



Tackling
the future
of football



AUTUMN/WINTER 2022

FOREVER SURREY

The magazine for alumni, supporters and friends

FROM
GUILDFORD TO
GOVERNMENT

Shabnum's incredible journey



Film star Suniel
shines at Surrey



40 years of nurturing
the nation's nurses



Launching our
£60 million campaign

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Forever Surrey

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FutureSaysS



The GSA singers at our campaign launch



Ella won our Young Achiever Award



Sarah and Shabnum with their VC awards

WELCOME



Professor Max Lu

I'm delighted to introduce the latest edition of *Forever Surrey*.

After the trials and tribulations of the last three years, seeing a busy campus populated by students and staff is an uplifting sight.

It's something none of us will ever take for granted again.

In the wake of the pandemic, the University has increased its efforts to ensure we continue to play our part in protecting the wellbeing of students and staff, and our environment and its long-term prosperity.

In February, we launched The Future Says Surrey with the goal of raising £60 million in three years. It will help us to turbo-charge research into health, sustainability and artificial intelligence, ensuring we're ready to tackle current and emerging global challenges.

We'll also support our students via hardship funding, scholarships and many other schemes. Our undergraduates and postgraduates are our future change-makers. We recognise the importance of providing additional help when it's needed.

We've been celebrating graduates, too. The winners of this year's Alumni Awards are three amazing women who've achieved incredible success. Whether it's implementing large-scale health reforms in Pakistan, tackling child trafficking or funding education for under-

represented groups, they've helped to build a better world.

We're proud to have played a small part in the stories of Dr Shabnum Sarfraz, Sarah de Carvalho and Ella Balinska.

Other triumphs worth noting are our performances in league tables this year. *The Complete University Guide 2023* ranks Surrey 18th, with two of our courses rated as the best in the UK. We're also ranked 24th in *The Guardian University Guide 2023*, and we're in the UK top 10 for graduate employability in the HESA Graduate Outcomes Survey 2022 and ninth for student satisfaction in the Office for Students' benchmark survey.

Those results follow on from winning the titles of University of the Year for Graduate Employment in *The Times/The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2022* and Best University Careers/Employability Service at the National University Employability Awards 2022.

Elsewhere, our teaching excellence has been acclaimed with wins in the prestigious Advance HE Awards. With the recent creation of our Institute for Sustainability and our new School of Medicine, we believe more accolades will follow.

Please read on and be inspired.

Professor Max Lu
AO DL FREng FAA FTSE
FICHEM FRSC FNAI
 President and Vice-Chancellor

NEWS ROUND-UP

SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH SHINES AT SURREY

Surrey academics have published two new pieces of research that could help make cheap solar energy a reality...

The mass production of low-cost solar-cell components could be accelerated thanks to research at our Advanced Technology Institute (ATI). Perovskite ink is not a new technology, but current inks don't guarantee seamless transitions on an industrial scale due to complexities in manufacturing.

"Our 'miracle material', however, delivers a fast and reproducible way to reliably fabricate these solar cell building blocks on a mass scale," explains lead researcher Dr Ehsan Rezaee. "This new development could pave the way for its use in commercial markets. It offers a lightweight and low-cost solution, and it can be built either rigid or flexible, with more possibilities to easily transport and install."



Will our solar energy provide a bright future?

A second publication reports on how researchers at Surrey have synthesised nanoparticles that mimic what chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants, does in nature. That is absorb light and convert it to usable energy with high efficiency.

Past approaches have not been able to match what nature achieves. But our researchers have developed a unique synthetic pigment that keeps its fluorescent intensity longer, which increases its efficacy as a potential energy source.

"Mother Nature can teach us so much as we think of ways to nurse our planet back to health," says Michael Spencer, lead author of the study and Surrey PhD student. "The performance potential of this technology gives us hope that solar panels of the future can ditch the use of toxic materials currently used to maintain their intensity."



EVs offer a chance to reduce our CO2 emissions

DRIVING THE TRANSITION TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Surrey researchers are tackling the biggest problems facing electric vehicles (EVs) as part of an £8 million project.

A coalition from Surrey, Southampton and Sheffield universities is developing solutions that will help sustain the future use of EVs. Surrey's involvement in the five-year programme explores the adoption and acceptance of new and sustainable charging technologies.

"The good news is the electric vehicle revolution is a significant opportunity for us all to drastically reduce CO2 emissions and start to address the harm we're doing to our planet," says Dr Mona Chitnis, co-investigator and Senior Lecturer in Energy Economics. "However, to reap all the benefits presented by EVs, we need to ensure the energy that powers them is coming from low-carbon or entirely renewable sources."

"This is the grand aspiration of this project."

