

Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship – Annual Celebration Event

A truly inspirational experience



The Nottingham Roosevelt Memoria Travelling Scholarship annual Celebration Event was held at the Manners Arms in Knipton on Friday night to hear the experiences of the 2016 scholars and to introduce the 2017 scholars.



Rachel Armitage told how she travelled across 14 states to see how effectively the US improved voter registration among the young and marginalised people in the USA. She studied first hand the 2016 Presidential Elections bringing back good practice to Nottinghamshire. She is now implementing some of her findings through her role at Nottingham City Council and through her newly launched Chi Hack Night. Highlights of the trip were meeting Congressman John Lewis who marched alongside Martin Luther King, appearing on ITV News live from Washington, participating in eight Get the Vote Out events and attending two Hilary Clinton speeches. Rachel said “I also experienced the kindness, generosity and openness of American culture that ensured I was never without a pillow for my head, a meal in my stomach and a friend to call on, no matter where I was. Americans taught me how to eat gefilte fish at Shabbat dinner, when to wear my ‘rush cap’ at a baseball game, how to contra dance with two left feet, and to look for the adventure in every day. I was welcomed into the homes of young families, retired couples, single mothers and struggling students, at each place experiencing the grand tour of the area or taking friendly advice on what to see and do. I toured the Capitol Building in DC, saw the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, cheered at a college football game in Tennessee and followed a Gay

Pride parade through Gainesville, Florida. I loved every minute of the crazy diversity of life on the road - although I'm not sorry to see the back of those Greyhound busses"



Sarah-Marie Taylor told how she overcame her initial fears of travelling alone to embark on a whirlwind 12 city tour visiting urban farms to research urban agriculture and visiting primary schools to learn from organisations teaching practical horticulture, for replication in schools in Nottinghamshire. The trip included visiting Brooklyn Grange Urban Farm, located 11 stories up in New York's skyline that produces 40,000 lbs of produce a year selling to 25 local restaurants,

farms located in derelict industrial sites that are open to anyone to pick their own produce and interact with the space Rootdown LA, an urban project that works to empower youths through horticulture in South Los Angeles that runs school based workshops for young people teaching them skills in growing food and cookery. Sarah said ". I would say the first week was the hardest and spent with emotional highs and lows. However, the whole time my feelings went from being excited, proud, passionate, inspired, and happy to exhausted, homesick, lost and overwhelmed. But that's the magic of it, no two seconds are the same, emotions come and go like waves against the shore but one thing that's remained is a huge sense of achievement. No longer do I fear the unknown, no longer do I take the easy option or stay within my comfort zone and I certainly feel a new 'can do' attitude."



Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, John Handley, also presented certificates to two of the 2017 scholars, Gareth Morgan and Miles Waghorn. The third scholar Angelena Efstathiou is currently in Malawi and she sent in her report from there. Gareth's trip is outlined in his blog and he will be researching how primary school aged children learn English & develop a love of reading, primarily in the South West of the US with a particular interest to support children

from disadvantaged backgrounds, or with English as a second language. Miles set up and runs his own business from The Hive at Nottingham Trent University and will be researching the relationship between aging and technology in American society. Angelena is finishing her masters at Nottingham Trent University and will be researching how to increase community and youth engagement with wildlife and how to understand species re introduction programs.



The Scholarship also recognised the services of three retiring Trustee including the Chairman Dr Nigel Chapman, seen here with secretary and Treasurer Russ Blenkinsop, who is stepping down after three years.

The scholarship is unique to Nottinghamshire and is a truly life changing experience. Open to anyone aged 21 to 35 living or working in Nottinghamshire, successful applicants receive an award of up to £3000 plus air fare to travel to the United States for up to 3 months. Applicants open for 2018 scholars in January 2018 and details are on the website

www.rooseveltscholarship.org. The scholarship was set up in 1946 in honour of FD Roosevelt by the then Lord Mayor of Nottingham Francis Carney who decided with President Eisenhower and Eleanor Roosevelt to have a living memorial to FDR rather than a statue.