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A PINT  
IN GUILDFORD**



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SURREY**

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**SPRING  
2023**

**YOUR**

# **UNIVERSITY**

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS, FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SURREY, TO YOU.



**UNIVERSITY ADDS  
OVER £1 BILLION VALUE  
TO GUILDFORD ECONOMY**

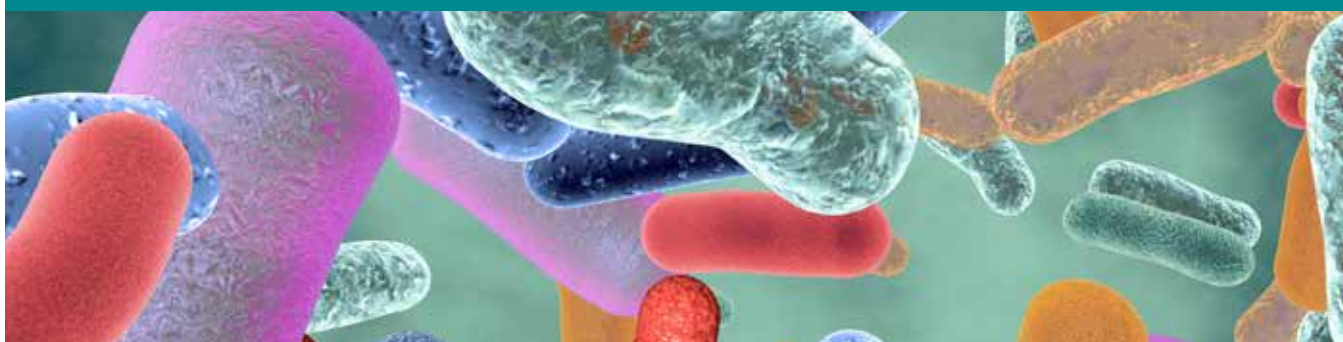


**PROUD TO  
BE SURREY**



**OSCARS JOY FOR  
SURREY ALUMNI**

**SURREY'S HEALTH  
BREAKTHROUGHS**



**£10 MILLION  
LEGACY DONATION  
FOR VETERINARY  
SCIENCE**





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## WELCOME TO YOUR UNIVERSITY

This week saw the coronation of a new King, surely a moment to come together, and after what has been a particularly difficult winter for everyone in the UK, this issue celebrates some of the positives from our Surrey community.

With students and staff from over 140 nations around the world, we're a large, diverse, global community at the heart of our home town here in Guildford. Would you like to join that community? We're not only a place to study and carry out cutting edge research, but we're also one of the largest local employers. There are a whole host of jobs going at the University from technicians to marketing, from porters to grounds staff. Take a look at page 3 to find out more. We also celebrate our own **students and staff too (pages 14 and 15)**.

Getting out into our local and regional community to make an impact is critical to delivering our mission as a University. In this issue you can find out more about how we've gained funding to support that good work in areas from medicine to space. Check out our community **(pages 4-7)** to hear about the difference we're making in your community right now.

It's been a tough year affecting communities on and off our campus. We've engaged in a variety of ways to recognise and discuss what's happening in our world. On campus we've been pleased to host events including 'The War in Ukraine: One Year On' and the annual **Surrey Hills AONB Symposium (page 9)** where we launched our new **Innovation Exploratoriums (page 5)**.

You can get involved too. Don't forget to visit our **Whats On (page 13)** which showcases upcoming events including those from the Guildford School of Acting, Department of Music and Media and our upcoming **Pint of Science Festival (page 12)**.

R.K

Ross Kelway,  
Public Engagement Manager



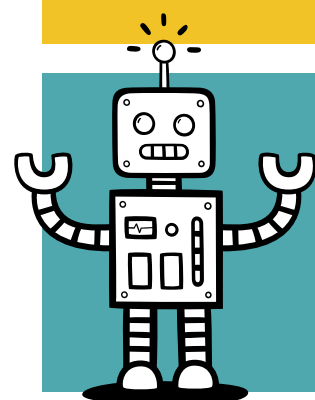
## CONTACT US!

[publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:publicengagement@surrey.ac.uk)

[surrey.ac.uk/community](https://surrey.ac.uk/community)

@UniOfSurreyCPE

Our regular work with local residents is very important to us. So please get in touch about anything from language courses to sustainability projects. We'd love you to get involved and share your ideas.



## DESIGN YOUR OWN ROBOT

## THE NATURAL ROBOTICS CONTEST 2023

Are you fascinated by nature's solutions to life's challenges? Have you ever thought of a way to use bioinspired design to improve the world?

Perhaps a robotic woodpecker that checks trees for disease? Or a mechanical falcon that protects sea turtle eggs?

Supported by Surrey researchers, this contest is a chance for you to have your ideas turned into reality. All you need is a short description of your idea and a drawing.

The winning entry will be turned into a real prototype by a team of expert robotics researchers!

To enter and find out more visit:  
[naturalroboticscontest.com](https://naturalroboticscontest.com)



## PROUD TO BE SURREY

The University of Surrey is a global community of ideas and people, dedicated to life-changing education and research. Our world-class reputation, global alumni network, international and local business connections inspire and empower our students. This and the many talented individuals who work, study and live here, make us the institution that we are proud to be.

Our Proud to be Surrey campaign shines the spotlight on some of the people who make Surrey such a diverse and welcoming place to work, study and live. As the second largest employer in Guildford and a top 10 University in terms of graduate employment, the campaign champions our students and our staff, whatever their role at Surrey, and celebrates the part they play in contributing to the success of our university and local community.

Head of Resourcing Helen Webb said: "Here at Surrey we pride ourselves on being the place to start and grow a career. As well as offering a range of benefits including generous holiday allowance, pension scheme and hybrid working, we strive to create an inclusive working environment to empower our colleagues to help us achieve our vision of becoming one of the best universities in the world."

Visit our campaign site:  
[stories.surrey.ac.uk/PTBS](https://stories.surrey.ac.uk/PTBS)

Check out our Social Media

Look for a new role:  
[surrey.ac.uk/working-at-surrey](https://surrey.ac.uk/working-at-surrey)



## JOIN US! COME WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

You can expect more with a role at our highly respected University, right here in Guildford. We are actively recruiting local people to work with us - not just academics, but those in professional and support services as well. This can mean anything from Marketing to Portering, from Catering to Technical support. Surrey is a great and friendly place to work!

