.”

Terri Holloway, student entrepreneur

Our Nottingham alumni community is full of talented, knowledgeable and inspirational people from a variety of sectors and professions. Students tell us that advice and guidance from successful alumni makes a real difference to their University experience, yet harnessing all this potential has not been easy – until now.

In our recent alumni survey, many of you expressed an interest in giving your time so we have created a range of volunteering roles to suit your interests, location and availability. You can give as much or as little time as you want – from home, at work, in the UK and across the globe. In doing so, you will be having a real impact on our staff, students and research.

Giving time is all part of the Nottingham DNA. In Karnival and the Students' Union Volunteering Centre, we have one of Europe's most successful fundraising and volunteering student bodies but we have lacked ways for alumni to continue their involvement. With our new Head of Volunteering, Rachael Green, now firmly in place, we are creating exciting opportunities for alumni and friends to keep sharing their skills and expertise to help others long after graduation.

**How to get involved**  
Browse our volunteering opportunities by visiting [www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime)

If you are already volunteering for the University and not in touch with our alumni team, please do contact us to let us know.

“Give volunteering a go. You've definitely got something to contribute. You can do an hour or two a month and you will be appreciated for giving your time.”

Francine Pickering, mentor

## MEET SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS



**MALCOLM JONES**  
(BA RUSSIAN, 1962, PHD SLAVONIC STUDIES, 1966, EMERITUS PROFESSOR)  
Emeritus Professor Malcolm has been volunteering in our Manuscripts and Special Collections Department for many years, using his specialist skills in Russian and Slavonic studies.

“Volunteering has enabled me to continue helping the University in retirement. This has included cataloguing collections, translating documents from foreign languages and giving advice on collections within my area of professional expertise or personal knowledge. It has resulted in several publications and the occasional public talk.”



**FRANCINE PICKERING**  
Francine is a local marketing consultant in Nottingham who mentors entrepreneurship students through our Business School.

“I enjoy seeing how students develop from the first stages of an idea through to a presentation where they are all suited and booted, making a really credible case for their business idea. When you've helped students through the creative problem solving process and suddenly see the light bulbs come on, it's a brilliant experience. It's a great way to spend the day.”



**We need your help**



**AN HOUR TO SPARE?**

- Fill in an alumni profile form – showcasing your career path can inspire our current students.



**AN AFTERNOON OR DAY TO GIVE?**

- Spend a couple of hours speed networking with students.
  - Speak at one of our 'Spotlight' events for specialist careers inspiration.
- Mentor our students through our entrepreneurship programme.



**WANT SOMETHING MORE REGULAR?**

- Coach or referee a student sport or club team.



**LIVE OUTSIDE THE UK?**

- Share your passion for the University by advising international students thinking of coming to Nottingham.

Find out more at  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/giveyourtime)

# 50

**Be part of the 50th anniversary celebrations.**

The Students' Union Volunteering Centre (SUV) is marking its 50th anniversary in 2016. If you'd like to be part of the celebrations, please get in touch with your alumni relations team.

[alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)



2

Events & Networking 2015

NOVEMBER

1st

– Alumni professional networking – Hong Kong Island

7th

– Alumni entrepreneurship workshop – Ningbo, China

14th

– Alumni get-together – Beijing, China

15th

– Nottingham New Theatre 50th anniversary – Nottingham

25th

– Sir John Sawers – Chancellor’s Lecture – London

26th

– University history exhibition – Nottingham

DECEMBER

3rd

– University Festival of Lessons and Carols – Nottingham

3rd

– Emeritus Professor Tea and Reception – Nottingham

24th

– Alumni get-together – Jiangxi, China

2016

JANUARY

Class of 2015 careers workshop – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Class of 2015 careers workshop – Shanghai, China

FEBRUARY

24th

– House of Lords alumni reception – London

MARCH

17th

– Supporter event – London

JUNE

11th

– Alumni Sports Challenge Day

SEPTEMBER

Class of 2016 careers workshops

OCTOBER

8th

– 1966 Golden Reunion – Nottingham

www.nottingham.ac.uk/alumni-events

# ALUMNI MATTERS

**MALVIKA JOHAL**  
Our new Head of Alumni Relations

“What is it you do again... ‘alumni relations’?  
Umm... what exactly is that?”

