



Page 5 - Staff and student volunteering



Page 9 - Transforming dementia support



Page 11 - Sleeping rough for charity



Page 13 - Events for local residents



Professor Max Lu and Professor Susan Lanham-New (inset) receive the Queen's Anniversary Prize from HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

Feeding our curiosity for food and nutrition

The University of Surrey has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for its teaching and research in food and nutrition.

The Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, the most prestigious form of national recognition for any UK academic institution, has been awarded to the University of Surrey in recognition of its sustained excellence in the field of food and nutrition.

This honour is awarded every two years, with the endorsement of Her Majesty The Queen, in acknowledgement of world-leading research and teaching by educational institutions. The award was announced at a ceremony at St James's Palace in London in November.

The judging panel described the work undertaken in nutritional sciences at the University of Surrey as exemplary. The University's food sciences courses are ranked number one in the UK by both *The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018* and the *Complete University Guide 2018*, reflecting outstanding teaching and an excellent student experience.

Professor Susan Lanham-New, Head of the Department of Nutritional Sciences, commented: "I am absolutely delighted that our institution has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize.

"Nutrition is an important component of all our lives and the significance of a well-balanced diet should never be underestimated. In recent years our researchers have identified the devastating long-term effects of inadequate dietary intake to our bodies, but have also helped prove the positive effects of good nutrition, in particular the protective role it can play in reducing the risk of age-related disease outcomes."

This is the fourth time the University of Surrey has been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize. Surrey was previously recognised for its work in engineering for the space industry, the development of ion beams, and improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

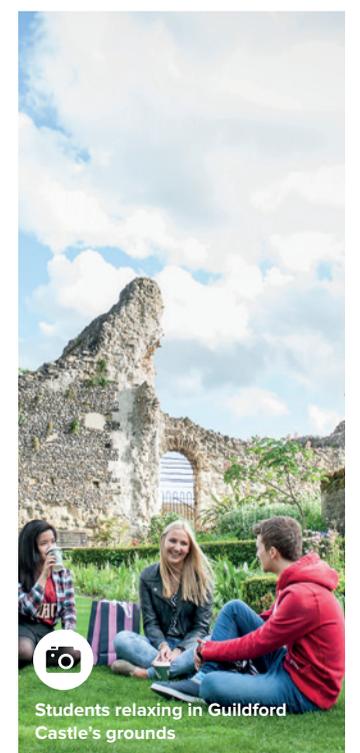
Guildford Residents' Survey 2018

The University is calling on residents of Guildford to take part in our fourth annual residents' survey.

Since it launched in 2015, the Guildford Residents' Survey has provided our University with valuable insight, feedback and ideas to build greater links with our home town.

Last year, more than 1,000 local residents took part, with many choosing to enter into the annual prize draw to win one of five £100 cash prizes.

To complete the survey before it ends on 31 May 2018, visit: surrey.ac.uk/guildfordsurvey



Students relaxing in Guildford Castle's grounds

 Welcome


Welcome from Helen Bowcock OBE

It is an honour to be invited to be guest editor for this edition of *Your University*. My association with the University of Surrey first began some years ago when I attended courses on social research methods as an external PhD student. However, my relationship with the University didn't end there. Some years later, following my term as High Sheriff of Surrey, I served on the University's Council and I am currently a member of the University's Advancement Committee and a working group overseeing research on social mobility.

In this edition of *Your University* you will be given new insights into the many ways in which the University of Surrey has an impact at local, national and international levels. I have chosen to draw attention to some impressive examples of volunteering and local engagement, to the University's innovation in the arts, and to ground-breaking research here on our doorstep. With a particular interest in philanthropy, it seems to me that many different opportunities are offered to donors to achieve impact through supporting our local university, some of which are evident in this edition, as is the University's role as an anchor institution in Surrey.

On page 5 you can read about the combined efforts of staff and students to support a range of local causes, with an invitation to any local charity or community group to apply for volunteer help. Additionally, on page 11 you can read about how on a freezing cold night in March a group of students slept rough on the University's piazza to raise funds for the local YMCA. Having been persuaded to do this same sleep out several years ago, I have some appreciation of just how uncomfortable this experience really is.

There are some very good examples in this edition of how the University is a hub of art and culture and is renowned for its outstanding music and performing arts. There are increasing opportunities for local residents to attend events,

as listed in the 'What's on' section on page 13, including performances by the phenomenal Guildford School of Acting. On page 10 you can also meet Surrey's 'queen of arts', the remarkable Patricia Grayburn MBE DL, who this year will have worked as Arts Administrator for the University for 35 years. She selects her favourite sculptures on campus and we are all invited to enjoy the public art on display thanks to the open campus policy.

Moving from the local to the global stage, the number of references to leading research on pages 8 and 9 is striking. They include a new discovery that could reduce the recurrence of prostate cancer and an award for innovation in dementia care. Surrey has also won a grant from the British Heart Foundation to explore how stem cells could heal damage caused by heart attacks.

The University of Surrey has a deep and growing commitment to working with its local community to deliver social, economic and environmental value. I hope you enjoy reading about the many ways in which they achieve this, in this spring edition.

For further information on how the University is working in partnership with its home town, please visit surrey.ac.uk/in-the-community, follow @UniofSurreyCPE on Twitter or email our Public Engagement team: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk

The best of Instagram

On our official Instagram account we frequently share beautiful images of Guildford and our campus taken by our students and staff.

Follow @uniofsurrey on Instagram to see more.



1. Surrey alumni
2. Jack Jordan
3. Tom Watson
4. Timothy Schwarz
5. Linford Miles



Professor Lord Martin Rees speaks at the 2018 Adams Sweeting Lecture series

Astronomer Royal launches prestigious Adams Sweeting Lecture series

This February, the University welcomed world-renowned cosmologist and Astronomer Royal, Professor Lord Martin Rees, and Surrey's Chancellor, The Duke of Kent, to launch an exciting new lecture series.



Did you know?

Professor Alf Adams was awarded the 2017 Guildford Roll of Honour for his exceptional contributions to scientific innovation, technological application and excellence in higher education.

The Adams Sweeting Lecture in Frontier Science and Technology is the University's flagship lecture series, established in honour of distinguished Surrey alumnus, Professor Alf Adams – inventor of the strained-layer quantum-well laser used in DVD players and barcode scanners – and Professor Sir Martin Sweeting OBE, the founder of Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd and the Surrey Space Centre.

In his speech, 'Will technology save us or will it be our downfall?', Lord Rees warned that humanity should be wary of the consequences that technological advancements – such as artificial intelligence (AI), biotechnology and space exploration - will have on the health of the planet. He said: "This topic has been close to my heart for more than 15 years and I was delighted to share my thoughts at the inaugural Adams Sweeting Lecture.

"Our country has many institutions that produce inspiring and innovative work, some that change the very course of history. However, it is important that we all remain vigilant and focus on how we can harness the harmless effects of new technologies

such as biotech, clean energy, AI and space, while safeguarding ourselves against the new risks that they pose."

Sponsored by Investec, the evening was attended by 400 guests and also featured a panel discussion with Lord Rees, Professor Adams, Professor Sir Sweeting and University of Surrey Professor, Julie Yeomans.

Professor Max Lu, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, said: "We were immensely proud to welcome one of the country's most influential thinkers and an icon in the astrophysics field to our University. Lord Rees has the gift of great humour in tandem with enormous and valuable insight; it was a pleasure to hear him and a privilege to reflect on his pressing message about technological advancement. We ignore it at our peril.

"I would like to extend a huge and heartfelt "thank you" to all four of our panelists for such a fascinating launch to this exciting new series."

The University was also honoured to welcome The Mayors and Mayoresses of Guildford, Reigate and Spelthorne.