Check out and subscribe to our jobs page: [jobs.surrey.ac.uk](https://jobs.surrey.ac.uk)



## UNSUNG HEROES

Technician and set designer Roger Ness tells us about his role at the Guildford School of Acting.

"I've been at the University for 23 years. I never expected to stay this long! I don't know where else I could teach, design scenery, paint scenery and work in the theatre. It's fantastic.

As a technician, I do a lot of admin work. I order materials for classes and help prep, I'm in charge of purchases for the workshop and I look after the building generally. I'm also on hand to deal with anything urgent, such as a recent flood, as I live locally!

I work closely with students when designing sets and I love seeing them take pride in their work. Whether you're a technician, instructor or tutor, your job is to be encouraging and nurture talent. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a student try something, gain confidence and succeed at it.

I'm part of a great team and we're all supportive of each other. Our jobs are secretive in a way because we work behind the scenes; people see what we do but they don't see how we do it.

I look forward to coming to work each day. After all these years, I still have the spark."







## UNIVERSITY RECEIVES £10 MILLION GIFT TO SUPPORT ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH

The donation, the largest in the University's history, is a significant contribution to the recently launched The Future Says Surrey fundraising campaign.

The welfare of animals is a priority for the anonymous donor, who made the legacy after learning about the ground-breaking research and techniques at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

"This extremely generous gift will help advance our knowledge and understanding of how best to look after and treat our companion animals," commented Professor Christopher Proudman, Head of the School of Veterinary Medicine. "It will enable us to fund critical research while supporting the innovative educational programmes which are the hallmark of the School's approach to training the vets of the future."

The gift followed the launch of The Future Says Surrey campaign, which aims to raise £60 million within three years to invest in leading research and to support students from diverse backgrounds to thrive at Surrey.

Professor Paul Townsend, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, said: "We're immensely grateful for this incredible gift."

Professor Max Lu, President and Vice-Chancellor, added: "With support such as this from alumni and donors, Surrey as a leading global institution will further its mission to help shape a better world."



## NEW FUNDING TO HELP NATURE FROM SPACE

Nature in Surrey's wetlands, urban areas and urban fringes will benefit from a grant of £200,000 from the philanthropic Garfield Weston Foundation. The funding will add new habitats to the Space4Nature wildlife protection project scheme run by Surrey Wildlife Trust, the University of Surrey, Buglife and the Painshill Park Trust.

This donation will allow Surrey scientists to expand their trail-blazing Space4Nature work, which combines satellite Earth Observation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and citizen science to boost biodiversity in Surrey. Chobham Common near Woking recently joined Painshill Park and Quarry Hangers as pioneer sites for this ground-breaking habitat-mapping project.

The new funding follows the £1.25m Dream Fund 2022 award, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery. It means a wider range of habitats

can be studied, adding Surrey's towns and wetlands to the grassland, heaths, chalk downland and woodland already being researched through Space4Nature.

This latest funding adds to The Future Says Surrey campaign, featured on page 10, which aims to raise £60m between 2022 and 2025 to help Surrey continue making positive impacts on society and confirm it as one of the UK's leading research and educational institutions.



## GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING PILOTING NEW AUDIO- DESCRIPTION TECHNOLOGY FOR LIVE SHOWS

Last year at its autumn season of shows, GSA welcomed nearly 4,000 attendees to theatres at the Stag Hill campus, showcasing the exceptional talents of its students. Most excitingly, this provided the opportunity to pilot a new way of delivering audio-description for audiences, improving accessibility for visually impaired audience members.

Audio-description enables a blind or partially sighted person to experience and enjoy a performance through a live verbal commentary which provides information on the visual elements of a production as it unfolds.

Developed in consultation with audio-description researchers at the University of Surrey's Centre for Translation Studies, our new way of delivering audio-description allows attendees to connect their favourite listening device (such as an induction neck loop or over-ear headphones) to their own smartphone. This allows them to sit anywhere in the theatre, not only where induction loops are installed.

We are proud to be fostering a community that respects and appreciates individual differences, while preparing our students to be the change in our society.



Guildford and Surrey residents are invited to explore the University of Surrey's research through new open-access, hands-on installations.

The first exhibit looks at 'urban heat islands', displaying research from Surrey's world-renowned Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE). GCARE's work on the phenomena shows that a lack of green spaces in urban environments causes buildings to absorb and retain heat, which results in an increase in air pollution and heat-related illness. Visitors are encouraged to reflect on small lifestyle changes they can make to reduce the effect. The exhibit is located in the ground-floor reception lobby of the Duke of Kent building.

The second exhibit explores research inspired by the experiences of lockdown. It reveals how significantly a person's mental health can be improved by measures as simple as watching nature videos. These findings are particularly useful to those suffering from ill health or are otherwise unable to get out as much as they would like. This exhibit is located in an open-access area on the first floor of the University's main library block.



## WORLD SPACE WEEK

On Saturday 8 October 2022, the Institute of Physics (IOP) and the University of Surrey joined forces once again to host a day of space-related events at Guildford's Tunsgate Quarter.

All events were free for the public to attend and included a Mars Rover demonstration from Airbus, a musical theatre performance from Ensonglopedia and interactive exhibits from Surrey Space Centre, SATRO, ClearSpace and the IOP South Central Branch. The day ended with a series of talks from academics and researchers from the University's Astrophysics Research Group on a range of space-related topics.

World Space Week takes place every year and is celebrated across the world through education and outreach events. The theme for 2022 was Space and Sustainability, which links closely with the work that the University is doing with ClearSpace to remove debris from Earth's orbit and lead the way on sustainable space exploration.

Bob Nichol, Pro Vice Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences and Professor of Astrophysics, says: "I feel immensely privileged to study a subject that fascinates so many people. There is a deep interest in our place in the universe, and the craziness of space and the objects in the night sky. Events like Space Week provide an opportunity to give back to the public by showcasing our research and innovation."

## FURTHER BOOST TO LOCAL SPACE INDUSTRY

The Surrey Space Centre has received £400k funding from the UK Space Agency to boost the space industry in Surrey and Hampshire through their new SpaceCraft programme.

