Guildford comes together to celebrate Wonder

The University of Surrey celebrated 50 years in Guildford by welcoming thousands of local people to campus for the Festival of Wonder.

This summer, 6,000 local residents, University of Surrey students and graduates came together to enjoy a day of festivities on the University’s campus, featuring science demonstrations, student arts performances and live music.

A host of celebrities took part in the festival, including BBC Radio 4’s science presenter and University of Surrey Professor Jim Al-Khalili, national treasures Brian Blessed OBE and Dame Penelope Keith OBE, former Rugby Union player Sir Ian McGeechan OBE, and TV veterinary surgeons Mark Evans and Channel 4’s ‘Supervet’ Professor Noel Fitzpatrick.

Younger guests benefited from professional coaching at Surrey Sports Park, the £36m public sporting facility opened by the University in 2010, and took part in workshops at the University’s School of Veterinary Medicine, opened by Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh in 2015.

From trying out virtual reality headsets to extracting DNA from strawberries and touring the solar system, guests were invited to experience a taste of University life and explore science, technology and arts.

Professor Max Lu, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University, said: “We were thrilled to welcome 6,000 guests to the Festival of Wonder, including many people from our Guildford community. I want to extend a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to everyone who took the time to visit us.

“There are so many ways in which everyone in Guildford can get more involved with the University on their doorstep, including sport, arts, innovation and learning. I hope this festival has brought us closer to our neighbours, and I encourage everyone in our community to visit us again soon.”

The Festival of Wonder was part of the University’s year-long celebrations to mark 50 years since it was established on Stag Hill in Guildford. Other highlights included an anniversary procession in the high street and a Guildford School of Acting production, Fabulous 50, which brought 11 performances of popular musicals from the last 50 years to the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre.

The last five decades have seen the University of Surrey welcomed as part of Guildford. Staff and students are involved throughout the local community, from volunteering for good causes, supporting business start-ups and growing a thriving sci-tech community at Surrey Research Park, through to outreach in local schools and contributing to the town’s sports and arts scene.
Letter from the Guest Editor

Professor Max Lu AO DL, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University, introduces this issue of Your University.

Welcome to this new issue of Your University, as a new academic year begins up here on Stag Hill.

We’re delighted to report on just a few of the events and achievements that made last year so memorable. These include the Festival of Wonder in May, when we celebrated our 50th Anniversary by opening our campus to 6,000 guests, and our Gold award in the new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), which confirmed our top position among the UK’s universities.

This issue also offers insights into the great research we do here, with some recent highlights across the areas of nutrition, urban living and space exploration. Not only does our research expand the frontiers of knowledge, it also looks for ways in which we can improve our health and happiness much closer to home.

Because we want the University of Surrey to play its part in the community, we work closely with local businesses, the council and residents in and around Guildford. As specialists in education, we take particular pride in our work with schools and colleges, discussed on page 14. But we’re also focused on culture, sport and innovation. Our 5G Innovation Centre is leading the world in the development of the next generation of mobile communications. Together with local businesses, we’re building a ‘digital Guildford’, which you can read about on page 7.

As Guildford grows, so does the University. We’re working with local authorities to ensure that this growth is sustainable, proportional and beneficial to the whole community. We’re investing in new student accommodation, on and off campus, as well as new transport links that will benefit both the town and the University. On page 6, you can learn about our community engagement work – it’s important to us that we listen to you.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Your University. If you have any ideas or suggestions about how the University can further involve itself in your local community, please feel free to contact our public engagement team: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk or +44 (0)1483 686 848.

The University in numbers

- **17,900**
  - Jobs supported across the UK by the University and Surrey Research Park (2015/16)

- **95.6%**
  - Graduate employability (HESA 2015)

- **£1.7bn**
  - Gross value added generated across the UK by the University and Surrey Research Park (2015/16)

- **4,000**
  - Employees working for over 100 companies on Surrey Research Park, Guildford

- **£200m**
  - Invested in student accommodation (2004 - 2022)

- **100,000+**
  - Degrees awarded by the University and its associated institutions over the last 50 years

- **1m**
  - Visitors to Surrey Sports Park every year

- **1m**
  - Visitors to Surrey Sports Park every year
Construction for thousands more campus beds ‘topped out’ by Mayor

The University celebrated an important construction milestone during the ‘topping out’ ceremony of its new student residences, which brought the £75m development on its Manor Park campus closer to completion.

Did you know?
The University of Surrey provides proportionately more student accommodation on campus than almost any other university in the UK.

The ‘topping out’ ceremony is believed to originate from ancient Scandinavian religious ritual, where new buildings would need to appease the tree spirits displaced during construction. Today, these ceremonies are held to mark the structural completion of a building and to thank those involved in the work.

The University was delighted to welcome the Mayor of Guildford, Councillor Nigel Manning, to lay the final stone in the accommodation block and officially mark its external construction work as finished.

Among those attending the ceremony in September were representatives from the builders, O’Hare McGovern Ltd and MJP Architects. Their design was shaped through consultation with local residents and will provide ‘barn style’ buildings arranged around interlinked courtyards, giving a collegiate feel.

Professor Max Lu, Vice-Chancellor of the University, thanked the Mayor for performing the ceremony and also the many people involved in bringing the project to fruition.

Construction of these high quality student residences began in October 2016, and is part of the University’s plan to provide just over 4,000 rooms on the Manor Park campus by 2022.

Since 2005, the University has spent over £200m on student accommodation, and by 2022 expects to provide accommodation for more than 7,000 of its students across its Stag Hill and Manor Park sites.

Surrey named as ‘outstanding’ with Gold award

The University has received a prestigious Gold award in the Government’s first ever Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

A national TEF panel commended the University of Surrey as outstanding for stretching and supporting students with its rigorous course design and assessment, and for providing teaching that is innovative, personalised and well-resourced.

The award particularly highlighted the emphasis the University gives to embedding professional training in students’ education, and the ways that research helps shape teaching and developing students’ critical and analytical skills.

The panel recognised that students from all backgrounds achieve consistently outstanding results, with significant numbers progressing to highly skilled employment or further study.

A Gold award in the Teaching Excellence Framework tops off a strong year for the University of Surrey. In February, a new £12.5m Innovation for Health building was opened, equipped with state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities, showcasing the University’s vision for integrating healthcare and technology to transform healthcare in the UK.

New faces in Guildford as University welcomes new students

The University welcomed new students last month for the 2017/18 academic year.