TURN-UP FOR THE BOOKS

Will augmented reality (AR) allow printed paper books to make a comeback against the e-book trend?

Surrey has introduced the third incarnation of its Next Generation Paper (NGP) project, allowing readers to consume information on printed paper and a screen side by side.

"The way we engage with literature has changed with so many more options than just paper books," says Dr Radu Sporea of our Advanced Technology Institute. "Multiple electronic solutions exist, including e-readers and smart devices, but there's no hybrid solution that's sustainable on a commercial scale."

"Augmented books – or a-books – can be the future of many book genres, from travel and tourism to education. This technology exists to assist the reader in a deeper understanding of the written topic and to get more through digital means without ruining the experience of reading a paper book."



Can AR power a paper book revival?

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY & TOURISM MANAGEMENT
AUSTIN PEARCE BUILDING

BOLLYWOOD LEGEND VISITS UNIVERSITY



Suniel Shetty

Movie mega-star, entrepreneur and philanthropist Suniel Shetty brought Bollywood glamour to campus in May.

The actor, who's starred in more than 100 films and is a black belt in kickboxing, was part of a visiting delegation. Their aim: to strengthen partnerships, and encourage more students from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to learn at Surrey.

Star quality

Suniel met Vice-Chancellor Max Lu and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Osama Khan. He was also shown around our acclaimed Advanced Technology Institute and our 5G/6G Innovation Centre, which are building next-generation solar energy and communications technologies.

Later, Suniel answered questions about his career from a packed audience of fascinated fans, then Guildford School of Acting students performed a musical showcase.

Judging by the rapturous reception he received, his star quality shone and he'd be welcomed back any time he wants to return.



Suniel wowed our students – and Professor Osama Khan as well

NEWS ROUND-UP

UNCOVERING THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE

A new fossil galaxy discovery could answer important questions about the history of the universe. An ultra-faint dwarf galaxy, believed to be a “fossil” of one of the first galaxies, has been discovered by galactic archaeologists at the University. It could teach scientists about how galaxies form, confirm their existing understanding of cosmology and even provide clues about the so-far-elusive nature of dark matter.



Shedding light on dark matter?

COVID-19 RESEARCH CONTINUES

Academics at Surrey have provided a crucial antigenic map to help fight variants of Covid-19. Our map allowed researchers to identify and measure how each variant impacted the immune system.

Elsewhere, recent work has shown skin swabs are “surprisingly effective” at identifying Covid-19 infection. This could offer a route to a non-invasive future for testing of the virus.

NEW BLOCKCHAIN AND METAVERSE ACADEMY

A £1 million donation from JKL Capital/Maxity will establish a new Academy for Blockchain and Metaverse Applications at Surrey. It will focus on developing research and skills to explore utilisation of these game-changing technologies.

“The Academy will help to ensure our graduates, our staff and the wider Surrey business community are equipped with the skills to grow their careers and their businesses using this new technological development,” says Professor Steve Wood, Dean of the Surrey Business School.

SWEET NEWS FOR CHOCOLATE-LOVERS

Initial findings by researchers at Surrey indicate cocoa could help reduce elevated blood pressure and arterial stiffness.

Cocoa flavanols have been found to lower blood pressure and arterial stiffness as much as some blood pressure medication. However, how effective flavanols are in reducing blood pressure in everyday life has remained unknown – until now.

Surrey’s new research reduces concerns that cocoa as a treatment for raised blood pressure could pose health risks by decreasing blood pressure when it is not raised.

“High blood pressure and arterial stiffness increases a person’s risk of heart disease and strokes,” says Christian Heiss, Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at Surrey. “So it’s crucial we investigate innovative ways to treat this.”

Our researchers found blood pressure and arterial stiffness were only lowered in participants if it was high already, and there was no effect when blood pressure was low in the morning. For the first time, effects were also identified at eight hours after cocoa was consumed. This second peak may be due to how bacteria in the gut metabolise cocoa flavanols.

This work could pave the way for cocoa flavanols to be used in clinical practice.



Cocoa's a go-go!



Mobiles to the rescue?

NEW STUDY TO AID EMERGENCY RESPONSES

A new feasibility study is set to examine the impacts on decision making of NHS 999 emergency service staff being able to see live streamed footage of trauma incidents.

The study, which involves researchers, clinicians and patient-public representatives from the University of Surrey and beyond, will test the use of a state-of-the-art technology named GoodSAM. This provides the ability for those calling emergency services at trauma incidents to instantly share live video from their mobile device. Video could be particularly useful if a caller is finding it hard to describe the situation through stress, injury or language difficulties.

The study will examine if the technology works in different conditions, if the public are willing and able to adopt it, and if use causes psychological harm to callers or dispatchers.

