

TO DO AND WHAT NOTT TO DO IN NOTTS

That is the question.

Nottingham takes pride in the wonderful range of literature it has to offer; being the birthplace of some of (arguably) the most influential writers we study today, so it is no shock to see events and campaigns to promote this fact...

From the likes of D.H. Lawrence to Alan Sillitoe, one could argue Nottingham isn't just about how you are going to recover from your *Saturday Night* on the *Sunday Morning*.

At UNESCO Nottingham City of Literature, they recognise the need to promote literature in and amongst the City of Nottingham using several creative initiatives. Understanding what Nottingham has to offer goes hand in hand with the exploration of the city, which is why their campaign *The Nottingham Big City Reads* and its aim sounded most fitting for students who are new to Nottingham and are keen to explore.

In a bid for 'everyone in Nottingham to get reading', they have creatively devised a large-scale book trail, with books appearing 'in the most unusual and wonderful of places'. They also selected works by authors from Nottingham to also feature in this campaign, further promoting local writers. Social media was the main initiative in a bid to get people out and about in Nottingham exploring the city. Books were left in venues such as cafes, galleries, libraries, bars and landmarks in Nottingham in order to get a real sense of surrounding, place and location within the big city.

This brilliant initiative from Nottingham City of Literature is a current, creative and collaborative way of encouraging people to get reading and deserves its creditability to be upped a notch.



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We asked, you answered...

Q: What made you want to get involved in this event?

A: 'Being an avid reader, I was keen to be involved in this campaign; understanding and acknowledging the works that have been produced in the city. I thought it would be of great use to me as a way of pinpointing where places were as well as finding great reads along the way!'

Q: How did you find navigating your way around Nottingham City centre?

A: 'Having not been to Nottingham before, I found the concept slightly daunting but was eager to explore the city and know what it had to offer. Using a variety of different places in this trail allowed me to do this and come across places I would never have found before! It really helped with the confidence of my surroundings.'

Q: Would you consider visiting any of the venues again?

A: 'Obviously some places were out of the ordinary and not somewhere where you would visit often, but I really enjoyed the main city centre, cafes in particular, so I would definitely visit those again.'

Answers provided by L. Meer, an NTU first-year English student who participated in the event.