SpaceCraft will offer training, recruit dedicated engineers, and provide technical facilities for enterprises to develop and trial space-related technology. This will be supported by the Space South Central regional partnership programme.

The engineers will help connect entry-level companies to specialised assembly and test facilities at the University of Surrey and at other regional businesses such as Airbus, SSTL, In-Space Missions, and others.

Prof Keith Ryden, Head of Surrey Space Centre at the University of Surrey, said:

"The local space industry is strong, which means it's always hungry for skilled space technicians and engineers. SpaceCraft will help meet these needs, even beyond the graduates and post-grads from space-related areas at Surrey. It will also mean we can open the doors to improved facilities for companies who otherwise struggle to find the specialised maker-spaces and expert engineers they need to develop new products for the space sector."

SpaceCraft will also offer access to colleges, supported by the newly-appointed space engineers. Introductory costs will be minimal, with commercial costs increasing when projects mature, usage increases and companies are more established.





## UNDERGRADUATE ENTREPRENEUR HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE DEBUNK DIETING MYTHS

Surrey Student Enterprise has supported nutrition student Sophia Wade in launching a nutrition and fitness business which aims to empower young people.

Sofia's company, FreedomFit, focuses on bringing together registered nutritionists and personal trainers to help young adults become better educated in nutrition and exercise science, build confidence and maintain a healthy relationship with food. Sofia founded the company to help debunk dieting myths seen online.

Currently, FreedomFit offers online coaching and one to one consultations with registered nutritionists. Once she graduates, Sofia also aims to offer online educational workshops.

"During my teen years, I went through a period of under-eating and overexercising. Over time, I started to realise that actually understanding the science of food and what is happening in my body were key to healing my relationship with food and exercise. Becoming better educated in nutrition helped me, and this drives my passion for my business and my want to help others.

"A major highlight for me was getting to see my idea turn into a fully functional business by the end of my placement year!"

Our Student Enterprise programme offers practical business support to entrepreneurial students who aspire to run their own business.



To find out more, visit:  
[surrey.ac.uk/student-enterprise](https://surrey.ac.uk/student-enterprise)



## CLEANING UP NEAR OUR CAMPUS

February was a busy month for Surrey student volunteers. The Students Union Volunteering teamed up with the University Estates and Facilities Team alongside Guildford Borough Council to clean up local areas near to our Stag Hill Campus.

First up for attention was Walnut Tree Close, where volunteers got cracking with their litter pickers and black sacks. Meanwhile, the Estates team got to work cutting back vegetation on the junction of Yorkies Bridge and Walnut Tree Close, creating a wider, safer junction for pedestrians and vehicle users alike.

Next up was the area around Guildford Tesco which had been suffering from a large amount of litter and fly tipping. Once again student volunteers assembled and duly collected many

bags of rubbish, cleaning up the area and creating a nicer environment for pedestrians passing by.

University of Surrey Public Engagement Manager, Ross Kelway said: "It's really great to see our students hit the streets and get volunteering after all those months when we couldn't do any of this activity during Covid. The Union, Estates team and borough have worked really effectively together to get this done and we hope to see more clear ups soon!"

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University of Surrey

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## SURREY SHOWCASE LIVE 2023



The University will be opening its doors to the community on Saturday 17 June with its flagship Surrey Showcase Live event, featuring research highlights, with talks, demos and interactive experiences from the last twelve months. Surrey looks forward to welcoming neighbours, students, staff, partners and alumni in an informal and engaging atmosphere.

Surrey invites you to find out more about the research and teaching that takes place here from incredible academics and students through a series of lightning talks, interactive demonstrations and performances.

This year, Surrey Showcase Live coincides with the Alumni Surrey weekender, so there will be all

the more to hear, see and experience.

Each year, the Showcase is based around a different theme, and this year it'll be taking you...

**...Back to the Future!**

Make sure you come along in June to find out more!

Content from Surrey Showcase will remain on our web pages, with films that can be accessed throughout the year by anyone, including teachers, public speakers and educators.

To find out more, visit:  
[surrey.ac.uk/about/strategy/surrey-showcase](https://surrey.ac.uk/about/strategy/surrey-showcase)

## SPOTTED ON CAMPUS

The University of Surrey is a significant collaborator at the local, regional and international level. On 13 January the University hosted a visit from Councillor Tim Oliver, Leader of Surrey County Council (SCC)

Cllr Oliver is no stranger to our campuses and the many projects that have taken place between the University and the Council. Surrey's Centre for Britain in Europe (CBE) has a long-standing collaboration with SCC, charting post-Covid rescue, recovery and growth (2020) and community-based growth in Surrey (2021). Prof Amelia Hadfield, Head of Politics, who formed part of the hosting party, said: "We are seen as a locus of expertise in this field and we are delighted to report that SCC has commissioned the University to update our latest report with our expert analysis and insight to map the future."

During his time on campus, Cllr Oliver enjoyed a showcase of the University's two new research institutes – the Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence and Institute for Sustainability. In addition to seeing some of Surrey's cutting-edge facilities, Cllr Oliver held meetings with Surrey's President and Vice-Chancellor Prof Max Lu, and Prof Juliet Wright, Surrey's Founding Dean of Medicine.

Cllr Oliver's visit confirms the University's role as an anchor institution in the region and its close civic ties.

## UNIVERSITY OF SURREY GENERATES OVER £1BN IN GUILDFORD GROSS VALUE ADDED (GVA)

Earlier this year, the University of Surrey commissioned an independent Economic Impact Assessment. Published in the Spring, the report by consultancy BIGGAR Economics found that the University "makes a substantial and increasing contribution to the UK economy and is an important part of the foundations of Surrey's thriving innovation ecosystem".

In the academic year 2020/21, the University of Surrey generated:

£11 billion GVA and 14,500 jobs in the Borough of Guildford, £1.3 billion GVA and 17,620 jobs in the County of Surrey and £1.9 billion GVA and 25,360 jobs across the UK

Furthermore, despite the substantial economic contribution of the University's operational activity, it was "purposeful" activity that accounted for around 57% of

the total GVA impact of the University, and two thirds of the total employment impact.

