

The Nottingham Jewish Student Census 2014

Objectives:

- Understand why there are such few active members despite a large Jewish population
- Provide direction into how we can resolve this issue
- Understand what more can be done for Jewish students in Nottingham

The Census:

- Powered by SurveyMonkey online only
- Link published on Nottingham JSoc Groups
- Awareness raised through word of mouth
- Hope this could reach out to Jewish students who were not even JSoc members by sharing on individuals' news feeds

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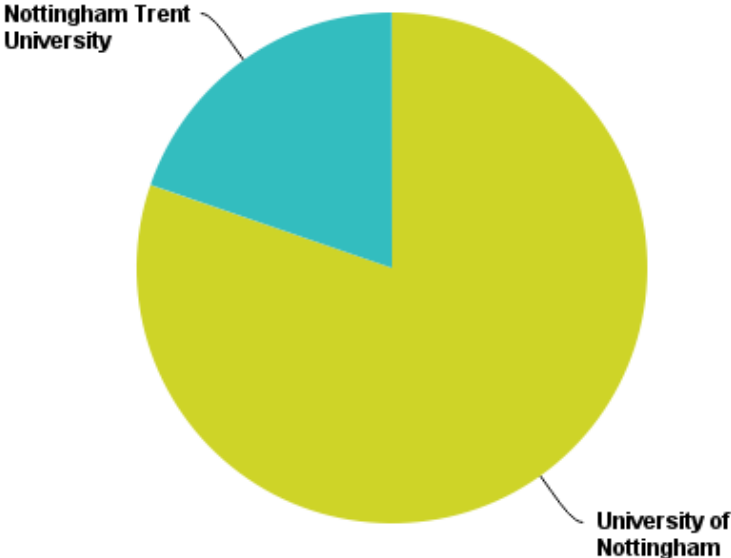
Total Responses

Date Created: Wednesday, March 05, 2014

Complete Responses: 114

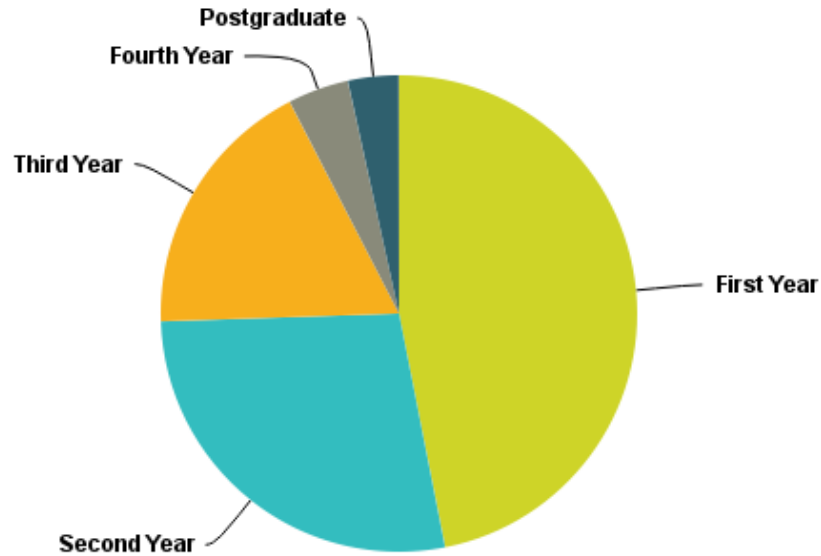
Q1: Which university do you attend?

Answered: 147 Skipped: 4



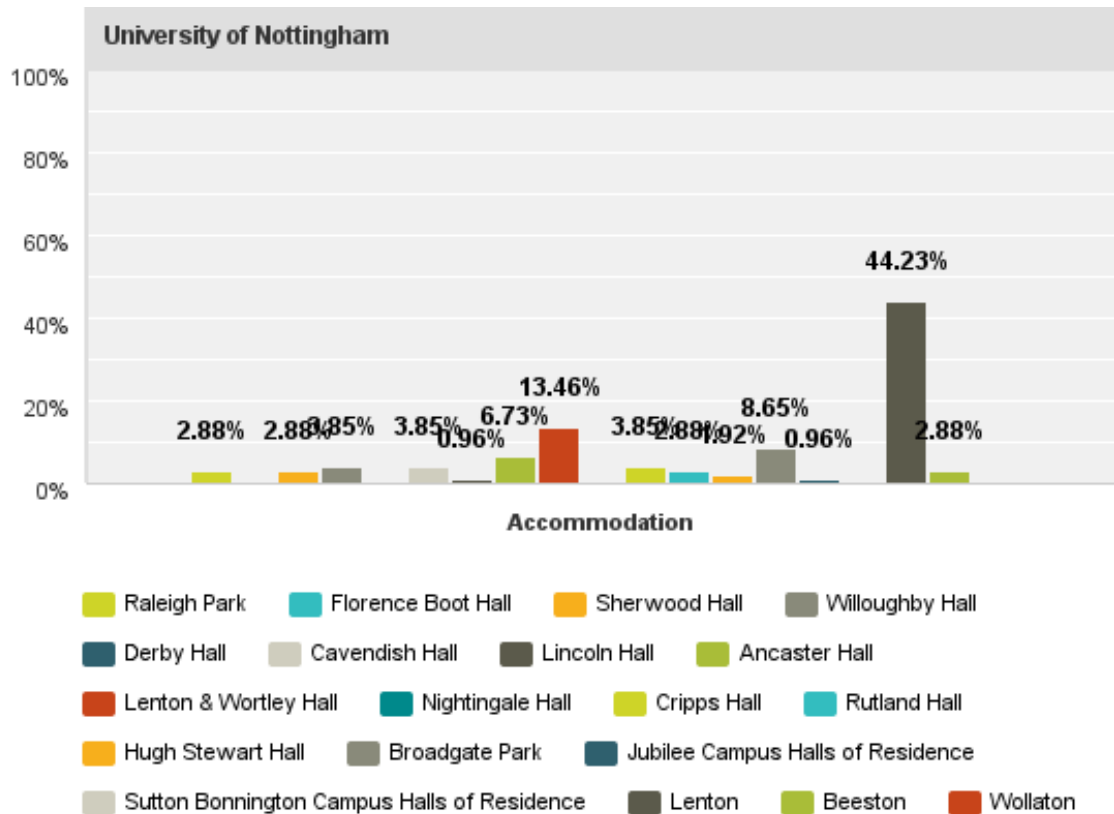
Q2: Which year of study are you currently in?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 6