“In major trauma incidents, quick decisions can save lives,” says Surrey’s Professor Richard Lyon MBE, who’s also Director of Research for Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex. “Receiving real-time video directly from 999 callers’ mobiles could allow emergency call centre staff to more rapidly and effectively assess whether to send a helicopter or a road ambulance and whether specialist resources are needed.”

AN APPOINTMENT WITH DR BALL

We welcomed much-loved alumnus and West End star Michael Ball back to campus – and he brought his mum, too!

Michael first paid a surprise visit to Guildford School of Acting (GSA), where he studied Drama and graduated in 1984. While there, he caught up with one of his favourite teachers, Ian Ricketts – who Michael said still looks the same as he did 40 years ago. Which went down well!



It wasn't entirely a social call, though. The acclaimed singer and actor was receiving his honorary doctorate at a graduation ceremony in Guildford Cathedral. Looking splendid in his robes, he was accompanied by his mum.

Michael joked: "Mum finally has a doctor in the family! She's almost as proud as I am." He added:



"My mum finally has a doctor in the family! She's almost as proud as I am."

Michael at GSA (left) and with his mum (above)

"I'm honoured to receive my doctorate. What a wonderful experience. Thank you so much."

He won't be spending too much time celebrating, though. He's just released his debut novel, *The Empire*, which is set around a North London music hall in the aftermath of World War One.

We reckon it will hit the right note with fans.



OUR PODCAST SERIES RETURNS!

Surrey Speaks, our podcast series that interviews the great and the good of the University, is back for its second run of programmes.

The first instalment is on Cultural Expansion in the Performing Arts Industry, and features Guildford School of Acting alumna and Hollywood star Ella Balinska. Other topics include people-centred artificial intelligence, quantum biology and physics, digital health and the future of apps.



Listen on: www.anchor.fm/university-of-surrey

THE FUTURE SAYS SURREY

A FUNDRAISING FIRST!

Surrey's always had its eyes firmly on the future. Now we've launched an ambitious global campaign to raise £60 million over the next three years for vital research and student scholarships.

Confetti cannons, a bright purple campaign bus, a dazzling performance by Guildford School of Acting students and the presence of royalty... All this and more marked the joyful launch of Surrey's next exciting new chapter in February.



HRH The Duke of Kent (top picture) helped us officially launch our campaign, which Professor Max Lu (above) introduced

The Future Says Surrey

More than 250 staff and many special guests, including our Chancellor, HRH The Duke of Kent, gathered in the marquee on Stag Hill for the unveiling of The Future Says Surrey. This major new philanthropic initiative will enable the University to continue transforming lives far into the future. The campaign – the first of its kind in Surrey's history – will see significant funds being injected over the next three years into four of our key focus areas: artificial intelligence (AI), health, sustainability and student support.

The £60 million target will enable Surrey to pioneer research that tackles the biggest challenges the world faces today –

such as shaping the ethics around AI, developing the next generation of solar energy capture, and improving the diagnosis and treatment for long-term conditions like cancer and dementia.



Our Chancellor at the launch

Transforming lives

Patrick Degg, our Vice-President (External Engagement), added: "Raising £60 million will turbo-charge our new People-Centred Institute for AI. It will bring into being the new Institute for Sustainability. It will help enable new research into the intersection between animal and human health to help prevent the next pandemic."

The money raised will also transform lives by giving students facing hardship a lifeline through bursaries, scholarships and employment opportunities. During the launch, guests learned what it means to receive philanthropic support through the experience of Anwar Mudh Hid, the first recipient of the Battersea Scholarship.

Speaking at the event, our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Max Lu, recalled how he'd benefited from such generosity: "As the grateful recipient of two scholarships myself, I can promise you such gifts change lives. They go on to create a ripple effect that will touch many thousands more people.

"By coming together, we can produce more life-changing graduates and research. We can create that bright future for everyone."



We're observing nature from space!

PUBLIC POWER MEETS SPACE TECHNOLOGY

A coalition involving the University has won £1.25 million from the People's Postcode Lottery for a project combining artificial intelligence (AI) with space technology.

The goal: to save endangered species.

The Space 4 Nature project, which sees the University teaming up with Surrey Wildlife Trust, demonstrates you don't need to be a scientist to play your part in protecting the future of our planet. Not only is the project being funded by members of the public thanks to the players of the People's Postcode Lottery. It will also recruit 1,500 volunteers to help monitor wildlife habitats in Surrey.



Our team collect a big cheque for a big project

THE FUTURE SAYS SURREY

Threats to wildlife

Funded by the Dream Fund, which empowers charities to deliver ambitious projects, Space 4 Nature will see Surrey's experts in Earth Observation use ultra-high-resolution images from space satellites and drones. This will combine with AI to monitor and improve natural habitats in the county.

