

December 2021



Chaplains visit people in their place of work to offer friendship and to listen. Their support is unconditional, non-judgemental, independent and confidential.

## Interesting to Know.....

Nottingham is the best place in the UK to live and work. The news comes from research conducted by *Opinium* on behalf of a financial service company and rates the quality of life in UK cities, examining the affordability of housing, pace of life and the ease of commuting. Nottingham topped the list as the best place to live and work, beating Leeds, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Glasgow.

**The city's traditional 60ft high Norway Spruce Christmas tree, lit with 4,000 twinkling bulbs, has taken centre stage in front of the Council House. This year market stalls and activities are also located in Smithy Row, Long Row and Trinity Square.**

The Leader of the City Council has said the vision for the Broadmarsh site will be available by the end of the year.

**The *Nottingham Business Improvement District* has appointed Alexander Flint as its new chief executive. Flint will be responsible for leading the work of the BID which will see a further £1m invested in the city centre over the next five years.**

*Nottingham College* has 34,000 further education students, 10 campuses and 2,500 employer clients.

***Emmanuel House* is re-opening its Winter Shelter. The charity will offer accommodation for up to 22 people per night – ensuring there are fewer people on the streets during the coldest months of the year. The shelter will utilise an empty building on the Nottingham University campus and will be modified with temporary walls and screens, so each guest has their own, Covid-secure space.**

Adult Social Care, including Whole Life Disability services, is the largest area of net expenditure for the Council at £89m for 2021/22.

**The inequity of the council tax system has been laid bare by new data from the property website *Rightmove*, which reveals vast differences in the amount paid across the country. In the most expensive area, Nottingham, residents pay more than £2,226 per year for the typical Band D home - more than 2.5 times the £829 paid by residents in affluent Westminster.**

There are 700,000 volunteer trustees who run charities in England and Wales.

**Developer *Chancerygate* has acquired a 6.35-acre site in Colwick to speculatively build 137,852ft<sup>2</sup> of industrial and warehousing space and create hundreds of jobs. The site, which was formerly a major fuel distribution centre for Total Petroleum but has been unused since 2019, is located off Colwick Loop Road in Colwick Industrial Estate. It is around five miles east of the city centre.**

Nottingham has 86.6% of 16 and 17 year old young people in full time educational training. That is against an England average of 87.4%.

**Major plans to secure devolved powers for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have moved a step closer after council leaders agreed to adopt a report which sets out their ambitious vision for devolution. The report outlines how leaders from the county’s nine councils will work in partnership to help boost economic investment, improve the environment, and tackle health and educational inequalities if a devolution deal is agreed.**

**The new *Sainsbury's* superstore at Colwick is now open. It has created 200 jobs.**

Proposals for a scheme that will see a new pedestrian and cycle crossing built over the River Trent have been put forward. It will be the first bridge to be built over the Trent in Nottingham for more than 60 years.

**The City Council has increased the supply of alternative forms of temporary accommodation from under 90 units at the beginning of 2018 to over 350 units currently.**

*Nottingham College's* chief executive is stepping down after suffering from a "serious heart attack". John van de Laarschot will end his four-year tenure at Nottingham College at the end of this year to "focus on regaining fitness and resilience".

**More than 691 million free COVID lateral flow test have been distributed in the UK in the past year but only 14% of these have been used to register a test result with the NHS.**

Employment by occupation (Jul 2020-Jun 2021)				
	Nottingham (Numbers)	Nottingham (%)	East Midlands (%)	Great Britain (%)
Soc 2010 Major Group 1-3	69,100	41.3	44.2	50.0
1 Managers, Directors And Senior Officials	11,500	6.8	10.7	10.9
2 Professional Occupations	36,800	22.0	19.9	23.3
3 Associate Professional & Technical	20,800	12.4	13.6	15.6
Soc 2010 Major Group 4-5	35,600	21.3	19.4	19.2
4 Administrative & Secretarial	21,300	12.7	9.4	10.2
5 Skilled Trades Occupations	14,300	8.5	10.0	9.0
Soc 2010 Major Group 6-7	33,200	19.9	17.8	16.1
6 Caring, Leisure And Other Service Occupations	21,200	12.6	10.0	9.0
7 Sales And Customer Service Occs	12,000	7.2	7.8	7.1
Soc 2010 Major Group 8-9	29,400	17.6	18.5	14.7
8 Process Plant & Machine Operatives	10,700	6.4	7.8	5.6
9 Elementary Occupations	18,700	11.1	10.7	9.1

Source: ONS annual population survey  
 Notes: Numbers and % are for those of 16+  
 % is a proportion of all persons in employment

**87.6% of Greater Nottingham’s population lives in the Nottingham Urban Area but just 46.3% of its population lives within the City of Nottingham.**

Nottingham’s *Civic Society* is calling on the council to stop giving planning approval to tall buildings which it fears overshadow the city’s history. However, one councillor sitting on the planning committee and in favour of the development, Cllr Toby Neal (Lab), said the future of cities like Nottingham was building upwards and the council is "going to have to take that onboard".

