



UNIVERSITY  
OF HULL

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER 2023

# Thank you for making a difference





# A message of thanks from the Vice-Chancellor

## Professor Dave Petley

**Perhaps the most striking thing that I have noticed since joining the University of Hull as Vice-Chancellor a year ago has been the supportive and welcoming community. Staff, students, alumni and friends have a shared desire to contribute to, and indeed to jointly create, a university that enables its people to learn and grow in an environment in which they are welcomed and accepted.**

Our efforts in this direction have been recognised with the results in the National Student Survey 2023 (NSS) and in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). As a result of our students' responses in the NSS, we ranked in the top 20 in the Times Higher Education's overall positivity measure - this is a measure of the quality of our student experience. Additionally, in the 2023 TEF, we were given a Gold rating - the highest award possible for the quality of our undergraduate student experience and student outcomes, and a clear signal of excellence. The University of Hull is a place where staff and students alike can flourish, and you have helped us to make this happen.

As donors and volunteers, your support has made extraordinary things possible for our students and for the wider community. Whether you have donated towards our scholarships, bursaries or the Student Success Fund, or whether you have spoken about your career to students, provided them with job or internship opportunities,

or mentored a young person in need of careers guidance, we are grateful for your contribution. You have made a significant and immediate impact on the life of a student, one that is potentially life-changing, but you've also helped us to foster that supportive community that is so crucial in our success as a university.

Your support will continue to be important as we approach the centenary of the University of Hull, marking one hundred years since our founding in 1927. We're already looking ahead, and you may have supported us in this endeavour by completing our survey asking for your input on how we 'shine a light on the next 100 years'. Our aim is to invest in areas such as research, technology and our student education. We want to grasp the future, striding forward with confidence into the next 100 years. With you at our side, we can do this with confidence.

I have enjoyed reading this year's Supporter Newsletter. There are stories about the essential work that you have funded in helping to establish IntoUniversity centres and award-winning LGBTQ+ Scholarships. We also have news about the careers talks and student mentoring that our volunteers have provided. Quite simply, supporters such as yourself enable us to help students overcome whatever barriers may stand between them and the success they deserve.

Finally, as we approach the festive season, I would like to wish all who celebrate, a very Merry Christmas. To all of you, I hope you enjoy the holidays, and that you are able to look forward to a happy, healthy and prosperous 2024.

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# Student Success Fund

The Student Success Fund encompasses our Student Hardship Fund, Student Support Fund and our Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Fund, ensuring our students get the absolute best out of their education with us. Over 650 donors support the fund on an annual basis, often after speaking to a current student via our annual Telephone Campaigns.

In the past few years much of the funding has been aimed at supporting all our students wellbeing needs. Our Student Support Services successfully launched the online **Student Assist Programme** which is not only an online tool to support students with their health and wellbeing but also offers 24/7 access to in-person counsellors. This has proved incredibly effective, so much so that the University has now taken on this project and will be funding it. So, a huge thank you to all those of you who supported it.

This additional support will now allow us to invest in new initiatives in 2023/24 to support our students.

The Hull Sports Participation Grant & The Active Wellbeing Programme helps our students participate in extra-curricular activities to enhance their experience, supporting students to build friendships, settle into university life, support their health and wellbeing, and gain additional qualifications.

It is aimed at students who are not in a financial position to support themselves in these additional activities and helps subsidize session costs. The Active Wellbeing Programme is a personalised 5 - 10-week sports/physical activity intervention programme, with one-to-one support to fulfil the needs of each individual who has been referred with wellbeing concerns.



## Hardship

The cost of living crisis has hit many students particularly hard, and we have needed to respond to urgent welfare situations more frequently than ever before. We have a well-established process of assessing the need for hardship funding, however, we are seeing increasingly urgent cases where we need to provide some immediate assistance outside of our financial support processes. With the funding from our donors, we have been able to establish a discretionary funding package which is available to provide immediate practical assistance to those most in need.