The technology used is so accurate that the team can zoom in to an area less than half a metre square to identify habitats, spot where dangers and threats to wildlife species lie, and find solutions to protect nature.

A huge volume of data is needed to develop these AI learning systems, and this is where the public comes in. Volunteers will be trained in habitat, plant and insect identification, and the data they provide will enable detailed monitoring of biodiversity potential at sites across Surrey, ensuring the best decisions can be made to restore wildlife.

The long-term aim is to create at least 30 hectares of habitat for pollinators, and identify the best areas of the county to act as 'wildlife corridors' to support a variety of bees, butterflies and birds. Small mammals such as the hazel dormouse will also benefit.



We're protecting the hazel dormouse

Future-facing innovation

Sarah Jane Chimbwandira, Chief Executive of Surrey Wildlife Trust, explains: "Space 4 Nature will transform our ability to survey and assess land, allowing us to target conservation work so it can have the biggest impact on biodiversity.

"Coupling hi-tech solutions with 'boots on the ground' will allow us to monitor the impact of this habitat creation on individual species and apply successful interventions for these species elsewhere in Surrey and beyond."

Surrey's Professor Richard Murphy says: "This project represents a new, powerful innovation for nature's recovery. It will not only make an immediate contribution to improving the environment in the Surrey countryside, but it will also harness powerful new technological capabilities that can give future generations a solution to systemic problems that affect the whole planet."

"This project represents a new, powerful innovation for nature's recovery... It can give future generations a solution to huge problems that affect the whole planet."

Professor Richard Murphy

THE FUTURE SAYS SURREY

TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF DOCTORS

Our University enters a thrilling new chapter as it prepares to open the doors of its School of Medicine in 2024.

Surrey's built an exceptional reputation for training high-quality health professionals over the past four decades. Our nursing, midwifery, paramedic and veterinary medicine courses are all ranked in the top ten in the *Complete University Guide 2022*.

We're now delighted to begin our journey towards training medical doctors. In May, we announced we're partnering with the University of Exeter, which is renowned for the quality of its medical programme.

Together, we'll develop a new and innovative four-year graduate-entry bachelor's degree medical programme, which will welcome its first cohort of 40 students in September 2024.

Outstanding learning

The curriculum is designed to harness Surrey's strengths in research and teaching – such as our state-of-the-art clinical simulation facilities – to train highly skilled doctors, who'll help to lead future healthcare in a fast-evolving landscape.

Student doctors will benefit from an outstanding interprofessional learning experience in partnership with Surrey's strong network of regional NHS clinical placement providers.

The medical school is independent, which means many places will initially be for overseas students. But we're delighted to also be able to offer a small number of places to home students from under-represented groups. As the institution becomes more established, we'll aim to offer an increasing number of funded places to home students, giving a broader range of students access to a career in medicine.



The new school will build on our teaching and research strengths



We'll train the next generation of doctors



Ambition realised

Professor Paul Townsend (pictured right), Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, says: "At Surrey, we've long held an ambition to train doctors. I'm so proud that this plan is now coming to fruition."

"Our medical school will combine outstanding core teaching with the benefits of working alongside our multi-disciplinary research specialisms – for example, via our Institute for People-Centred Artificial Intelligence and 5G/6G Innovation Centre."

"We've long held an ambition to train doctors. I'm so proud this plan is coming to fruition."

Professor Paul Townsend



WHAT DOES A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY LOOK LIKE?

A gift of £755,000 from the Laudes Foundation will enable Surrey's environmental experts to engage with policymakers and business leaders to promote a climate-positive economy.

Professor Tim Jackson is the acclaimed Director of Surrey's Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP). He's long argued that our future economy needs to contribute to both human and planetary health if we are all to prosper and thrive within the limits of a finite planet.

"We must go beyond economics to understand what prosperity is and how we can live well in a world without economic growth," he explains.

£755,000 award

This vision had strong appeal for the Laudes Foundation, a philanthropic Netherlands-based organisation with a focus on the dual crises of inequality and climate change.

Following two smaller grants, in June the Foundation announced that it would be giving CUSP a generous award of £755,000. Unusually, rather than being awarded for a specific project, this funding will cover the Centre's core research costs for three years – and will support with developing CUSP's advocacy with policymakers and business leaders. One use of the funding will be to hire an advocacy manager who'll focus on getting CUSP's research out through high-level event briefings and meetings with MPs/MEPs and CEOs in the UK and Europe.

