

Lenton to get new peace garden thanks to local student and residents

Giselle Kennedy, a 20-year-old Nottingham University student from Wollaton is proving to be the driving force behind a dove-shaped 'peace garden' being planned for Lenton and she's looking for help from local people and students, as well as experienced gardeners and schools.

The garden, which will be housed at the Lenton Recreation Ground, is also being supported by a group of local residents; the Dunkirk & Lenton Partnership Forum; Sprout - an environmental project for young people run by the Partnership Council charity; Nottingham City Council's Parks & Open Spaces team and Giselle's fellow students from the University of Nottingham.

The innovative peace garden has been designed by Ann Hope, whose work has been featured at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Now, Giselle is keen for the project to be led by local people and wants to get residents involved. Work is due to start in early June, with the majority of the planting planned for 4th June. The garden will be officially opened on the 12th June, the day of the annual Lenton Festival. Festival-goers will be able to join in with a range of fun activities being planned for the launch, including making decorations for the new garden.

Giselle was inspired to create the garden after trying her hand at gardening at the Whitemoor Allotments in Nottingham, at sessions run by Sprout and Nottingham Organic Gardeners.

She explains:

"I got the chance to garden with people of all ages at Whitemoor and it made me realise how gardening is an activity that can be enjoyed by anyone, at any age, from any walk of life. Best of all, you can cook the things that you grow and eat them with the new friends you've made!

The garden will symbolise community cohesion which encourages peace and toleration. It will be a garden that anyone can enjoy, whether they want to help plant it and get fit, or just sit and relax. It could also be a focus for peace events where people can learn to look, listen and love."

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Giselle was keen to do something in Lenton as the area is home to lots of her fellow students:

"Lenton is home to families and older people as well as students so I'm hoping the garden will help to bring people together."

Giselle also hopes that people will be inspired to create similar gardens in different areas of Nottingham.

Rachel Wicks from Sprout says:

"We're delighted to be helping Giselle with such a worth-while project and it's great that students are getting involved with local people to make a lasting contribution to Lenton."

Giselle is hoping to plant herbs in the garden, as well as shrubs and flowers, which will be donated to the volunteer-led Crocus Café in Lenton - providing locals with tasty food as well as an attractive green space!

Plus, plants will be used to attract butterflies and bees to help promote bio-diversity in the city.

If you'd like to get involved or make a donation for benches, plants, trees, or sculptures then please contact Giselle Kennedy on 0115 913 9037 or 07948771168 or email gisykenny@hotmail.com