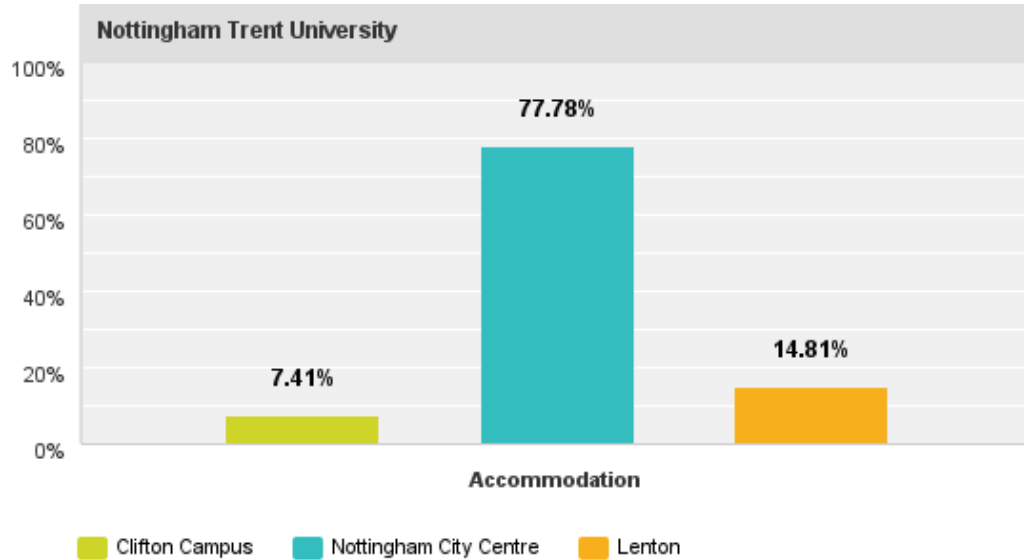
Q3: Where do you live in Nottingham?

Answered: 131 Skip



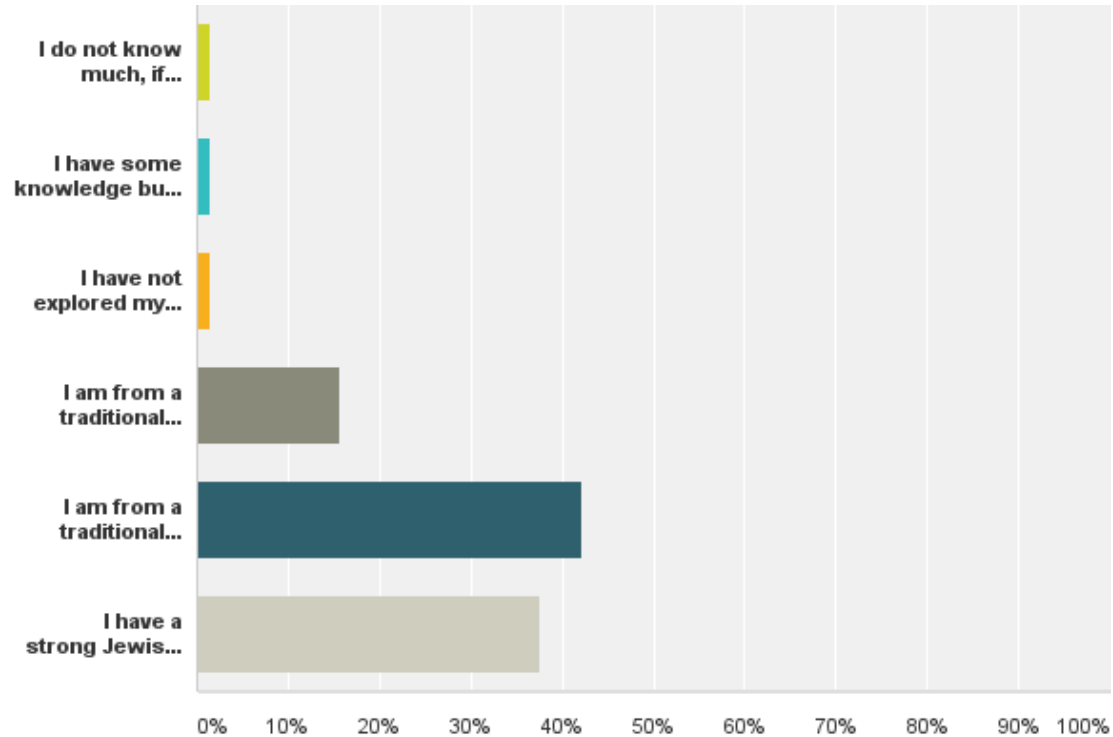
Q3: Where do you live in Nottingham?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 20