The largest economic contribution of the University comes from its innovation support activities, which generated £660 million GVA for the UK economy and supports over 6,640 jobs.

To find out more, visit:  
[surrey.ac.uk/economic-impact](https://surrey.ac.uk/economic-impact)







## CELEBRATING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE

At Surrey, we strive for gender equality but around the world women are often overlooked at all levels of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

So we thought we would share with you just a very small selection of some of the life-changing work our female academics are undertaking.

**Professor Juliet Wright,**  
Founding Dean of the School of Medicine

"Of all the medical specialities, I chose geriatrics. Getting to the cause of patients' symptoms can be a real piece of detective work and getting it right can make a huge difference to patients and their families. Being taught by clinicians who were passionate about our specialty inspired me to teach and pass on the clinical skills they had given me."



**Dr Maya Al Sid Cheikh,**  
Lecturer in Analytical Chemistry

"Since I was kid, I have been concerned by the plastic litter found on my way to the beach over the summers. By becoming an expert in contaminants in the environment, I am now on a mission to find out how these tiny contaminants are affecting marine life and human health. I am thrilled to be able to undertake this vital task as my work, and to understand and provide solutions to the impact of pollutants and toxicants."



**Dr Emily Setty,**  
Senior Lecturer in Criminology

"My passion for conducting research with young people about sex and relationships stems from my commitment to upholding young people's rights to participate and speak freely about the issues that affect them and to ensure that their voices are reflected in policy and practice that impact their lives. I want to identify with young people how best we can support them to deal with, and hopefully tackle, the challenges they face including at the contemporary time where abuse and harmful behaviours in relationships continue to occur. I find nothing more rewarding than sitting down with young people and hearing their perspectives."



## SURREY FUTURE FELLOWS' FAST TRACK TO RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

The new Surrey Future Fellows programme launched in October, heralded the start of the University's campaign to recruit up to 40 of the most innovative researchers annually.

The programme offers early and mid-career researchers the chance to become leading names in their field, to push forward the frontiers of knowledge and to make a real impact with their research.

Funded by a £10 million investment from the Vice-Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund, applicants are invited from all disciplines and methodologies encompassing 14 strategic themes where Surrey can make a real difference.

Successful applicants are offered a clear path to an academic position at the University, with the presumption of permanency after an initial three-year fixed term contract. Fellows will be appointed at the level of Research Fellow or

Senior Research Fellow depending on their experience and achievements since completing their PhD.

Announcing the launch of the programme, Provost and Senior Vice-President Professor Tim Dunne said that an uplift in research intensity is a key priority for Surrey following the excellent REF 2021 results: "We are now solidly in the top 20 in the UK for research quality but in terms of research power, Surrey needs to grow."



## THE WAR IN UKRAINE: ONE YEAR ON

On the first anniversary of the Ukraine War, our Politics Society hosted 'The War in Ukraine: One Year On', a top-level panel discussion about the ongoing conflict with Russia.

Our distinguished panel included Eduard Fesko, Deputy Head of Mission and Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Ukraine in the UK, Lord Peter Ricketts, a retired British senior diplomat, and Sir Julian King, Director-General Economic and Consular at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It was chaired by Professor Sarah Wolff, Professor in European Politics and International Relations and Director of the Centre for European Research at Queen Mary University of London, and Professor Amelia Hadfield, Head of Department of Politics and Dean International at the University of Surrey, was moderator.

The high-level diplomats discussed the last year of conflict in the Ukraine, gave key insights into the situation in Ukraine and debating possible future scenarios.

Professor Hadfield said: "The war in Ukraine continues to dominate the geopolitical agenda, with significant impacts for Europe, the UK and the wider world. Europe itself has been profoundly altered by this conflict. Remaining informed on the complexities of the war, and its many consequences, is vital. This event was an outstanding opportunity for our students, colleagues and our wider communities to come together to gain top-level insights into the situation in Ukraine, one year on from the start of the war against Russia."

## SUSTAINABILITY FOR ALL AT SURREY HILLS SYMPOSIUM

On 23 November 2022, the University hosted the annual Surrey Hills Symposium. The event debated how we can best protect, respect, and enjoy our National Landscape.

The Symposium was opened by Professor Max Lu, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey. Earlier in the day, Professor Lu had celebrated the launch of the University's Innovation Exploratorium, which is part of the exciting work carried out by Surrey's Institute for Sustainability.

Spaces like the Exploratorium give researchers a space to share important work on nature's impact on us, and ours on nature. The Exploratorium is tightly connected to the launch earlier in the year of Surrey Hills Arts' HABITAT project which is hosted on campus. The HABITAT project tackles the climate and biodiversity crisis by working with local communities to develop green spaces in urban areas.

Visitors to the Symposium enjoyed delightful refreshments from Surrey Hills Enterprises member Mandira's Kitchen. Surrey County Council offered free trees for guests to take away and plant in a space near their home.

The event was artistically captured by Veronica Wood, creating a vision of what the future may look like for access and protection of nature.



Guildford School of Acting alumni Tom Berkeley and Ross White have won the 2023 Best Short Film (Live Action) Oscar award for writing and directing 'An Irish Goodbye'.

Berkeley and White's success comes just a few weeks after they also won the BAFTA award for Best British Short Film.

Head of the Guildford School of Acting, Dr Catherine McNamara, said:

"We couldn't be prouder of Tom and Ross for their Oscar and BAFTA wins. To see graduates creating rich and interesting work and being recognised by their peers and leaders in the creative industries is truly fantastic. We celebrate their success, and we look forward to their next projects."

An Irish Goodbye is a 23-minute black

comedy set on a rural farm, telling the story of two estranged brothers who come together after their mother's death.

The pair took to the stage at Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on Sunday 12 March together with actor James Martin, who became the first person with Down's syndrome to win an Academy Award – all the more special as the win occurred on his 31st birthday.

Speaking to the BBC afterwards, Ross White said "To be on that stage in front of all of our cinematic heroes - it was a special moment."





## RESEARCH PROVIDES HOPE FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF PANCREATIC CANCER

It might be possible to diagnose one of the deadliest cancers three years earlier than normal.

By analysing data from 9,000 patients and comparing it to a control group of 35,000 people, researchers from the University found that dramatic changes in body weight and blood glucose levels could help healthcare professionals identify pancreatic cancer up to three years before diagnosis.