Deepen our research

Kelly Clark, the Director of Finance and Capital Market Transformation at Laudes Foundation, comments: "The experts at CUSP have a proven track record of conducting impactful research which moves us to a better world. Although they've already used that research to shape policy, we want to help them step up that advocacy work to drive change which responds to the dual issues of inequality and climate crisis."

Professor Jackson says: "Thanks to this funding, we can deepen our research and grow our reputation with policymakers and business leaders. Our contribution to this shared endeavour is our in-depth academic research and our ability to address not only the economic aspects, but also the social, psychological and moral dimensions of the challenge."

*Professor Tim Jackson
at the 2021 UN Climate
Change Conference*



What will CUSP research?

- Understanding the 'nature of flourishing' – how can we prosper in a way that's healthy for people and the planet?
- The care economy – what does a post-pandemic economy look like?
- Changing places – how can we upscale successful change initiatives across society?

For more information, visit: cusp.ac.uk

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IN THE PICTURE

GRAD SPORT 2022

In May, hundreds of graduates returned to Guildford to take on the current crop of students in a bid for Surrey Sports Park greatness.

BLOOD, SWEAT...



The old and the new guard scrummed for supremacy on the rugby pitch

The American Football teams got to grips on the gridiron



The Graduate Football Team looked relaxed and ready



Sublime stick-wielding skills graced the hockey pitch



IN THE PICTURE

It wasn't strictly all sporting competition as the dance event added sparkle



A portrait of concentration from the netball match



Our martial arts teams looked remarkably relaxed before battle commenced



...AND CHEERS!



Team Surrey cheered good results, but Team Alumni became Grad Sport 2022 Champions!



Our giant Connect Four provided fun for many attendees



For many people, Grad Sport was simply a chance to catch up with old friends

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SCHOLARSHIPS

CREATING A LASTING LEGACY

We've delivered educational access for all since our days as Battersea Polytechnic in 1891. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, our latest scholarship schemes continue that proud tradition.

Launched in February 2021 to support students estranged from their families, the Battersea Fund appeal raised an amazing £100,000 in less than one year.

And it's not finished yet.

Thanks to our brilliant and benevolent Battersea alumni, we can now fund at least seven more scholarships. These will help students by providing additional financial and pastoral aid. And that's in addition to supporting Business Management undergraduate Anwar Mudh Hid, who became our first Battersea Scholar in October 2021.

Rollercoaster

"The year's been a rollercoaster ride, but I'm grateful for all the opportunities that came my way," says Anwar. "One massive highlight was sharing a table with Bollywood mega-star Suniel Shetty at a big

University event. He was there with some of London's most renowned businessmen.

"Their conversation really encouraged me. They inspired me to keep doing what I was already doing and to go above and beyond."

Honour in giving

Anwar continues: "Without the Battersea Scholarship, I wouldn't have had this and several other opportunities. I want to express my sincere gratitude to the people who donated to this Fund to ensure I received this support.

"There's honour in giving. As Abraham Lincoln said: 'To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own.' The impact on my life has already been phenomenal."

Anwar also says he's looking forward to meeting the 2022

Battersea Scholar and helping support them on their journey.

Battersea's next generation

Mike Banfield, who left Battersea with a Chemical Engineering degree in 1958 and was instrumental in setting up the initiative, says:

"To know the inclusive spirit of Battersea will be commemorated through these scholarships for many, many years to come is a fitting memorial."

Daniel Lawrence, our Regular Giving and Legacy Manager who worked alongside Mike to establish the Fund, adds: "The legacy of Battersea as a forward-thinking and inclusive institution will live on through these scholars as they make an impact on the world.

"The ripples they create will influence other people and extend well into the next century – and maybe even beyond that.

"The far-reaching legacy of Battersea lives on!"



"The year's been a rollercoaster ride, but I'm grateful for all the opportunities that came my way."

Anwar Mudh Hid

For more information, visit www.surrey.ac.uk/alumni/giving/donate-battersea-scholarship

Anwar
(left) with
Mike Banfield

OPENING THE DOOR FOR CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS AT SURREY

Earlier this year, we launched the Forever Surrey Scholarship. We also spoke to Surrey graduate Lucy Barnes about why supporting care-experienced students is such a worthy cause.

'Care-experienced' is a broad term and it can include those who've lived with foster families, been in kinship care or in residential children's homes. However it's defined, the statistics speak for themselves. Only 11.8% of care leavers under the age of 23 enter higher education, compared to 41.3% of all young people.



*Troubled:
Lucy aged 13*

Homeless at 13

Law student Lucy Barnes graduated from Surrey in 2018. But understanding litigation wasn't the only issue she faced. Growing up in poverty, she had a difficult childhood and was made homeless aged 13.