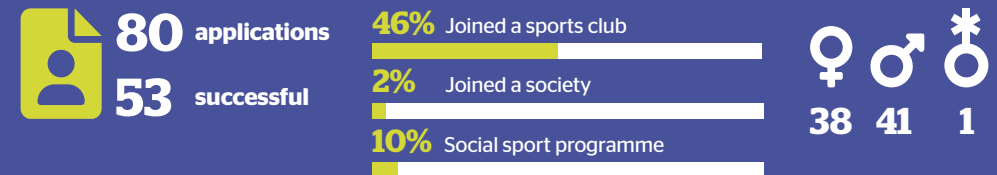
IN PARTNERSHIP

## Hull Sport Participation Grant

### Impact report 2022-23

The Hull Sport Participation Grant helps students participate in extra curricula activities, for example sports, societies or Give it a Go sessions led by Hull University Students' Union as well as Hull Sport-led sessions. Funding can also be used to enhance club development for sport clubs, societies or sessions on campus.

### Individual grants 2022-23



### Student groups 2022-23



### What our students said...

'The participation grant has enhanced my experience at the University as it allowed me to make new connections and friends in a sport I have never previously played before.'

'The fund has helped me to continue to play a sport that I am passionate about although I couldn't pay the membership due to the circumstances.'

'It gave me the ability to keep fit while studying and to improve my mood and concentration through exercise.'

'As I struggle with my mental health, having the membership with a sports club gives me the incentive to get myself out of the house to socialise.'

'The fear of finances often worried me but with the participation grant, that worry has disappeared and I'm back to my best self by being around my friends and taking part in a sport I enjoy.'

'Being part of the club has helped improve my mental health and I feel that I belong in the club.'

'The participation grant has allowed me to carry on the sport I've grown to love at university without the added stress of an added expense.'

'University can sometimes be overwhelming academically, but sports tends to take off that stress. I am thankful for the Participation Grant as I wouldn't have been able to access sport without it.'



9 clubs used funding to purchase new equipment for club members



5 clubs invested funding into development courses i.e. officiating, coaching to enhance the quality of delivery for users



Remainder of the clubs used funding to subsidise facility costs or include strength and conditioning into club offer

# IntoUniversity

**IntoUniversity is a not-for-profit organisation that has, to date, established 39 learning centres in disadvantaged areas across the country for young people from primary school age and up. It provides no-cost academic support, experiential and extra-curricular learning, practical skills training and mentoring opportunities.**

It helps young people to raise their aspirations and realise they have post-school choices, whether that's to pursue higher education or vocational training. In 2022, 66% of free-school meal pupils completing IntoUniversity programmes went on to higher education, and many more chose to pursue further study, employment or apprenticeship routes. IntoUniversity is now emulating this model in East Hull.

The Universities of Hull and York have been working in partnership with IntoUniversity over the last few years to raise over £1.3m to open a new site at the Freedom Centre in Marfleet Ward, an area of East Hull where just 10% of pupils in receipt of free school meals go on to higher education, compared to a rate of 28% nationally. In addition to raising funds, we have been working with IntoUniversity to integrate into the local community and schools.

The Hull East Centre opened for students in October 2022, and an official grand opening celebration was held on 29 March 2023 with university and IntoUniversity officials, donors, centre staff, primary school student participants and their families. Guests were able to see the centre in action with classroom tours and activities for students and families. The Vice-Chancellors from the Universities of Hull and York, the CEO of IntoUniversity and two students shared their hopes for the centre's future, its impact on the local community and thanks for everyone involved in making the project a reality. A ribbon cutting ceremony capped off the celebration.

In his remarks, Vice-Chancellor Dave Petley spoke about the University's commitment to widening access to higher and further education, how our partnership with IntoUniversity and the University of York advances our own social justice ideals and how donor support took the centre from an idea to a reality.



**“ From the very start we've been working in partnership with IntoUniversity, our friends at the University of York and the donors whose support has helped to make this happen. IntoUniversity's mission is to provide local support that can open up new opportunities for young people, which is a key part of our mission too - to advance education, scholarship, knowledge and understanding for the benefit of individuals and society at large. Thank you to those who have donated to support this centre... to help make this vision a reality in East Hull. You have helped to bring this fantastic resource to the community and opened up new doors of opportunity for these young people.**

**Professor Dave Petley**

The University is expanding our partnership with IntoUniversity in both the Hull East Centre as an oversight board member and in actively raising funds for future sites in Bridlington and Grimsby. Thank you to the individual, corporate and trust and foundation donors to all three sites. Your support is having a direct impact on the lives of young people in Hull and soon in the wider region.





