

Network

Brackenhurst Supplement

Nottingham Trent University Alumni Association

Welcome



Welcome to this special Network supplement, especially for Brackenhurst's former students.

You'll find it full of news from the campus and the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, including stories celebrating the success of our students past and present.

In the feature on this page, you'll discover how we're continuing to restore our beautiful grounds. This was a project kick-started by generous donations from the Singleton sisters and BOSA, and bequests from the estate of Margaret Edmunds (née Roberts) and her husband, Valentine.

Inside, we'll also share with you our plans for the Centre for the Environment, which is set to become an internationally recognised centre of expertise. As well as tackling some of the most important challenges facing our planet, it will also provide first-class learning and research facilities.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we're looking forward to the continuing success of Brackenhurst. I urge you to stay in touch with us via the Alumni Association so we can keep you up to date with the latest news; we really enjoy hearing from you!

Jenny Saint
Dean of the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences

Contact the Alumni Office on
Tel: +44 (0)115 848 8777
Email: alumni@ntu.ac.uk
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Rose garden restoration

Around 50 former students visited Brackenhurst recently to celebrate the restoration of the 80-year-old rose garden.

The work on the rose garden was made possible by generous donations.

Elaine and Margaret Singleton - both educated at Brackenhurst in the 1950s - made a donation in memory of their father Arthur Edward Singleton MBE, a former Chairman of the Nottinghamshire County Council Committee, who was responsible for the Nottinghamshire Farm Institute at Brackenhurst. Their money was used to reinstate the rose beds.

In addition, the Brackenhurst Old Students' Association (BOSA) used bequests from the estates of former staff member Margaret Edmunds and her husband Valentine to provide a commemorative sundial and benches. Margaret is fondly remembered by her former students, many of whom remained her close friends until her death in 2001 (see page 6).

Rosalyn Sneath (Rural Economy 1957) said: "Margaret was truly a lady who we respected and admired. I'm pleased that we're helping to restore the rose garden in her memory."

Jenny Saint, Dean of the School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, added: "The rose garden is an historic feature of our beautiful campus, and it's a pleasure to be restoring it to its former glory. We're grateful for the kind contributions from the Singleton family and BOSA which made this possible. I hope the garden will bring enjoyment to visitors and students alike for many years to come."

More restoration work is now being planned to rebuild the garden's Italian tile pergolas and ornamental pathways. If you'd like to make a donation, please contact the Fundraising Team on +44 (0)115 848 8753.





Our National Student Equestrian Team Champions

Champions again!

Nottingham Trent University has regained the title of National Student Equestrian Team Champions, having first won the competition in 2007.

Battling their way past 70 other university and college teams to the national finals, the team of four won both the dressage and jumping categories to secure victory.

The event required the riders to use horses they had never ridden before. Each rider only had seven minutes to familiarise themselves with the horse before each event.

Annie Sharpe, third year Equine Sports Science student and member of the winning team, said: "Everybody performed well at the finals, but we were consistently strong all the way through this competition. We were thrilled to have made it through from 70 teams to the last six and winning the final for NTU again feels amazing."

Annie's team mates in the competition were second year Sports Science student Georgie Strang, first year Equine Sports Science student Tom Moulding and first year Sports Horse Management and Training student Jim Calverley.

James Hayter, NTU's Director of Sport, said: "This is a great result for the team and the University as a whole. We're all very proud of their achievements and they have secured some valuable points to help our position in the British Universities and Colleges Sport league table."

New trees on campus

Brackenhurst students have planted 330 young trees, which were donated by the charity Trees for Cities.

On a chilly day, second year students on the National Diploma in Horticulture course planted the new trees by the campus's main entrance. The planting was part of an assessment for the students' arboriculture module.

Lecturer Caroline Thomas explained: "The new mini woodland will add to the biodiversity of this area and give arboriculture students experience in the management of young trees."

Five varieties were planted: *Quercus robur* (English oak), *Sorbus aucuparis* (rowan), *Viburnum opulus* (guelder rose), *Betula pendula* (silver birch) and *Acer campestre* (field maple).

Trees for Cities is an independent charity working with local communities on tree-planting and landscaping projects. For more information visit www.treesforcities.org



Students are looking forward to gaining experience in the management of young trees



Centre for the Environment

Nottingham Trent University has plans for a new world-class research, education and business Centre for the Environment based at Brackenhurst.

This exciting and ambitious initiative is intended to address the global need to ensure a sustainable future for the planet.

Every action taken at a local level will make a positive influence. Our contribution through the Centre will be to provide an exemplar of sustainable construction technologies.

NTU is serious about the challenges facing the environment. This year we were top of the Times Higher Education supplement's People and Planet Green League and named the UK's most environmentally friendly university.