Did you know?

In 2016 Sir Martin Sweeting was identified by *The Sunday Times* as one of the UK's 20 most influential engineers.

World's first quantum biology training centre comes to Guildford

Surrey has been awarded £1 million from the prestigious Leverhulme Trust to establish the world's first doctoral training Centre for Quantum Biology.

The Centre will be headed by Professors Johnjoe McFadden and Jim Al-Khalili, who will train a new generation of scientists with the skills needed to study and exploit the quantum foundations of life.

Up to seven PhD students will be recruited by the Centre each year for the next three years. They will engage in a three-year interdisciplinary training and research programme, and work on projects from photosynthesis to nanotechnology.

Professor Johnjoe McFadden, Director of the Centre for Quantum Biology at the University of Surrey, said: "Quantum biology may lead to new approaches to solar energy, new drugs or new diagnostics, and may even hold the key to building revolutionary quantum computers that could far out-perform even the most advanced computers of today.

"To progress, quantum biology needs scientists who can operate across different disciplines, which is what we hope to achieve within our new Centre."



University land included in submission Local Plan

Land belonging to the University has been included in Guildford Borough Council's submission Local Plan.

The document, which proposes a number of potential sites to accommodate new homes for the borough, has been submitted to the Planning Inspector. It will now be subjected to an independent examination.

The University's vision for its land at Blackwell Farm includes 1,800 new homes of different sizes, types and tenures, including affordable housing for eligible workers.

A new relief road to the west of Surrey Research Park has been proposed, joining the site through the

Farnham Road to the A31, in addition to improved public transport, cycle paths and walkable routes.

As well as community services and facilities, the University is proposing an expansion of Surrey Research Park, where more than 4,000 people are currently employed by around 110 companies.

The University's plans would maintain the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as well as protecting and improving existing woodland and hedgerows.

Community news



LGBT tour group next to *The Surrey Scholar* in Guildford high street

Celebrating Guildford's LGBT routes

Guildford celebrated LGBT History Month by holding its very first LGBT walking tour on Valentine's Day.

The tour, which was organised by Dr Fabio Fasoli of the University's School of Psychology and Paul Backhouse of Guildford Town Guides, included a number of places associated with LGBT individuals.

Destinations included homes lived in by the enigma code-breaker Alan Turing and his family, and the grave

of socialist campaigner Edward Carpenter, who was buried with his male partner in the Mount Cemetery, something that was considered very unusual in the 1920s.

Dr Fasoli said: "This tour was a great opportunity to look at Guildford with an 'LGBT eye', and showed how supportive the University and Guildford are of the LGBT community and its history."

There's a new sheriff in town

Dr Jim Glover, outgoing Chair of University Council, has begun his year in office as High Sheriff of Surrey.

Traditionally a ceremonial role associated with collection of taxes and the upholding of law and order, today the Office of High Sheriff has a greater focus on charity and working for the good of the county.

Jim has chosen to focus his efforts on two very important themes; tackling the growing number of permanent exclusions from Surrey schools and encouraging best practice across higher and further education institutions to enhance the impact of student volunteering.

He said: "To be appointed High Sheriff is a great honour and provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight the many thousands of people across Surrey - students, teachers, families, support workers,



High Sheriff of Surrey, Dr Jim Glover

expert professionals and volunteers alike - who all work tirelessly together to create possibilities for a happier future for those facing very difficult circumstances. These fantastic individuals are true stars."

We very much look forward to working with Jim during his time in office.

To find out more, visit: highsheriffs.com/surrey

Opportunity for local landlords

The University is inviting local landlords to list their student properties with its in-house lettings agency.

University of Surrey Lettings (USL) offers a property management service which allows private landlords to rent their student properties directly to the University. In turn, the property is sublet to continuing students. The service offers discounted rates to landlords who become accredited under the Guildford Landlord Accreditation Scheme.

Liani Mannifield, USL Lettings Manager, said: "Our not-for-profit agency offers landlords a cost-effective alternative to letting privately while also ensuring that Surrey students live in properly maintained homes.

"So far, we have found that local landlords appreciate our rental guarantee, which the University underwrites for the duration of the term, as well as our quarterly rental payments in advance.

"Residents may have noticed the agency's green boards around the town, which have been placed outside USL-managed properties to promote the agency's services."

For more information, contact the USL team on: +44 (0)1483 681 111 or email: usl@surrey.ac.uk



Guildford and bikes working in tandem

The University is set to launch a new bike share scheme this summer, with future plans to include Guildford town centre.

The initiative was prompted by the Santander Cycles University Challenge, a national competition that gives universities a chance to develop their own bespoke cycle hire scheme.

Surrey's crowdfunding efforts raised £69,906, achieving 4th place overall and resulting in a £75,000 cash prize from nextbike, the European leader of bike share schemes.

The campaign has since received a further £25,000 boost from the University, which is set to install 50 bikes and docking stations across its two campuses before the end of June.

Surrey synthesises sound symposium

This February, the Department of Music and Media launched a new symposium series to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr Robert Moog, the inventor of the electronic sound synthesiser.

Organised in collaboration with the Moog Soundlab UK and the American synthesiser manufacturer, Moog Music Inc., the symposium featured performances by internationally acclaimed artists.

Attracting a large audience from across the county, guests enjoyed performances by Chris Watson, a world-leading recorder of wildlife and natural sounds, and Chris Carter, a leading authority on electronic music. Composer and historian Thom Holmes delivered the symposium's keynote lecture 'The Sound of Moog'.

Professor Tony Myatt, Head of Music and Media, said: "The influence of Bob Moog's work has reached almost every corner of the musical world. The Moog Symposium was a great opportunity to welcome residents of Surrey into the Department and experience live performances of such an important musical genre."



Swapping spreadsheets for spades

University staff have been rolling up their sleeves to volunteer for good causes across the local area.

This March, staff from the Student Services team took a day out of the office to visit the sight loss and disabilities charity SeeAbility, Compton's Mane Chance Sanctuary, which supports the welfare of horses, Gilbert White's House in Selborne, and Westborough Woods, where staff took part in a clean-up operation alongside teams from Guildford Borough Council.

Our next community day will see staff engaging with more Guildford-based community projects, including litter picking around Guildford's Tesco superstore and clearing weeds at the entrance to Westborough Woods.

If you are a registered, local charity or community group that could benefit from volunteers, email: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk



Surrey's Student Services team volunteering in the local community

Photo credit: Nick Bond

Tackling street noise

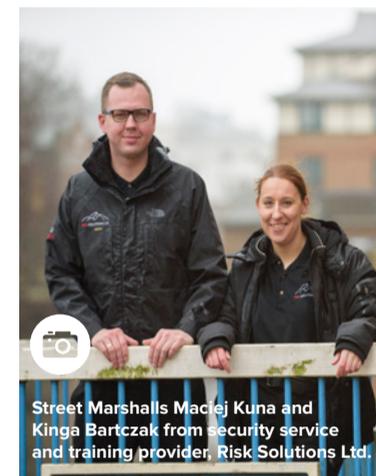
The University has partnered with purpose-built student accommodation provider Scape to tackle anti-social noise in residential streets near to the campus.

A new street marshalling service will operate between 10pm and 4am on Guildford's popular student nights, Monday and Wednesday, with an increased service operating during peak times such as Welcome Week.

Based in key areas such as Walnut Tree Close and Scholars Walk, the marshals will be on hand to support students, log any incidents and generally keep the peace.

A successful pilot was shown to reduce noise caused by students travelling to and from the campus after an evening spent in the town centre.

Kate Bailey, Public



Street Marshalls Maciej Kuna and Kinga Bartczak from security service and training provider, Risk Solutions Ltd.