**In the city 46% of hackney, 69% of private hire vehicles and 30% of the City Council’s fleet are Ultra Low Emission Vehicles.**

**Nottinghamshire YMCA has changed its name to *YMCA Robin Hood Group*. The group title will only be used for operational/strategic purposes. Having first launched as Nottingham YMCA in 1871, the regional charity has evolved to serve the wider community through supported housing and varied youth services and specific names for their local branches will be used: *YMCA Greater Nottingham* (covering Nottingham, Worksop and Mansfield), *YMCA Newark and Sherwood*, and *YMCA York and East Riding* (covering Goole, etc.).**

Nottingham has seen an increase in students of around 30% over the past decade as our universities continue to attract more people to study.

**Plans have been revealed to build a padel tennis centre next to Notts County's Meadow Lane Ground. The plans would see four padel tennis courts built on unused land off Cattle Market Road and Iremonger Road to the north-west of the stadium.**

Engineering consultancy *Rodgers Leask* has chosen Nottingham city centre for its fourth UK Office.

**The Victoria Embankment Memorial Gardens is on land that was originally bought by Sir Jesse Boot, the founder of *Boots the Chemist*. It was sold to the Corporation of Nottingham in 1920 so that it could be preserved as open space and a memorial site in perpetuity.**

The City Council says one of its biggest priorities is to open a new Central Library but an exact date on opening is still up in the air. It was due to open in 2021. Thousands of books and records from the former library on Angel Row are currently being stored at an industrial unit two miles from the city centre. The internal fit out will cost in the region of £10m. Some of the proceeds of the sale of the Angel Row building are to be used to furnish the new central library. However, negotiations on the sale have still not been completed.

***Birds Bakery* has earned national recognition after being named 'bakery retailer of the year' at the prestigious Bakery Industry Awards 2021. They have 62 stores across the region employing more than 700 people.**

More than two million pensioners live in poverty. Nearly a quarter rely on mean tested benefits. Almost a million who should receive pension credit are missing out.

**Nick Thorley, a blind Nottingham man has run 120 miles and raised £5,000 for peace-building charity *Cord*. Nick, 43, who has had no sight for 15 years, took up running 6 years ago. *Cord* is an international charity working to make peace a reality where people don't have the freedom to exercise their rights.**

*Tenpin*, the indoor bowling venue which is next to Showcase cinema on Clifton Boulevard, has had a £500,000 refit. The investment also includes 17 new jobs.

**A new *Green Rewards* app and web platform which means Nottingham residents can accumulate points and earn prizes for many activities they do every day to reduce their carbon footprint has been launched.**

The last empty unit in Byard Lane in the city centre has become *Tailors* – a bespoke clothing shop.

**The *University of Nottingham* recently welcomed the country's first Electro-mechanical Engineer Degree Apprentices. The new five-year programme allows both new and existing employees to undertake academic study alongside their employment.**

The City Council has been given Government funding to 'enforce' energy efficiency standards in privately rented properties in the city.

**Nottinghamshire firm *Rototek* is looking to fill 40 new positions at its Newark factory due to a significant increase in demand for its plastic manufacturing services.**

There are now 90 businesses employing 9,000 people across the East Midlands Airport Cargo site. It is the UK's largest dedicated cargo operation and the UK's number one airport for express freight. UPS alone has just invested £138 million in its new facility.

**Arthur Oscroft, a former Nottingham City Council housing director, '*changed the face of Nottingham*'. He was instrumental in carrying out demolition and rebuilding in areas such as St Ann's, The Meadows and Hyson Green. He implemented rehousing and demolition strategies to tackle unpopular high density, system built estates, such as at Hyson Green, Basford and Balloon Woods, enabling low rise family friendly developments to take their place.**

The Victoria Shopping Centre will have been open for 50 years in 2022.

***Inspired Villages*, the operator of retirement communities across the UK, has opened its new headquarters in Edwalton. Currently, *Inspired* supports around 1,000 residents across six operational villages.**

The dean for the *School of Art & Design* has said the new development at 42 Shakespeare Street will not only be an architecturally significant building for Nottingham and *Nottingham Trent University* but one which will see the *School of Art & Design* becoming the leading art school for the creative industries.

**More weddings are planned for next year than at any time since the 1980's.**

The University of Nottingham has completed a deal to buy the Castle Meadow complex of buildings initially used by HM Revenue and Customs. The University has plans to provide a campus for final year and postgraduate students, realising its long-standing ambitions to have a greater physical presence within the city centre.

**Nottingham Women's Centre research shows that 75% of Nottingham women they surveyed said the cost of childcare affects the amount they can work.**

County Council Customer Services answered one million calls in 18 months. They say that despite the high number of queries, people only had to wait an average of 46 seconds before getting assistance from a member of staff.

**Almost four in ten properties are 'under-occupied' and could be better used by younger families with children, the Housing Minister has said. However, more developments are needed for pensioners before space can be freed up.**

Hospital discharge to street homelessness has been an ongoing area of concern in Nottingham when somebody is medically fit for discharge but is at risk of rough sleeping.

**The Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency have warned that huge numbers of driving licences will expire before Wednesday, August 31, 2022 – over 6% of the total 40,666,276 licences currently in operation. Due to last year's national lockdown, motorists with driving licences which expired between February and December received an automatic 11-month extension to renew their licence.**