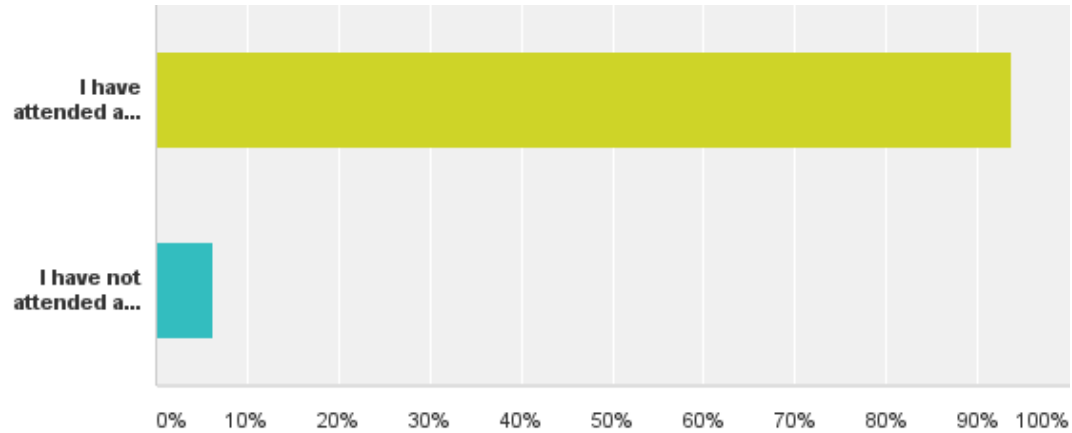
Q4: How best would you describe your Jewish identity?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 23



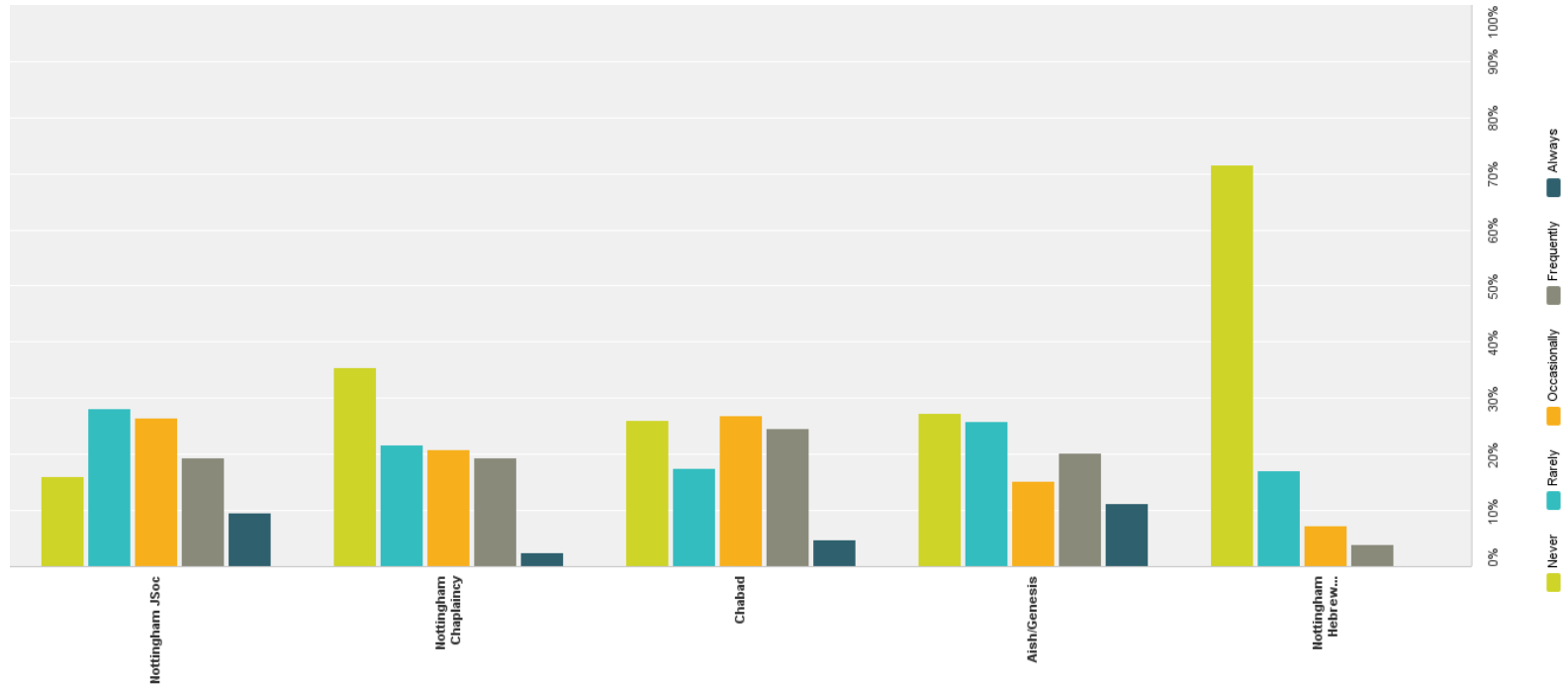
Q5: Please choose the correct statement:

Answered: 129 Skipped: 22



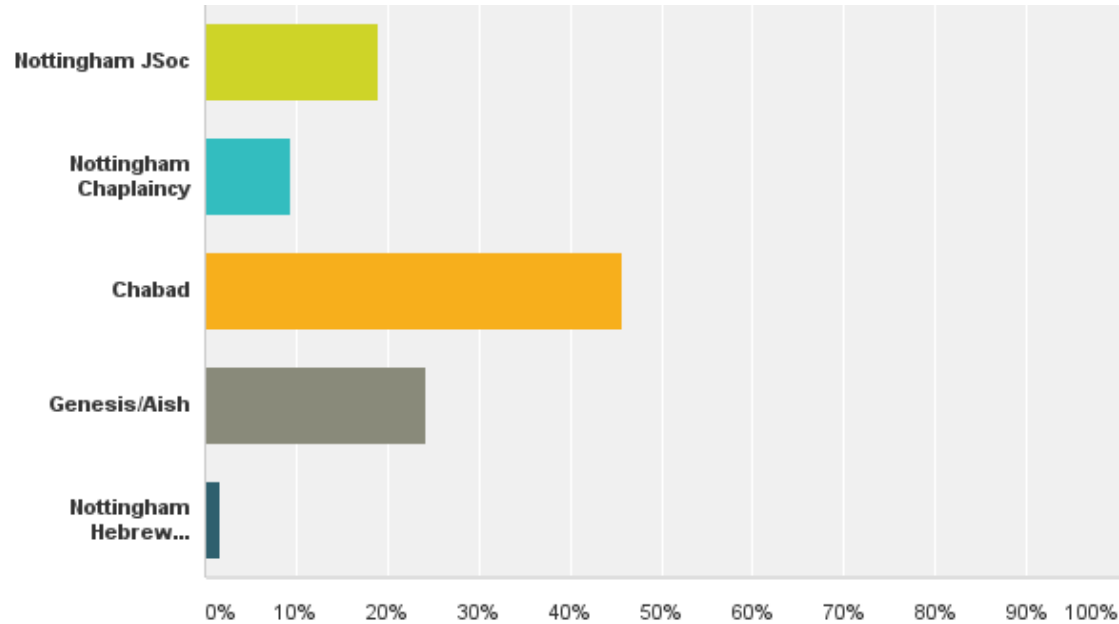
Q6: How often do you attend events by these Jewish organisations:

Answered: 126 Skipped: 25



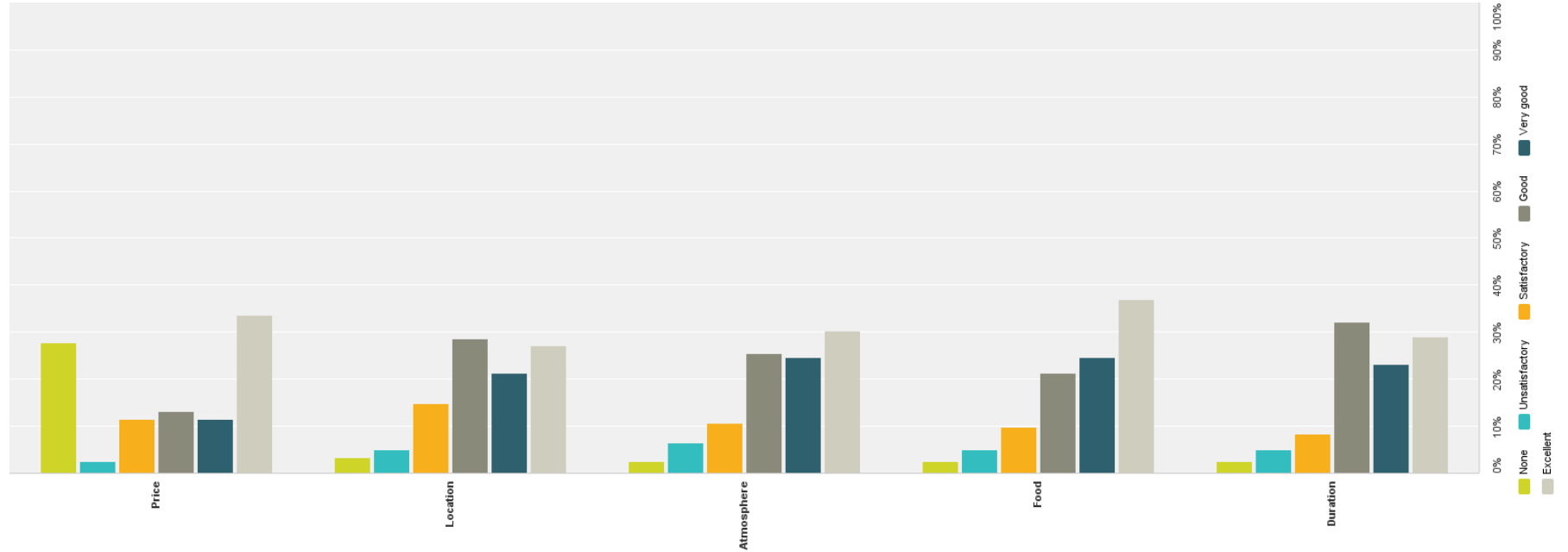
Q7: What was the most recent Jewish event you attended?