# Hull to Westminster: Creating an Inclusive Pathway to Public Service

**Uniquely within the higher education sector, Hull offers a twelve month placement in Westminster to students studying BA (Hons) British Politics and Legislative Studies (BPLS) and LLB Law with Legislative Studies. This enables students to work alongside an MP or a peer and apply the knowledge gained through their modular work to the real world.**

For several generations, this unique pipeline has opened doors to students considering a career in politics or public affairs. Hull graduates have become a familiar part of the Westminster landscape, to the extent that they have become affectionately known as the 'Hull Mafia'. Though not all have entered politics through the BPLS placement route, Hull graduates punch well above their weight in terms of their presence in representative politics, staffing and in the broader field of public affairs.

Notable Hull 'political' alumni include Roy Hattersley, Tom Watson, John Prescott, Frank Field, Tracey Crouch, Helen Grant, Aysha Hazarika, Julian Knight, Nic Dakin, Ben Gascoigne and Dehenna Davidson.

Despite the success of the programme in promoting Hull graduates to positions of influence, there is a growing concern that the costs of the Westminster placement is proving to be prohibitive for some students, particularly those from lower income backgrounds. This has already affected participation in the scheme as well as enrolment and retention to the programme from particular income groups.

Recognising the danger that the opportunity is becoming restricted to students that have the advantage of parental or other forms of support, we launched our **Hull to Westminster** fundraising campaign at the Civil Service Club in Whitehall on 25th May 2023. The event was a great success, drawing on traditional rivalries to pit 'Labour' against 'Tory' alumni in a fiercely competitive quiz. The Tories were the eventual winners. Our new Chancellor and captain of the Labour team, Alan Johnson was typically gracious in defeat.

The campaign is ongoing, we aim to raise £90,000 in order to fund thirty £3,000 bursaries over the next three years. These will help us to promote participation and retention, tackle financial exclusion and build greater diversity within the cohort.

If you would like to find out more or offer support please email us at [alumni@hull.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@hull.ac.uk) or contact Ben directly on **07443 603762**.





# Volunteering

**Volunteers make a huge contribution to the richness of experience our students have at the University of Hull. We are fortunate that we are able to offer students the opportunities to meet, network with and learn from those whose career paths they wish to follow in.**

With mentors offering careers advice, looking over job applications and offering practice interviews, and with alumni returning to campus to speak to students about how they used their experiences at Hull to embark on rewarding careers, our volunteers are providing an invaluable service to our community.

This year we've had some great panel events with alumni talking about their specific industries. Engineering graduates shared their experiences, including Cicily Hillebrand (MEng Chemical & Energy Engineering, 2021) and Ellie Windas (BEng Mechanical & Medical Engineering, 2023) who offered insights on the experiences of women working in Engineering. We were also delighted to hear from alumni who spoke at the Alumni Conservation Careers Conference, working for charities, water companies and other conservation bodies showing the variety of jobs available.

In support of our International students, the Student Futures team welcomed back a panel of former students who shared their stories of coming to the UK to study with us at Hull. They offered great insight into getting the most out of studying in this country, and how to navigate the process of finding work after gaining a degree.

New Business School students were treated to a series of daily online events to whet their appetites for their courses. Over 300 students joined online to hear a discussion on Sustainability between James Norrison (BSc Physical Geography, 2018) and Diviya Thevarajah (BSc Geography, 2019). The next day the conversation focused on Innovation, with Phininder Balaghan (BSc Computer Science, 2015) and Catherine Ives (Electronic Engineering, 1985). On the final day, Sue Turner OBE (MSc Artificial Intelligence & Data Science, 2021) gave a fascinating and insightful talk on the challenges and opportunities presented by Artificial Intelligence.

In 2023 we launched our *Inspired in Hull* podcasts online in which we meet and talk with alumni, kindly volunteering their time to tell their fascinating stories. Our first subjects were BAFTA-winning producer Neil Grant (BA Sociology & Social Anthropology, 1980) and Sheffield Wednesday COO, Liam Dooley (BA Politics, Philosophy & Economics, 2008). Do keep an eye out for future episodes.



# 'It's a privilege' – Sarah Bean on being a mentor

**Sarah Bean got involved in the mentoring programme last year and has found it to be an enjoyable learning experience. After her career started out in Procurement, Sarah switched to People Development, taking on the role of Global Head of Performance and Culture. In 2018 she left full-time permanent employment and started developing a freelance career in the coaching and training space. Today, she coaches and develops people across the world on leadership and apprenticeship programmes.**

It is clear that her experiences, knowledge, and skills are hugely beneficial to the students at the University of Hull that she is mentoring. For Sarah, though, mentoring is something that can be beneficial for everyone. Here's what Sarah had to say about her experiences as a University of Hull mentor:

"Mentoring is a two-way process, as mentors we provide help, support and insight based on our life experiences and challenges that we have faced. This process helps you to get a real perspective on the journey you have taken to this point. In providing help and support you have the opportunity to see real growth in someone as they set off on their career journey. It is a rewarding experience I think for both parties, an opportunity to build and expand networks and knowledge.