"Early diagnosis could lead to timely treatment, improving survival rates," said Dr Agnieszka Lemanska, the lead on the research. "This research highlights the importance of monitoring weight and blood glucose levels to detect pancreatic cancer early."

The pancreas is an organ that produces insulin and other digestive hormones. Almost 80 per cent of people affected are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer when it has become too advanced and has spread to the liver or other organs, reducing the effectiveness of treatment.



## THE FUTURE SAYS SURREY

This global campaign for new research and student scholarships aims to raise £60 million in three years. Part of the ambition is to enhance the University's already strong support for students facing hardship.

Among many important scholarship and bursary programmes, we are proud to introduce our newest: The Forever Surrey Scholarship, which supports students from a care-experienced background.

The first recipient, Feranmi Ajileye comes from official kinship care. After her mother died when she was eight, Feranmi's brother provided kinship care despite his own youth. Seeing his sister's talent, he recommended his

alma mater, the University of Surrey.

"Losing my mother at a young age had a life-changing impact," reveals Feranmi. "People from poorer or care-experienced backgrounds struggle to afford higher education.

"The Forever Surrey Scholarship provides financial support so I can immerse myself in my studies. I have the chance of a stable life and successful career because of it."

## SURREY AWARDED £12M TO FUTURE-PROOF UK'S TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORK

The University's 5G/6G Innovation Centre has been awarded a £12m grant from the UK government to lead an international project to create a greener, more resilient, and ubiquitous telecommunications network.

The TUDOR project will develop technologies to improve the future mobile network beyond 5G and 6G, and enhance the existing telecommunications infrastructure. The project will also help design a more diverse telecoms market and generate global standards and skills in the UK.

The consortium of leading national and international organisations, including Amazon Web Service, BAE Systems, Ericsson, and Nokia, will work together to achieve the project's objectives.

The TUDOR project's funding is part of the UK

government's strategy to reduce reliance on a small number of suppliers for telecoms networks. Surrey's £12m grant is part of a £28m investment shared across three UK universities to strengthen the UK's global leadership in telecoms research and development.

## DISCOVER US AT CHELTENHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL



Join us in the Discover Zone at Cheltenham Science Festival 6-11 June this year, where you can hear more about the emerging field of quantum biology, which seeks to understand whether quantum mechanics plays a role in day-to-day biological processes. Did you know that even the way we think can be influenced by quantum mechanics?

This year's stand at the festival is bought to you by the 'Life on the Edge' project team who are pushing the boundaries with theories based on the arrow of time, including one of the most unanswered phenomena - why do we age?

Have a go on our 'quantum golf' exhibit and see if you can score the most points by hitting the ball through our energy barrier or visit us to learn why plants perform quantum mechanics to transfer energy in the photosynthesis process. Whether you want to hear more about how Surrey is investigating the link between biology and quantum effects, or quiz our scientists on their cutting-edge research, we have new discoveries to tell.

Visit:  
[cheltenhamfestivals.com/science](https://cheltenhamfestivals.com/science)  
for more information



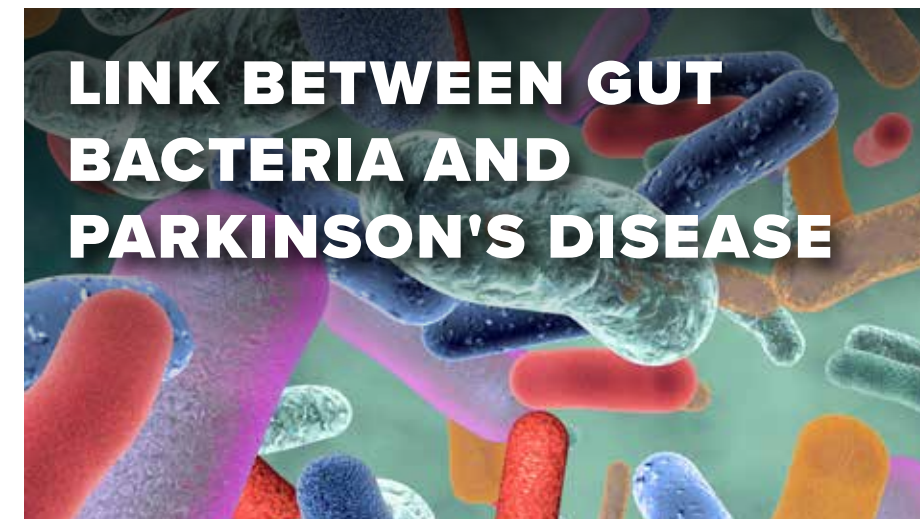
## £40,000 SECURED FOR GUILDFORD SCHOOL TO HELP COMBAT AIR POLLUTION

Sandfield Primary School has received £40,000 in funding from RECLAIM Network Plus – an EPSRC-funded network led by the University of Surrey's Professor Prashant Kumar.

The new funding will allow the school to protect the health of their students by using various greening measures to reduce, remove and monitor air pollution around the Sandfield grounds, and educate children about the benefits of green hedges and green walls.

Sandfield is located at a busy junction which is regularly congested during school drop-off and pick-up times. The project is led by the University's world-renowned Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE), who have been monitoring the air quality levels at the primary school and found them to frequently breach safe levels.

## LINK BETWEEN GUT BACTERIA AND PARKINSON'S DISEASE



Surrey researchers have found a possible link between gut bacteria and Parkinson's disease.

In the largest study of its kind, the researchers found that almost 30% of gut bacteria in those with Parkinson's differs from those without the disease.

Parkinson's disease is a condition in which parts of the brain become progressively damaged over many years. The study involved 490 people with Parkinson's disease and 234 neurologically healthy people who provided stool samples and information about themselves. The analysis of their

stool samples showed that bacteria, genes, and biological pathways differ by more than 30% in those with Parkinson's compared to those without the disease.

The research team identified a cluster of bacteria known to cause infections that were elevated in those with Parkinson's. However, the study was not designed to answer whether the bacteria itself is the initial cause of the disease or a consequence of the disease.

Surrey Business School's part-time Executive MBA is a learning experience designed to enhance your career and change how you think.