Autumn brings new colour to our trees and new faces to our town. The University’s most recent students received a warm welcome, with special events to settle them into their new home.

The annual Freshers’ Fair encouraged students to volunteer for local good causes and join societies like Surrey Marrow and Student Action for Refugees. All student clubs and societies take part in fundraising. For example, the Ballroom and Latin Dance Club raised over £2,500 this year for the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham through its popular annual event, Strictly Surrey.

Mark Barlow, Director of Student Recruitment and Admissions, said: “We’re lucky to be part of a very special town that appeals to prospective students. Students often work part-time and volunteer locally, so we expect they’ll quickly get to know their new neighbours.”

Through student spending, part-time work and volunteering, University of Surrey students are estimated to add around £149.7m a year to the local economy.

Photo by: Igor Abramovich.
Community news

Investigating LGBTQI+ discrimination

Researchers from the University of Surrey's Department of Sociology will work alongside partners to investigate the complicated web of discrimination faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people (LGBTQI+).

The Universities of Surrey, Strathclyde, Coimbra, and Alice Salomon, have been awarded a €1.4m grant from NORFACE, a partnership of national research funding agencies across 19 European countries, to fund the research.

The study will also consider how sexuality, gender, gender identity, social class, citizenship status and ethnicity combine and affect the inequalities faced by LGBTQI+ people at three ‘transition’ points in life: from school to work, moving between jobs in mid-life, and moving into retirement.

The findings will help inform government policies and future research.

Lead investigator Dr Andrew King from the University of Surrey, said: “Understanding the inequalities experienced by LGBTQI+ people will help us better tackle discrimination and make it a thing of the past.”

This year, Guildford was voted the leading university town for LGBTQI+ friendliness by the Alternative UK University City League.

Community blossoms in Park Barn

Residents of Cathedral View in Park Barn have been working with the University of Surrey’s Estates team to create a brand new community garden space, supported by Guildford Borough Council’s Project Aspire.

A disused washing and drying area with a view of Guildford Cathedral was identified by the Council’s eagle-eyed community wardens, prompting a consultation with local residents about how to improve and use the space.

The University was given the go-ahead by neighbouring residents to step in and create a community-led green area.

The initiative is one of several local green-space projects the University is involved with.

To find out more, or to talk to us about green-space opportunities near you, contact our public engagement team at: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk

Getting lost in Guildford’s night sky

Over 700 members of the public gathered on the University’s Stag Hill campus for an evening of stargazing earlier this year, hosted by the University’s Department of Physics and Astrophysics research group.

The ‘star party’ coincided with the return of BBC Two’s Stargazing Live, and let stargazers of all ages discover astronomy and physics through talks and practical activities.

Visitors could view the stars using telescopes provided by Surrey’s Astrophysics group, the Physics Society and Guildford Astronomical Society, and saw exciting astronomical objects including Jupiter, stellar clusters and the star Betelgeuse.

For more information about events taking place this year, visit: surrey.ac.uk/public_astronomy

Guildford celebrates a local hero

An engineering technician and local resident who has worked at the University for almost 38 years received a ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ at Eagle Radio 2017 Local Heroes Awards at G Live on 21 September.

David Fishlock won the award after being nominated by University colleagues who praised his generosity, dedication and resilience as well as his kindness and compassion for others.

For almost 38 years, David has balanced the demands of working full-time for the University, being a retained fireman for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and volunteering as a scout leader in Godalming. Despite his busy schedule, he has found time to give fire safety advice to the local community, organise aid collections for people suffering in the Philippines and Syria, and join five convoys taking humanitarian aid to Kosovo, where he has also supported two community projects for women and children in need.

As well as volunteering at Hydestyle Wildlife Hospital on Sunday mornings for the past 10 years, David has organised a number of fundraisers, running the London Marathon to generate £5,000 for the baby charity Tommy’s and organising fun runs, coffee mornings and car washes in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Liz James, Research Manager at the University’s Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing, said: “Dave gives himself tirelessly and selflessly to the community despite the fact that he has been battling with multiple myeloma for over six years. He is a very generous contributor to others both in his role at the University and in his commitment to supporting those in need here in the UK and internationally.”

Sophie Patterson, colleague in the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, added: “Dave has never thought of himself before others; even with his own health limitations, he has contributed more than anyone I know. It shows what a wonderful, caring and exceptional man he is and truly needs to be recognised for all he has done for the community, charities and us here at the University.”

Eagle Radio Local Heroes Awards were launched six years ago to celebrate the unsung heroes of Surrey and Hampshire. Each year, 11 awards are given out to ‘heroes’ in categories ranging from teaching, volunteering and sports.

Find out more about this year’s winners, at: 964eagle.co.uk/localheroes
What killed Steve the Stag?

Pupils from secondary schools across Guildford visited the University's School of Veterinary Medicine to solve the mysterious death of the University's mascot, Steve the Stag.

The outreach event saw the 14 and 15 year-olds take part in a range of activities covering the outbreak of disease, clinical skills, pathology and animal welfare.

The pupils’ learnings helped them to confirm that Steve was (fictionally!) killed by a new and never before seen infectious disease called Staggyllococcus.

Amy Oatway, Widening Participation and Outreach Support Officer at the University of Surrey, explained: “Students analysed bacterial samples ‘taken’ from Steve in order to work out what killed him. They also discovered how to bandage other animals that had been injured by the rampaging mascot, and discussed the best way to cordon off the University campus to stop any potential spread of the infection.”

Hailing from the heart of the University's Manor Park campus, opposite the Royal Surrey County Hospital, the School of Veterinary Medicine is built around the theme of ‘One Health - One Medicine’. The centre opened in October 2015 and provides forward-thinking interdisciplinary research and teaching to improve the health of humans and animals.

The £45m facility is made up of three buildings including a main academic centre with offices, teaching spaces, lecture theatres and research laboratories, a veterinary pathology building and a clinical skills centre with an animal examination area and animal simulators.

The School works with important regional partners, including the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Animal and Plant Health Agency, The Pirbright Institute, Surrey Wildlife Trust, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Fitzpatrick Referrals, Liphook Equine Hospital, Westpoint Veterinary Group and Marwell Zoo.

The £11m Veterinary Pathology Centre was launched last year, providing a state-of-the-art facility with highly skilled staff specialising in performing post-mortems on farm animals, horses, exotic and small animals. The Centre now offers veterinary pathology services to vets and the wider scientific community.