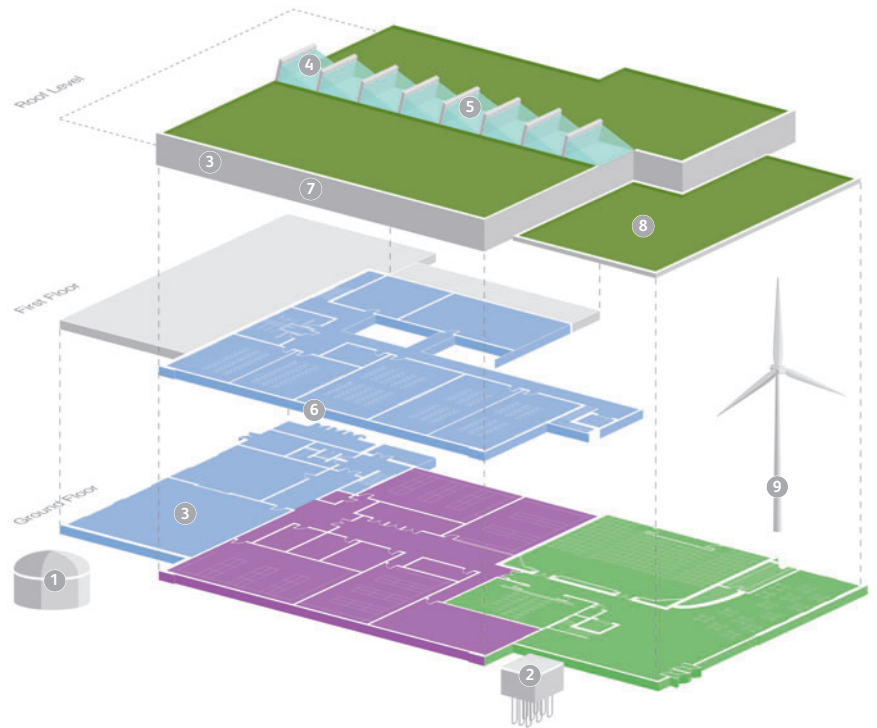
NTU is pursuing opportunities for regional, national and EU funding, plus the support of major donors, to make this innovative project a reality.

The Centre will specialise in:

- renewable energy technologies linked with food waste management;
- sustaining animal and plant life within a changing environment;
- sustainable food production and processing without compromise to the environment.

Sustainable building

The innovative new building of around 2,000 square metres will be built using the latest sustainable technologies:



1 Anaerobic Digestion System

Recycled waste can be used to provide biogas for electricity and heat production.

2 Ground Source Heat Pump

Heat from the earth's mass could be used to provide a high amount of the heating requirements for the centre.

3 High Thermal Value Levels

To minimise heat loss, high thermal insulation values should be achieved by wall, floor and roof structures.

4 Photovoltaic Solar Panels

Could be incorporated into the south facing atrium design to provide hot water.

5 Atrium Roof Design

'Saw-tooth' design with glazed north facing sides to allow high levels of daylight penetration into circulation space. Will also provide passive stack natural ventilation.

6 Solar Shading

East and west facing glazing to incorporate a 'Brie Soleil' louvre to reduce solar gains.

7 High Air Tightness Levels

To reduce ventilation heat loss the building will be designed to be airtight, and with a controllable ventilation system.

8 Green Roof

Used to control storm water flow. With a grey water collection system this could provide the water for sanitary appliances.

9 Wind Turbine

Gives the potential to provide 365 days of zero-carbon electricity.



Top: Proposed floor plan of the new centre

Above: Artist's impression of the Centre for the Environment

Sensory garden facelift



Sue hopes the garden will bring enjoyment for years to come

A student who turned to gardening after suffering a major head injury in a traffic accident, has been commissioned to makeover the sensory garden at Wollaton Hall in Nottingham.

Sue Crosby was asked to do the work by the city council as part of Nottingham in Bloom, a city-wide campaign to enhance the local landscape.

Sue, who is researching social therapeutic horticulture, only began gardening seriously after she was hit by a car in 1995. During her five-year recovery, she benefited from visiting sensory gardens. She later decided to enrol on a garden design course and then a landscape and heritage course at Brackenhurst. She's currently studying for an MSc in Research Methods at the School of Social Sciences.

As well as studying, Sue also works for Nottinghamshire Healthcare as a horticulture instructor for adults with

mental health difficulties, some of whom helped her prepare the garden.

Sue used the knowledge from her studies to design and create the garden, which uses a variety of techniques to stimulate the senses including a mix of unusual leaf textures, long grasses and bamboos that rustle in the wind. The plants and shrubs have been carefully selected to ensure they last all year round.

"A real sense of well-being can be achieved from just being in a garden" Sue said. "It's a sense people might not be able to get from other activities and I hope this garden will bring enjoyment for years to come."

Students' garden earns Silver Gilt award

A garden designed, built and exhibited by a team from Nottingham Trent University has won a Silver Gilt Award at this year's Harrogate Flower Show.