The Executive MBA blends theory and practice with learning that is supported by current management theory and engagement with industry. Course topics range from sustainable operations to business intelligence and analytics to prepare you for the business world.

Scholarships are available, including our Women in Leadership scholarship which covers up to 50% of the tuition fees. It is open to female candidates who can demonstrate their contribution to business and a drive to support other female candidates in the future.

Applications are open for September 2023 entry.

Search 'Surrey Business School EMBA' to find out more.







## CORONATION WEEKEND EVENTS



The Coronation of His Majesty the King at Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May 2023 was a celebration that echoed around the country. Conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the service reflected the Monarch's role today and looked towards the future.

Here at the University of Surrey, the Coronation Proceedings were broadcast on the Big Screen by the Lake, with staff, students and local residents picnicking and watching the historic moment together. Celebratory and community events occurred throughout the weekend.

## SCIENCE OVER A PINT ANYONE?



University researchers took to the stage at the Boileroom in Guildford on 28 February. There were no powerpoint presentations, no snazzy demos, just a solitary microphone for each as they took part in Bright Club. Bright Club aims to turn research into comedy gold and is a great way for academics to relate their science to audiences in an accessible and funny way. Six researchers took to the stage, ably supported by a professional MC and musician to make a night like no other. Bright Club will next appear at Guildford's fringe festival in July 2023.



Keep an eye out for tickets soon at [guildfordfringefestival.com](https://guildfordfringefestival.com) or follow Bright Club Guildford on Twitter or Facebook.



Meanwhile, as this issue of *Your University* goes to press we have another group of researchers who'll be bringing their work to four venues in Guildford from 22-24 May. Pint of Science Festival returns to Guildford in its tenth anniversary year this May. Members of the public will be able to attend events at The Star, The Electric Theatre, Pews Bar and Zero Carbon Guildford for three nights of short talks about research topics from sustainability to artificial intelligence.



Don't delay, get your tickets by visiting: [pintofscience.co.uk/events/guildford](https://pintofscience.co.uk/events/guildford)



## UNITING TALENTED MUSICIANS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH STAFF AND STUDENTS

On Sunday 5 March, the University of Surrey Orchestra opened their doors to the local community and welcomed over 90 talented musicians to the latest Community Orchestra Day, held in the newly-refurbished University Hall.

Residents of Surrey united with students and alumni from the Department of Music and Media and staff from across the University to spend a day rehearsing a series of American Classics by Gershwin. Repertoire included The Cuban Overture and an American in Paris plus a selection from Lerner and Loewe's Broadway hit My Fair Lady.

Local musicians had a unique opportunity not only to get a taste of the Orchestra, but also to hone their skills under the guidance of the Surrey's Head

of Conducting, Russell Keable.

The day concluded with an informal concert to the general public. The next Community Orchestra Day will take place in autumn 2023.

The University of Surrey Orchestra rehearses on Monday evenings throughout the year to deliver a range of performances in a variety of venues including Guildford Cathedral and Holy Trinity Church.

Contact: [orchestra@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:orchestra@surrey.ac.uk) for more information



## ADAMS-SWEETING LECTURE

Thursday 18 May

Join us as Prof Dame Sarah Gilbert delivers the next lecture of this fascinating series. This time the focus will be on Covid Vaccines.

Details: [surrey.ac.uk/asevents](https://surrey.ac.uk/asevents)

## FREE FEST

Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 May

Midday until 8pm. The University opens its doors for a weekend of fun and music hosted by our Students' Union. Bring your own picnic for live music, outdoor cinema and family-friendly entertainment, food and drink stalls.

Details: [surrey.ac.uk/events](https://surrey.ac.uk/events)



## BARTERCARD SURREY STORM V LOUGHBOROUGH LIGHTNING (NSL)

Friday 19 May

Come to the Surrey Storm game-day experience at Surrey Sports Park. Get prepared for action, thrills and the sights of top-flight Vitality Super League Netball as Bartercard Surrey Storm host Loughborough Lightning in their 2023 campaign. Before the game enjoy food and drink at onsite bars.

Where: **Surrey Sports Park**

Details: [surreystormnetball.co.uk](https://surreystormnetball.co.uk)



## PINT OF SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Monday 22 – Wednesday 24 May

Quench your thirst for knowledge! Come and hear from some of our amazing researchers on topics such as artificial intelligence and sustainability. The Pint of Science Festival comes to venues in central Guildford this May

Where: **Zero Carbon Guildford, Pews Bar, The Star and The Electric Theatre**

Details: [pintofscience.co.uk/events/guildford](https://pintofscience.co.uk/events/guildford)



## GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING SUMMER SEASON PRODUCTIONS

Thursday 25 May

– Saturday 10 June

**Rock and Roll** .....25-27 May

**As You Like it** .....1-3 June

**3 Winters**..... 8-10 June

**Cry Baby** ..... 2-3, 5-8 June

**Twelfth Night** ..... 8-10 June

**Nine** ..... 8-10 June

TICKETS: [gsauk.org/events](https://gsauk.org/events)



## OPEN DAYS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Multiple dates

The best way to get to know the University of Surrey is to experience it. Our open days give you the chance to chat to our current students and academics to gain an insight into what studying at Surrey is like.

Details: [surrey.ac.uk/open-days](https://surrey.ac.uk/open-days)

## SURREY SHOWCASE LIVE 2023 INCORPORATING ALUMNI SURREY WEEKENDER

Saturday 17 June 12pm-4pm

The University opens its doors to the world on Saturday 17 June with our flagship Surrey Showcase Live. This popular community event is all about people. This year's theme is Back to the Future.

Where: **University of Surrey campus and online**

Details: [surrey.ac.uk/about/strategy/surrey-showcase](https://surrey.ac.uk/about/strategy/surrey-showcase)



## JIM MEETS... PAUL DAVIES

Thursday 29 June

Our successful in-conversation series hosted by Professor Jim Al-Khalili returns this summer with writer, broadcaster and physicist, Professor Paul Davies. Jim and Paul will sit down to talk about the emergence of life, the universe and everything!

