

## Nottingham Roosevelt Scholarship Newsletter

### Welcome from our new Chairman Mick Burrows



I am delighted to write to you as the incoming Chairman of the Scholarship. Firstly, I would like to pass on our grateful thanks to Nigel Chapman who served as Chairman for the past three years. We owe a debt of gratitude to Nigel for all that he did, I also know he remains a stalwart supporter.

So, as I take on the role, I have read and digested all I can about the Scholarship and its historic beginnings back in 1946. I have met with past scholars and some of the people entering this year. I have also shared a number of Board meetings with colleague Trustees and want to pay tribute to their support and commitment given by all who I have met.

I want to particularly mention Russ Blenkinsop who clearly acts as the main anchor for the Scholarship. In my early observations, it is clear that without Russ and his continued 'management and co-ordination' there would be no scholarship in Nottinghamshire.

I will be open and honest with you all, as I reflect on what my priority should be as your new Chairman. I am reminded of some of the challenges I faced when serving as Chief Executive for the County Council, when many services faced exceptionally challenging funding issues.

The Scholarship is in a vulnerable position and has limited finances, it has survived on the exceptional goodwill and commitment of a very few people. It is potentially fragile in that it relies on one or two absolute stars who are 'willing volunteers' in the management team. Funding sources are very challenging as public sector finances are consumed with protecting vital public services with very little ability to support anything outside of core priorities such is the scale of demand. As you might expect, most of the original partners and supporters have long disappeared or changed priorities. The companies and organisations that gave great and valued support to the Scholarship are either in different hands or looking to other priorities. Lottery funding is also more difficult to secure than previously, so in a nutshell we face a challenge to survive.

I acknowledge this is a rather gloomy introduction I present to you but felt the need to be up front and honest. However, I remain an eternal optimist and working with the rest of the Trustees have started to reset our priorities and ambitions. We shortly meet to develop a refreshed funding strategy with the aim of creating a sustainable financial plan, we know this will not be easy but are determined to do the best we can to realise a funding solution, this will need to be secured by creating new relationships and strengthening our existing ones- including with alumni.

In conclusion, over one hundred and fifty alumni have over the past seventy odd years shared the privilege of participation in the scholarship. I know from the testimonials and personal contact with past scholars what it did to empower and help shape your future and that of those associated with you. We now need your assistance with ideas, thoughts and any contacts you personally may have who would be interested in supporting the scholarship to enable it to survive and continue into the future.

If you feel you can help, please contact Russ directly (07767-797-335), it doesn't matter if you feel your ideas may be 'off the wall', we need to look at any opportunity or potential supporter we can. Alternatively you might feel you can become a regular donor, if so please see the back page of the newsletter to see how you can help now to help secure the next decade of scholars.

I look forward to hearing from you and leading the scholarship through an exciting and challenging period.

Best wishes,

Mick



## NOTTINGHAM ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP NEWSLETTER August 2017 – TRAVELLING NEWS

8 The Corner, Lowdham, Notts NG14 7AE  
[rooseveltscholarship@googlemail.com](mailto:rooseveltscholarship@googlemail.com) tel 07767-797-335  
Twitter: @NottsRoosevelt  
[www.rooseveltscholarship.org](http://www.rooseveltscholarship.org)



### SCHOLARSHIP AND TRUSTEE DEVELOPMENT NEWS - New Trustees

It is with great pleasure to welcome 3 new Trustees onto the Scholarship.

**Mick Burrows**



Mick Burrows, is the former Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, he took over from Nigel Chapman at the May AGM meeting.

Mick brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and contacts at a crucial time for the Scholarship

**Cllr Yvonne Woodhead**



Born and raised in Blidworth, Yvonne was first elected to Nottinghamshire County Council in June 2000 and represents the Blidworth division including Rainworth and Haywood Oaks.

Her public service experience includes roles as Vice-Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council's Adult Social Care Committee. Yvonne is a great advocate for young people and supports local sports clubs. Yvonne has supported a number of voluntary organisations for many years.

**Gabriel Strauss**



Gabriel runs a successful local business in Nottinghamshire and has links to the Scholarship through Trustee Ed Attenborough.

Gabriel will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Scholarship from links to the business community to develop new processes.

### FAREWELLS

- **Nigel Chapman** officially stepped down as Chairman from the Scholarship in May. He took over the helm from Sir Andrew Buchannan at a very uncertain time and guided the Scholarship to its present position.
- **Paul Balen** (1977) has been a long-standing Trustee of the Scholarship for 35 years, 20 of which were as Chairman.
- **John Town** became a Trustee in early 2012 and played a key role in the applications process.
- **Sarah Wright (nee Eitzen)** (2014) is leaving for new and exciting opportunities in London. We wish her the very best and hope to see her in the future.
- **Sarah-Marie Taylor** (2016) although not Trustee has made a valuable contribution since returning from her Scholarship. She will soon be leaving Nottingham to join her boyfriend in Canada. Sarah will help to champion the Scholarship from the other side of the pond.