Engagement Manager, said: "Many of the routes to and from the University's campus are lined with people's homes. We have found it helpful to remind students to keep their voices down and remember that noise travels very easily at night.

"While it is important to remember that students are certainly not the only members of the community who need to be reminded of this, we have decided to follow the example of other universities around the country and introduce a marshalling service during peak times."

The sound of giving

Surrey's Motivation by Music Gospel Choir has recorded a new single to raise vital funds for the Surrey-based charity Mustard Seed, which provides practical support to children living with autism.

Emily Bollon, a BMus Creative Music Technology graduate, founded the University's staff and student gospel choir in 2014, which has since opened up to members of the public. She was inspired by the work of Mustard Seed after meeting the team behind the charity at the 2017 Eagle Radio Local Heroes Awards, where both scooped awards for their community work.

Emily wrote an original song, 'Sun-kissed Bridge', to record and release, with all proceeds donated to the charity. The lyrics were inspired by the same idea from the Bible that gave Mustard Seed its name – that it takes just one tiny mustard seed of faith to achieve great things.

Emily said: "We feel so privileged to be able to support such an incredible cause with our music. I have no doubt that as the community comes together, we will absolutely smash our £1,000 target."

To download the track, visit: motivationbymusic.com



Thank you, Guildford Rotary Club

Earlier this year our President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Max Lu, visited the Rotary Club of Guildford to acknowledge the role it played in establishing the University in 1966.

In early 1962, the Rotary Club formed a town committee to sound out opinion, which persuaded important town personalities of the case for a university.

In 1987 our first Vice-Chancellor, Peter Leggett, stated: "If it had not been for the Guildford Rotary Club, it is extremely unlikely that that there would be a prospect of this university."

In his speech at the event, Professor Lu thanked the Club and reflected on how far the University has come over the last 50 years.

Union launches campaign to increase volunteering

Surrey's Students' Union has launched a volunteering portal to connect their student members with local causes.

Surreyvolunteering.com allows students to browse opportunities at local charities, schools and not-for-profit organisations, log their volunteering hours and reflect on any new-found skills or experience.

Ian Handy, Community and Events Coordinator at the Students' Union, said: "More than 50 partners have already registered and we have started to see a real uptake from students getting involved in local charities that have traditionally found it hard to attract student volunteers.

"From building transferable skills, making a difference and meeting new people, volunteering is a great way for students to enhance their university experience."

The Students' Union is encouraging local charities and organisations to register volunteering opportunities on the site.

For more information, visit: surreyvolunteering.com

Your view counts

We're listening

The University has conducted its Guildford Residents' Survey every year since 2015. *Your University* takes a look at a selection of the feedback we received from some of last year's respondents, as well as what the University is doing across these areas.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



1. Staff volunteering
2. GSA performance
3. The iconic Guildford clock
4. Student accommodation at Manor Park
5. Students promoting our Guildford Residents' Survey

“More students should live on campus.”

We have always felt that Guildford's student population adds significant value to the community and, like all other local residents, they should be able to choose where they live. However, we are also committed to providing high-quality campus accommodation.

We guarantee all new undergraduate students and non-EU postgraduate students a place in campus accommodation for their first year, provided they meet the accommodation application deadlines.

We provide proportionately more student accommodation on our campus than almost all other universities in the UK and, since 2005, we have invested more than £200m in our accommodation. There are currently 5,170 bed spaces on our two campuses - 1,820 on Manor Park and 3,350 on Stag Hill.

1,153 new bedrooms are currently being built on our Manor Park campus and will be finished by the end of 2019. We are working to deliver a further 1,000 units on Manor Park, which will see a total of 4,000 bed spaces on this campus, within the next five to six years.

“Public events need better publicity.”

From stargazing evenings, a community orchestra and professional sporting tournaments, to plays, in-dialogue events and musicals, our events calendar stretches across the University.

Our Public Engagement team has launched a new Twitter account @UniOfSurreyCPE to promote community news and events.

Our full events calendar can be found on the new homepage of our website: surrey.ac.uk. Our revamped 'In the community' webpages also feature local events.

The University is set to launch a new events e-newsletter later this year. Watch this space!

“Curb street noise created by students.”

While anti-social noise can never be attributed exclusively to one community group, we are reminding our students to be considerate of our neighbours.

We have partnered with Scape to launch a street marshalling service during Guildford's popular student nights, Monday and Wednesday. The service, which will run between 10pm and 4am, will be increased during peak periods such as Welcome Week (see page 5).

We are also working with popular nightclub DJ Leroy Wilson and the Students' Union to launch a new awareness campaign to tackle anti-social street noise (see page 11).

Our Public Engagement team would like to hear from you if you are experiencing anti-social noise from a household occupied by our students. They will work with you to find a solution, and can offer mediation sessions if necessary. Please email: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk

“Greater community integration is needed.”

Our Public Engagement team is committed to an ever-increasing programme of local events, stakeholder relations and community projects (see page 10).

Since late 2016, we have based a member of our staff at Kings College four days a week to encourage and inspire the secondary school's pupils. Between February 2017 and February 2018, we delivered 49 significant events and long-term projects at the school (see page 13).

Over the last year, our staff and students have increased their local volunteering efforts. One example includes helping to deliver green space renovation projects in areas such as Park Barn and Westborough.

“Stop students from parking in residential roads.”

While it is difficult to prevent licensed road users from parking legally, we are doing what we can to offer other options to our students to encourage them not to park on roads close to the campus.

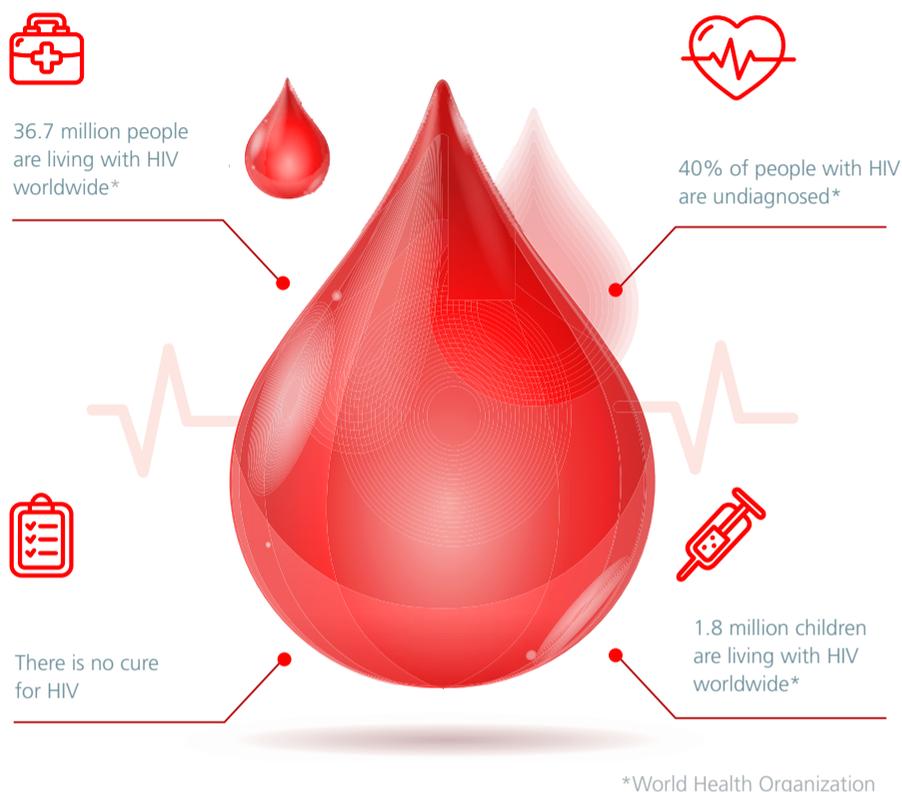
We place restrictions on car use, with students living on campus not allowed to bring a car to Guildford as a tenancy condition. We also highlight public transport options for our students, including how close we are to Guildford railway station.