Answered: 116 Skipped: 35



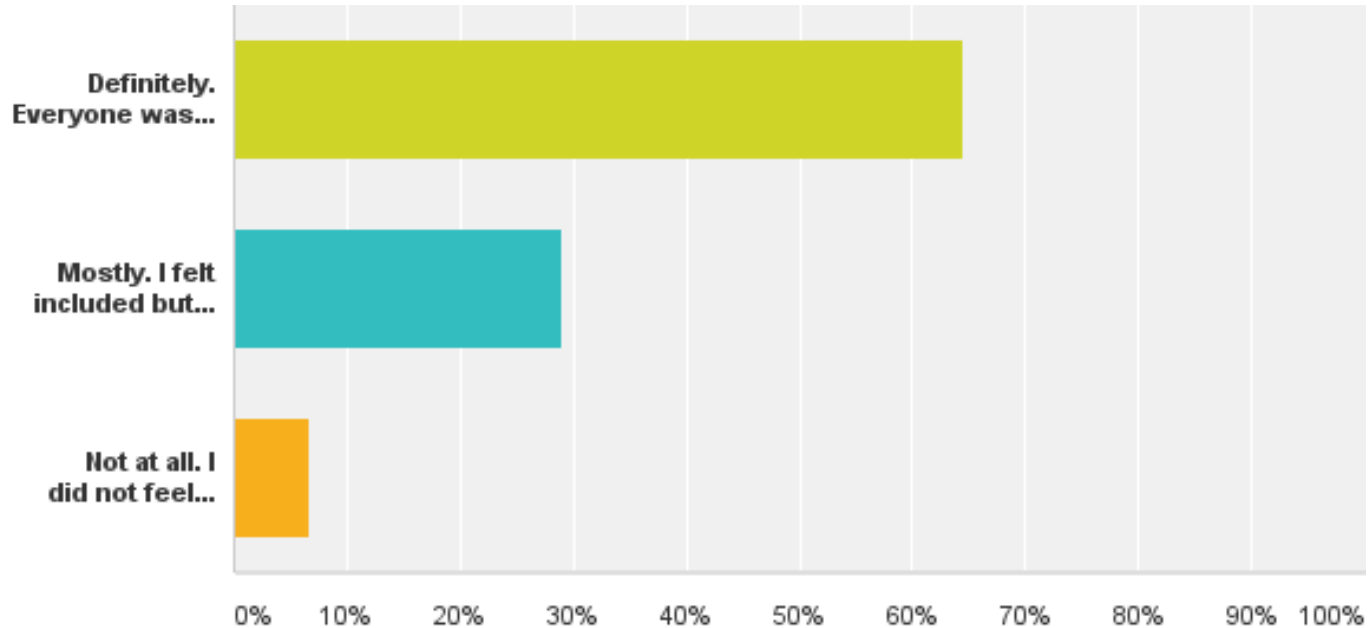
Q8: Consider the most recent event you attended and rate the following:

Answered: 122 Skipped: 29



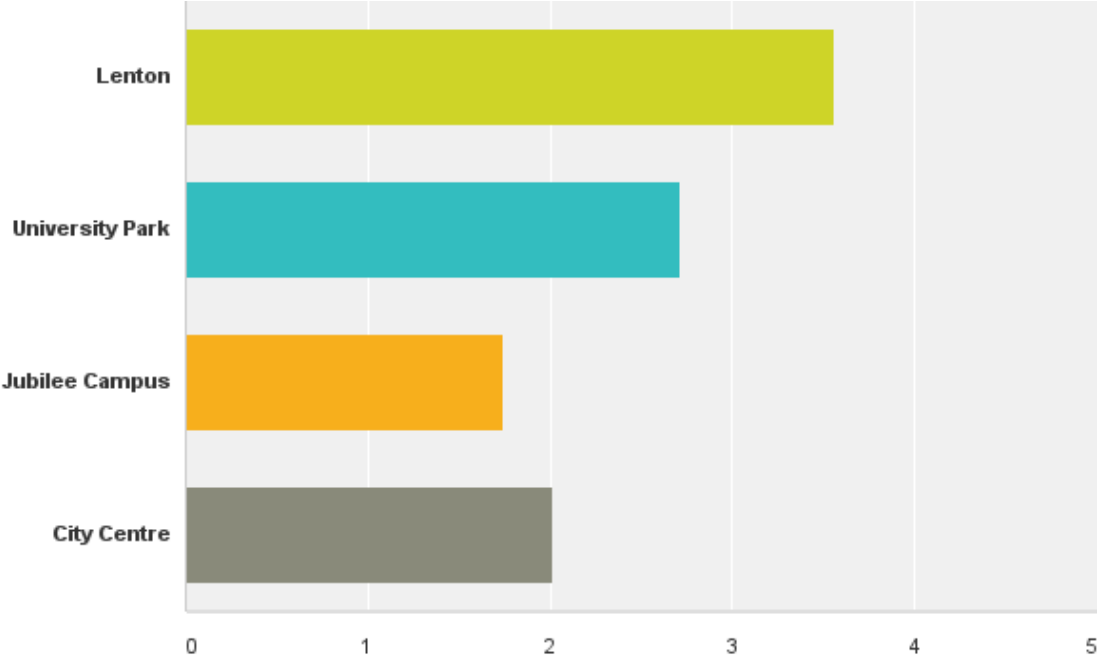
Q9: Did you feel that the event was inclusive and welcoming to all?