"At the time, the social worker nearly put me into local authority care," says Lucy. "But I was privately fostered. This led to a turbulent and painful situation.

"I was lost for most of my teenage years. I felt like an alien for not having a family or a place to call home. It was difficult to focus on a career when I had such chaos around me. I battled mental health problems, and, quite simply, I felt like I wasn't loved or wanted by anyone."

Harsh reality

Despite this, Lucy was the first in her family to achieve GCSEs. Then she attained the A level grades to secure her place at Surrey.

"The University changed my life," she reveals. "It was the closest I'd felt to the concept of a home. I made friends for life."

But Lucy still faced challenges.

She continues: "I struggled to fund my studies. Even with my bursary and savings, I worked two part-time jobs alongside my course and extra-curricular activities.

"This was a huge challenge to me. Homelessness was a real and genuine fear. I had no family or home to return to if I couldn't afford my living costs."

Lucy says this remains a harsh reality for many care leavers.

Helping others

Since graduating, Lucy's become a barrister-at-law, obtained a Masters of Law and grown a niche business. She's also an outspoken advocate for care-leavers in the legal industry and beyond.

And she's just become a mum.

Despite her success, Lucy recognises the difference a scholarship for those in care would have had for her.

"It would have made a huge difference for me," she says. "I wouldn't have had to hold down two part-time jobs just to be in an equal position to everyone else financially. Beyond that, it would have enabled me to be proud of my heritage and speak out to help others sooner."

Life-changing

Lucy adds: "I'd encourage people to support the Forever Surrey Scholarship. It will change someone's life for the better. Care leavers deserve to be seen for their talents. They're some of the most resilient individuals on the planet and they're often not able to speak out because of the stigma of their background.

"Scholarships demonstrate compassion and help dissolve stigmas. Once care-leavers can find their voice, there's no limit to what they can achieve."



*Successful:
Lucy at work
as a barrister*

For more information, visit www.surrey.ac.uk/alumni/giving/forever-surrey-scholarship



SURREYCONNECTS

The online place for alumni and student networking and mentoring



"Helping people find their career and passion..."

"It wasn't all that long ago I was finishing university at Surrey and wondering what was next. I was able to find my career and passion. Now I enjoy helping others do the same – and start a career that means they want to go into work each day."

Lindsey Roles

BSc Psychology graduate (2012) and SurreyConnects mentor

"Breaking into the industry..."

"I had two mentors on SurreyConnects. One was a senior data scientist with more than 10 years of experience and the other was a younger data scientist. One set of experiences widened my perspective of the sector and the other's tips helped me find a way to break into the industry at JPMorgan Chase."

Harsha Danda

MSc Data Science graduate (2023) and SurreyConnects champion



"Securing important sector knowledge..."

"Schemes like SurreyConnects are important because they allow graduates to secure important industry knowledge. It can be daunting for students to reach out to a stranger they don't know. But they shouldn't be afraid. This type of network-building is important if you're investigating career options."

Andy Josolyne

MBA graduate (1996) and SurreyConnects mentor

Join today

surreyconnects.co.uk



"TAKE YOUR CHANCE TO SHINE!"

Jewel Okwechime, who studied in our Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, has advised BP, Shell and ExxonMobil – and she's more than happy to mentor students on SurreyConnects, too.

Global environment leader Jewel's had a glittering career – and it's far from over yet. But it's not been an easy journey.

Underdog

"I didn't get good grades at A level," says the Londoner. "Luckily, the University of Surrey were trialling foundation year programmes in 1996 and they offered me a place.

"I felt like an underdog, but I took the chance to prove myself and I gave my foundation year 100 per cent. I got good grades and Surrey offered me a three-year course in Chemical Engineering and Bioprocessing, plus a year in industry.

"I'll always be grateful they gave me a chance when nobody else would. I also remember spending a fortune in £1 coins in a phone box to keep in touch with my parents in Nigeria!"

Once at the University proper, Jewel thrived. She then spent her professional training year in America.

Company launch

Jewel returned to Guildford to complete her MEng. She then landed her first job in 2001.

She worked at Schlumberger in America for six months, before leaving to start her own company, J&R Environmental Services.



Jewel Okwechime

"We exist to help energy and manufacturing companies control their pollution outputs by enhancing and introducing new systems," says Jewel. "I worked all over the UK as a Senior Environmental Advisor. I was also employed in that role at ExxonMobil and BP, and I got a job working at the largest energy facility in Australia. That was a culture shock. I was the only international black woman in the company."

Jewel was then head-hunted by a billionaire in Nigeria as his technical advisor. More networking and investment roles followed.

She's now on the boards of a bank, a financial institution, an investment house, an art company and media organisations in Nigeria. And just in case you think she's not quite busy enough, she advises start-ups as well.