We have invested heavily in subsidised alternative transport options. This includes an extensive bus network which benefits the town, walking and cycling routes, and other projects such as a soon-to-be launched pool bike scheme.

Our Public Engagement team investigates nuisance parking if it is related to our staff or students and if the provided information allows.

For more information, email: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk

Our Guildford Residents' Survey 2018 is live until 5pm on 31 May 2018. Visit: surrey.ac.uk/guildfordsurvey



Did you know?

The University of Surrey launched 'Innovation for Health' in 2017, a multimillion pound project to bring together data science, engineering and healthcare to create a new generation of graduates with the skills to solve future health problems.

Surrey helps develop 'game-changing' 10-second test for HIV

Just a single drop of blood from a patient can now be easily tested for HIV in seconds, using mobile technology found in smartphones.

Scientists working at the University of Surrey, in collaboration with colleagues at University College London, the Africa Health Research Institute (South Africa), OJ-Bio (Newcastle), QV (Netherlands) and the Japan Radio Co. Ltd, have developed a new mobile test for HIV using technology found in smartphones.

Current point-of-care tests for HIV take between 10 and 20 minutes and require bulky analysis equipment, but the new mobile test takes just 10 seconds and uses compact smartphone technology.

The test uses surface acoustic wave (SAW) biochips, which are based on microelectronic components found in smartphones. The disposable quartz biochips are extremely fast because they do not require complex labelling, amplification or wash steps, and a pocket-sized control box reads out the SAW signal and displays results electronically.

The research could cut lengthy test waiting

times, giving patients more immediate access to potentially life-saving treatment and timely public health interventions to prevent disease outbreaks.

The test could also in theory be adapted to screen for a range of viruses such as Zika or Ebola, making it quick and easy to identify outbreaks before they become epidemics.

Professor Vince Emery, Senior Vice-President of Global Strategy and Engagement and Professor of Translational Virology at the University of Surrey, said: "This research shows that we can find the perfect marriage between traditional medical science and cutting-edge mobile technology to make a real difference to diagnosing serious viruses within seconds.

"The development is a great example of how multidisciplinary research can lead to breakthroughs that affect global health."



Did you know?

More than 78 million people are currently infected with HIV/AIDS. Of these, many don't know they're infected – estimates range from 17 per cent of cases in the UK to 55 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa.* Late diagnosis is associated with a tenfold increased risk of death, as well as the risk of spreading the infection.

*Avert UK

Big investment in small materials

A new £4m hub to manufacture smart materials and self-powered electronics is being established at the University of Surrey.

In late 2018 the University of Surrey will open a £4.2m nanomanufacturing hub that will produce plastic nanoscale electronics such as wearable sensors, tags and other wireless technologies, helping develop 'internet of things' devices for smart homes, smart cities and smart factories.

Co-developed with Qinetiq and the National Physical Laboratory, the new facility will include a nanoscale offset printing system, based on a pioneering design by Northeastern University (US), that can

print metals, organic and inorganic materials, polymers, and nanoscale structures and circuits down to 25 nanometres, without requiring a traditional multibillion-pound nanofabrication facility.

Professor Ravi Silva, Director of the University of Surrey's Advanced Technology Institute and the new nanomanufacturing hub, said: "This exciting project will develop new technologies and techniques to make the dream of a fully wireless smart home or smart factory commonplace in the UK."



Europe's first demonstration of how 5G could revolutionise driving

5G technology allows more data, lower latency, encryption and other features that could transform everyday life.

In November, the University of Surrey's 5G Innovation Centre and its partners Huawei, Vodafone and the Technical University of Munich demonstrated a fully operational Audi Q7 driving around Stag Hill in Guildford, controlled remotely by a 5G data connection from the ExCel conference centre in central London.

5G's extremely low latency means faster response times than existing mobile connections, allowing fine control of machines remotely. 5G also allows improved security and faster sharing of data, meaning a camera feed

from a car can be streamed and responded to in real-time.

Professor Rahim Tafazolli, Founder and Director of the 5GIC, said: "With these demonstrations it shows that 5G is now a reality and the technology can have a transformative impact on all aspects of our lives - from mobile broadband communications to automation of many industries."

The 5G Innovation Centre's 5G testbed is testing new standards of wireless communication essential to the future rollout of 5G technologies.

Surrey shortlisted for Cancer Research UK's Grand Challenge Award

A team led by the University of Surrey and the National Physical Laboratory have proposed a novel method to identify early signs of cancer.

Working with cancer patients and survivors, as well as experts from across a number of fields including cancer health, psychology, 5G and nutrition, researchers will analyse people's consumer and behavioural habits.

Early symptoms of cancer are often attributed to other health ailments and patients often delay seeking medical advice. The research team will examine early symptoms of cancer and how self-management

of symptoms affects patients' behavioural and consumer routines.

If successful, the research team will secure £20m of global grants to take their research further and help improve early diagnosis rates of cancer.

They will develop software tools to encourage individuals to seek medical care if their habits match the profile of someone with early signs of cancer.



Surrey 'supercatalyst' accelerates human reaction to climate change

The University of Surrey has developed a new cost-effective catalyst to recycle two main causes of climate change – methane and carbon dioxide.

Scientists at the University of Surrey have created an advanced nickel-based catalyst, strengthened with tin and cerium, that can be used to transform carbon dioxide and methane into a synthesis gas, which can then be used to produce fuels and a range of valuable chemicals. Using carbon dioxide in this way is a practical and productive alternative to traditional carbon capture methods, such as burying it, while still having a meaningful impact on emissions.

Dr Tomas R. Reina, who led the project, said: "This is an extremely exciting project and we believe we have achieved something here that

can make a real impact on CO₂ emissions.

"The goal we're all chasing as climate scientists is a way of reversing the impacts of harmful gases on our atmosphere. This technology, which could see those harmful gases not only removed but converted into fuels for use in poorer countries, is the holy grail of climate science."

The University has filed a patent for a whole new family of 'supercatalysts' for chemical carbon dioxide recycling, and is now looking for commercial partners to industrialise the process.



Looking after creatures big and small

The welfare of zoo animals is set to improve following the successful trial of a new assessment grid, carried out by researchers from Marwell Zoo, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, and Surrey's School of Veterinary Medicine.

The researchers trialled a series of monitoring strategies on primates and birds to help zookeepers ensure the health and safety of animals in their care. The introduction of the practice over a period of 13 weeks at two zoological collections in the south of England clearly demonstrated the level of physical and psychological wellbeing of the animals, and the effect of certain interventions.

The welfare assessment grid requires daily monitoring of a range of factors, such as the animals' physical condition, their

psychological wellbeing and the quality of the environment, as well as the daily procedures they experience. These factors were not all previously part of the regular health checks that zookeepers were required to assess when they were undertaking animal welfare audits.

Sarah Wolfensohn, Professor of Animal Welfare at the University of Surrey, said: "This innovative system will give zookeepers clear guidance on what they should be looking out for to monitor animals' overall wellbeing."

Exciting new discovery could reduce recurrence of prostate cancer

Ground-breaking research could reduce the reappearance of prostate cancer, the most common form of cancer in males.

During this in-depth study a team of researchers, led by lead author Dr Mohammad Asim from the University of Surrey, investigated the impact of anti-hormone therapy as a commonly prescribed treatment for prostate cancer. Anti-hormone therapy helps reduce the levels of male hormones in the gland, which stimulate cancer cells to grow.