Answered: 121 Skipped: 30



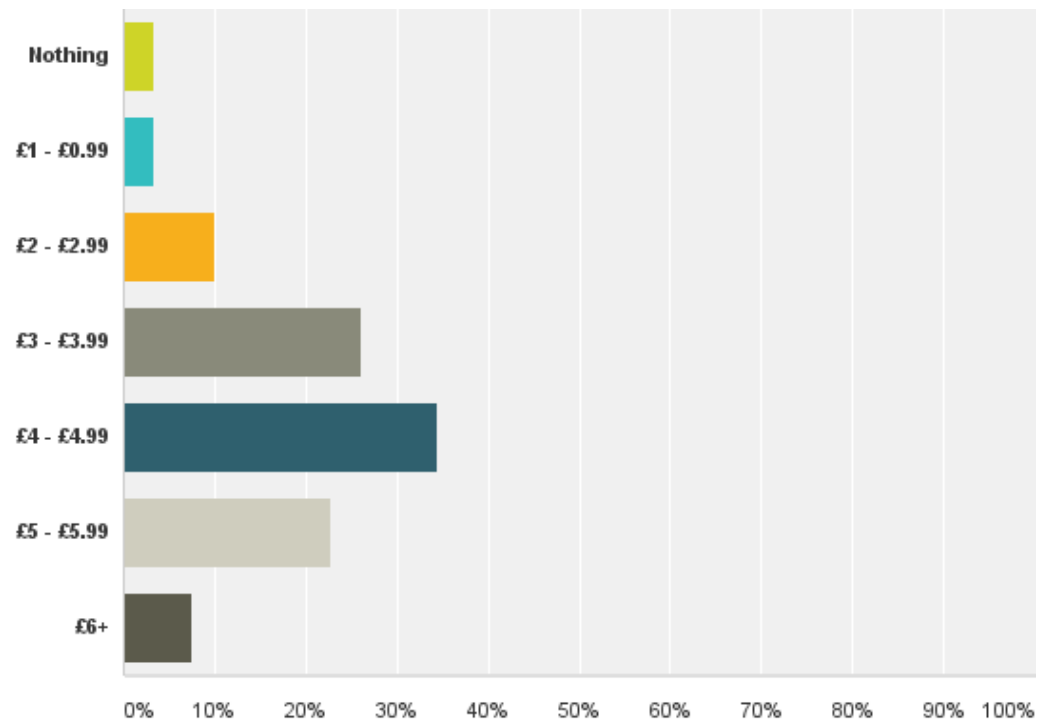
Q10: Please rank in order your ideal location if you were to attend a Friday Night Dinner.

Answered: 117 Skipped: 34



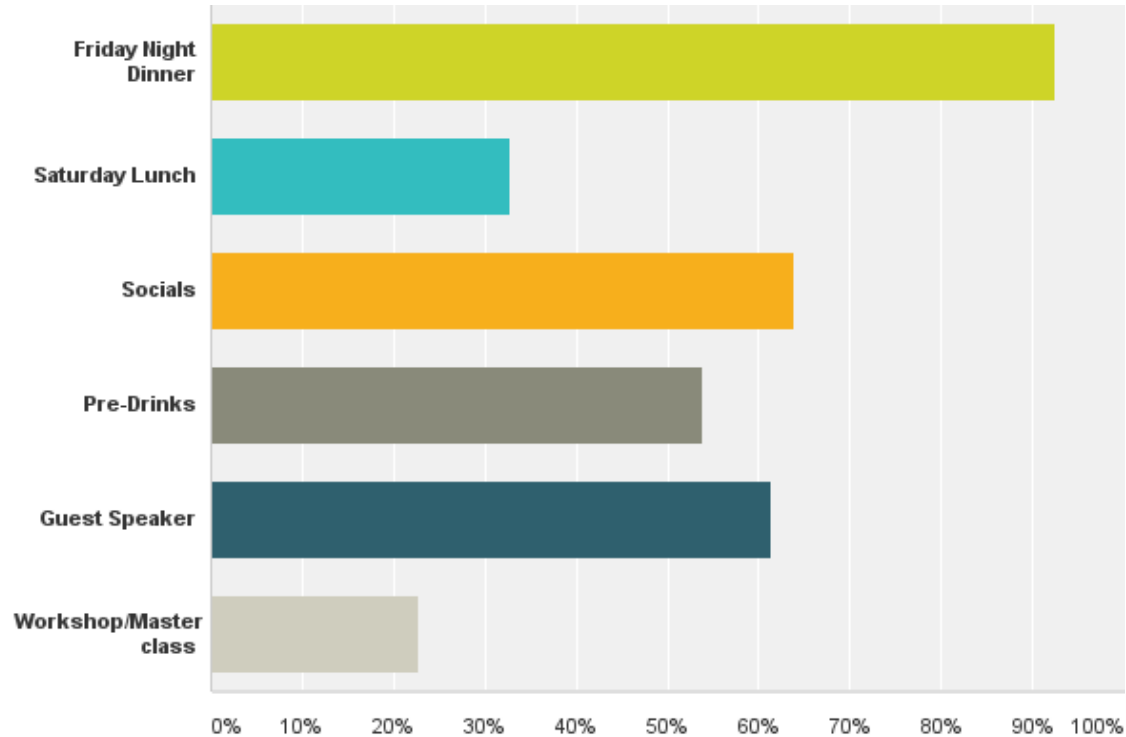
Q11: What is the maximum amount you are willing to pay for a three-course Friday Night Dinner?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 32



