Welcome to Nottingham Hackspace

We hope that you get a lot out of joining, and if you have any questions that other members can't answer, feel free to ask a member of the board.

Here's a map of nearby things:

1. Hackspace entrance on Alfred Street South
2. Local takeaway and corner shop.
3. Bus stops on Carlton Road: City buses 24, 25, 26, 27, 100. Shoplink S10.
4. Bus stops on Robin Hood Street: City bus 21
5. Best pub in the area, The Moot Hall. Good selection of beers, pool table upstairs.

From the Hackspace, the National Ice Centre is located South West down Carlton Road, the City Centre West-North-West past Sneinton Market.

Hackspace Organisation, The Board:

Nottingham Hackspace is a non-profit organisation. If there is any surplus after rent and other expenses have been paid, it is spent on tools and consumables.

There is a seven person, voluntary board elected to run the hackspace and vote on critical issues. None of the board are paid for their work, and anything they do has to fit in around the rest of their lives, but they're there to help as much as they can. Sometimes, the response might just be "Rule 3", explained below. At present, the board is:

Dominic Morrow
Matt Little
David Hayward
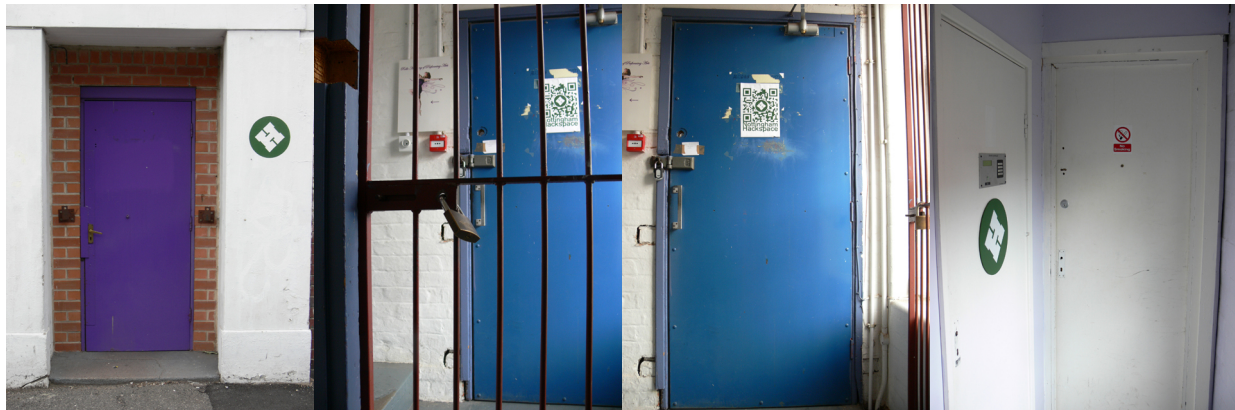Matt Lloyd
Michael Procter
Michael Erskine
James Hayward

You can find some more details here:
http://wiki.nottinghack.org.uk/wiki/Board

Board elections take place each May, any member can stand for election.

Access and Times:

If you have keys to the space, you're welcome to use it any time of the night or day. If you're ever without your keys, then for security we request that you only use the space during the same hours that the Rollo Academy of Performing Arts, located on the floor above, is open. These are 16:00 - 20:00 on weeknights, and 09:00 - 16:30 on weekends. Outside of these hours, you may be locked in when they leave. Get keys and you don't need to worry about it; they're available with a £6 refundable desposit.

There are four doors between the street and the hackspace. Left to right: The street door, the cage, the outer hackspace door, and the inner hackspace door.

The street door has a mortice lock and requires a key. The cage is a steel gate in the stairwell on the same floor as the hackspace, and has a large padlock. There's a combination lock on the outer hackspace door, the combination to which may change periodically. If so, this will be announced in advance on the members only google group. On entering through this door, please relock the padlock to the loop by the door, and mix up the combination.