By testing samples taken from patients with prostate cancer, the researchers discovered that an inadvertent consequence of anti-hormone therapy treatment is the activation of the DNA repair enzyme. The triggering of the enzyme enables cancer cells to withstand anti-hormone therapy treatment, causing cells to cultivate and develop into a more aggressive form.

The researchers found that prescribing inhibitors for this particular enzyme, alongside anti-hormone therapy treatment, could be effective in reducing the recurrence and progression of prostate cancer. This is because the inhibitors prevent DNA repair, causing cancer cells to die rather than repair.

Dr Mohammad Asim said: "Prostate cancer is a devastating illness with a high death rate. Our exciting discovery will help remedy this and increase chances of survival for the thousands of men who contract the disease every year."

Dr Catherine Pickworth from Cancer Research UK, commented: "The next step is to carry out clinical trials to test if this treatment combination is safe to use in patients and if it helps more men survive the disease."



Beating damage caused by heart attacks

University of Surrey researchers will explore how stem cells could heal damage caused by heart attacks.

After a heart attack scar tissue forms, which reduces the heart's ability to pump blood throughout the body. A £108,000 grant from the British Heart Foundation will fund research to explore how new heart muscle cells made from stem cells could be transplanted into the damaged areas.

The study, led by Dr Patrizia Camelliti from

the University of Surrey, will examine how newly implanted heart cells behave when they are in contact with scar tissue cells. Dr Camelliti commented: "Unravelling the effect of myofibroblasts on electrical function and learning more about how they work will be an important step towards unlocking the exciting potential that stem cells offer to repair the heart."



Did you know?

In the UK there are nearly 200,000 hospital visits each year due to heart attacks: the equivalent of one every three minutes.*

*British Heart Foundation

Seeing stars

University of Surrey PhD student Ryan Wilkinson has led a research project which has solved a 30-year old nuclear physics problem.

Working with Dr Gavin Lotay and Professor Wilton, Ryan's team conducted the research in partnership with TRIUMF National Laboratory in Vancouver, Canada. They used TRIUMF's DRAGON (Detector of Recoils and Gammas Of Nuclear reactions) facility to replicate a specific nuclear reaction – transforming neon-19 into sodium-20 – that takes place in exploding stars.

The analysis revealed the speed at which the reaction takes place, which is significant in teaching us more about the astronomical events responsible for forming most of the light chemical elements we find on Earth and observe in our galaxy.

This particular reaction is notoriously difficult



Surrey PhD student
Ryan Wilkinson

to study because it involves using a beam of the rare and unstable neon-19 nucleus, and requires the conditions that occur in an exploding star to be recreated in a terrestrial laboratory. Only two other similar direct measurements of the reaction have ever previously been attempted, both of which were unsuccessful.

Vice-Chancellor joins Prime Minister's council

Professor Lu, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey, is one of five new appointees to the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology (CST).

Bringing together a prestigious group of experts and sectoral leaders, the CST will advise the Prime Minister on strategic science and technology policy issues and help the Government set priorities in these areas.

A world-renowned chemical engineer and nanotechnologist, Professor Lu moved to Surrey from Australia, where he held a number of senior positions including Provost and Senior-Vice President at the University of Queensland.

Professor Max Lu said: "I am honoured to join the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology. This provides an opportunity for me to contribute to the UK's global leadership in scientific research and innovation at a strategic level."

Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive Designate of the UK Research and Innovation, said: "The new members of the Council for Science and Technology bring a breadth of experience and expertise which will enable the Council to continue to provide excellent advice to government on science and technology opportunities and challenges."



Downtime important for keeping up health

A study led by the University of Surrey has revealed that employers should do more to ensure employees do not feel pressured into working outside of their contractual hours.

Researchers scrutinised 56 studies and found that many employees felt pressure from their organisation to be constantly available.

To avoid out-of-hours working having a negative impact on health and wellbeing, researchers recommend that employers give individuals control over their working patterns and actively involve them in any decisions or policies about technology use so employees can reap the benefits of modern technologies without the negative consequences.

Dementia study wins prestigious award

An innovative new study led by the University of Surrey, and the Surrey and Borders NHS Foundations Trust, has won Best Mental Health Initiative of 2017 at the annual ehi Awards.

The Technology Integrated Health Management (TIHM) for Dementia study will transform the support offered to people with dementia. Using advanced technologies, such as wearable devices and built-in sensors, clinicians will be able to remotely monitor the health of dementia patients in their care. The technology will recognise warning signs such as increased body temperature or lack of movement, and send the information to clinicians who can step in to offer treatment and support.

Dr Payam Barnaghi, Lecturer in Machine Intelligence at the University of Surrey and Technical Lead for TIHM for Dementia, said: "This award is very welcome, as it recognises the impact that this important project is having on the lives of dementia patients and their carers. This project allows patients to be monitored for potential complications and gives their families peace of mind that they are being well cared for using the latest technology."

Meet the team

Your Public Engagement Team

Your University caught up with Surrey's Public Engagement Team to find out more about their roles. Kate Bailey and Nikki Dormon, who job share, and Ross Kelway, reveal why it is so important for the University to engage with the local community.

What does the average day in the life of the Public Engagement team involve?

Ross: It varies considerably. A typical day might see me meeting with our academics to plan some engaging research involving the local community; Nikki promoting our annual Residents' Survey; and Kate editing this newspaper. It's full on, but great fun and hugely rewarding.

Why is public engagement so important to the University?

Ross: What we do at the University is for social and public good. Whether that is teaching the next generation of professionals, researching and better understanding dementia, learning how to cut pollution, or by creating next generation mobile communications systems. Our

mission is to engage people in Guildford and wider Surrey and ensure they understand - and hopefully support - our mission.

Kate: The University is a significant presence here in Guildford. We see this in our Residents' Survey every year – people tell us that the University and its Research Park tenants provide significant employment opportunities, or that our students bring vibrancy and diversity to the town. Others believe that student tenants don't maintain their properties, or they might not agree with one of the University's proposals. We firmly believe that the University must keep an open dialogue with the whole community if it is to have a longstanding, trusting and meaningful relationship with its home town.



Surrey's Public Engagement team (from left to right) Nikki Dormon, Ross Kelway and Kate Bailey

Nikki: The University community has so much to offer Guildford – whether that's through sports, arts, leisure, volunteering or further learning. By engaging with people locally, we can get more of our neighbours involved and benefitting from living in a university town.

What is the best bit about working on the team?

Kate: All three of us are 'people people'; we love supporting our stakeholders while bringing communities together. We also have strong connections to the town, having been brought up in and around Guildford, or we have personal experience of living here – either today or in the past. This means that our work is often an

extension of personal passions outside of the office.

What do you have coming up?

Nikki: Lots! We have more than 100 local projects on the go this year. Our annual Pint of Science Festival is coming up, where we take 20 of our researchers and academic staff to three pubs in the town, over three nights, to deliver thought-provoking short talks. We're also volunteering alongside local people to enhance green spaces, running the Guildford Residents' Survey until the end of May and planning our contribution to Guildford Book Festival 2018.

Tweet @UniOfSurreyCPE, email publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1483 684 379

Meet Surrey's queen of arts



From left to right: Pat with one of the fish on wheels, *The Stag*, the *Spine* and *Knife Birds*.

Meet long-serving University of Surrey Arts Administrator, Patricia Grayburn MBE DL. Awarded an MBE in 2004 for services to the arts, Patricia will have worked at the University of Surrey for 35 years this September. A local resident and passionate about the arts, Pat's roles also include President of the Guildford Book Festival, Board Member of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and Deputy Lieutenant, and she was named Goodwill Ambassador for Guildford in 1994.

Curator of the University's art collection, we asked Pat to pick her favourite three sculptures from the amazing public art on campus.

