



Thank you to everyone who came to the 70th Anniversary event. It was great to see so many new faces and reconnect with old friends. The event started with drinks and sliders, courtesy of our excellent hosts Reds True BBQ of Queens St. Chairman Mick Burrows started the evening explaining that we have now passed the 180 scholar mark since the original 4 scholars John Adams, Dennis Greensmith, Fred Riddell and Denis Goldsworth left in 1949. Each scholar has a unique experience and brings back valuable learning points for their employer / county. Recently Ben Felstead, 2018 scholar, had returned having worked with homeless organisations and brought back ideas to help in the county and with this employer Notts YMCA.

Among the guests was Dianne Allen, representing the Nottingham City Business Club which has a strong relationship with the scholarship since its beginning. Indeed Eleanor Roosevelt spoke at the club on a visit in 1962 when she was collected at the Nottingham Station by one of the 1958 scholars Christine Attenborough in her Morris Minor!

We welcomed back Clive & Jeanette Dobbs (1970) who have returned from New Zealand to live in Bingham. Our 'youngest' alumni was Michael Smith (1960) and we had alumni from each of the following decades.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Cllr Kevin Rostance, chairman of Notts County Council. The county are a long standing Trustee of the scholarship and have been very supportive over the years. Indeed this year we are working with the County to help

commemorate 400 years since the Nottinghamshire Pilgrims left Scrooby and Babworth and eventually arrived in America helping create the American story and institutions such as the Constitution and Thanksgiving.

We were also very pleased to welcome the Lord Mayor Cllr Rosemary Healy. The City and the Lord Mayor's office were instrumental in the founding the scholarship and are also a long standing Trustee and supporter of the scholarship.

The Lord Mayor then gave a speech outlining how her predecessor Cllr Francis Carney had set up the scholarship after discussions with General Eisenhower and Eleanor Roosevelt. After the end of WW2 many cities wanted to honour the contribution President Roosevelt had made to hastening the end of the war. While many had opted for statues, Nottingham wanted a living memorial and that became the scholarship. The Roosevelt family have maintain a close connection with the scholarship from Eleanor through her son John, grand son Haven and now great grand daughter Sarah Schoonmaker. Scholars now meet with Sarah in New York at the start of their trip.

The Lord Mayor had met with one of the current scholars, Sam Preston, who works for NCC and is currently in the States looking at new Green initiatives and approaches to greater population engagement with these issues. Sam would be giving a talk on her return but in the meantime the Lord Mayor introduced new ex scholars to talk about their experiences and how they had impacted the city and county.

Elisia Denton (2015) has studied how to develop an economy where micro companies can survive and grow. One of the organisations she visited Detroit Soup had so inspired her that on her return she set up Nottingham Soup to raise awareness and funding for small organisations. At each event attendees pay £5 for a bowl of soup and listen to 4 'pitches' from organisations. The winner takes home all the £5 payments for their cause. So far there have been 7 events raising over £3,000 with a particular focus this year on mental health.

Sheridan Chilvers' (2011) project was an investigation into organisations that support and develop social entrepreneurs. This enabled him to become the entrepreneur in residence at New College Nottingham and inspire 25 entrepreneurs to start businesses. He now works for Futures helping young people create a better future for themselves and runs a 3D printing company.

Mick then rounded off the evening explaining the vision for the scholarship was to grow the number of scholars to 5 per year. This would be a challenge for the Trustee in finding supporters who could help both financially and in spreading the benefits of what the scholars had found.