Drinking in knowledge with Pint of Science

This year’s Pint of Science festival saw 26 of the University’s renowned academics take to the pubs of Guildford for three nights of inspiring conversation.

Every year, the international festival brings together pioneers and punters to break down the latest research and make science accessible to all.

Over 400 guests attended evening events held at The Legion, the Star and the Ship Inn.

The 2017 Pint of Science festival was a huge success across the UK and abroad, with more than 20,000 people involved in the UK and approximately 75,000 worldwide.

University calls on local landlords

The University is calling on local landlords to list their student properties with the University’s in-house lettings agency.

University of Surrey Lettings (USL) manages properties on behalf of landlords to make sure that students live in properly maintained homes and are good neighbours, and offers landlords a cost-effective alternative to letting privately.

The not-for-profit service offers discounted rates to landlords who become accredited under the Guildford Landlord Accreditation Scheme. The joint scheme, led by Guildford Borough Council, certifies professional landlords who provide high standards of accommodation and management.

USL also brings together students with fellow residents through community projects. The agency’s staff recently worked alongside University of Surrey students and The Only Handyman Ltd to clear an overgrown trail in Park Barn as part of the Borough Council’s Project Aspire initiative.

For more information, contact Liani Mannifield on +44 (0)1483 68 3533 or email: l.mannifield@surrey.ac.uk

Harmony in local community

This autumn, the University launched its Community Orchestra, bringing together talented local musicians with staff and students from the University’s own music community.

Directed by eminent conductor Russell Keable, the members came together this October to give their debut performance, Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring.

The Community Orchestra rehearses weekly for performances throughout the year, including a spring concert to celebrate film music. Members will play timeless scores including John Williams’ Star Wars and music from BBC TV series, Sherlock, composed and conducted by Surrey alumnus and Visiting Professor of Composition, Michael Price.

For more information, contact: orchestra@surrey.ac.uk
Surrey launches new local community website and Twitter account

The University has launched a new community website and Twitter account dedicated to communicating with the local community.

Local residents can engage with the University online by visiting the University’s ‘In the Community’ website, where they can read about University activities and services, opportunities for working together, and how to get in touch.

The new Twitter account, @UniOfSurreyCPE, will serve as an additional platform for sharing community-relevant news and will be an open channel of communication between the University andGuildford residents. The account will be managed by the University’s Public Engagement Managers, Kate Bailey and Ross Kelway.

Both the website and the Twitter account will feature local University news, events and collaborations, as well as news from Guildford’s vibrant student community. It also extends an opportunity for the local community to engage with the University and be part of the social media conversation.

Tweet us at: @UniOfSurreyCPE
Visit our community website: surrey.ac.uk/in-the-community

Thank you for your feedback

Over 1,000 residents from across Guildford Borough took part in the University’s third annual Residents’ Survey.

You told us that you are keen for increased promotion of the University’s public events, an online copy of Your University as well as a wider distribution of the newspaper, which is currently sent to all residential addresses with postcodes GU1, GU2, GU3 and GU4.

One in ten of you said you had attended the Festival of Wonder and gave overwhelmingly positive feedback about the day.

The annual Guildford Residents’ Survey was launched in 2015 to help strengthen the University’s links with the local community and identify how the University could share more with local residents.

As well as encouraging you to share your views through the Residents’ Survey, the University’s Public Engagement Managers also visited various locations around Guildford to speak to local residents face-to-face.

Ross Kelway, Public Engagement Manager at the University of Surrey, said: “We were really keen this year to get out in the community and ensure we not only asked people their opinion through the Survey, but actually had the chance to chat face-to-face and ‘pop up’ with our University stand where people might not normally expect to see us.”

Community Reps scheme set to serve more of Guildford

The Students’ Union’s Community Reps scheme successfully launched in 2015 and is now expanding, with more volunteers and closer links with the University.

Community Reps are approachable and enthusiastic University of Surrey students that local residents can contact to help overcome local issues.

The scheme proved immediately popular following its launch and has since grown from five volunteers to 11, covering areas across Guildford including Onslow, Westborough, Stoughton, Stoke, Christchurch, Friary and St Nicholas, Holy Trinity, Stag Hill, Manor Park and Hazel Farm.

The Students’ Union is now looking to significantly increase the number of student volunteers and place multiple representatives in each area.

Students’ Union Vice-President Community Helena Mason said: “The Community Reps scheme has already done an amazing job of establishing and improving relations between students and Guildford residents. In the future, we hope that Community Reps will not only solve issues but will also work with the community on events and activities.”

The Community Reps scheme complements liaison work and joint collaborations between the Students’ Union and the University. Examples include streets adjacent to the University, such as Walnut Tree Close, where regular meetings have resulted in greater understanding between the University community and its neighbours.

The Community Reps are working with local residents to put on a street party called ‘The Great Get Together’. Watch out for more information in the new year!

University invites older local residents to learn about healthy ageing research

Surrey Healthy Ageing Research Partnership (SHARP) is working to uncover the link between old age and illness.

Research taking place at the University of Surrey aims to discover why older people are more prone to illness and how illness can be prevented in the elderly.

In early September, the University opened its doors to local people in an attempt to answer the question ‘what makes us more likely to be ill when we’re older?’

Over 100 local residents were given the opportunity to learn more from the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences team about what it means to take part in research.

Highlights from the event included an informative introduction to healthy ageing presented by Dr Deborah Dunn-Walters, advice on balancing the immune system by Dr Natalie Riddell, and a presentation on sleep by Professor Dirk-Jan Diik.

Professor of Immunology Dr Deborah Dunn-Walters said: “We were delighted that so many people showed an interest in our inaugural event and we really enjoyed speaking to our visitors about the work that we do. We are looking forward to doing it again.”

For more information about future SHARP events, please contact: SHARP@surrey.ac.uk
The 5G city of the future

Delivery drones able to deliver orders, from retail to takeaways, direct to your home.

Virtual reality gaming that will allow you to immerse yourself in another world, with video-realistic content production and ultra-fast connectivity.

Mobile devices able to control satellites by sending signals into space.

Smart homes intelligent enough to distinguish between people and adjust the lighting, temperature and music based on personalised preferences.

Wearable technology with the ability to save lives by reading vitals and sending information to your doctor or to the emergency services.

Driverless cars with the ability to navigate traffic with real-time updates.

£90 million investment in the next generation of mobile and wireless communications, but what is 5G?