My favourite sculptures

"Picking just three sculptures is certainly a difficult task, but for my first choice I must opt for *The Stag* by Allan Sly, standing prominently at the entrance to the University. It is his stylised interpretation of the University crest and now adorns many of our publications. He was also responsible for *The Surrey Scholar* in Guildford High Street, voted the town's favourite sculpture. Allan Sly is a joy to work with and masterminded the tricky problem of transporting *The Stag* from Slough on a low loader. I was asked by the Chief Executive of Woking Borough Council to recommend a sculptor to commemorate the birth of the Bedser twins in

Woking, and had no hesitation in recommending Allan. His portrayal of them in action at either end of a footbridge outside the Lightbox is another resounding success.

"For my second choice, I am extremely fond of the first work we bought under the Per Cent for Art scheme: *Knife Birds* by Bridget McCrum, inspired by African tribal knives she saw in the British Museum. Cast in bronze and unveiled in 2004, like much of her output it spans the gap between figurative work and abstraction. Carefully sited on the piazza by Bridget, the space between the two elements is as important as the elements themselves.

"My third choice would be Diane Maclean's *Spine* by the lake, made as a memorial to her surgeon father. Not only does it have the most attractive

curve, but the hues of the stainless steel change according to the light and reflect the surrounding trees. I have seen students dancing round it and grasping it in photographs. I also admire her *Triple Ripple* at the entrance to the Manor Park campus, unveiled in 2008 by the President of the Royal British Society of Sculptors.

"Finally, I must also mention the piece shown next to me in the photograph. This is one of three by Daren Greenhow showing fish on wheels, designed to raise a smile as you pass them by."

The University of Surrey has an open campus, and we encourage visitors to enjoy the public art on display.

For more information, visit: surrey.ac.uk/visit-university



University of Surrey students at Guildford's Chinese New Year celebrations

Guildford bounds into Year of the Dog

More than 100 University of Surrey students volunteered at Guildford's spectacular Chinese New Year celebrations at the town's pop-up destination, The Village.

The colourful occasion, which was also attended by University of Surrey Vice-Chancellor Professor Max Lu, included traditional Chinese dancing, music, food and drink.

Families enjoyed entertainment in the form of Chinese calligraphy lessons, lion and dragon dancing, Chinese horoscope readings and a Kung Fu performance.

Students step in to keep Guildford green

The Franklin Court Garden Project was created four years ago by residents Janet Springer and Zena Crane after an unloved plot of land attracted anti-social behaviour and fly tippers. The enthusiastic gardeners took responsibility for its maintenance, keeping it clear of rubbish and transforming the patch with seasonal flowers.

However, when Janet became unwell, the project stalled and Surrey students stepped in to help. Janet said: "We were really grateful when they pitched in. They got rid of the weeds and cut back the overgrowth while we kept them well supplied with tea.

"We welcome any support from younger generations. Zena and I are in our 70s and 80s and we both want to see this project continue over the coming years."

At Chitty's Common, students cleared brambles, cut down branches and fed a bonfire. Councillor Pauline Searle said: "It was fantastic to have these young and energetic people on the common. Their involvement was a real credit to the University and to the community."



Jess Wreford, VP Support of Surrey's Students' Union, at the Sleep Easy fundraiser

Photo credit: Stag Radio

Students sleeping rough

This March, students from the University of Surrey gave up the comfort of their beds to sleep outside under the stars and raise vital funds for youth charity, the YMCA.

Taking part in the annual Sleep Easy fundraiser, organised by the University's Students' Union, 20 students raised £1,146 from sponsorship for sleeping rough on the University's piazza.

Helena Mason, VP Community for the Students' Union, said: "We were woken in the early hours by freezing winds as 'the Beast from the East' returned. As we headed home to our heated houses, the settled snow served as a solemn reminder that other people don't have that option.

"It's horrible to think that every night, young people here in the UK are creating makeshift beds and sleeping outside - whatever the weather - where they are vulnerable and at risk of being attacked.

"Doing a fundraiser like this brings that sharply into focus. We had the luxury of building elaborate cardboard castles but many of those on the streets have to make do with next-to-no protection from the elements, which is why they need help from amazing organisations such as the YMCA."

DJ Leroy turns it down

A renowned local DJ is fronting a University campaign to tackle anti-social street noise in residential roads near to its campus.

DJ Leroy Wilson has been managing music nights for more than 43 years, having run his first gig at just nine years old and organising school discos from the age of 13.

Regular music nights have included Guildford Spectrum's Ice Disco, bars and nightclubs across the town and popular Students' Union nightclub, Rubix, where Leroy has been the resident DJ for more than 20 years.



DJ Leroy is now the face of a new poster campaign to remind students to keep noise to a minimum when travelling to and from the campuses at night.

Paralympic champion inspires



Paralympic champion Sophie Christiansen CBE at Surrey's School of Veterinary Medicine

Photo credit: Amanda Jane Smith

This February, students from the Equestrian Society hosted Paralympic champion Sophie Christiansen CBE for an inspirational fundraising talk at the University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

The eight-time Paralympic champion was invited to share her experiences of Paralympic victory and her amazing journey with horses, inspiring students to overcome adversity and encouraging them to reach their full potential.

The event raised more than £500 for the Cranleigh branch of the Riding for the Disabled Association.

Sophie, a British dressage rider, has competed in four successive Paralympic Games and has multiple world and European titles. She was born two months prematurely with cerebral palsy and rode horses as a child for physiotherapy at her local Riding for the Disabled Association group. She first competed at the Paralympics when she was 16 and was the youngest athlete for Great Britain at the Athens Paralympics in 2004, coming away with a bronze medal.

Diana Dakik, Treasurer of the Students' Union Equestrian Society, said: "The event was a success in all possible aspects and Sophie was as inspirational and as passionate as ever."

World's number one incubator

The enterprising collaboration between the Universities of Surrey, Bath, Bristol, Exeter and Southampton, SETsquared has been recognised by UBI Global as the World's Top Business Incubator Managed by a University.

SETsquared was ranked 'number one' in its field by the independent thought leader in performance analysis of global business incubation, maintaining its world-leading position since 2015.

Since its conception in 2002, SETsquared has supported more than 2,500 high-tech start-ups, helping them raise more than £1.5bn in investment.

SETsquared has also contributed more than £3.8bn to the UK economy in its 16-year history.

Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, said: "Being recognised as the world's leading business incubator is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the team at SETsquared and the universities they work with."

SETsquared has recently received a £5 million grant from the Government to help small and medium-sized businesses grow.

For more information on how SETsquared can support early stage businesses or growing companies, call: +44 (0)1483 684 808



Surrey Technology Centre at Surrey Research Park



Did you know?

SETsquared Surrey is based within the Surrey Technology Centre on the highly successful Surrey Research Park, which is owned and managed by the University.

Six reasons to hire a placement student

At the University of Surrey we work with more than 2,300 businesses throughout the UK and abroad to offer our students valuable work experience in the real world.

But our students aren't the only ones who benefit.

Your University considers how inviting a Professional Training placement student to join your team could benefit your business.

1. Fresh faces mean fresh thinking

Students aren't limited by preconceptions of your business. They bring a fresh dynamic to the workplace, with new ideas and perspectives.

2. Affordable talent

Paying talented placement students is often cost-effective, with the average paid placement generally equating to two-thirds of an equivalent graduate starting salary.

3. Upskill your entire workforce

Today's students live and breathe technology, social media and many other aspects of modern life. They will be keen to add value and share their skills.

4. Singular focus

Most student placements last a year. If you have a specific



project that will last a year or less, a placement student will be able to give it their full attention and dedication.

