

# Network

Brackenhurst Supplement

Nottingham Trent University Alumni Association

|

Summer 2006

## Welcome

Welcome to this special *Network* supplement especially for Brackenhurst graduates.

We are always inundated with news and stories about graduates from all Schools across the University so it is great to be able to fill this supplement with news specifically from Brackenhurst and the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences.

All former students remain valued members of the University community. We are keen to try and regain contact with Brackenhurst graduates with whom we have lost touch over the years so that we can reintroduce them to the Brackenhurst Old Students Association (BOSA) and the University's Alumni Association. Perhaps you can help us re-establish contact with some of your friends, so that we can begin to share NTU and Brackenhurst news with them too.

Now it's easier than ever to keep in touch if you join the Alumni Online Community. Created especially for NTU alumni, it allows you to securely update your details, find your friends, add news about yourself, and much more. It's free and really easy to join. Find out more at [www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni) and click on 'Register / Update your details'.

We hope you enjoy reading this special supplement. It's always great to receive your news and photographs, so keep them coming in, and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Alumni Office

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## Gardens produce success

The BBC Gardeners' World Live 2006 brought more success for Brackenhurst students... and a chance to chat with gardening guru Alan Titchmarsh.



A section of the award-winning gardens

Green-fingered students were delighted to win two bronze awards at this year's BBC Gardeners' World Live Show, held in June.

A team of 40 students designed the *Gardeners ... for Life* three-in-one garden space for people with physical disabilities brought on by old-age, illness or injury. With the help of a special simulation suit, developed by the Ergonomics and Safety Research Institute at Loughborough University in collaboration with the Ford Motor Company, they analysed the tasks which placed demands on these gardeners and looked at ways of addressing them.

The *Gardeners ... for Life* showpiece featured three gardens, each packed full of labour-saving ideas. The two outer gardens were designed by final-year students on the FdSc Garden Design and FdSc Landscape and Heritage foundation degree courses. They reflected their lively gardening interest and the demands they can visualise for their own futures. The central garden – designed by second-year students on the BSc (Hons) Design Development: Landscape and Interiors degree – was more futuristic in appearance, but was very much in keeping with the overall theme.

Students from all three NTU courses earned the praise of judges at Gardeners' World Live.

Alison Evans, Academic Leader for Landscape Management, commented: "Everyone involved on the garden worked their socks off, producing fantastic designs they should all be extremely proud of. We had a thoroughly enjoyable time and are delighted to have come away with two bronze awards."

The project was generously sponsored by retirement builder McCarthy & Stone and supported by Perennial Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society.



Alan Titchmarsh with Brackenhurst students

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# Transforming Brackenhurst

Staff and students alike have been enjoying the effects of the changes at Brackenhurst, as the campus and its extensive facilities go from strength to strength.

The Brackenhurst campus continues to be transformed and improved, thanks to a multi-million pound estate investment by the University.

The splendid new learning facilities housed within the Bramley building have now been complemented by impressive new halls of residence; a facility for a brand new course in veterinary nursing; and a state-of-the-art resource for horticulture studies. These outstanding facilities have made the campus even more welcoming and supportive, and they have already made a favourable impression on students and potential students.

## An accommodating environment

New halls of residence at Brackenhurst are examples of student accommodation at its best. Each flat has six en suite rooms, a large kitchen and a lounge with sofas, tables and chairs. There are boot rooms and drying facilities and fabulous views across open countryside, even taking in the sight of nearby Southwell Minster.

The opening of the new accommodation was warmly welcomed by students. Alex Leslei, a second year student, said: "It's really great. The en suite facilities mean we no longer have to share and we have much more space in the kitchen and lounge areas."



A campus for all seasons

## A glass act

Horticulture studies can now blossom even more at Brackenhurst, thanks to the introduction of new hi-tech glasshouses.

The old greenhouse has been replaced with a Dutch-designed unit which provides a highly precise, controlled internal environment. Each of the five internal zones is linked to a



The new halls of residence

computer-controlled environmental system that can create artificial day and night regimes by utilising space-age roof and wall screens.

The glasshouses will now become a focal point for staff and students who are researching native and non-native wildflowers, with particular emphasis on areas such as homeopathic remedies and cosmetics.

## Vet nursing in progress

NTU staff and contractors recently celebrated the 'topping out' of the new Veterinary Nursing Unit at Brackenhurst.

