

Event to showcase Nottingham's young green champions

Nottingham's TV 'eco queen' Penney Poyzer is to lead the way in recognising the amazing work being done by the city's young green champions - at an event being held by Sprout, a citywide project that helps young people aged 16-25 set up their own environmental projects, supported by the Partnership Council charity.

The event, which will showcase just some of the many projects being run by young people, on a voluntary basis, in their own time, is taking place on Thursday 25th March from 6.00pm to 8.30pm at the Committee Room, Council House, Old Market Square, Nottingham.

Young people will also be presented with certificates of achievement.

Jabran Ahmad from Sprout says:

"It's incredible how many young people are passionate about the environment, so much so that they're prepared to spend their free time doing something to take care of it.

We're holding the event to celebrate and recognise that and to encourage the whole city, especially young people, to get involved in caring for the environment.

For example, Sprout provides small pots of money to get young people's projects off the ground as well as practical support and advice. Plus we're always looking for young volunteers to help out at our events.

For instance, we hold regular community gardening days where young people can volunteer to tidy up and improve their local green spaces."

Since it began in January 2008, Sprout has helped over 46 young people to set up their own green projects.

For example:

Notts Plan Bee - a project set up by two 21-year-olds from Nottingham, Libby Welbourn and Owen Hackett, with the aim of encouraging gardeners to plant bee-friendly plants and provide nesting sites for bees - by providing seeds, plants and advice to allotment-holders and community gardens.

180° Space - a project developed by young people on the Ainsley Estate in Nottingham so they can grow their own fruit and vegetables. Local people are also welcome to get involved and the project plans to create a 'chill out' space at the allotment this year, to give young people a place to relax.

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Abundance - a project started by 24-year-old Jenny Butcher to harvest unpicked or unwanted fruit and nuts, for example, from trees growing on wasteland, which is then distributed via community groups to those who need it most, like the homeless. Abundance volunteers also help householders who find it difficult to pick fruit from their gardens, so they can enjoy their harvest and share any leftover fruit with worthwhile causes.

Penney Poyzer of West Bridgford, Nottingham is well known for presenting BBC television programmes such as 'No Waste Like Home', which aimed to encourage people to cut down on waste, whilst saving money.

Sprout is funded by vinolved, the national youth volunteering programme.

To find out more please contact Jabran Ahmad or Rachel Wicks on 0115 970 8200 or email jabran@partnershipcouncil or rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

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