Earlier this year, the Government announced £16m of additional investment to bring three leading universities together to develop the world's first trials of an end-to-end 5G communications system, cementing the UK's position at the forefront of 5G technology development.

The University of Surrey's 5G Innovation Centre (5GIC), the largest UK academic research centre dedicated to the next generation of mobile and wireless communications, is leading the project.

What is 5G technology?
5G means ‘fifth generation’, and refers to the next and newest standard of mobile and wireless communications.

The development of 5G technology could change the way we communicate, work and live our everyday lives.

Above, we imagine life in a 5G city of the future.

For more information about the 5G Innovation Centre, please visit: surrey.ac.uk/5gic
The people changing our world

The University of Surrey is home to some of the world’s top academics and researchers, developing new technologies, addressing global problems, and coming up with new ideas and fresh ways of thinking. Your University takes a look at eight of Surrey’s top academics...

**Professor Alan Woodward**
Department of Computer Science
@ProfWoodward

Alan is an expert in cybersecurity, covert communications, forensic computing and image/signal processing. He researches cybercrime, cyber attacks and the state of the ‘dark web’. Alan has worked for the UK Government and major companies on the London Stock Exchange, and frequently advises governments, businesses and other organisations on risks to digital security and other emerging technologies.

**Professor Jane Ogden**
School of Psychology
@Jane1Ogden

Jane is a health psychologist and specialises in research around people’s eating behaviour and how we manage obesity, as well as aspects of women’s health and how people experience medical procedures. Jane is an active voice in the debate about how we should tackle obesity and the proposed sugar tax, and frequently writes about ways we can encourage better eating behaviour in children and adults.

**Professor Prashant Kumar**
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
@pk_shishodia

Prashant is investigating the impact of pollution on the air we breathe, and leads the Global Centre for Clean Air Research. Working with academics across the world, the Centre investigates how air pollution moves through our cities, homes and places of work, and is using what they’ve found to help stop air pollutants harming people.

**Professor Sue Lanham-New**
Department of Nutritional Sciences

Sue specialises in bone health, and in particular how our diet can affect the health of the bones in our bodies. Bone health is a phenomenal public health problem, with one in three women and one in 12 men over 55 expected to suffer from osteoporosis in their lifetimes. Sue hopes to discover ways of improving bone health throughout people’s lives through what we eat.

**Professor Caroline Scarles**
School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
@scarlesc

Caroline’s research looks into how visitor attractions can be transformed with new technologies such as mobile apps and augmented reality, as well as how tourists’ behaviour can become more sustainable and have a reduced impact on communities around the world. Caroline works with a number of important national and international tourism bodies, including Visit Surrey, which champions tourism in the county.

**Professor Alf Adams**
Department of Physics

Alf Adams is world-famous for inventing the strained-layer quantum-well laser in 1986, the vital component used in CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray discs, medical analysis and supermarket shopping scanners. Alf is arguably responsible for the digital age we live in today. A Fellow of the Royal Society and recent addition to the Guildford Roll of Honour, Alf continues to work on semiconductor lasers and optical amplifiers and modulators.

Read more about the Guildford Roll of Honour at: surrey.ac.uk/about/people/guildford-roll-of-honour

**Professor Tim Jackson**
Centre for Environment and Sustainability
@ProfTimJackson

Tim is an expert in sustainability, bringing together engineering, psychology and economics to come up with ways we can live without damaging the environment. Tim often advises governments around the world on sustainability issues, and has worked with the United Nations, the European Environment Agency, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. When he’s not researching environment issues, Tim moonlights as an award-winning playwright, with many radio-writing credits with the BBC.

**Dr Nicolas Locker**
School of Biosciences and Medicine

Virologist Nicolas is a specialist in infectious diseases. He is currently investigating how viruses take control of cells in humans and animals and then use them to produce countless copies of themselves. With his expertise, Nicolas is often called on to provide expert advice on topics like Ebola, Zika and other globally significant infections.

Find out more about academics and research at the University of Surrey at: surrey.ac.uk
Clinical trial offers new hope for kidney cancer patients

Researchers have discovered that taking the oral tablet Sunitinib for one year reduces the likelihood of cancer returning for kidney cancer patients.

Professor Hardev Pandha, Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Surrey, has led the first successful UK clinical trial of a preventative treatment for patients with kidney cancer.

The trial was carried out through St Luke’s Cancer Centre at the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford by an international team of oncology experts and with the help of 615 volunteers.

Participants with stage T3 renal cell carcinoma were given either Sunitinib or a placebo. Patients receiving Sunitinib had improved disease-free survival versus those given the placebo (6.8 years versus 5.6 years). The results are likely to transform clinical practice worldwide.

Christopher Tibbs, Medical Director at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, said: ‘This is a really positive result. The increase in ‘disease-free time’ and the reduced risk of the disease returning will mean so much to these patients.’

Study reveals harmful levels of pollution on the school run

New research has discovered that infants are more exposed to harmful pollution on the way to school than on the way home.

A study, carried out by researchers at the University of Surrey, has found that babies in prams accompanying older siblings on the school run are twice as likely to be exposed to harmful air pollution in the morning as in the afternoon.

Surrey researchers carried out a series of experiments in Guildford using high specification air monitoring equipment located inside a pram to gauge the kind of pollutants and toxic chemicals babies are exposed to when accompanying older siblings during the school run. The research revealed that infants are most exposed to pollution during the school drop-off in the morning, and that pollution levels are highest at bus stops and traffic lights.

Professor Prashant Kumar, lead author and researcher at the University of Surrey, said: “One of the simplest ways to combat this is to use a barrier between the in-pram children and the exhaust emissions, especially at pollution hotspots such as traffic intersections, so parents could use pram covers if at all possible. We are also working closely with our industrial partners to develop innovative methods to clean the air around the children in their in-pram microenvironments.”

Vitamin D crucial to child development

A new study has found that a vitamin D deficiency in expectant mothers during pregnancy negatively affects the development of a child’s social and motor skills in the early years of their life.

Examining data gathered from over 7,000 mothers and their children, researchers from the University of Surrey and the University of Bristol discovered that pregnant women who were deficient in vitamin D were more likely to have children with lower scores in pre-school development tests for motor development than children of vitamin D sufficient mothers. The test also found that vitamin D insufficiency in pregnancy negatively affects a child’s social development.