"It is a privilege to be able to mentor someone and share your experience with them as well as be able to learn about them. We covered topics such as: personal values, understanding jobs that can bring you joy, CV development, interview preparation and dissertations.

"I really enjoyed the mentoring programme. Whilst the university provided a level of structure, having the freedom to work with

my mentee in a way that worked for them was important. It was a great experience for me to both get to know my mentee and to better understand their course and development, this was also a great learning opportunity for me."



**“My experience at Hull University really shaped who I am and what I have been able to achieve in my career, therefore being able to support the University and its students to enhance their experience felt like a privilege and a chance to give something back.**

**Sarah Bean**  
BSc Special Management Sciences, 1998

# Trusts and Foundations - update

**Philanthropic Trusts and Foundations help to fund a host of important initiatives at the University; this may include building works, equipment, scholarships, and other special projects. These generous gifts help the University with its strategy and help support our students with their education. We are extremely grateful to the Trusts and Foundation donors who support the University, some examples of which are shown below.**

## The Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust - eBooks for children with disabilities

A generous grant from the Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust, supported Dr Catherine Wynne in producing a wonderful e-book about the ground floor of Burton Constable Hall. The large Elizabethan country house is a popular site for local children to visit. The free resources are there to support accessibility for children with disabilities, in particular those with Autism and sensory processing difficulties. The eBook guides children around, in a gentle and bespoke way, catering for their needs. The tour includes the acclaimed 'Chinese Room', which is arguably the most captivating (particularly for children) room of the house. It allows these children to experience a historic venue when they may typically miss out on such opportunities, due to processing complexities.

The grant also further enabled the production of a new piece of creative writing; a short story, inspired by the room's dragons. The story, *'Dragon Stops the Water'* was written by Dr Wynne and illustrated by a South Korean artist, Leo Park.

This story then inspired six more stories, all themed around understanding difference or developing awareness of emotion. A collection of these six stories for primary-school aged children is now with a publisher for consideration (Barbican Press).

Since developing the project, Dr Wynne has also secured permission to develop a photographic story tour of Elsham Hall, based on their extensive gardens. She is developing an ebook for this project with her own photographs. She is also currently working with Trisha Shaw (Education) to develop photographic books for an older cohort (secondary school SEN) as a need has been articulated by SEN schools. These would be stories based on the locations rather than the 'tour story', piloted above.

Dr Wynne is also developing part of this project with the Hull charity, *Run With It*, who provide educational packages to children who are unable to access school.



For more information on the Trust please see their website using the following link [herct.org.uk](http://herct.org.uk) or by scanning the QR code.

## LGBTQ+ Scholarships

Building upon the success of Hull's award-winning LGBTQ+ Scholarships, this year, The Attitude Magazine Foundation have kindly funded 6 more Attitude Magazine Foundation Scholarships at the University.

Six LGBTQ+ students from low-income families and/or those with a disability have been given these prestigious awards. An article featuring the recipients will also be published by international publication Attitude Magazine! Sadly, LGBTQ+ students are three times more likely to be bullied than their peers, are more likely to be financially disadvantaged, and are five times as likely to attempt suicide. These scholarships massively improve students' confidence, help to financially support them, and show everyone that the University is a safe space for people of all genders and sexualities.

Em, who is studying Game Design with a year in the industry at the University, was one of this year's recipients. They commented:

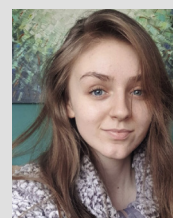
“



**Although I'm quite open about my gender and sexuality, I'm not out to most of my family and friends, so receiving this grant makes me feel like the struggle I've been through has been recognised. My impaired executive functioning skills because of my ADHD often result in unforeseen costs, so knowing I would be able to afford the things I need to succeed at university would relieve my anxiety, allowing me to fully concentrate on my studies. It's also going to help me feel more comfortable living away from home for the first time.**

Another scholarship recipient, Ellis, studying for a Master's in Physics, said:

“



**The scholarship means I am seen and recognised, and, not only that, supported. I will use the grant to pay for my university laptop - it's a beast. I'll be able to run physics simulations on it, code, and take notes with it during lectures, which will all greatly better my university experience! Also, food... because I kind of need that too. LGBTQ+ people have historically been under-represented, misunderstood, and disadvantaged. I do believe times are getting better, and there have been significant changes in social views, but there is a lot more to be done and a lot more to fight for.**



# Talented Athlete Programme - TAP

**Each year we have a phenomenal group of Talented Athletes, showing commitment and skill in their chosen sports and this year is no different.**

The TAP Scholarships are funded 100% by our alumni and friends and they are making an enormous difference to the lives of these athletes. The scholarships are always highly competitive and allow our students to gain additional experience and support to help them excel in their sporting arena.

We have selected just a few of this year's recipients to profile in our supporter newsletter and have also included a couple of previous athletes to tell you what they have gone on to achieve after graduation.

## 2023 Scholarship Recipients

### Hannah Bucys (Year 2 Physiotherapy) Wheelchair Rugby

I started wheelchair rugby after sustaining a spinal injury in 2018 and I was introduced to a range of different sports at Southport Spinal Unit.

The 2022/23 season went well. I competed in Division 2 with Yorkshire Lions Wheelchair Rugby Club as well as the premiership with Northern Alliance. My highest achievement has been competing for the Great Britain Women's Team at the Women's Wheelchair Rugby Cup in Paris in March 2023. I am looking forward to the 2023/24 season with West Coast Wheelchair Rugby Club.

I hope to compete in tournaments across the world. My next aim is to be selected for the Great Britain Talent Squad, and hopefully progress into the elite squad.

The Talented Athlete Programme Fund will benefit me as it will allow me to have personalised strength and conditioning as well as support from the programme. The fund will enable me to travel to tournaments and purchase key equipment.



Photo by Lauren Bagnis



### Adam Fox (Year 2 Physics) Sprinter

This year went very well for me as I ran a personal best in 400m and 800m and I was ranked top 20 in the UK for my age over 400m. My biggest achievement to date came this year where I won the North of England championships at 400m!

In the future, I hope to one day represent Great Britain at an international event.

The talented athlete programme benefited me by giving me specific strength and conditioning, tailored to me, something which I had never received before this year. It also allowed me to have physio sessions with a knowledgeable, sports injury physio who helped me with any issues and injuries I picked up over the course of the season.

### Amy Muhametaj (Year 1 Physiotherapy) Taekwondo

I tried a taekwondo session and instantly fell in love! This year has been slower than previous years as we're only just coming back from Covid, and I took a backseat to focus on my A Levels. However, my highest achievement to date is becoming European Champion. I'm hoping to go on to competing internationally over the next year or two.

The Talented Athlete fund has benefitted me by allowing me to access specific coaching, training whenever I need to. I am only just beginning and so cannot wait to see what this year on the Talented Athlete Programme at Hull brings me.



**Oliver Sampson (Year 2 Politics & International Relations) Olympic Trap Clay Target Shooting**

When I started shooting, this was not in the competitive arena as I was 13 years old, but after a Talent ID Day with British Shooting, I knew I wanted to take it further. What a journey it has been!

It has been a long road since then, and it is a discipline where the average competitor is 35+ when they reach the top of their game.

We set out a structured set of goals, which included representing England for one discipline, which I achieved at age 15 and then representing GBR at age 19. This latest goal was achieved this year in Finland, resulting in a team Gold at the 2023 Junior Cup. I was a team member, and as the last member scheduled to compete on the final day, the pressure was on me to score well for the team. We finished with a commanding lead over the closest rivals from Germany.

My next goal is a Team GB individual medal. The ultimate goal is representing Team GB in the 2028 or 2032 Olympics. This is a long way off, but it is the goal I have set for myself.

The Talented Athlete program has allowed me to improve my core strength and look for weaknesses. It also allows me, via funding, to purchase some of the highly specialised glasses I need to help. Clay target shooting is dependent on being able to see the target. With the highly variable light conditions in the UK, it is critical to have the best possible protective eyewear.

Without this program and the support it provides, I doubt the Team Gold in 2023 would have been a possibility, so I am incredibly grateful for that opportunity. I will never forget seeing the flag of my country being raised at the highest flagpole, knowing I had helped achieve for the team and country.



