



## Speech for NRMTS Chairman, Mick Burrows



**Event** : Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship 70th Celebration

A warm welcome to you all - and thank you for coming here this evening. Particular thanks to Rosemary The Lord Mayor and Kevin The Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council for being with us tonight\* I also at this point want to thank Sheridan, Tori, Elisia and Rachel who made tonight happen...if you get chance to speak to them and our other scholars here tonight please do so as their enthusiasm is infectious!

Today we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Nottingham Roosevelt Memorial Travelling Scholarship. Over the past 70 years over 180 young professionals from Nottinghamshire have been awarded the life changing experience to travel around the USA and bring home their learning and knowledge as part of the Scholarship.

Tonight, we will be hearing from a couple of Scholars about their journey and the positive impact on them, their employer and Nottinghamshire as a whole.

We are also delighted to have a strong relationship with Nottingham City Business Club - welcome Dianne - have been with us for the past 70 years the Club that is not Dianne! and actually hosted Eleanor Roosevelt when she was here. As I recall I think it was Ed Attenborough (One of our Trustees) mum who actually Chauffeured Eleanor from the station in her Morris Minor when she was visiting from London \*

Today our relationship with the Roosevelt family remains strong and true, Haven Roosevelt a retired NY Lawyer is our Patron and this year Sarah Schoonmaker Franklins great granddaughter has agreed to be our main connection to the family - Sarah is great and personally welcomes our scholars to the States.

Our 180 plus alumni are now spread far and wide across the world - a special welcome though to Clive and Jeannette Dobbs who have returned from NZ and like many alumni are great supporters. I wanted to thank all alumni for their support including those from the US and Canada who continue to host and donate.

I also want to mention our Trustees, including the Lord Mayor and Chairman but particularly Keith Taylor who is one of our Trustees, Keith was a scholar in 1959 he is as enthusiastic as ever and most helpfully continues to open important doors to Harvard, Universities, Embassies and other key organisations across the States.

Today, we are delighted to be supporting two new scholars - Sam Preston and Henry Franklin who are currently in the States on their travels, we are also delighted to share in an excellent opportunity with the County Council for a Mayflower scholar to travel to America to research the descendants of the Pilgrims who left Nottinghamshire 399 years ago to escape persecution - we will celebrate their journey next year at the National Mayflower 400th anniversary. Our scholars input will hopefully add great value and insight into the past and what actually happened to those brave men women and children all that time ago.

So, as we look to the future, we are not a wealthy or extravagant scholarship, each scholar costs between 2/3k for a 6 week scholarship and 4/5K each for a 12 week scholarship, many individuals find ways to top that up to extend their experience - however we now survive on 'one off' funding and individual contributions - our ambition is to enable support to 5 scholars a year over the next five years as we believe this twinning has become more important than ever in this world of change and global challenge.

Your support to our ambition will always be warmly welcomed as we look ahead. I am confident that once you hear directly from our scholars here tonight you will witness the significant added value and difference they are making to life here in Nottinghamshire today.....

So without further ado lets move on ...

If I can now introduce The Lord Mayor to say a few words - Rosemary