



Speech for The Lord Mayor, Councillor Rosemary Healy

Event : Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship 70th Celebration
Time and venue : Tuesday 26th November- 6pm at Red's True BBQ, 11 Queen Street, NG1 2BL.

Mayor of Nottingham - draft speech – target time 5 minutes

I am delighted to be here tonight to help celebrate the 70th Anniversary of this invaluable and unique scholarship.

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Roosevelt Scholarship provides a unique professional development opportunity to both the Scholar and their employer. It also provides an opportunity to promote the culture and heritage of Nottingham and the wider County at a time when the UK more than ever, needs to be promoting itself to the international community.

Tonight, we celebrate a very historic and important moment when back in 1945, my predecessor Councillor Francis Carney, as Lord Mayor, was instrumental in initiating this scholarship.

Back in 1945, as a result of American intervention in the Second World War, many cities in the UK wanted to show their appreciation for President Franklin Roosevelt's actions and support to this Country. Many places across the Country erected statues and memorials in his name. However, here in Nottingham such was the relationship that following a visit to the City by General Eisenhower and Franklin's wife Eleanor Roosevelt it was agreed to do something special. Nottingham's leaders from both the Civic and Business world agreed with The Roosevelt Family and General Eisenhower to create and support a living memorial that was focused on young people and their development both personally and professionally. And so, the scholarship was born with the first four scholars participating in 1949.

Those scholars were fortunate enough to travel in the US for 6 months and stay with the Roosevelt family. Since then we have sent over 180 scholars to the US to study a wide range of topics from the private, public and third sector. The scholarship has continually developed over time and now offers shorter scholarships with a wider age range to recognise the changing work pressure and lifestyles.

As a Trustee I am really pleased to add my support to tonight, I also look forward to many more scholars in the future participating in this once in lifetime opportunity. I particularly want to hear what one of our own City Council employees Sam who is actually on the Scholarship and in the USA at the moment researching environmental and green issues, I can't wait for Sam to return with her observations, learning and the best practice she found on her trip as we strive to improve the way we live here today.