5. A driven workforce

Now more than ever, students are career driven and keen to make the most of any opportunity to boost their future employability. A placement student will bring enthusiasm and dedication to their role.

6. Solid skillset

A placement student's recent academic experience will have equipped them with excellent written, presentation, research and analytical skills. They're also quick and eager to learn.

For more information on our Professional Training placement scheme, call: +44 (0)1483 689 001 or email: placements@surrey.ac.uk

The Hollywood of video games

The 2018 G3 Galvanising Guildford Games event took place in February, with more than 30 video game companies coming to Guildford to network with students from a range of disciplines.

The event, which is in its fourth year, was founded by the University's Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing (CVSSP) to help bring the games industry together with innovative and forward-thinking students.

Professor Adrian Hilton, Head of CVSSP, said: "When we first conceived of G3, we wanted it to be a positive and productive annual event where the best of the games industry can pass on their wealth of knowledge to talented students. This year has



been no different to the previous wildly successful years."

Previously referred to in the national press as the 'Hollywood of video games', Guildford already has a thriving gaming industry and is home to EA Games, Hello Games, 22Cans and more.

Charting a course for community

More than 30 local organisations have formed a partnership to drive economic growth for Guildford and support the town's social and environmental wellbeing.

The Guildford Corporate Citizenship Charter is part of a growing partnership. It brings together members from a variety of sectors across the town, who will work together on principles themed around the borough, the economy, the town's infrastructure, its environment and society in general.

The Charter is supported by a regular programme of events and collaborations between members, which include the University of Surrey, Guildford Borough Council, Eagle Radio, the Royal Surrey County Hospital and more. The events will cover themes such as employability and mental health in the workplace.

For more information on how your business or organisation can sign up to the Corporate Citizenship Charter, contact: publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk



1. Bright Club 2017 comes to The Boileroom in Guildford
2. Psychologist and PhD candidate Sarah Campbell speaks at the 2017 Pint of Science festival

What's on

GSA Saturday School **28 April – 7 July** **GSA, Stag Hill campus**

The Guildford School of Acting Saturday School provides world-class training to students aged five to 17+. From ballet and street dance, to acting and musical theatre, there are a huge range of classes available.

All sessions take place between 9:30am and 5:30pm every Saturday during a 10-week term.

gsauk.org

Sweet Charity **7 – 9 June** **Mill Studio, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre**

One of the most famous shows by legendary director and choreographer Bob Fosse, this musical production by Guildford School of Acting brings 60s life in New York to life as Charity Hope Valentine sings, dances, laughs and cries on her search for happily ever after.

gsauk.org

Pint of Science 2018 **14 – 16 May** **Guildford town pubs**

Guildford's 2018 Pint of Science festival will see University of Surrey academics deliver fascinating and accessible short talks on the latest scientific research and breakthroughs, all in the comfort of the town's local pubs. This year's festival will explore captivating themes such as Beautiful Minds, Atoms to Galaxies, Tech Me Up and Our Society.

surrey.ac.uk

Joyce Dixey competition **2018 - 8 June** **PATS Studio 1**

For composers at Surrey this is the musical highlight of the year. The Joyce Dixey Competition showcases the diverse range of musical styles in which our students work.

John Metcalfe, one of the most exciting and versatile musicians in the UK, will be welcomed to the event to adjudicate the competition.

surrey.ac.uk/events

Schubert weekend **18 – 20 May** **PATS Studio 1**

A wonderful weekend celebrating the life and music of Franz Schubert, featuring the internationally renowned singer Ian Bostridge, alongside ensembles ZRI and the Artington Quarter, student musicians and visiting speakers. The weekend will open with one of the most popular chamber music pieces of all time, Schubert's much-loved 'Trout Quintet'.

surrey.ac.uk/events

Pal Joey **14 – 16 June** **Mill Studio, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre**

Guildford School of Acting's second year BA Musical Theatre students take to the stage for a musical filled with sex, desire, power and money. Based on John O'Hara's popular collection of stories about a truly selfish, shameless man, Joey is a young, naïve, ambitious lady-killer who will do anything to get ahead.

gsauk.org

Student conductors concert **26 May** **Holy Trinity Church**

One of the most dynamic University of Surrey Orchestra concerts of the year, bringing together orchestral players from both the University and the local community. Student conductors will take the baton for an evening of stunning performances at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford.

facebook.com/SurreyOrchestra

Bright Club Guildford **18 July** **BBC Surrey**

Bright Club Guildford is performing at Guildford Fringe Festival for the very first time. The thinking person's variety night full of comedy, science, research and music. University of Surrey academics and researchers take to the stage to share the humour in their work, alongside a professional MC comedian and musician.

guildfordfringefestival.com

Annual Surrey Poetry Festival - 2 June **G Live**

The eighth Annual Surrey Poetry Festival at G Live, Guildford will feature readings, talks and installations from some of the most exciting, thoughtful and questioning poets in the UK. This year's line-up includes Emma Bennet, Rob Holloway and Rebecca Cremin, alongside University of Surrey students.

surrey.ac.uk/events

GSA summer schools **23 July – 10 August** **GSA, Stag Hill campus**

The Guildford School of Acting runs a dynamic and inspiring programme of summer schools for young people aged 8 to 25. Our acting and musical theatre courses provide an intensive, fun and inspiring training experience which aims to bring out the best in everyone taking part.

gsauk.org

Schools and learning



Families enjoying Innovate Guildford 2018



Photo credit: Grant Pritchard

Science and art come together at Innovate Guildford festival

This year's Innovate Guildford festival saw people inspired by innovation in science and arts.

The University was as excited as ever to be part of the third Innovate Guildford festival, organised by Guildford Borough Council. All three of the University faculties showcased engaging and hands-on demonstrations for visitors, including discovering the hidden sugars in everyday foods and using Lego to unearth the engineering behind nuclear physics.

Every year, the festival brings together organisations who are pioneering in science and the arts, and celebrates Guildford as a true hub of innovation.

Nikki Dormon, Public Engagement Manager at the University, said: "Innovate Guildford provides the perfect opportunity to share some of the inspirational work the University of Surrey is undertaking through research and innovation, with the young minds of the future."



Local school children 'graduate' after attending skill-building sessions at the University of Surrey

An infectious enthusiasm for learning

Between October 2017 and March this year, Year 10 pupils from a number of local schools were welcomed to the University's campus for an exciting series of fortnightly sessions designed to boost their confidence and build their skills.

Many activities were based on the fictional event of a mysterious contaminant being released on campus, with students engaging their imaginations to play the parts of forensic chemists, criminologists, paramedics and reporters.

The University of the Creative Arts (UCA) also took part in the event, as students were welcomed to UCA's Farnborough campus, where they were tasked with depicting the crisis in a collage. Other development opportunities included visiting the University of Brighton to explore fashion history, the art of selfie portraits and architecture.

The success of the programme culminated in March with a graduation ceremony attended by friends and families.

Crowning achievements at Kings College

Pupils at Kings College are benefitting from an innovative partnership with the University.

The collaboration, formed in late 2016, is designed to show school pupils how they could benefit from university and higher education.

A University of Surrey staff member has been embedded within the school to offer information and support, helping to bridge the gap between school and university.

Since the partnership began, more than 49 significant events and long-term projects have been delivered with 91 per cent of students taking part in at least one activity. There are already strong indications that the collaboration is having an impact, with increasing numbers of Year 9 pupils making GCSE choices which include academic subjects.

Alastair McKenzie, Head Teacher at Kings College, said: "The work undertaken in partnership with the University of Surrey has been incredibly inspiring for the pupils.

"We have had support from University students with running homework clubs, mathematical and scientific challenge clubs, sports mentoring and peer reading groups. In addition, pupils have been able to access regular sessions at the University, giving them a taste of life at university."