Lead author Dr Andrea Darling from the University of Surrey, advises: “Vitamin D is found in oily fish and in small amounts of red meat, eggs, fortified fat spreads and some breakfast cereals. However, unless a large portion of oily fish (100g) is eaten daily it is difficult to get the recommended daily intake of 10 micrograms per day from food alone.

“Many pregnant women, especially those from minority groups with darker skin, will still need to take a 10 micrograms vitamin D supplement daily, particularly in the autumn and winter when vitamin D cannot be made from the sun in the UK.”

Childhood obesity causes lasting damage to the body

A new study has revealed that obesity in childhood has long-term health implications that affect individuals in adulthood.

Analysing data collected from over 300,000 participants across 18 studies, researchers from the University of Surrey have identified that participants who were obese in childhood are more likely to suffer prediabetes, arterial damage and cardiovascular ailment, such as heart disease, in later life.

In the study, the body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference of over 300,000 children (average age of 10) were assessed and compared with results gathered from the same participants on average 25 years later.

Researchers discovered that obese children were predisposed to ‘prediabetes’ (an inability to adequately metabolise glucose, which can later lead to diabetes) and thickening of arteries in adulthood, both of which can be detrimental to their adult health. Childhood BMI also proved to be an indicator of adult hypertension demonstrating that this indicator is useful in predicting illnesses associated with obesity in adulthood.

Lead author Dr Martin Whyte from the University of Surrey, said: “It is worrying that obesity is becoming endemic in our society. “The adverse effects of adult obesity are well known but what we have found is that obesity in childhood can cause lasting arterial damage which could potentially lead to life threatening illness. This is something that we need to address to protect adult health and reduce pressure on the NHS.”
Going green to reduce pollution in cities

A study led by Professor Prashant Kumar of the University of Surrey suggests that cities need to ‘green up’ to reduce the impact of air pollution.

The research reveals that strategically placing low hedges along roads in a built-up city environment could help tackle the harmful impact of urban air pollution. This is because low hedges reduce the impact of pollution from vehicles in cities far more effectively than taller trees.

The study also suggests that urban planning should involve designing and implementing more ‘green infrastructure’ as a solution for improving air quality and improving the sustainability of cities for growing urban populations. These green solutions include street trees, vegetation barriers (including hedges), living walls and green roofs, which make the air cleaner by dispersing pollution and removing airborne pollutants.

Professor Kumar said: “We all know air pollution is a major factor of everyday urban life. This will help to develop evidence-based guidelines to support future urban planning and allow the public to make informed choices to ‘green up’ their surrounding environments.”

The study is a collaborative effort by partners from the UK, Europe and the US, under the umbrella of H2020 funded project, ISCAPE: Improving Smart Control of Air Pollution in Europe.

Student lunar rover wins first prize

A team of University of Surrey students won first prize at the first UK Students for the Exploration and Development of Space (UKSEDS) Lunar Rover Competition, after successfully designing and building a lunar rover.

The students from Surrey’s Electronics and Amateur Radio Society (EARS) were one of five UK undergraduate teams to reach the final stage of the Lunar Rover Competition. Inspired by past and future missions from NASA and the European Space Agency, the competition challenges students to solve engineering problems using industry-standard techniques, tools and processes.

The challenge simulated a robotic mission to the Lunar South Pole. Each team’s rover had to drive through rough terrain to the bottom of a crater to collect and test ice samples. The students’ rovers were remotely operated with cameras to navigate rocks and steep slopes, and had to survive a simulated rocket launch. The students also had to present their designs to a panel of space engineering experts as part of an industry-standard review.

The student team said: “It was great to see all our hard work pay off, and the development process has given us an excellent insight into the technicalities of the space industry and a very rewarding learning opportunity.”

Be your own battery

The University of Surrey is developing revolutionary wearable technology that allows people to act as their own power source by wearing ‘smart’ clothing such as shirts and shoes that harvest and store electricity.

Triboelectric nanogenerators (TENGs) are energy harvesting devices that turn the movements of materials that produce static charge into usable electricity.

A group of researchers at the University of Surrey’s Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) have developed a new model of nanogenerator. This new model has improved sensors and is wearable, meaning the energy generating devices can be sewn into a T-shirt or attached inside a pair of shoes.

University of Surrey PhD student Ishara Dharmasena, lead scientist for the project, said: “TENGs provide the wearer with a self-powered system so they can generate their own power for their energy needs, just with everyday movements, in a cost-effective way.”

TENGs should be available in shops within the next few years, and the technology is expected to benefit people worldwide, with wearable and portable electronics in information and communication, in medicine, and in industry.

Timing meals to alleviate jetlag

A study has found that delaying meal times could alleviate the symptoms of jetlag and shift work.

Circadian rhythms are 24-hour changes governed by the body’s internal clocks that determine many physiological processes in the body. In the first human study of its kind, Dr Jonathan Johnston and Dr Sophie Wehrens from the University of Surrey examined the impact of altering meal times on the circadian rhythms of 10 volunteers.

Researchers discovered that postponing meal times by five hours delayed rhythms of blood sugar by the same time frame. This discovery demonstrates that mealtimes synchronise internal clocks that control rhythms of blood sugar concentration. The results suggest that people who struggle with circadian rhythm disorders, including shift workers and long-haul flyers, should consider timed meals to help resynchronise their body clocks.

Dr Jonathan Johnston, lead investigator of the study, said: “This will help us design eating patterns to reduce the risk of developing health problems such as obesity and cardiovascular disease in people with disturbed circadian rhythms.”
Sun shines on local and student talent

Free Fest, a programme of live music, comedy and dance, returned to Guildford at the University’s Festival of Wonder.

The University of Surrey’s Festival of Wonder took place on Saturday 13 May and saw the return of Free Fest, which has been a fixture of student life since the late 1970s. The best local and student bands came together next to the University lake to perform alongside dancing groups and comedy acts.

Local residents, performers and Surrey students united to make this special event one for Surrey’s history books.

Local Guildford resident, Thomas said: “We went down to Free Fest to grab some food and enjoy the performances. The atmosphere was great down at the lake, everyone was so happy and chatty and the sun was shining.”

Recognising inspiring residents

Surrey’s students took to G Live earlier this year to recognise the achievements of their peers and academic staff at the University’s annual Student and Society Awards Ball.

The glamourous black-tie event encompassed all aspects of the student experience and celebrated those who have made a difference to the lives of others.

This year’s event acknowledged a number of inspiring and respected local residents following a student-led decision to honour those who make a positive impact by bringing Guildford’s diverse communities together.