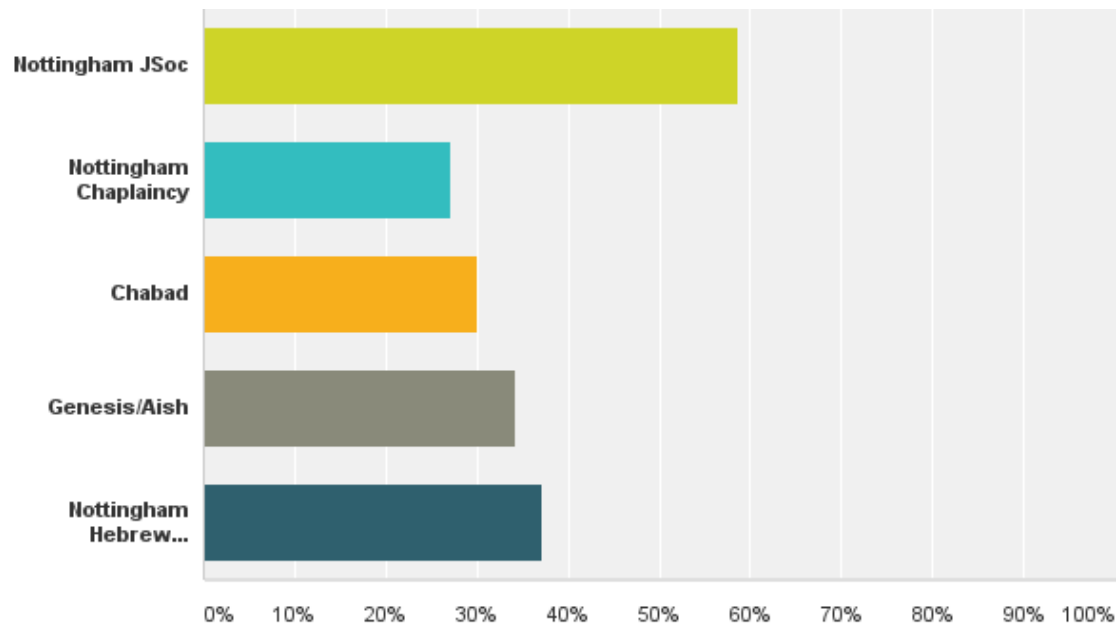
Q12: Please select all the type of events you are most likely to attend:

Answered: 119 Skipped: 32



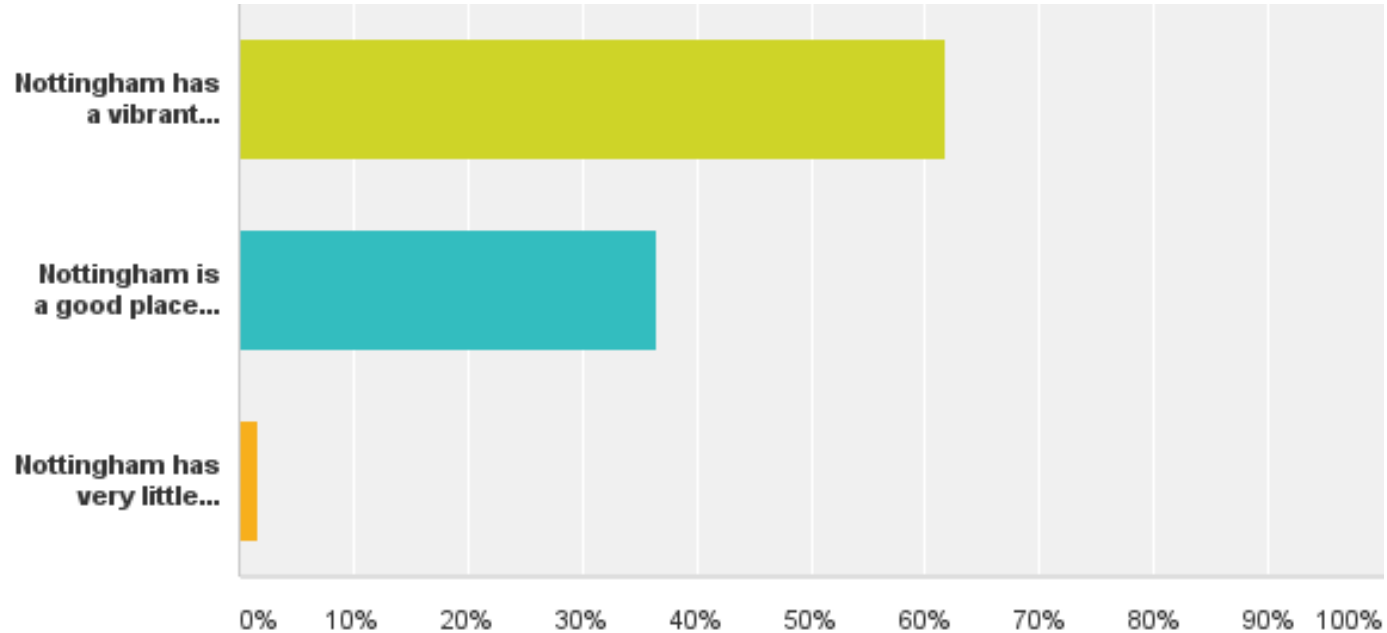
Q13: Are there any organisations which you feel can do more to include students from different backgrounds?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 81