Making connections

Jewel says she's currently building her wealth so she can help those closest to her – and many others.

"I'm part of a foundation called Billion Strong," she adds. "It acts as

a global voice to generate funding and empower people with disabilities.

"I want to help other women succeed in their careers, too."

Part of this desire saw Jewel sign up to SurreyConnects, the University's exclusive mentoring and networking platform.

She explains: "I started mentoring a young woman. She let me know she had an interview and she wanted me to give her some advice. She later contacted me to say she got the job and to thank me for my help.

"Being able to have a positive impact on someone's life like that gave me goosebumps. She reminded me of myself when I was at Surrey. She was a bit shy and introverted, but she took her chance to shine."

Which sums up Jewel pretty perfectly, too.

Find a mentor and get careers advice by joining SurreyConnects today at surreyconnects.co.uk

NURSING

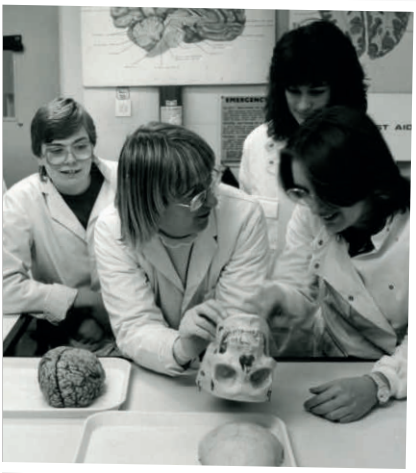


NURTURING OUR NATION'S NURSES

In 1982, our first nursing degree students graduated. Since then, our School of Health Sciences has launched the careers of 6,600 nurses and seen huge changes.



Training at Surrey has changed a lot since 1978



Surrey students got 'a head' in their education

When Marianne Wallis and her cohort embarked on a degree in Nursing Studies at Surrey in 1978, they were among the first in the UK to do so. Nurses had traditionally learned 'on the job'. But there was now a need for more academically educated nurses, and Surrey was one of a handful of universities to pioneer the UK's first nursing degrees

Trailblazers

"Our lecturers instilled in us a sense that we were the beginning of a new era," says Marianne. "They were right. We were at the forefront of massive technological change in healthcare, the introduction of evidence-based care and huge advances in pharmacology."

Three of Marianne's trailblazing cohort of 14 graduates became professors, while others went on to run world-leading health services. These included Alan White, who became the first professor of men's health in 2004, and Helen Glenister, who as Deputy CEO of the National Patient Safety Agency introduced safer practice solutions that are now embedded in the health service.

Alan remembers: "Our cohort became a close group of friends very quickly. It was quite a wild ride, a combination of intense academic work and socialising – made even better by living on campus. When I look at my career, everything

I've done always comes back to Surrey – and I wouldn't change a thing."

Celebration

In September – 40 years after they graduated – the Class of 1982 came together in Guildford with current final-year students and staff for a special celebration at the University.

It was a fantastic chance to reminisce and to reflect on how far nursing at Surrey has come since those days.

There have been many milestones along the way – such as the introduction of three pathways for Adult, Child and Mental Health nursing; a huge expansion in student numbers; and the relocation of nursing studies first to the Duke of Kent building, then to the multi-million-pound Kate Granger building on Manor Park.

The opening of Kate Granger in 2019 heralded a new era of study. This houses a Clinical Simulation Suite, which uses trained actors and realistic 'manikins', two eight-bed Nightingale wards and a community flat. The state-of-the-art facility enables students to experience a huge range of real-life clinical scenarios.

Clinical placements are also integral to our nursing degrees, and students at Surrey benefit from strong partnerships with NHS trusts across Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, and specialist hospitals such as Great Ormond Street.

NURSING AT SURREY TIMELINE

1978

Surrey launches its BSc Nursing Studies degree

1982

First cohort graduates from Surrey

1986

Government launches Project 2000, a step towards academically focused nursing training

1991

Surrey establishes Department of Nursing and Midwifery

1995

Launch of Surrey's European Institute of Health and Medical Sciences

1996

Adult, child and mental health courses introduced

1998

Centre for Research in Nursing and Midwifery Education opens

2000

Duke of Kent building housing School of Health Sciences unveiled

2012

UK moves fully to degree-only training for nurses

2019

Nursing moves to new multi-million-pound Kate Granger building at Manor Park

2022

Surrey celebrates 40 years of nurturing the nation's nurses

Unique experience

Amy Dopson, Head of Department: Education (CPD), explains what she sees as our unique selling point.

