



Media release  
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## **INNOVATIVE OWEN LANDS £250 TECH PRIZE FROM THE NOTTINGHAM**

Kind-hearted Bilborough volunteer and radio presenter Owen Brindley celebrated the arrival of New Year with the news he had landed a Nottingham Building Society Innovative Young People of 2020 winner's prize.

Owen received a £250 tech voucher from the building society after a judging panel was impressed not only by his dedication to overcome serious illnesses, but also his drive and ambition to give back to people in need across Nottingham too.

The 21-year-old has had to contend with a number of conditions since birth, including Branchio-oto-renal Syndrome which led to a kidney transplant aged just five, lung problems and he is also partially deaf.

He has faced more than most, yet Owen has insisted on putting his energy into helping others and has an impressive list of volunteering achievements to date, including helping to raise vital funds for the When You Wish Upon A Star charitable foundation.

The budding radio star has also clocked up hundreds of hours volunteering with community station FMB Radio and Nottingham YMCA Digital and, when Covid-19 restrictions allow it to have the green light, will carry that on in a newly achieved Hospital Radio role broadcasting to Nottingham University Hospital patients.

Owen said: "I was really shocked and humbled to hear I had won the award, and hope it shows people that it is possible to give back to other people who need help and support even if you face tough times yourself.

"That has never been more important than now as we find ourselves in a world where people are facing increased challenges due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

"As someone who has spent a lot of time in hospital myself on many occasions I know how important it is to try and keep your spirits as high as possible, and that's what I try to do for others when I'm DJ-ing for the community and hopefully soon in the hospitals too.

"This is a very special award for me and my family – my mum and dad were in tears when I told them I had won it. I would like to say a big thank-you to those who nominated me, and to all of my family and friends, for their amazing and ongoing support."

In late 2020 Nottingham City Homes colleagues Kate Rand and Sally Nightingale saw the building society's award scheme - established to shine a light on examples of those aged 10-21 who have found inspiring ways of furthering their education or boosting career aspirations - advertised and decided to nominate Owen.

Kate explained: “Owen has shown astonishing resilience and steely determination to overcome personal challenges to achieve his goals – at the core of this is desire to help and inspire others.

“He has volunteered as a DJ in various hospital settings, youth clubs and charities and developed a passion for making others smile. He is known for his cheerful disposition and keenness to help and encourage others. Owen is a true person of inspiration – there is no stopping him!”

The Nottingham’s Head of People and Development, Anne Leivers, added: “Early on in 2020 we launched our [Career Academy](#) to help drive the aspirations of young people through hints and tips as to how careers can be kick-started.

“However with the Coronavirus pandemic causing serious challenges for all, not least young people who faced unprecedented hurdles in their education or career aspirations, we built on that by introducing the Innovative Young People awards.

“We received many inspirational nominations which made some very difficult decisions for the judging panel, but we are satisfied that the winners are thoroughly deserving of their awards and we hope the prizes can play a role in helping them fulfil their ambitions.”

Innovative Young People of 2020 awards were also presented to winners, who live in other areas of The Nottingham’s heartland, in the 10-13 and 14-17 age categories.

***Photo caption: Innovative Young People of 2020 award winner Owen Brindley.***

**ENDS**

**Notes to editor**

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**About The Nottingham**

Founded in 1849, The Nottingham is a mutual building society owned by its members with a long and proud history of doing the right thing and helping communities prosper. Today, The Nottingham is a top ten building society operating online and via a network of 40-plus branches across nine UK counties.

The society is well-known for providing a safe and secure place for people’s savings and helping its members into their own homes. In addition to mortgage and saving products, it offers a variety of additional services through expert partners including whole-of-market mortgage advice provided by Nottingham Mortgage Services, estate agency and lettings provided by Belvoir Group and much more including funeral planning, financial advice and home insurance. Its range of services, alongside its commitment to providing expert advice, support the society’s purpose to help its members save, plan for and protect their financial futures. [www.thenottingham.com](http://www.thenottingham.com)