Working to a brief set by the show organisers, students and staff from the first year Horticulture Foundation degree created a romantic hideaway for a fictional couple's home, inspired by their honeymoon to the Maldives.

Initially, the 18 students worked on the brief, before lecturer and award-winning garden designer Sue Hayward blended the best features from each design into the final submission.

Featuring a thatched, dovecote-style birdhouse, a winding rustic brick path and a gated archway with climbing plants, the garden was designed to combine memories of the Maldives with a rural cottage setting.

Judges praised the team's painstaking attention to detail.

It was the University's first ever visit to the Harrogate Flower Show, so the team were especially thrilled with their achievement.





Click to stay in touch

Have you joined the online community? Since its launch last year it has really “clicked” with former students who use it to access a range of benefits and services.

Log in to check out the ‘Memories of Brackenhurst College’ photographs in our nostalgia photo gallery. We’d love to add more, so keep your photographs coming in (we promise to return your originals).

New members should register at www.ntualumni.org.uk – just select “Log in / Register”, click on the link to “Register as a new user” and complete the form.

You can also search for your friends online. If we are in touch with them we’d be happy to help you re-establish contact. However, we are still missing details for many former students which means they are missing out on NTU and Brackenhurst news! If you think you can help us regain contact with some of your friends then please let us know. Call +44 (0)115 848 8777 or email alumni@ntu.ac.uk

Catch up with old friends

Every year, more and more former students join the Brackenhurst Old Students’ Association (BOSA) reunion.

This year, 235 former students and staff attended this special event and enjoyed catching up with old friends over lunch.

Organiser Jill Lewis (Rural Economy 1954) said: “It’s great to be able to stay in touch with so many friends who also have fond memories of time spent at Brackenhurst. The annual lunch is a very important and special date in BOSA’s

calendar, and we welcome any former Brackenhurst students to join us.”

Next year’s BOSA reunion will be on Sunday 21 March 2010 at the Cedric Ford Pavilion at the Newark and Notts Showground in Winthorpe. To find out more contact Jill Lewis via the Alumni Association on +44 (0)115 848 8777 or by email at alumni@ntu.ac.uk

In memoriam

Margaret Edmunds (née Roberts), Head of Rural Domestic Economy, 1953-1962

Born in 1916, Margaret was brought up on her parents’ farm near Reading. After leaving school she took up a scientific post with Sutton Seeds. She was part of the World War Two Women’s Land Army, rising through the ranks to become County Officer for Personnel and Buildings.

After graduating from a Scottish university, where she studied agriculture, she worked in the Aylesbury area before taking up her post at Brackenhurst.

Southill House was converted into a women’s hostel, and seven girls were enrolled on the first course. By 1958 the Rural Domestic Economy Department was established enough to justify a new purpose-built Centre, which was opened by Lady Dyer, President of the National Federation of Women’s Institutes.

Margaret met her husband, Valentine, in 1960 on a boat to the Hook of Holland. They married in 1962 and, although she relocated to Belfast, Margaret continued as an external examiner at Brackenhurst for several years.

She was very popular and highly respected by students, many of whom stayed in touch with her until her death in 2001.

Obituaries

George Wade, former student

George was born in Coventry in 1937. In 1944, George’s father died and the family moved to his grandfather’s house in Watnall, Nottingham.

When George was 11 he was a boarder at Retford Grammar School, but at 13 moved to the Textile School in Nottingham where he became head boy. He spent his evenings and weekends working on his uncle’s farm in Watnall.

After school, George worked at several farms before attending Brackenhurst in 1953-54, becoming one of three to win a £10 bursary award. While at Brackenhurst he made many lifelong friends and became a long-standing member of the BOSA committee.

In 1965 George and his brother started a muck-spreading and ploughing business, and soon after the family moved to a farm in Moorgreen, which they ran for the next 27 years.

George also served on Broxtowe Borough Council and Greasley Parish Council, and was a member of the Moorgreen Show committee for 40 years.

He died on 3 December 2008, whilst at work doing the job he loved, and is sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Gerald Yates, former lecturer and Head of Agriculture

Gerald retired from Brackenhurst in August 1991 after 23 years. His leaving party was attended by well over 300 current and former staff and students.

Gerald was BOSA treasurer for 13 years and editor of Buckrake for seven.

Before coming to Brackenhurst, Gerald started his career in the RAF, going on to work on farms in Staffordshire, Shropshire and Derbyshire. He studied Agriculture at Harper Adams and then took a job as relief cowman. Gerald then spent three years with the Agricultural Research Council recording data and caring for the offspring of Friesians, Ayrshires and Jerseys.

He later moved to Wolverhampton for teacher training before taking what he described as “the best job of all” at Brackenhurst.

Gerald died earlier this year and is fondly remembered by the staff and students who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was a true gentleman who was well respected and always sought the good in students and staff. Memories of his calm manner and dry humour remain with all who knew him.