**Two brothers, both graduates, both previous TAP Scholarship Recipients and both sprinters aiming for the Olympics, let's keep our fingers crossed for them.**



**Andy Morgan-Harrison (Sports Rehabilitation 2020) Sprinter**

I guested in my first Diamond League this year in Paris, I represented GB for the 2nd time in Poland in the European Team Championships and I also improved both of my personal bests in the 100m and 200m to 10.24 and 20.63, respectively. This sets me up nicely for 2024 where my main goal is to be selected for the Olympics.

**David Morgan-Harrison (Physics 2023) Sprinter**

My main sporting achievements this year include British U23 Champion and British Universities Champion. At both BUCS competitions this year I claimed the 60m, 100m and 200m gold adding to my 100m gold last year. At the British u23 Championships I achieved silver in the 100m and gold a day later in the 200m. Another achievement was running a big PB of 10.05s for the 100m in Austria. I'm now working towards making athletics a full-time career and achieving my Olympic goals.



# The impact of leaving a legacy to the University

**Peter Munn, beloved husband of Gaynel Munn and retired University Council member, passed away in March of this year. He was a much-respected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and Chartered Chemist, which is partly why Gaynel chose to direct his funeral collection towards the University, establishing a scholarship in his name.**

**The Peter Munn Light Scholarship in Chemistry** will be used to support a 2nd year Chemistry student who the department identifies as the most improved during the first year. The scholarship will provide financial support as well as motivational encouragement by recognising determination and dedication resulting in great improvement. The student will also be able to use this award to support their employability once graduated, and once again share Peter's name as they proudly add this accolade to their CV.

In life, as a teacher, Mathematics graduate Rosalind Hollis sought to find ways to enrich the lives of young people. In death she wanted to continue that work, with a legacy supporting pedagogy. In keeping with her wishes, we are delighted to welcome the Rosalind Hollis Professor of Education for Social Justice, Professor Jonathan Glazzard. Professor Glazzard joined us on 1st September and works from our Wilberforce Institute. Like Ros, he too was a teacher before moving into



Professor Jonathan Glazzard

Higher Education and delivering training for future teachers. Throughout his career, a common thread and focus has been inclusion, and through this post Professor Glazzard aims to work with local schools and community organisations to improve outcomes for young people with special education needs, poor mental health and those in many other marginalised groups. We are so very grateful to Ros for making this possible.

You too could leave a lasting impact by remembering the University of Hull in your Will. Whether your gift is large or small, it could help shape the lives of students for generations to come. Your contribution could support ground-breaking research and innovation, and would also provide access to education for talented students who otherwise couldn't afford it. Even a small percentage of your estate could make a difference in our mission of providing a world-class education. Please consider Hull students of the future by including the University in your legacy planning.

# A review of events 2023

**Over the last twelve months we have been very privileged to meet many alumni and supporters of the University of Hull at some of the great events that we have been able to deliver.**

2023 got off with a bang as we hosted the 'Beat the January Blues Quiz' across two physical venues (on campus at Hull, and in the Counting House pub in London) and online. We even had a celebrity guest, with alumna Tracy Borman asking questions on British History. The team 'Hull Taverners', that joined us online, were clear winners with 54 points!

Some of our events had a clear link to the work that our supporters have been doing to make a difference at our University and in our community.

The University travelled from Hull to Westminster to launch a fundraising project of the same name. Teams of Labour and Conservative alumni, including Chancellor Alan Johnson, competed in a 'University Challenge' quiz hosted by Lord Norton. Professor Stephen Hardy played quizmaster in the light-hearted yet intellectual battle, in aid of the fundraising project which seeks to provide financial support for students from less affluent backgrounds hoping to accept placements in Westminster. Guests generously pledged support on the evening and continue to do so as this project picks up steam.

Recently, we were also delighted to host the first public event with our new Chancellor, the Rt Hon Alan Johnson. The Chancellor met donors and volunteers at our Supporter Thank You event before a public event in which he shared his 'Inspired in Hull' story. Afterwards, he hosted a dinner with our Chancellor's Circle of donors as he discussed future philanthropic aims such as the Chancellor's Scholarships aimed at supporting the most talented students to deliver on their ambitions at the University of Hull.

There is a lot planned for the coming twelve months, so please do look out for Inspired in Hull events, professional network meetings and a social event in London.