We are extremely grateful for all the contributions these individuals have made throughout the years.

## ALUMNI EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

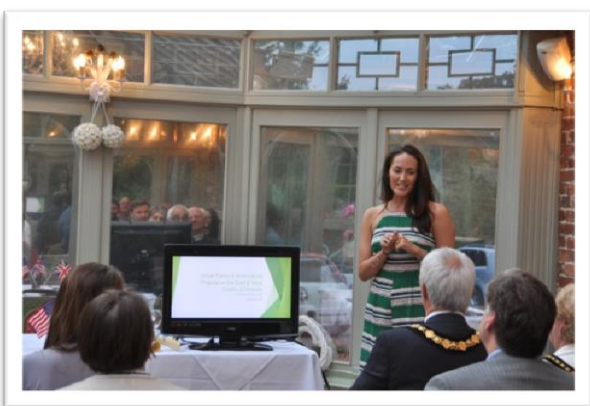
### CELEBRATION EVENT



L:R Miles Waghorn, Nigel Chapman, Russ Blenkinsop, Rachel Armitage, Cllr John Handley, Margaret Handley, Gareth Morgan Sarah Taylor

**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."



**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 Rootdown LA, an urban project that works to empower youths through horticulture in South Los Angeles running 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. 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."

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, The Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship Annual Celebration Event was held at the Manners Arms in Kipton scholars to welcome back the 2016 scholars and to introduce the 2017 scholars. We were joined by over 35 friends, family members, visitors and former scholars. Sarah and Rachel (2016 scholars) shared their amazing experiences of their journey around the USA and the 2017 scholars shared their plans for their new adventures.



#### UP AND COMING ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

- **September:** Heritage Open Day – Sun 10<sup>th</sup>
- **October:** Goose Fair – Mushy Peas and Pint.
- **November:** Thanksgiving Meal and Talk - TBC
- **December:** Xmas Meal -TBC

Please contact [Sheridan.chilvers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Sheridan.chilvers@hotmail.co.uk) for more information on Alumni Social Events.



## NEW 2017 SCHOLARS SELECTED (Follow their travels on our website [www.rooseveltscholarship.org](http://www.rooseveltscholarship.org))

After a tough application and recruitment process, we are delighted to announce the appointment of 3 new Nottingham Roosevelt Scholars. They include:



**Miles Waghorn** - Travel dates (6 July to 17 August)

I'm Miles, I'm 24 and I'm an entrepreneur. As the world's ageing population grows, huge numbers of older people will experience problems like Dementia, loneliness and isolation. I'm an entrepreneur that believes technology holds the key to combatting these problems and help seniors live a happier, healthier and more independent lifestyle.



**Gareth Morgan** Travel dates (14 October to 9 December)

I'm Gareth Morgan, a writer, theatre-maker and education specialist from Nottingham. I'll mostly be travelling in the Southwest of the US looking at how primary school aged children learn English & develop a love of reading, with a particular interest to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds, or with English as a second language.

**Angelina Efstathiou**- Travel dates (23 October to 18 January 2018)

I am passionate and over excitable conservationists who specializes in bat ecology and whilst in the USA I will be researching two subjects: i) How to increase community and youth engagement with wildlife and ii) understanding species re introduction programs. I am hoping to bring information back to Nottinghamshire that will benefit wildlife and people, to inspire more people to get involved in its protection for the future.

## PREVIOUS SCHOLAR UPDATES

### NOTTINGHAM SOUP

On 6th July, Elisia Denton (2015 Scholar) organised another successful Nottingham Soup event. The idea came from the enormously successful Detroit Soup which has raised more than \$130,000 hosting over 150 Soups since 2010.

The idea is folks get together, each donating a minimum of £5 for tasty homemade soup, and hear from 4 social action projects. The winner takes 100% of the donations! The first #nottsoup raised £340 for a dementia project. There will be another 2 Nottingham Soup events this year. To find out more, get in touch with Elisia at [nottinghamsoup@gmail.com](mailto:nottinghamsoup@gmail.com)

### CARLTON ROTARY CLUB

As part of our efforts to raise the profile of the Scholarship we are actively engaging with networking groups across Nottinghamshire. In July Rachel Armitage and Gareth Bartsch attended the Carlton Rotary Club, to talk about their experiences of Scholarship and why it is important to Nottinghamshire. The Rotarians kindly donated £50 towards the Scholarship. If you have any links with Nottinghamshire based Rotary Clubs please let us know.

L-R Elisia Denton (2015), Tig Howells (2015)  
Sheridan Chilvers (2011), Gareth Morgan (2017)



## ALUMNI STORIES

The Scholarship goes on providing opportunities for local young people to make their own journey to transform their career, aspirations and self-confidence - on an unbroken path now trodden by over 150 scholars over 68 years. In each newsletter we will bring you a story, pictures or memories from passed scholars.