Details: [surrey.ac.uk/events](https://surrey.ac.uk/events)

## SURREY 2023 CONFERENCE

Wednesday 5 – Friday 7 July

Under the theme of "Bringing Hospitality, Tourism, Transport and Events Back for Good", the Surrey 2023 Conference will bring together researchers, educators, students, practitioners and policymakers. They will share visions, expertise, experiences and best practices in hospitality, tourism, transport and events to create an action framework for building a more responsible and resilient industry.

Where: **University of Surrey**

Details: [surrey.ac.uk/school-hospitality-tourism-management/surrey-2023-conference](https://surrey.ac.uk/school-hospitality-tourism-management/surrey-2023-conference)

## BRIGHT CLUB DOES GUILDFORD FRINGE FESTIVAL

Monday 3 July

Bright Club blends comedy, music, art, research, science, performance... and anything else that can happen on a stage. The first rule of Bright Club is that you tell all your friends about Bright Club! Join researchers and academics from the University of Surrey as they delve into their laboratories to brew up comedy gold.

Tickets: [guildfordfringefestival.com](https://guildfordfringefestival.com)





## NICKY SECRETT

**I've dreamed of being a nurse since I was four years old. After following a different career path for many years, I realised that life's too short so I decided to satisfy my life dream of 25 years and train to be a nurse.**

I've lived in Guildford all my adult life, and it's fantastic to have such a great university on my doorstep. The Clinical Simulation Centre is a really great place to learn. It's interactive, with breathing and blinking manikins. The University also has amazingly talented actors, and you forget whilst in a scenario with them that they're acting!

My first placement was in a surgical unit at the hospital in Guildford. I was allowed to watch surgery in theatre on three occasions and the

surgeons talked through everything they were doing. It was a real eye-opener. Since then, I've also been on medical and community wards where I have learned a great deal.

If you're considering going into nursing as a mature student, I wholly recommend you take the jump with both feet. The University of Surrey is very supportive and I've not looked back since. Every time someone refers to me as a nurse, my heart skips a beat.

## REGULATING FRACKING

**Doctoral researcher in Environmental Regulations, Shashi Kant Yadav, is investigating how scientific knowledge and public perception of unconventional natural gas extraction processes, such as hydraulic fracturing (fracking), shape the framework to regulate environmental risks.**

Based in the School of Law, Shashi explains that his work "is important to help the public understand not only the potential impact of the technology – fracking – on the local environment and overall economy but also how their perception of the technology influences regulations at a local and national level."

The need for this regulation was illustrated on our own doorsteps recently. Last summer, the Government over-ruled Surrey County Council to approve two gas drilling schemes in Surrey Hills, a move which attracted strong and contrasting



reactions. The Supreme Court has accepted an appeal, concerning the gas drilling schemes in Surrey, on the issue of whether the environmental approval for oil and gas drilling projects should take into account the greenhouse gas emissions that will come from burning the extracted oil in the future.

Shashi's research will help in understanding the relationship between science and law in shaping public perception related to technology and eventually mitigating environmental risks. His research asserts that it is critical to understand the scientific basis on which technologies are framed as "green" technologies and how such framing of technology influences public perception and overarching environmental regulations.



## DO SOMETHING GOOD, GAIN SOMETHING GREAT

**Last year, students raised over £100,000 for different causes and the USSU RAG team was proud to receive the award for Most Improved Student Fundraising Group at the National Student Fundraising Association Awards 2022.**

Students' local volunteering efforts this year include:

- Working with Roots for the Future to plant trees at Royal Surrey County Hospital
- Assisting Wildlife Aid Foundation in Leatherhead to build a nature reserve
- Litterpicking with Guildford Borough Council and clearing the path behind the Tesco Superstore
- Working with Guildford Environmental Forum and Butterfly

Conservation to restore the grass chalklands on The Mount and remove invasive species to protect the endangered blue butterfly population.

Ian Handy, Community and Events Coordinator at the USSU, says: "Our motto is 'Do something good, gain something great.' Students can give something back while also gaining skills that make them more employable. It puts us in a unique place as a university and as a union that we are so good at helping them transfer these skills."



## SURREY'S STUDENT NURSES INTERVIEWED ON NEWSNIGHT



**All eyes were on our student nurses this January as they took to the spotlight on BBC's Newsnight.**

Interviewed by Kirsty Wark in front of thousands of viewers, the students spoke about their personal journeys and what drew them to the nursing profession.

The students also discussed their support for the recent nurse's strikes, highlighting that the strikes are not just about pay but patient safety. They expressed concern for the patient-to-nurse ratio in hospitals and the community, and that short term solutions are not sustainable for the NHS.

Reflecting on the interview, Head of the School of Health Sciences, Professor Melaine Coward said: "I was so proud to hear our students talk so professionally and with such passion. Their drivers for becoming nurses are commendable, I am confident they will all be caring and compassionate nurses who will be ambassadors for our School, the University, and our profession. The School of Health Sciences strives to support the best future workforce to meet the health needs of our society, and I think this clip showed that we are achieving our goals!"



Scan the QR code to watch the interview

## BID FOR BETTER

**Last year, Royal Surrey staff were invited to set their bright ideas to life after winning grants totalling £230k from a 'Dragon's Den' style pitch.**

The idea behind the scheme, named Bid for Better, was to tap into the expertise of academics at the University of Surrey and Royal Surrey staff who are on the ground and working hard to deliver the best patient care.

More than 50 applications were received for funding from the Royal Surrey Charity and the University of Surrey to improve the hospital experience for patients, with 13 projects given the green light.

The initiatives strive to improve the care of patients with a range of conditions. In St Luke's Cancer Centre, a £30k funded project will develop a wellbeing toolkit to help patients adapt to cancer and treatment, and improve staff skills and confidence in providing psychosocial care. In the neonatal unit for premature babies, members of the team are to lead a community outreach project for preterm babies or babies who require additional support after discharge from hospital.

Also among the projects are: a bespoke patient seating area for dementia patients to help improve their stay in hospital and reduce falls; ward light boxes to improve mood, cognition and mobility of patients; and more wireless screens for coaching patients during certain radiotherapy treatments to help them

achieve the breath holds required for their treatment.