Nominees for the new Non-Student Resident of the Year Award included local resident Neil Thompson and Guildford Borough Council Community Warden Tracey James, with the final honour being presented to the Chair of Guildford Park Avenue Residents’ Association Judith Drew.

Students’ Union President, Saskia Cochrane, said: “The introduction of this award reflects just how far we have come in building a stronger relationship between students and other Guildford residents, for the benefit of the local community.”

Students’ Union cooks up response to food poverty

According to national poverty charity The Trussell Trust, almost 2,500 more people sought emergency help from Surrey’s foodbanks last year. That’s a 20 per cent increase in demand from the previous year, and represents a huge strain on local foodbanks that rely on donations from the public.

In December 2015, the University of Surrey’s Students’ Union’s Community Zone launched Get Giving Food, a campaign encouraging students, staff and residents to donate food to Guildford’s Salvation Army and North Guildford food banks.

At the end of term students empty their cupboards into decorated Tesco trolley donation points, donating food for those in need. Since the start of the campaign students have donated over 7,000 items of food, with 3,309 donated this June alone.

Food poverty is a growing issue in the UK and you can do your bit to help. There’s a public donation point all year round at Tesco Superstore Guildford, where you too can provide a lifeline for local people facing food poverty by #getgivingfood!

Welcoming your new Community Zone team

The University of Surrey’s Students’ Union has welcomed a new Community Zone team for 2017/18.

The Community Zone is responsible for integrating students into the local community, making sure there are volunteering opportunities for all.

This year, the Zone is led by Vice-President Community Helena Mason with the help of five part-time officers. The team is supported by 12 Community Reps, who are student representatives assigned to a designated ward in Guildford, each providing a vital link between the local community and the University.

Get in touch with Helena at: ussu.vpcommunity@surrey.ac.uk

Slice of entertainment for Dray Court residents

Members of the Students’ Union’s clubs and societies have been visiting older residents living at Dray Court sheltered housing in Guildford to provide entertainment and homemade cakes.

Taking place once a term, the afternoons see groups of student volunteers serve tea to residents before they are treated to live performances from the University’s Gospel Choir.

Eve Morris, Gospel Choir President in 2016/17, said: “Both students and residents have enjoyed these opportunities to chat with each other and build relationships across the generations. We’ve loved performing for the residents this year – it’s been great to practise our new material on such an appreciative audience. The relaxed atmosphere ensures that any nerves are gone as soon as we arrive!”

Dray Court sheltered housing is owned by Guildford Borough Council and provides accommodation for older residents over the age of 60. In 2016/17 over 50 students from the University of Surrey spent time visiting the premises, with plans to extend the events to the wider community in 2017/18.
A decade of boosting local business

This year the Surrey 100 Club celebrated its 10th anniversary after a decade of helping businesses grow.

The University of Surrey’s Angel Investment Club, one of the south east’s leading Angel Investment Networks, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Over the past decade it has raised over £75 million and helped create nearly 200 jobs.

Also known as Surrey 100, the Club has been successful in helping early stage companies secure funding. Last year, 32 businesses pitched for investment, securing over £8 million between them, either directly from the Club or up to one year after the event.

Michael Queen, President of the Club, commented: “We are really pleased to see our Club celebrate its 10th anniversary after all its good work and support in the business community.”

Surrey 100 Club’s impressive track record in helping businesses to grow includes providing pitch preparation to help companies become investment ready and providing the opportunity for them to showcase their offering to the Club’s investor members. The Club does not currently charge entrepreneurs or businesses any fees for their preparation or pitch to the Club.

The Club’s network of Angel investors also benefit, as they often get to see business propositions right at the beginning of their fundraising journey and gain an early investor advantage.

Over the last 10 years the Club’s links to the University of Surrey has allowed it to provide extensive support to businesses by raising finance and supporting Angel investors to build their market knowledge and understanding of the investment process.

Whether you are an investor or an entrepreneur, discover how working with us can help you achieve success: surrey100club.co.uk

Expert funding advice for small and medium-sized local businesses

The Access to Funding Forum, co-hosted by the Surrey Business School, helps local businesses with top advice and links with funders.

This autumn, the Surrey Business School co-hosted the Access to Funding Forum with the Surrey Chambers of Commerce. Now in its third year, the event brought together business experts and local enterprises to build new funding relationships. Past delegates have included Metro Bank, Santander, Crowdfunder, NatWest, UK Export Finance and the FSE Group.

Bhaskar Dasgupta, COO of UK Export Finance (UKEF), the UK export credit agency, delivered the keynote address on the fundraising journey and gain an early investor advantage.

Over panel discussions about business funding and a networking reception where representatives from local companies could meet with funders.

Bhaskar said: “I was delighted to speak at the Access to Funding Forum 2017. At UK Export Finance, we know that finding the right finance and insurance can make all the difference to a business looking to succeed and grow, so it’s great to see Surrey Business School working with Surrey Chambers of Commerce to support local businesses in these important choices.”

Learn about future events at: surrey.ac.uk/sbs

Rocketdesk takes off at Surrey Research Park

A revolutionary co-working concept that gives creatives space to flourish is fueling the video game industry in Guildford.

Rocketdesk is an open-plan workspace that offers friendly co-working for creative professionals. Created by Goggle Collective CEO Neil Johnstone and Supergonk founder Ben Ward, the initiative supports start-ups and nurtures the creative technology community in Guildford.

The project is supported by Surrey Research Park, which part-funds the space in order to support young entrepreneurs that are driving computer gaming projects in the town.

Growing from four desk users to almost 50, Rocketdesk has experienced overwhelming success in its first year. Ben Ward added: “By expanding Rocketdesk we are bringing more creative entrepreneurs together. We want to foster a positive, collaborative, community spirit, which is what makes Rocketdesk so unique and successful.”

Widely regarded as the most successful science park in the UK, Surrey Research Park was built by the University in 1984. The site is still owned and managed by the University with park tenants generating a vital income for the institution.

Find out more at: rocketdesk.co.uk
Meets the team

Looking after Guildford
Dr Simon de Lusignan in his office at Woodbridge Hill Surgery.

Meet local GP and University Professor Dr Simon de Lusignan

Your University caught up with local GP and University of Surrey Professor Dr Simon de Lusignan, who has served the community at Guildford’s Woodbridge Hill Surgery for over 30 years.