### Trip to America



The Lord Mayor of Nottingham gave a civic send-off to the six Roosevelt Scholarship winners, who left for the USA to-day. They are (left to right): Mr. G. B. Harrington, Miss S. P. Roberts, Miss J. M. Cooper, Dr. I. D. Spark, Mrs. P. Courtis, and Mr. V. Paige. Mr. George Spencer, vice-chairman of the trustees, is also in the picture.

We are grateful for Pamela Courtis who kindly shared newspaper cuttings she collected from when she was awarded the Scholarship in 1953 and of Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Nottingham in the 1950's

Top Left: In 1951, six individuals were awarded the Nottingham Roosevelt Scholarship.

- Mr. G. Harrington
- Miss. S.P. Roberts
- Miss. J.M. Cooper
- Dr. I.D Spark
- Mrs. P. Courtis
- Mr. V. Paige

## Mrs. Roosevelt's Tour

### Invited to Visit Nottingham

Mrs. Roosevelt, widow of President Roosevelt, may visit Nottingham when she comes to England next March. She was invited by the six men and women who have been travelling around the USA on the Roosevelt Traveling Memorial Scholarship, to include Nottingham in her itinerary.

They heard of her plans when they talked with her about their American tour at a dinner party in New York a week last Saturday.

She said she hoped she would be able to return the visit of young Nottingham people made in her husband's memory.

Three of this year's group reached Southampton by the Queen Elizabeth last night. In four months, each has gained an insight into particular aspects of American life.

#### TOURISTS' IMPRESSIONS.

Mrs. Pamela Courtis, of Willoughby-road, West Bridgford was queuing up at the ship's telephones to call her husband when I spoke to her, writes the Post London correspondent. She saw America through the eyes of a tourist overwhelmed by the scenic splendour of the Grand Canyon, of a housewife enthusiastic to be able to shop at any hour of the day or night, and of a designer thrilled by American textiles.

Mr. Geoffrey B. Harrington, of Loughborough-road, West Bridgford, went to meet real Americans and found them as informal as he had been told. There was the

prison warden who took him round a Kentucky gaol and insisted that he met the prisoners and see the tear gas bombs and the penitentiary armory. The prisoners were mostly negroes and Mr. Harrington found them sullen.

Mr. Victor Paige, of Goodwood-road, Wollaton, added to Mr. Harrington's evidence.

Mr. Paige had his own story of American informality. He visited a law court in Cincinnati. "When the bailiff told the judge about me, he adjourned the court and called me in for a talk."

Mr. Paige said of American productivity: "I am not convinced we are lagging so far behind as some people think."

Three members of the party are spending Christmas in America and Canada.

Left: An article from the local Nottingham paper indicating that Eleanor Roosevelt may visit Nottingham as part of her UK visit.

Bottom: Eleanor Roosevelt with Scholars in Nottingham.

It must have been a wonderful experience.





## FINANCES AND FUNDING NEWS.

As you all aware from previous newsletters, the Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship faces difficult financial time with the loss of funding from Nottingham City Council and County Council. As a result we are looking for creative ways to generate income and funding.

### Heritage Lottery Bid

Sheridan Chilvers (2011 Scholar) is currently writing a Heritage Lottery Bid to conduct research into the impact of scholars on Nottinghamshire. This is an exciting opportunity for the scholarship to collect and record its heritage. The funding will be used to conduct phone interviews with scholars from across the decades. We hope that this initial project will enable us to draw down further funding in future years. Sheridan, Rachel, Louise and Russ may get in touch regarding this project.

### ALUMNI SUPPORT AND LEGACY

The Scholarship is now funded largely by gifts made by our unique network of alumni - from the returning scholar who donates £5 each month through standing order, to the couple who now give more than £1,000 a year and by a very generous donation from an alumni now living in the USA of \$10,000.

Please consider joining them if you can, both in memory and tribute of your own scholarship and of the many special people who made your journey something you will always treasure. To become part of the alumni network who now enable others to have this fantastic opportunity, please find a simple form below to set up a regular gift via standing order, and also a gift aid form to enable the scholarship to reclaim tax on every penny we can!.

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#### Name and address of your bank (including postcode)

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.....

#### Instructions to your bank: Please make payments and debit my/our account number:

....., Sort Code: ..... to the account of Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship (Account 96876077, Nat West Bank, Nottingham City Branch, Unit 27, Victoria Centre, Nottingham NG1 3QD, Sort code 60-80-09) with the sum of: ☐£10, ☐£25, ☐£50 ☐Other £ ..... per month until further notice, starting on ..... or as soon thereafter.

Please quote reference .....(to be inserted by NRMTS),

In order to Gift Aid your donation please tick the box below:

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I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship (Charity number 512941). I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature(s): ..... Date: ..... (today's date)

Your name (capitals please) (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms): .....

Address (capitals please): .....

.....

..... Postcode: .....

Please return this form to NRMTS at the following address:

Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship

c/o Treasurer - Russ Blenkinsop, Willow Cottage, 8 The Corner, Lowdham, Notts NG14 7AE