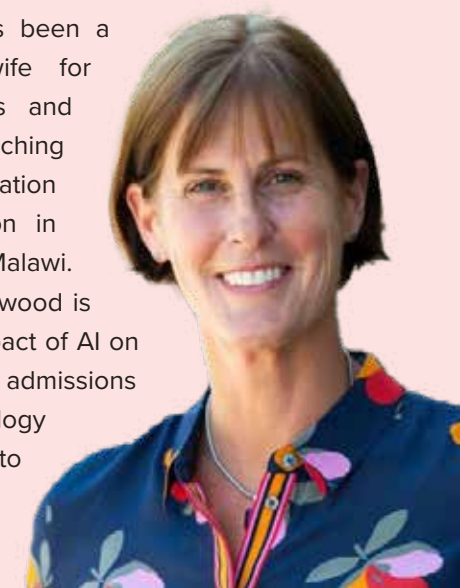
Dr Dan Horton, Associate Dean Research and Innovation at the University of Surrey, said: "We are delighted to be supporting these collaborations between innovators in the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences here at the University, and Royal Surrey. Initiatives such as this are an important part of ensuring that our world-leading research has impact where it is needed, and continuing to build strong strategic links between the University and our NHS partners."



## UNIVERSITY OF SURREY MIDWIFE CELEBRATED WITH PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

**Dr Alison Callwood has been awarded a prestigious Fellowship from the Royal College of Midwives (RCM). The Fellowship recognises individual midwives who provide exceptional leadership and deliver excellence in practice, education, or research.**

Dr Callwood has been a registered midwife for nearly 30 years and has been teaching the next generation of her profession in the UK and Malawi. Currently, Dr Callwood is exploring the impact of AI on recruitment and admissions and how technology can be used to optimise fairness and inclusivity.







## SURREY RESEARCH PARK DRASTICALLY BOOSTS LOCAL AND WIDER ECONOMY

One of the University's key ambitions in developing the Surrey Research Park (SRP) was to boost the economic development of the local and national economy. The Park's 2022 annual review shows what a robust success this aim has proved:

- **203 companies at SRP were responsible for 10% of Guildford economy**
- **One in three Surrey Business Award winners were located at SRP**
- **The Park is supporting the next generation of entrepreneurs, with 25% of winners in Surrey's '40 Under 40' awards being based there**
- **The Park has helped to create the UK's largest regional space cluster, 'Space South Central'**
- **SRP's outstanding report by UKSPA ASPIRE revealed that the Park contributes an estimated £450m to £625 million to the regional economy annually.**

The Park has played a pivotal role in developing the Surrey Factor since its inception in 1984. It has transformed into a major centre of excellence in technology, science and engineering, 'widely regarded as the best of its kind in the UK'.

### **Buoyancy, innovation, and a breath of fresh air**

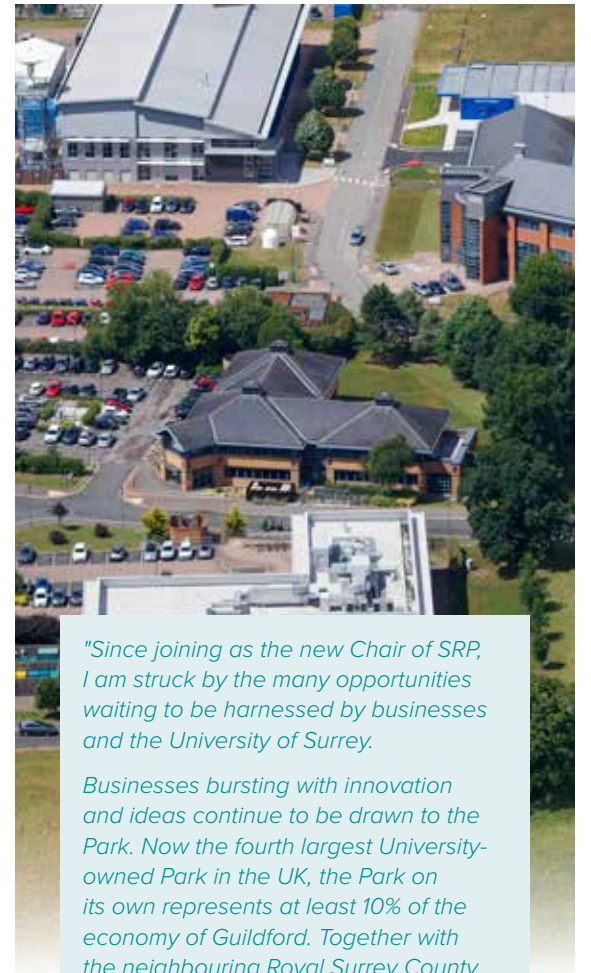
There is zest in the air at SRP. Optimism abounds for the breadth and quality of innovative companies, whose focus so often chimes with the Government's priority areas: space; sustainability; animal and human health; and digital endeavour. SRP's talent pool is ideally positioned to meet these priorities as the UK doubles-down on innovation as a driver of economic recovery. Additionally the beautiful 70-acre green-landscaped Park ensures quality of life for the population of companies thriving there.

There is much to celebrate at the Park, from a "historic moment" in Alzheimers treatment, new satellites, changing the way animal cancer is treated, developing a global atlas of environmental DNA data, to FDA approval for early-stage cancer detection.

### **Companies at the Park responsible for substantial employment rise in Guildford and wider Surrey**

Today the Park has a net asset value which exceeds £100m. It attracts the brightest graduates and entrepreneurs from a diverse talent pool in Surrey, the UK and worldwide, who work on potentially life and world-changing technologies.

\*United Kingdom Science Park Association



*"Since joining as the new Chair of SRP, I am struck by the many opportunities waiting to be harnessed by businesses and the University of Surrey."*

*Businesses bursting with innovation and ideas continue to be drawn to the Park. Now the fourth largest University-owned Park in the UK, the Park on its own represents at least 10% of the economy of Guildford. Together with the neighbouring Royal Surrey County Hospital and University, we have at least 20% of Guildford's economy in one square mile—truly an innovation district."*

Kathy Slack, OBE, Chair of SRP Board

### SUBSCRIBE TO SURREY HEADLINES

If you are interested in stories like this or you want to know more about the fantastic research, innovation, community news and high-profile events taking place at the University of Surrey, why not subscribe to our new Surrey Headlines newsletter?

[surrey.ac.uk/surrey-headlines](https://surrey.ac.uk/surrey-headlines)

# Expect **MORE**

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