It’s a familiar question and a topic I love to talk about. The answer is simple – my team and I are here to help you make the most of being part of our alumni community, no matter how far you’ve travelled or where your life has taken you since graduating. As the new Head of Alumni Relations, I had the pleasure of welcoming Victoria Rowley as our 250,000th Nottingham graduate at summer graduation. We are now a far-reaching alumni community of over a quarter of a million people, living in 195 countries and working in a fantastic array of professions, from CEOs of multinational companies to a rancher in Spain to Olympic gold medallists. So if you want to grow your business, meet knowledgeable people in a new country or sector, or get back in touch with old friends and classmates – your alumni relations team can help. Thanks to everyone who took part in last year’s alumni survey, we learnt that we needed to better showcase how we can help you.

It is why we have given a fresh new look to this magazine, our website and newsletters to offer more careers advice, alumni stories and networking opportunities. I do hope you like what we’ve done. The N3 in CONN3CT celebrates the unique connection between the UK, China and Malaysia, alongside our influential alumni network around the world. The first step to benefitting from being part of this well-connected community is to keep in touch with us. If you don’t receive our event invitations or monthly newsletter, please visit our website and update your details. We have some fantastic events coming up including a Chancellor’s Lecture from alumnus Sir John Sawers this November (read more about John on page 8) plus a chance to see inside the House of Lords at our February reception. I hope to get to meet you personally at some point in the future. In the meantime, don’t forget you can get in touch with us at [alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk) or by calling +44 (0)115 823 2408.

REFLECTIONS

## LETTER TO MY YOUNGER SELF

Remembering halcyon student days is a part of life after Nottingham but what would you say if, with hindsight, you could speak to your student self?

Dear Paddy

*You were the first person from our family to get a university degree. I know it was tough. At Nottingham there were a lot of articulate, if not “posh” students. You’d never been in a car before, never mind drinking champagne!*

More than 40 years on you still have nightmares about sitting in the exam hall unable to tackle any of the questions. But you got there and had a successful professional and public life. Why – because other students and staff encouraged you? You realised that you didn’t have to speak well to get success. It was down to hard work and good planning.

Although you are affluent now, you haven’t forgotten what it was like to have to walk because you hadn’t got the bus fare. You realised that, like you, everyone has got talent. It’s just a matter of identifying it and putting it to good use.

And you recognised through the voluntary work you did with disaffected groups in the city centre that you can change things. At the end of the day, people like you can make a difference.

Put simply, we don’t want very much. It’s not wrong to want a better future for your children and grandchildren. It’s right to create proud and stronger communities.

You realised early on that you could take the challenge and make that change. Just as you did it, so can we all, with a bit of help.

Best wishes for the future.

Paddy (Senior)

*After a 40-year career in politics serving Nottinghamshire in local and central government, philosophy graduate Paddy Tipping became the county’s Police Commissioner in 2012.*

Dear 18-year-old Sarah,

*You’re off to university! This is uncharted territory indeed – you don’t know anyone, you don’t know the city, you don’t know how you’ll get on.*

You do realise it’s ok to be scared don’t you? Don’t waste your energy trying to suppress or avoid fear. I’ve learnt it the hard way, over decades – it turns out that studying and practising psychology has helped too. The big news is that confidence comes after venturing into scary new experiences, not before.

The awkward or downright terrifying new experiences lead to confidence. I spent years believing the exact opposite – that confidence was a pre-requisite to voluntarily entering new experiences. I had no idea that confidence was like physical fitness. There would be little point in sitting around waiting to be fit before you took up exercise. I know I missed some opportunities because I was waiting for confidence to arrive before I went outside my comfort zone.

This is fundamental. Remember it when you feel too scared to sign up for clubs and activities. Remember it when you feel tempted to turn down invitations through fear of the unknown or dodgy assumptions about what other people might think. Remember it when the time comes to apply for jobs.

And crucially, remember you’ll need some help at times. Seek it. Enlist it. No one expects you to do all this by yourself. You shouldn’t either. Be kind to yourself. You’re already doing much better than you think you are. Let me know how you get on. I’m one hundred percent rooting for you.

With much love – and confidence in you.

50-year-old Sarah x

*Chartered psychologist, coach, author and alumna Sarah Dale helps people deal with uncertainty and change through her business Creating Focus and aims to turn experience into wisdom.*

### What would you say?

If you would like to see your story printed here, please send a 250 word letter along with your photograph. [alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)

24 CONNECT 2015

CONNECT 2015 25



JOAN’S LEGACY LIVES ON



Joan Browne’s name will live in perpetuity. This former head teacher from Lincolnshire with a penchant for fast cars and globetrotting, left a £1.2 million legacy gift when she died in 2014. This has now established a bursary to support travel and other costs for medical students on placements in Lincolnshire and created Joan Browne Scholarships to support high calibre PhD students.