On the innermost door, you will find Gatekeeper (pictured below), for which you will need an RFID card. The RFID reader is behind the H symbol. If you already have something like a bus pass or Oyster card, you can use that as your key. Don't worry, we don't access any of the information on your card, just a unique numerical card ID that the reader can recognise in order to unlock the door. Alternatively, if you don't have any RFID cards already, you can pick up a blank RFID card from the hackspace for a £1 deposit.

On becoming a member, you should receive a single use pin number, with which you can set up a single card for hackspace access. Simply swipe the new card until the LCD display says "ACCESS DENIED", then enter your pin number (do not press enter) to register the card. From then on, that card will release the inner door for you and the LCD will display a welcome message. Beware, multiple RFID cards too close together in your wallet may cause the reader to misread.

Leaving The Space:
We share the stairwell with the dance school on the floor above. For security, the street level door should be locked overnight between the hours of 21:00 - 09:00. Regardless of the time of day, if the dance school are not in (easily determined by nipping up the stairs to check if their door is padlocked or not), and you are the last person leaving the space, please lock not just both of the hackspace doors, but also the cage and the street door as you leave.

Hackspace Rules:

For a full elaboration of the rules, visit them on the wiki:
http://wiki.nottinghack.org.uk/wiki/HackSpace_Rules

In brief though, they are:

0. Do not be on fire. In everything, look after your own and others safety first and foremost.

1. Pay what you like but pay monthly. Nobody gets free membership, because it costs money to run the Hackspace. Membership costs are up to you, but if you have queries board members are happy to give some pointers. All we ask is that your membership cost covers the use you get from the space.

2. 35L storage. All members paying £10 or more get storage space if they want it. Mostly, a 35L box, but see below for exceptions.

3. Talk is cheap. Hackspaces are full of ideas. Getting stuff done always trumps talking, and as long as something won't interfere with the space or other members, then it's okay to go ahead.

4. No CRTs. The Hackspace gets offered a lot of donations, but does not accept CRTs. Old TVs and monitors are obsolete, power hungry tech and no one wants them.

5. Do not hack means do not hack. Certain things in the space are there to be used rather than hacked. It should be obvious with most things, but in cases where it's not you can make it so by putting a "DO NOT HACK" sign on something.

6. Don't kill pixies. Every time you make a mess and don't clean it up, or leave a drill bit in the pillar drill, or leave your empty mugs in the sink, etc., another pixie dies. Don't kill them; clean up after yourself instead.

Additionally, we ask that members keep their projects and actions at the space legal.

Rule 3 is one of the most important parts of the hackspace and the culture that's growing within it. Ideas are an easy thing to have, but making something happen counts for a lot more.

Consumables:

In the hackspace, you'll see stores of things like wood, metal, and electronics components. There are also boxes full of general hardware, enclosures, etc. Additionally, there are two large grey plastic boxes in the members store room, full of things you can help yourself to for projects, or put things in that you don't want but think might be useful to others. All of these resources are free for members to use, we just ask a couple of things: Donate any offcuts you're not using (no matter how small) rather than throwing them away, and don't take too much. "Too much" is down to your judgment.

Tools:

We have a lot of tools here that are all free for members to use, but some of them are dangerous power tools, and some of them are on long-term loan rather than belonging to the space. If in doubt, or if you've never used a particular tool before, ask someone how to use it safely. It's very important to your personal safety and the ongoing use of the hackspace that you don't mess with dangerous equipment if you're not trained to use it. When using equipment, warn the people around you and brief them to act safely if you feel it necessary. Look after the tools, and please put stuff back after you've finished using it.

Storage:

Any member paying more than £10 per month in membership is entitled to keep a 35 litre box at the space. A box costs £5, becomes your property, and stacks with all of the other member's boxes at the space. If you're paying over £20, then you're welcome to keep two boxes if you need them. The best way to get one is to pay in cash at an open hack night, or when you're in the space with a board member. If you have a box, we ask that you put you real name on it. Some members also put their Twitter names on their boxes too.