Making a difference

The University scooped two awards at the Surrey Choices' Making a Difference Awards 2018.

Surrey's restaurant for staff and students, Hillside, and its employee, Lewis, were among 20 employers and individuals recognised for supporting the social care provider's EmployAbility service with work placements for young people with disabilities.

Paul Stephenson, Vice-President of Human Resources, said: "It's fantastic to get recognition for what I think is really important work in support of our local community.

"The team at Hillside have demonstrated exceptional dedication to helping young people with disabilities, such as Lewis, achieve their full potential within the workplace."

The University's partnership with EmployAbility has supported more than 60 young people over eight years.



Surrey inspires young writers

The University has launched a short story competition to help local school children improve their creative writing skills.

In January, staff and student ambassadors from the University of Surrey's Widening Participation and Outreach team delivered workshops to 180 Year 5 pupils from three local schools. The workshops culminated in a friendly competition, in which they wrote stories that answered the question: 'What invaded the University of Surrey?'

Jocelyn Blasco Steele, Widening Participation and Outreach Support Officer, said: "Working with children from Guildford Grove Primary School, Weyfield Primary Academy and Worplesdon Primary School was really inspiring. They put so much effort into the workshops, coming up with original ideas for their stories. I can't wait to see what they have written."

Surrey Sports Park: Our doors are open

Surrey Sports Park is home to the University of Surrey's student sports activity, as well as elite teams such as Harlequins Rugby, Surrey Storm Netball and Surrey Scorchers Basketball.

The Park offers a vast range of activities for our local community, with many Guildford residents accessing our 120-station gym, sports pitches and facilities. Others visit us to swim in our Olympic-sized pool, take a class,

play a game of tennis or have a climbing taster session.

The Park is also an excellent choice for spectators. Local residents regularly pay us a visit to watch professional sports clubs compete in our 1,000-seat arena, or spend time in our Bench sports bar and Starbucks coffee lounge, which have excellent views of our award-winning grass pitches.

Find Surrey Sports Park on Instagram @surreysportpark



1. Rob Sambles
2. Alex Ferrelly
3. Surrey Sports Park
4. Susanna Zapponi

“Retirement is going swimmingly”



Ian Hook, 61, from Hindhead, retired in 2017 and joined Surrey Sports Park that same year. Having always led an active lifestyle, Ian set himself the challenge of learning to swim for the first time, taking classes in our Olympic-sized swimming pool. *Your University* caught up with Ian to find out how he is getting on.

Ian, you're learning to swim for the first time in the pool here. What was your motivation for learning?

It wasn't really for exercise, because I do a lot of cycling in my spare time. It was actually because I wanted to swim the length of a decent-sized hotel pool on holiday, and get to the pool bar at the other end! I wanted to be able to get there elegantly rather than... well... inelegantly! That was my motivation.

What would you say was the most challenging thing about learning to swim for the first time in adulthood?

I'm in my sixties now and it's like learning how to drive a car very late in life in the sense that it's not very intuitive. To be perfectly honest, it's still quite a challenge but we're making progress. I'm learning the front crawl but I find the breathing difficult. Getting a pattern going is quite challenging. Every element of swimming I can do, but it's about pulling it all together.

How were you supported in achieving this goal?

It's a work in progress. Scott Fanner, the Aquatics Development Officer, is very

supportive, and my teacher, Shelly, is very patient. She has made me feel quietly confident that I will nail this by the summer, before I go on holiday. I do two half-hour lessons with her, because I find a full hour is a little too much. Albeit slow, there is perceptible progress.

Do you think it's important for people to keep active?

Absolutely. I've always worked out in gyms and cycled. Resistance training is an important thing to do when you get to my age.

What would your advice be to anyone who wants to try something new for the first time later in life?

Go for it! Never be too embarrassed; life is too short. I find it quite funny when I'm learning alongside children in some of the other beginner classes.

What else do you get up to at Surrey Sports Park?

I have recently started yoga and I always work out in the gym before or after my class. I'll probably play tennis when the weather improves.

For more information on how you can join the Surrey Sports Park community, visit: surreysportspark.co.uk

Youth can do it at Surrey Sports Park



Fun and games for local children

Surrey Sports Park is supporting Guildford Borough Council to deliver free taster sports sessions for young people in Guildford in the run up to the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games 2018.

13 different sports will be represented, including boxing, touch rugby, netball and tennis.

The free sessions will take place from the start of May and continue up until the weekend of the event on 23-24 June.

The Specsavers Surrey Youth Games is the largest multi-sport youth competition in the UK. It brings together young people aged 7 to 16 from Surrey's 11 districts and boroughs.

Getting more local people involved in sport is a core part of Surrey Sports Park's ethos. *Your University* takes a look at how the Park's youth outreach programmes are stretching bodies and minds.

Netball

Surrey Sports Park is home to Netball Superleague team Surrey Storm. This year will see the team run 'Road to the Copper Box', a series of mixed netball tournaments for school teams. More than 400 children will take part, with the tournaments culminating in finals held at the Copper Box Arena in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park alongside Surrey Storm's match against Loughborough Lightning.

Basketball

British Basketball League club Surrey Scorchers are also based at Surrey Sports Park. When they aren't competing with top clubs from around the country, the players are dedicated to bringing people together and improving lives through basketball. The Surrey Scorchers Foundation supports a programme of activity for young people who are disabled, home-educated or not in education, employment or training.

Climbing

This year, Surrey Sports Park's indoor climbing centre, Surrey Summit, has worked with local schools, scout groups and the Meath Epilepsy Charity to help young climbers reach new heights.

Swimming

Our Swim Academy programme taught more than 1,000 local children how to swim last year alone. The programme supports young people to develop at their own pace, through school and after-school lessons.

Tennis

On 15 July, Surrey Sports Park is hosting a free tennis open day. For children aged between three and 10, there will be mini tennis sessions with smaller courts, nets, rackets and lower bouncing balls. We will also be serving up junior coaching sessions to children between the ages of 10 and 16.

Rugby

Surrey Sports Park is the official training base of premiership rugby union teams Harlequins and Harlequins Ladies. In August 2017, Harlequins formally launched a programme to develop women's rugby and create a pathway for new players to reach professional level.

Supported by England and Harlequins scrum-half Leanne Riley, the Switch programme introduces girls to rugby through curriculum PE lessons, after-school clubs and festivals. It also offers a platform for girls with a new-found love for rugby to transfer to local clubs such as Guildfordians RFC.

Student members from Team Surrey's women's rugby club have also been mentoring Year 9 girls from Kings College since 2017. The programme aims to help pupils become more active while sparking their interest in sport and higher education.

For further information, visit: surreysportspark.co.uk

What's on at Surrey Sports Park

Surrey Storm Vitality Netball Superleague

5 May, 7 May, 12 May, 18 May, 28 May, 2 June, 9 June, 16 June, 23 June

Surrey Storm is at the heart of professional netball in London and the south east. The reigning Vitality Superleague champions continue their 2018 season with a run of home fixtures at Surrey Sports Park as they go in search of their third championship title.

Tickets: surreystormnetball.co.uk

May half term junior camps

28 May – 1 June

Keep the kids active this May half term with a range of camps at Surrey Sports Park, including swimming, basketball, netball, squash and more.

Expert coaches will take participants through a range of skills and drills, with sessions suitable for all abilities.

Tickets: surreysportspark.co.uk

Go Fest 2018

21 - 22 July

Surrey's festival of sport, dance, health and fitness returns to Surrey Sports Park for 2018, with a range of family-friendly activities, competitions, exhibitions and more to get involved in. From archery to Zumba, there's something for everyone at Go Fest 2018!

Tickets: gofest.co.uk