Q14: Which of the following statements is correct:

Answered: 118 Skipped: 33



Comments:

It is a shame that all the organisations are separate but with the circumstances I'm not surprised, JSOC without a base is clearly struggling to fulfill the expectations set upon it and to live up to its reputation. Nottingham has the potential to be the biggest and best place for students but it simply is not possible with the current circumstances. Also I think if JSOC were to be given a base it would open up more co-operation with other Jewish student programs such as Chabad.

Would be interesting to see more peer led /educational events. As well rather than just the standard social drinking events would be fun to see stuff like 'jsoc does a trip to the zoo' or something like that- there are other ways to have fun and spend time with other Jewish students, doesn't have to be limited to the 'student cultural norms' :) hope this helps!

we need a JSoc house!

I think coming to Nottingham has heightened my sense of Jewish identity. I have a lot more Jewish friends which has encouraged my Judaism. I have also brought some of my Jewish friends who had not grown up in a strictly Jewish background to Jewish events.

All organisations need to join to create one Jewish unity in Nottingham. Freshers need a brochure at the beginning of the year explaining who everybody is what everybody does, across all organisations. More events are needed by Jsoc. Chaplaincy do a lot and they often get confused.

The fact that there is no Hillel/centre for Jewish students is a complete shame. Having one would completely change Jewish life at Nottingham, enabling those who attend Chabad, Jsoc and Genesis to be under one roof, without any unnecessary competition. The fact that these organisations don't unite is also a shame as students are forced to choose between them, creating an uncomfortable atmosphere for Jewish students in Nottingham.

Doesn't feel very welcoming
whenever I've attended anything
more intimate than the big parties
etc.

Jewish students should be allowed to feel proud of their heritage and of practicing it on campus. Jsoc can play a big role in this

I believe jsoc has slowly drifted from an inclusive jewish organisation to a clique that does not include the wider community and in some cases makes other Jews feel unwelcome, especially at Friday night dinners. The Jewish society has a core group of members who attend Friday nights and other events, it has become nothing more then a social event for a select group of students and is no longer a society that serves to benefit the wider jewish student community.

General lack of affiliation for Jewish students with the JSOC, events surround a JSOC committee clique one that does not form at Chabad. More welcoming Friday night dinner environment at Chabad, we're students Chabad rabbi accepts the fact that people will desire to go out on Friday evenings so hosts an event where people can involve themselves with Judaism with no pressure to stay beyond their desired time or get involved with regular events.

I firmly believe that JSoc is the most important foundation for Jewish students at university. All other organisations should be sure not to take things away from JSoc and work with the committee. Otherwise people become too spread out and you lose the sense of a big Jewish community in the uni. The loss of a JSoc house was a big one, and a real shame. I'm not convinced that the proposed Chabad complex will solve the situation.

When the words 'Jewish student' were used in this, I understood it to mean the average Jewish student - one who takes part going to some of the events Nottingham has to offer throughout the year, but will still go out partying on Friday nights. I would like to give over a perspective towards more observant Jewish students who are shomer Shabbos for example and tries to keep a high level of kosher. To these 'more observant' students I would recommend to them: don't come to Nottingham. It is a place of great students, with some incredible events throughout the year - but for a religious person to connect to them, to grow and still keep their usual observances it's definitely not the easiest. Don't misunderstand me though, the Rabbis are amazing here and it's possible to come here and be observant (if you can do this, that's amazing); but it's an inconvenience and will in most instances make people less observant and stunt religious growth.

More progressive outreach is needed

Events for Yom Haatzmaut would be great!

It would be good if the Jewish community catered to more branches of Judaism, like masortis. I also think that Israel should be separate from the Jsoc

There needs to be more events going on in Clifton. I only know a few other Jewish people living in Clifton, and I wonder if more people like me are unaware.

The census has raised a few questions:

- How inclusive is JSoc and what more can be done to make students feel more welcome?
- How is Judaism presented to students and can there be additional dimensions to the existing structure?
- Will the need for physical premises to hold events ever be fulfilled?