Thanks for having us, Simon. Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

“I describe myself as a senior academic GP. I’ve been a GP at Woodbridge Hill Surgery for over 30 years and I’ve been an academic for the last 22 years or so.”

So were you a GP before you became an academic?

“Yes, I worked for about eight years as a full-time GP before I was offered my first academic job at St George’s, University of London.”

Where did you originally study?

“I spent five years studying medicine at St Bartholomew’s Hospital (Barts) in London and an additional year studying biochemistry. I graduated from Barts and took professorial house jobs as Professor of Medicine and Professor of Surgery. After that, I worked in casualty at University College London and then joined the South Oxford general practice vocational training scheme, which took three years.”

What made you choose general practice over working in a hospital?

“I think in the end it was about continuity of care, and I wanted the chance to get to know people along the way.”

What’s the best bit about being a local GP?

“The relationships with the patients and the team; it’s especially good in an area like Guildford because we have a very low turnover of patients. Guildford is a great place to live and work.”

What’s your longest patient relationship?

“I’ve had quite a lot of patients for over 30 years! It’s great because you get the chance to form a relationship with people over time and see them through major life events.”

How has your role at the University and with the NHS evolved over the years? Is there a relationship between the two?

“My research is driven by my experience of practice. In the GP world, we have to work so fast and see so many people; there are many things we can do better and a lot of my research is driven by the desire to improve that. I work at the very applied end; my individual research interest is clinical informatics and how technology can improve things for patients in the future.”

What research and teaching do you do here at Surrey?

“I’ve done a small amount of teaching, but most of my work is as Head of Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine at Surrey. The Department includes all the registered medical practitioners within the University, and we’re hoping it will evolve into a base for a future medical school. We bring together some excellent niches of research, including research into cancer, diabetes, nutrition, and sleep and circadian rhythms.”

“We’re also the home of the Royal College of GPs Surveillance Centre, and every week we process around 1.7 million people’s data in around four hours. We’ve just finished the 50th year of collaboration with Public Health England, and the data we produce is used nationally and internationally. We’re part of many European projects for vaccine effectiveness, and we’re working on how to make vaccines work more effectively. We also do quite a lot of work into type two diabetes, dementia, and mental health treatments. We have one of the largest portfolios of projects, and are also involved with the European Child Health Project.”

How do you balance being an academic here with being a GP?

“For me, the one flows into another. My academic work is driven by my vocation.”

Dr Simon’s top tips for looking after yourself

1. It’s all about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Go for a swim, take a walk in our beautiful countryside, make sure you have a healthy diet and sleep well. These are the things that will keep you healthy.

2. Winter is coming – make sure you get your flu jab if you’re in a high-risk category. If your children are eligible, encourage them to have theirs too. Our research has shown that immunising children stops them spreading the disease to vulnerable people, so make sure you get your jabs to keep flu at bay this winter.

Meet the team

Dr Simon de Lusignan in his office at Woodbridge Hill Surgery.
Inspiring Guildford’s young minds at Kings College School

The University of Surrey is bridging the gap between school and higher education for Guildford’s young people.

The University’s Widening Participation Coordinator for Kings College School in Guildford, Hannah Trott, took up the newly created post in February. Since her appointment, Hannah has been supporting students to try new activities by organising visits to the University campus and running bespoke activities in the school. 78 per cent of students have taken part in at least one activity and over half of the school’s students have visited the campus this year, an incredible 880 per cent increase from the previous school year.

Highlights have included a psychology talk called ‘Brilliant Brains’ delivered by Dr Hannah Thompson, a storytelling workshop with Guildford School of Acting (GSA), and a science session called ‘Microorganisms, Monsters and Infection Control’ by the University’s Innovation for Health laboratory.

Hannah Trott’s work is part of a partnership between the University of Surrey, Kings College School and Guildford Education Partnership Multi-Academy Trust to engage and inspire Guildford’s young people into thinking about education and raising their aspirations.

Building on this year’s success, Hannah wants to expand the reach of her work by developing new activities and opportunities to offer to families of the school.

To find out more about these opportunities, get in touch with Hannah at: h.trott@surrey.ac.uk

University holds special ceremony for pre-schoolers

Graduation is the culmination of a student’s time at university, and marks the successful completion of their studies.

With nursery behind them and the big new world of primary school on the horizon, pre-schoolers from Bright Horizons day nursery, based on campus, were treated to a special ‘graduation ceremony’ at the University of Surrey this summer.

The children, all aged four, formally collected their certificates from University mascot Steve the Stag - veteran of many graduation ceremonies - before receiving ‘Nursery Class of 2017’ yearbooks.

Nursery manager, Laura Woods, said: “It was great to see all of the children recognised for their progress through nursery and on to school. Staff were delighted to watch them signing each other’s yearbooks and celebrating with their friends and ‘parental sponsors’ over glasses of bubbly apple juice.”

Bright Horizons Guildford is a nursery hosted by the University of Surrey for the children of staff and students.

Find out more about the nursery at: brighthorizons.co.uk/guildford or call 01483 535 260.

Praise for supporting local sixth formers

The education charity SATRO has recognised Surrey lecturer Dr Radu Sporea at its annual STEMEX awards ceremony for his support of local sixth formers.

Since 2013 Dr Sporea, a lecturer in semiconductor devices, has organised research placements within the Advanced Technology Institute (ATI), giving local sixth form students a true insight into life in a research environment.

Dr Sporea’s summer placements offer pupils a chance to join an academic for one month over the summer and work on research and engineering challenges that are topical and relevant to the academic’s research programme.

Dr Sporea explained: “This is an intensive, but very rewarding way of engaging with schools and the local community. Students develop new skills in a top research environment while academics benefit from low-risk trials of incipient research ideas, sometimes publishable results, and a lot of satisfaction from engaging with enthusiastic, talented students.”

SATRO is an educational charity that aims to provide real-life experience in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) sectors. The charity’s STEMEX Awards are given annually to recognise companies and education providers for their work with schools.

A taste of university life

Local school children have been experiencing university life through Surrey’s residential summer schools.

Over 300 local school pupils took part in 12 residential summer schools this June to experience a taste of university life. Over four weeks, the Year 12 students stayed on campus in student accommodation, attended social activities, and took on a challenging but fun programme of subject-specific workshops.

The students were able to try subjects like veterinary science, paramedic practice, modern languages, law, and engineering and physical sciences. The summer school attendees became nurses treating patient wounds in a simulation suite, civil engineers building metallic sculptures, and entrepreneurs marketing driverless cars.