Sometimes, a project is too big to go in a member's box. If so, talk to someone on the board about it. We have room for stuff, but it is of course finite.

Donations:

No one is obliged to make any donations above their membership fee, but people often do. These range from spare change through to leftovers from projects, or old equipment. For money, there are donation pots throughout the space. For equipment and things you think others might find useful, there are two large, grey boxes on the racking in the members store room, labelled to be emptied on given months. Any of the things in these boxes are free to be scavenged or cannibalised by members for their projects. Each month, one of the boxes is emptied and parts recovered sorted into storage. Anything deemed to be useless is sent to the tip.

Pledge Drives:

From time to time, you may see pledge drives spring up on the hackspace mailing list. You can ignore these if you want, they exist simply to serve members interests. The tools wishlist is always much bigger than the hackspace can afford, but pledges can allow the space to acquire things it might not under other circumstances.

Facilities at the space are directed by the interests of members, especially where large, obscure things or expensive specialist tools are concerned. For instance, in the past we've had pledge drives for a vending machine, an Xbox Kinect camera, a DIY CNC machine, and replacement parts for a knitting machine.

Snackspace:
The shelves and fridge in the kitchen are stocked with snacks and drinks. There is a price list on top of the fridge, along with a jar for money. At present, it operates on an honesty system. If they don't have the money or change that day, members are also welcome to put their name on the IOU whiteboard above the fridge along with the total they owe for snacks and drinks. We appreciate people clearing their IOUs regularly, but if not they are collected periodically. Usually this is at the end of the month, but if stocks are low and people owe a lot, the IOUs may be called in at any time.

Tea and coffee are free to members, but you'll probably have to provide your own milk, and there is a donations jar in the kitchen if you'd like to contribute any extra toward them.

Nottingham Hackspace Online:
The public google group is open to anyone:
groups.google.com/group/nottinghack

The members google group is a closed group, so we need to reconcile your email with our members record before we can grant requests to join:
groups.google.com/group/members-nottinghamhackspace

The members group is not generally full of super-secret discussions, we just use it to disseminate confidential information like door codes.

There are also two Twitter accounts relevant to the hackspace: @HSNotts is the general Twitter account, and @Holly533MHz is the voice of our server, tweeting about the various sensors that we have built into the space. The latter account is locked down and we need to verify you as a member before it'll accept a follow request.

If you blog about hackspace relevant stuff, you'd be most welcome to contribute your feed to Planet Nottinghack. Many members run their own blogs, and this automatically uses RSS to collect them all into one place:
planet.nottinghack.org.uk

There is also a #nottinghack IRC channel, located on chat.eu.freenode.net. There will usually be at least a couple of board members in there on any given day.

Children:
The Hackspace welcomes children, but please be aware that it is primarily an adult environment. While of course we won't be screening porn or having strippers in the space, outside of workshops specifically aimed at kids, members might not be watching their language.

Under 16s have to be accompanied by an adult, and are expected to be engaged with the space in some way, i.e. working on a project of some kind while they're here. Periodically, we do have events specifically for children.

Questions, etc.:
If you have any questions or requests, the best places to ask are the public group (unless your question involves confidential stuff), the IRC channel, or in person at the Open Hack night, which is every Wednesday from 18:30. Occasionally, everyone disappears to the pub sometime between 22:00 and 23:00, usually the Moot Hall, and if that's closed, Bunker's Hill Inn beside the National Ice Centre.

At present, David Hayward (nachimir@gmail.com) and Dominic Morrow (nottinghack@gmail.com) handle membership enquiries. If there's anything you can't get answered on the public or private google groups, just get in touch.

We'd like to emphasise that the hackspace is your space as much as it's everyone else's. Just like every other member, you're paying a share of the running costs for the Hackspace. We strongly encourage you to get to know other members, ask questions and talk a bit about your own projects on the Google group.

We look forward to seeing you at the space more!