# A scene shift - how donations opened up a world of possibilities in Prague

Held in Prague once every four years since 1967 the Prague Quadrennial (PQ) is the world's largest event in the field of scenography showcasing contemporary work in a variety of performance design disciplines and genres.

PQ speaks to so many aspects of what our current Drama students do that we decided to enlist the help of alumni and supporters in order to ensure that we could have a presence at the event and could benefit from the learning, networking and overall experience that PQ imparts. Through a combination of crowdfunding, regular giving, individual giving and the support of a Trust, we were able to raise nearly £21,000 to send a group of 18 students to participate in PQ Internships across an 18 day period.

These students, led by Dr Cat Fergusson Baugh and Prof. Pavel Drábek took on a particularly vital role in creating a virtual environment on the official PQ Knowledge Exchange Platform. Realised in collaboration with the University of Hull's Centre for Performance, Technology and Aesthetics, the resulting PQ Virtual Environment allowed anyone to join the Prague Quadrennial, asynchronously, and walk through the festival using their smart phones, engaging with performances and exhibits and accessing unique creative content.

For many participants this was a life-changing opportunity. On both a professional and a personal level they were able to benefit first-hand from the special atmosphere and the creative fusion that PQ provides. **Jacob Rawcliffe**, then in her final year of an undergraduate degree recalled how PQ encouraged her to focus her attention singularly, and at a micro-level:

**'I was given the chance to help with the Mexican exhibition, where they had these little dolls with replicas of costumes that they wore for shows. The job that I was given was to go in every day and help fix it and I'd never worked on such a small scale before, so I was looking at the fine details. I think that was something that really helped, because you take costume as this big thing and you look at it collectively, but it really allowed me to not just look at one thing, but to look at one tiny specific thing.'**

For **Maya Carpenter**, then in her second year of a Bachelors Degree, PQ had the effect of introducing new cultural perspectives around set design against which she could compare and contrast her own learning:

**'I got to see so many different visions and... it made me realise that... British set design, the usual things that you see, isn't what they do in Prague and isn't what they do in some Asian countries. Every country has their own way of designing and making theatre and I'll be able to take from this, so when I'm designing my sets, I can broaden my horizons and not just look at inspiration from British plays'**

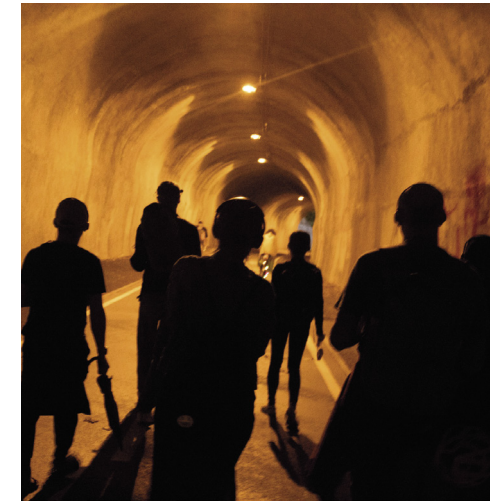


Some participants, including MA student **Jaye Stark**, found that the creative-reportage aspect of what they were doing, unlocked skill-sets that they didn't even know they had:

**'At Prague, I was part of the blog team, which was unusual for me because I'm usually creating visuals, not writing about things. However, I realised that I could write, but not in the sense of a traditional blog. I ended up creating a lot of poems from the different talks and pieces that were at Prague. From this I realised that writing is something that maybe I'd like to do as a career and that my creativity isn't limited to one specialism.'**

Others found new networks of support and inspiration and were able to use PQ to gain greater recognition for their work. MA student, **Matthew Booth** (whose images feature in this article) recalled how:

**'I got the opportunity to photograph with professional photographers who, subsequently, put my photograph in their show. So I was a featured artist in PQ... it was a world changing experience for me, both professionally and personally.'**



Whilst the impact on the students was clear; **Pavel Drabek**, Professor of Drama and Theatre Practice, addressing donors directly, was also quick to highlight the reciprocal impact of Hull students on PQ and the people that attended:

**'We are very grateful for the funding that has been provided by you to allow our students to participate in Prague Quadrennial, a truly global, professional event. Now, with the hindsight of three months, we have had wonderful feedback. Only last week, I spoke to the programme manager who pointed out that many of the people wrote about their experience of being at PQ highlighted students from Hull.'**

The success of the programme was such that there are plans for continued visits to the quadrennial festival in order to support the professional development of future students.