Summer schools are part of the University’s work to raise the aspirations of school children. 94 per cent of attendees said the experience motivated them to work hard at school or college to achieve their full potential, reporting a better understanding of the academic opportunities offered by universities.
Fabulous 50

Celebrating the University of Surrey’s 50th Anniversary, students from Guildford School of Acting took audiences on a mesmerising journey through 50 years of musical theatre.

Guildford School of Acting (GSA) closed the curtains on the University’s 50th Anniversary celebrations at a very special musical theatre event, Fabulous 50.

The production included 11 performances at the renowned Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford, bringing to life the most popular musicals from the last 50 years and celebrating the history of Guildford and the world, as well as half a century of the University of Surrey.

The cast of over 40 GSA students and alumni sang and danced their way through 44 different songs and medleys.

The musical journey began in 1967 with ‘Wilkommen’ from Cabaret.

Other highlights included ‘Tell Me It’s Not True’ from Blood Brothers, ‘Greased Lightning’ from Grease and ‘Defying Gravity’ from Wicked.

Audience members were also treated to all-time favourite numbers from Cats, Les Misérables, The Phantom of the Opera, Rent, The Lion King, Book of Mormon and many more.

Significant historic images were projected across the stage to showcase the passing of time. These images included the laying of the foundations of the University of Surrey, as well as other notable moments from Surrey, Guildford and around the world over the past 50 years.

Poetry and New Writers Festivals flourish

Surrey’s finest authors, scriptwriters, literary agents and publishers joined members of the local community at the Surrey Poetry Festival and Surrey New Writers Festival.

This year, budding writers, readers, and fans of literature experienced the world of publishing at the Surrey Poetry Festival and Surrey New Writers Festival. The events took place at G Live in central Guildford and gave attendees the opportunity to meet leading writers, hear fresh new work and gain real insights into the industry.

The New Writers Festival is an annual public festival affiliated with the Creative Writing programme at the University of Surrey. The aim of the Festival is to encourage people to engage with writing and creativity in exciting and dynamic ways.

The Festival programme included panel discussions on writing for television, film and the stage, with opinions and advice from top publishing professionals including award-winning author and Distinguished Writer in Residence at the University of Surrey Monica Ali and The Sunday Times bestselling author Elizabeth Noble.

Meanwhile, the Poetry Festival featured a poetry stage hosting a range of special guest poets, performances and readings throughout the day.

The Poetry Festival and New Writers Festival are the latest in a series of literary events led by the creative writing team at the University of Surrey, aimed at opening up the world of poetry, publishing and writing to everyone.

What’s on in autumn 2017

The autumn season of Guildford School of Acting (GSA) productions includes plays, musicals, performances and films, performed to the highest professional standards and showcasing the skill and talent of our students.

Bullets over Broadway
8, 9, 10, 11 November

Woody Allen’s colourful musical comedy. Based on the screenplay for the film, it is full of unforgettable musical numbers.

Feed the Beasts
15, 22, 2 November, 2 December

A play that takes a ferociously funny, topical look at the rocky relationship between our press and politicians.

Animal Farm
16, 21, 25, 29 November

A powerful, straightforward dramatisation of George Orwell’s classic novel by Ian Wooldridge.

DNA
17, 20, 24 November, 1 December

A dark, poignant and sometimes hilarious play focusing on the self-interest of youth and peer pressure at its worst.

Antigone
18, 23, 27, 30 November

Ian LaBute’s contemporary look at the Ancient Greek tragedy, originally penned by playwright Sophocles around 442 BCE.
Get to know your Sports Park

Surrey Sports Park is one of Europe’s premier sites for sport, health, wellbeing and leisure. It’s also right on your doorstep.

Surrey Sports Park is home to some of the world’s top elite sports teams, including Harlequins Rugby Union, Surrey Storm Netball, Surrey Scorchers Basketball and Surrey Smashers Badminton. It was also selected as an official London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Training Base, when it hosted training camps from 17 nations.

The Park also offers world-class sports facilities, activities, events and memberships to the local community, including holiday sports camps and Swim Academy - a structured swimming programme to help swimmers of all ages and abilities. As a major partner and sponsor, the Park has also hosted five consecutive Surrey Youth Games and local schools across the county.

The Park’s vision is to support and inspire everyone’s sporting ambitions, from beginners to top athletes. Its facilities include an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a 1,000-seat arena, a climbing wall, six squash courts, two large exercise studios, a 120-station gym and outdoor sports pitches.

To find out more, visit surreysportspark.co.uk or get in touch at: memberships@surrey.ac.uk

Guildford collects medals at Youth Games

Surrey Sports Park supported training for Team Guildford and hosted more than 300 young people and sports teams this summer for the annual Specsavers Surrey Youth Games 2017.

This year saw an increase in the number of events that Team Guildford entered, resulting in representation in all sports across 23 of the 27 events.

Guildford won gold in the lacrosse and boxing contact events, with individual gold medals also won in both the boys and girls senior judo events.

Team Guildford also took home silver medals for swimming and for non-contact skills in the boxing showcase event.

Bronze medals went to the town’s under-10s touch rugby team with fourth place going to Team Guildford’s under-12s.

A local parent said: “Both my children entered Team Guildford’s pre-training sessions. They benefited from specialist sports coaching from the Surrey Sports Park coaches and went on to participate in the Youth Games weekend competition, learning a lot from the experience.”

The Specsavers Surrey Youth Games is the largest annual youth sports festival in the county, with more than 2,000 competitors taking part in the weekend event.

Success for Surrey’s home teams

Surrey Storm and Surrey Scorchers reached new heights at Surrey Sports Park.

Surrey Sports Park has hosted over 400 sporting events, and is home to some of the world’s top elite sports teams and athletes.

Our home teams include Surrey Storm, the number one Nethall Superleague team for London and the south east, and Surrey Scorchers, which brings some of the UK’s top basketball talents to Surrey Sports Park.

Both teams have enjoyed particularly strong season finishes this year. Surrey Storm narrowly missed out on a spot in the Netball Superleague play-offs, despite an impressive win over eventual title winners the Wasps live on Sky Sports.

Meanwhile, Surrey Scorchers achieved the club’s best ever finish in the British Basketball League, playing in the quarter-final play-offs against reigning champions the Leicester Riders. Though the Leicester Riders eventually won, both fans and players were proud of the club’s performance this season.

Find out about upcoming events at the Sports Park at: surreysportspark.co.uk/events