The building, being created with the help of funding of almost £1 million from East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*), will house the new integrated Veterinary Nursing

foundation degree course which is due to be launched in 2007. The course will complement the provision in equine studies and animal science for which the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences is already renowned.

Lecturer Valerie Mcpherson said: "I think this will be an innovative step forward in using this campus to its full potential. Veterinary nursing is a popular career path and there is an increased demand for training provision in the UK. Students will gain a recognised qualification from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and a University degree."

This is exciting new territory for Brackenhurst and features collaboration with the Veterinary Medicine team at the University of Nottingham as well as veterinary practices throughout the East Midlands.



Work on the new veterinary nursing building is now underway

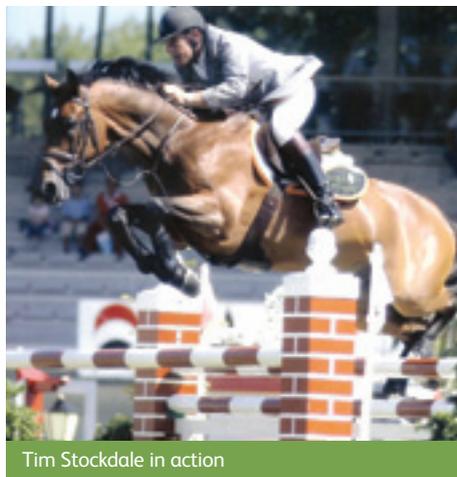
# Riding high

The Alumni Fund can help finance dramatic additions to the University, as the latest addition to the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences and showjumper Tim Stockdale's recent appearance proved.

Students in the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences are benefiting from the generosity of NTU alumni.

The Alumni Fund was established to add value to the learning experience of students throughout the University, and some of last year's donations have enabled the School to revamp its indoor riding school.

Donations went towards a wireless public address system for equine events organised by students, and a new seating gallery. Thanks to our alumni donors, students can now use the seating area to gain extra knowledge by listening to instructors and watching lessons. The PA system also provides dedicated support for a student who has hearing difficulties.



Tim Stockdale in action

As a result of the new seating gallery, the School recently hosted an evening with international showjumper Tim Stockdale, who told his audience about techniques required for successful showjumping and demonstrated using three of his horses.

Heather Owen, Academic Team Leader for Animal and Equine Sciences in the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, said: "We were delighted to be able to invite Tim to Nottingham Trent University. It's just the kind of event the new galleried seating area was created for."

For more information about the Alumni Fund call +44 (0)115 848 8775 or visit the website at [www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni/fund](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/alumni/fund)

## Brackenhurst Old Students Association (BOSA) News

### Annual Lunch

Every year, BOSA organises a reunion lunch and every year more and more people attend to catch up with old friends. This year's BOSA Annual Lunch was no exception. A total of 254 people gathered at the Cedric Ford Pavilion, Newark Showground, including old students (graduating from Brackenhurst as far back as 1949) and their partners and staff. They had the chance to listen to a talk by Nottingham Trent University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Neil Gorman, as well as to reminisce about their time at Brackenhurst.

BOSA Secretary Jill Lewis (Rural Economy 1954) said: "I am always delighted to welcome so many Brackenhurst friends to the annual lunch. It's an important date in the BOSA calendar and we really look forward to it every year."



Brackenhurst Main Hall

Plans are already in place for next year's BOSA lunch which will be held on Sunday 11 March 2007. For more information, please contact Jill Lewis via the Alumni Office on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or at [alumni@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ntu.ac.uk)

### Annual Farm Walk

Organised every summer, BOSA's annual farm walk is always an enjoyable experience and yet another chance to meet up with friends. This year, by kind permission of Andrew Howard, the BOSA Farm Walk took place at Hodsock Lodge Farm in Langold, Near Worksop. The walk included a visit to the pack house and the chance to see the farm's intensive vegetable growing operations.

BOSA Chairman, Bob Adam, organised the walk. He said: "It was a lovely evening and everybody at the farm made us very welcome. I would like to thank all those that participated and hope that they will join us again next year."