Please scan the QR code to see a detailed video outlining the experiences of participants (including those above).

# Chancellor's Circle

**The Rt Hon Alan Johnson (DUniv, 2018) became the Chancellor of the University of Hull back in July of this year, just in time to oversee his first round of graduation ceremonies. As part of his role at the University, Alan will be co-leading the newly re-branded 'Chancellor's Circle' (previously the Vice-Chancellor's Circle).**



In line with this exciting new chapter for this transformative and inspirational group of supporters and alumni, we have recently launched the new 'Chancellor's Scholarships'. These scholarships will become the group's main vehicle for supporting students. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dave Petley, and the new Chancellor, Alan Johnson, are both particularly enthusiastic about working with alumni, especially when it leads to transformative impacts for this institution and our students.

These scholarships will be a merit-based programme that encourages applicants, with the potential to be excellent undergraduate students, to study at Hull. There will be ten full-fee scholarships available per year to UK students across all subject areas. They will be awarded to those with high academic achievement and potential. This is an important part of our plan to make Hull an attractive place for the leaders of tomorrow and to broaden our appeal to students from across the UK.

We look forward to introducing you to some of the recipients of this invaluable fund as well as those who were awarded one of the final two VCC funded scholarship programmes. The Faculty of Business, Law and Politics will be awarding four students the 'VCC Undergraduate Black Law Scholarship', and a further four students will receive the 'VCC Women in Business Scholarship'. These will be staggered over the next two academic years, and recipients will receive support for three years of their study.

Chancellor's Circle members met on campus with the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor on November 9th for the Chancellor's inaugural public lecture, followed by dinner. Membership of the Chancellor's Circle should be something to which alumni aspire.

**Please get in touch with us if you would like to know details of how to join the Chancellor's Circle.**

# Coming soon in 2024...

Over the coming months we'll be looking forward to meeting alumni and supporters at a range of events, hearing from some exceptional alumni in our podcast series and giving you the chance to network with other members of our University of Hull community. Below we give you a taster of what is coming next, but also be sure to follow us on YouTube where videos of events and our podcast series will be published for you to enjoy at your leisure.

## 📅 March

**Networking event for London based alumni**

## 📅 April

**Inspired in Hull**

Your chance to hear an inspiring story from an inspiring graduate on campus at Hull.

## 📅 May

**Hull to Westminster Donor Event**

## 📅 October

**Supporter Thank You Event**

Our annual celebration of donors, volunteers and supporters of the University of Hull.

The Development & Alumni Relations team.





## You never need to miss out on the chance to hear from our fascinating alumni again.

Alumni are helping us to build up some great content on our YouTube Channel. You can catch up on recordings of past events, insightful conversations with interesting alumni in our podcast series, or masterclasses in particular topics.

### Here are some highlights that you shouldn't miss:

#### **Sausage Rolls, George W Bush, Panorama. BAFTA winner Neil Grant meets the Inspired in Hull Podcast**

BAFTA Winning Documentarist Neil Grant talks about 'Inside the President's War Room', the BBC and Apple TV documentary looking at the Bush administration's immediate response to 9/11 and his other documentary work include Greggs: More Than Meats the Pie and The Murder Detectives.

#### **Inspired in Hull: In Conversation with University of Hull Chancellor Alan Johnson**

The Chancellor of the University of Hull, the Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, gives his first public lecture in the form of an 'in conversation' event at Middleton Hall.

The event took place on Thursday 9 November at Middleton Hall on campus for an audience of alumni, staff, students and friends of the university.

#### **Inspired in Hull Podcast Episode 2: Meet Liam Dooley, Chief Operating Officer at Sheffield Wednesday**

Sheffield Wednesday Chief Operating Officer Liam Dooley talks to the Inspired in Hull podcast about strange career paths, his time at Hull and running a football club.

#### **Inspired in Hull with Tracy Borman: From Hull to Historic Palaces**

Last year author and broadcaster Tracy Borman came back to the University of Hull for an Inspired in Hull talk. We were treated to some of the highlights of Tracy's career and a whistlestop tour of some of the key moments in the history of the British Monarchy.



**Subscribe and follow us on YouTube to make sure you don't miss our upcoming conversations with fascinating alumni**

Our Networking community - [Hullalumnicconnects.me](https://hullalumnicconnects.me)

Our Alumni Blog - [hullalumni.me](https://hullalumni.me)

Update your details - [alumni@hull.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@hull.ac.uk)



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