

 Feature

## Meet our community champions

The University of Surrey works in partnership with local organisations and individuals so that we can make a difference together.

Here we celebrate some of our community champions, who make an important contribution to Guildford and the wider area.



We're always looking for new local partnerships.  
Contact [publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk) to find out more.



**Carol Dunnett**  
Chief Officer, Voluntary Action  
South West Surrey

"We help to support a strong, vibrant and thriving voluntary and community sector and encourage people to get involved locally.

"I get to work with people from all different types of groups. It's very rewarding contributing to all the amazing volunteering activity locally.

"Our annual conference, which is run in partnership with and hosted by the University of Surrey, brings together many of the groups we work with."



**Alastair Knowles**  
Chair, Park Barn and Westborough  
Community Association

"I'm Chairperson for the Ashenden Residents' Association and The Park Barn and Westborough Community Association.

"We work very closely with our partners, including the University of Surrey and Guildford Borough Council, on a number of projects in the area and by supporting countless community events.

"We're always looking for new members who also have time to support their local community."



**Alastair McKenzie**  
Principal, Kings College  
secondary school

"Our school holds a very special place in our community. We believe every young person can achieve their goals with hard work and dedication.

"We put great onus on personal discipline and supporting each other, alongside more personal drive and aspiration – University of Surrey staff and students have been fantastic in helping with this.

"On a personal level, I've relished leading the school on such a positive journey."



**Lydia Stockbridge**  
Team Manager and In-house Booker,  
The Boilerroom

"We've been curators of emerging, national and local music, community and creative arts events since 2006.

"Today, we continue to create an inclusive space for all walks of life to enjoy the culture of live music and events.

"Over the years we've had artists from Ed Sheeran to Foals. We also host the University of Surrey Bright Club, which is a great addition to our calendar of events."



**Tracy James and Garry Jones**  
Community Wardens,  
Guildford Borough Council

"We work alongside and with wonderful communities across Guildford, including the University of Surrey. We're passionate about people!

"Our offices are in the communities we serve and we welcome drop in visits at our base in the Park Barn Centre.

"Our motto is that 'every person matters' and we deliver a range of activities including events, fundraising, improving open spaces, signposting, reassuring, empowering, supporting and developing confidence."



**Helen Leech**  
Senior Manager, Guildford  
Library Makerspace

"With the University of Surrey's help, Guildford Library offers a wide range of digital equipment and learning for children and start-ups.

"We have robots, microbits, a 3D printer, a film space and a 'Library of Things'.

"We also run a weekly women's club, a monthly maker club and code clubs all the time.

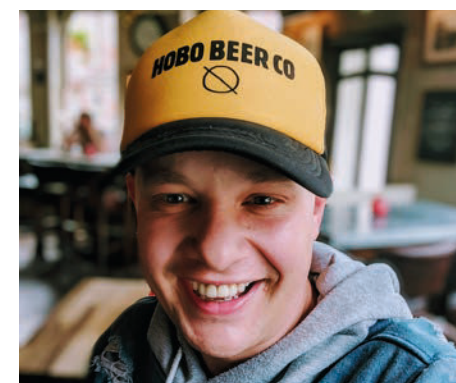
"We're always looking for new partnerships with businesses locally."



**Amanda Masters**  
General Manager,  
Experience Guildford

"Experience Guildford is the town centre's Business Improvement District, improving the trading and prosperity of the town centre.

"With our partners Guildford Borough Council, Pub Watch, Surrey Police and the University of Surrey, Experience Guildford has been instrumental in achieving Purple Flag status for the town. Initiatives like this provide a safe and welcoming environment for the community (including students) to enjoy an evening out."



**Ian Handy**  
Community, Volunteering & Events  
Coordinator, Surrey Students' Union

"Student volunteering is going from strength to strength. In the last few years, student volunteers have supported the YMCA's Sleep Easy campaign to raise money and build The Foyer - a 32-bedroom unit by Dapdune Wharf.

"Our #GetGivingFood campaign has donated over 17,000 items of food to local foodbanks and our new [surreyvolunteering.com](http://surreyvolunteering.com) website means students can volunteer locally, regionally, nationally or even worldwide!"