For further information about the Annual Farm Walk, please contact Bob Adam via the Alumni Office on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or at [alumni@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ntu.ac.uk)

### BOSA 50th anniversary reunion

Brackenhurst graduates from 1956/57 are organising their 50th anniversary reunion for Sunday 17 September 2006. If you know the whereabouts of any Brackenhurst graduates



Class of 1956/57

from that year, particularly Howard Smith, Mike Barnes, Doug Johnson, Keith Wilson, Mike Stephenson or Brian Moore, please contact Rosalyn Sneath (Rural Economy 1957) via the Alumni Office on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or at [alumni@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ntu.ac.uk)

### Help us find your friends

We are keen to maintain contact with all Brackenhurst graduates, through the Brackenhurst Old Students Association (BOSA) and the University's Alumni Association. Both are free of charge to join. However, inevitably over time, we have lost touch with some former students. If you have the details of your alumni friends, we'd be grateful if you could pass them on. Did you know we can also help you regain contact with your old friends? Simply get in touch with us on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or at [alumni@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@ntu.ac.uk)

# Rural traditions alive and well

This year Nottingham Trent University is pleased to be hosting the 2006 Southwell Ploughing Match and Show at Brackenhurst. And it promises to be a fun day for all.

Considered to be the foremost competition of its kind in Nottinghamshire, the 2006 Southwell Ploughing Match and Show will take place at Brackenhurst in September. Events will include a number of classes in the ploughing fields, the show rings, and a domestic and horticultural produce section.

Free tractor and trailer rides will take visitors around the show site so that they do not miss out on any of the action, including visits to the rural crafts, farmers' market and trade stands.

Southwell and District Agricultural Society began in 1855 as an organisation seen to be beneficial not only to farmers but also their workmen. Their aim was to promote enterprise, skill and industry in agricultural pursuits and give increased zest and interest to the daily avocations of the industrial class.

The first show was a small affair but, throughout the 1870s, cattle, pig and sheep classes were added as well as horses and jumping classes, a poultry and a dog show.

After an absence of 20 years, the society started up again in 1900 as Southwell Farmers' Club and kept going until the outbreak of the First World War. After the war, the Southwell Farmer's Union, appreciating



the value of the show to the local community, revived the event but war intervened once again.

Since 1947, the show has been held at a different venue each year and has gone from strength to strength, increasing the number of classes on the ploughing fields, in the show rings, and the domestic and horticultural produce section.

Show secretary, Angela Hardstaff, said: "It's great to see how the show has developed

over the years. Brackenhurst is a fine setting and we are really looking forward to this year's event."

Southwell Ploughing Match and Show 2006 will take place on Saturday 23 September 2006, from 8.30 am to 6 pm. Admission is £5 for adults. Children under the age of 14 can enter free of charge. Ring area parking is £25. All other parking is free of charge. For more information visit: [www.southwellploughingmatch.co.uk](http://www.southwellploughingmatch.co.uk)

## Medals for NTU at county show

The 2006 county show brought silver and gold for the NTU stand.

Nottingham Trent University's marquee proved to be a great success at the Newark and Nottinghamshire County Show earlier this year.

NTU won two awards at the May event: the gold medal award for best trade exhibit in non-cash sales, and the silver medal award for best exhibit in show.

Nottingham Trent University has a longstanding association with the Newark and Nottinghamshire County Show, principally through Brackenhurst's links with the rural community. But support also comes through the student, staff and alumni volunteers who continue to play a vital role in contributing their time and expertise to ensure the show's continued success.

## Fairtrading campus

Southwell recently attained the title of 'Fairtrade Town', with a little help from friends and supporters at Brackenhurst.

Brackenhurst has been praised for its part in helping the community of Southwell to achieve its newly acquired 'Fairtrade Town' status.

The town is the first in Nottinghamshire to receive this accolade.

The Orangery café on the Brackenhurst campus serves a range of Fairtrade products including coffee, tea, hot chocolate and sugar. As a result, Alan Williams, the Students' Union Brackenhurst Development Co-ordinator, was invited on to the steering group responsible for the town's Fairtrade drive.

He said: "It's a positive move in the right direction for both local trade and the town of Southwell. The Fairtrade movement is gathering momentum and students' unions are very much a part of that."

Towns are awarded Fairtrade status when they can demonstrate a clear commitment to raising greater awareness of Fairtrade products and to encouraging local traders to use them.

The Fairtrade mark appears on products as an independent guarantee that

disadvantaged producers in the developing world are getting a fair deal.

The scheme enables producers to earn their way out of poverty. A proportion of the funds are used to provide facilities such as classrooms, clinics and water purification plans for their communities.