Miss Browne, who was known to generations of Lincolnshire students and gave various gifts to the University in her lifetime, lived a humble life on a small holding in Horncastle. Her family describe her as a highly intelligent, mischievous, forthright, almost eccentric character who loved a great adventure. Her godson Stephen Robinson said: “She was very children oriented and she would be delighted to be playing a significant part in helping students at the Medical School.”

THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

When alumna Janet Conners (Education, 1981) received a call from our student team she responded generously with a gift of £45 to the Cascade fund.

As a teacher, Janet was particularly interested in hearing more about a project which our Cascade fund supports. Project Limpopo was a second-year run project where architecture students successfully designed and built a nursery in the South African village of Calais in the Limpopo region (read more about it on page 19). It was a simple, environmentally friendly design which has been transforming the lives of children in a rural part of the country for the last few years.

Following Janet’s death this year, the University learned that her passion for the project was greater than we could ever have imagined. Janet left £50,000 in her Will to the Department of Architecture and Built Environment, to be used, in her words, “to fund student-led design and build projects in Africa benefiting the education of the local population.”

“She was very children oriented and she would be delighted to be playing a significant part in helping students at the Medical School.”



**SIR JOHN MASON (1923-2015)**  
Distinguished scientist and expert in the physics of clouds, Sir John Mason, has died aged 91.

As Director-General of the Meteorological Office from 1965-1983 Sir John helped transform and modernise UK weather forecasting and pioneered large scale modelling of climate change. He graduated with a first-class degree in physics from University College Nottingham in 1947 and was made an Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) at the University in 1966. His work includes the equation relating to the growth or evaporation of water droplets, known as the Mason Equation and his book *The Physics of Clouds* is a classic study of the science.



**LORD GORDON HOBDAY (1916-2015)**  
Leading British scientist and former Chancellor and graduate of the University, Sir Gordon Ivan Hobday has died aged 99.

Sir Gordon worked with pharmacologist Sir Alexander Fleming on the discovery of the antibiotic, penicillin. He graduated from what was then University College Nottingham in 1937 with a first-class honours degree in chemistry and later a PhD in biochemistry research. He joined Boots in Nottingham as a research chemist in 1939 and, in a distinguished career, he rose to become chairman and chief executive of the company, before retiring in 1981.

LEAVE YOUR MARK

For many Nottingham alumni, a gift in a Will to the University is a way of leaving your own special mark on its future, one that will make an impact for generations to come.

Your gift, no matter how large or small, can make a real difference to an area of special significance to you. Your legacy could be a gift of education, ensuring the brightest and best students can have a Nottingham experience like yours. It might help us find answers to global research challenges or it could be used to help preserve and develop the beauty of our award-winning campuses.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Andy Wright on +44 (0)115 951 3664 or email [andrew.wright@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.wright@nottingham.ac.uk)

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of those members of the alumni community who have died. If you wish to inform us of a death please contact [alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)

“Alongside developing my skills, dad has helped me enormously with the mental side of the game.”



THEN & NOW  
KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Meeting **Robert** and **Ali Clift**, you can soon spot they are father and son. They share a natural confidence, easy humour and a passion for both the University and hockey. A talent for this energetic sport clearly runs in the blood with both men achieving success with the stick.

Robert (Economics, 1984) is a former Olympian, part of the team who took the gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics in glorious style. Ali, a current student of history, plays in the University’s Men’s Hockey Team who beat arch-rivals Loughborough this March, raising the BUCS National Championship trophy after a 50 year hiatus.

**When your dad is a hockey star, what’s it like following in his footsteps?**  
“I started playing hockey because I wanted to. I was never pressured to play,” said Ali. “Alongside developing my skills, dad has helped me enormously with the mental side of the game. We’ve played together in old boys’ teams and he’s still brilliant – not so fast but he’s still got the moves.”

**What of hockey itself? How much has changed over the past 30 years?**  
“Ali’s University team is much better than mine was,” said Robert. “The game’s moved on – it’s much more athletic, physically demanding and skillful. Watching Ali play in such a high calibre match was incredible. I couldn’t have been more proud, especially as we never managed to get the better of Loughborough.”

While Ali and teammates enjoy their success, we say thank you to all alumni donors who support our coaching programmes, especially Mr John Bell (Pharmacy, 1958) whose generosity helped bring top-class hockey coaches Matt Taylor and David Ames into the team. Now our name is back on the trophy.

**Finally, what of University life?**  
“When I came to view The University of Nottingham, it just felt right,” said Ali. “In my second year I lived on Johnson Road, not realising I was just two doors down from dad’s old house. This University is in the family.”



# WE'VE GONE DIGITAL



Find even more content including  
video interviews, photo galleries and extended  
articles in our brand new online edition  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connectonline)