"We're different because we offer a truly integrated professional environment," she comments. "Right from the first week, there's a brilliant ethos of working with other healthcare professionals, such as paramedics and midwives, and understanding their roles.

"This is crucial because when mistakes happen in healthcare, it's usually down to professionals not working well together."

While nursing at Surrey has

evolved in tandem with the rapid advances in technology and modern healthcare practice, the founding principle of the course is the same: to produce excellent graduates who deliver

the highest quality of nursing.



Amy Dopson teaching

Current final-year student Joshua Edwards is President of our Nursing Society.

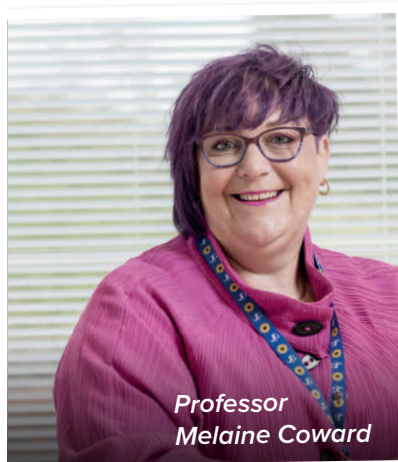
"When I graduate, I've been offered a position in the Acute Medical Unit at Frimley Park Hospital, which is a dream come true," he says. "Surrey's helped me become someone I'm proud of, and it's all thanks to the support of the School of Health Sciences and my fellow student nurses."

Leap of faith

Professor Melaine Coward, Head of the School of Health Sciences and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, adds: "I'm beyond proud of everything the Class of 1982 has achieved.

"Their contribution to the healthcare sector is immense. They blazed a trail for the thousands of nurses that followed.

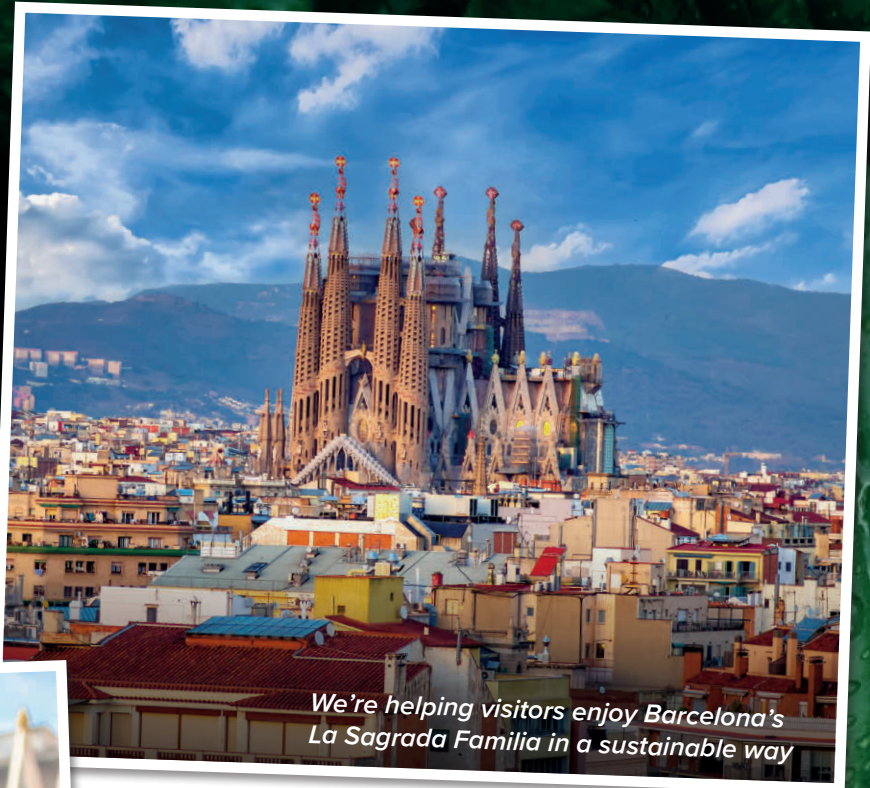
"These students took a leap of faith in coming to Surrey. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to build the successful school we have today."



Professor Melaine Coward

SUSTAINABILITY AT SURREY

With COP27 grabbing headlines, we catch up with three recent Surrey projects supporting sustainability across the globe.



We're helping visitors enjoy Barcelona's La Sagrada Familia in a sustainable way



We're supporting eco-conscious tourism

"For the tourism industry, it was a wake-up call that confirmed much needs to be done to ensure sustainable practices are at the foundation of the industry."

Jose Francisco Melenez Roman

BOOSTING TOURISM IN BARCELONA

The University is helping Barcelona City Council future-proof its tourism industry.

It's doing this by helping innovate sustainability

practices and policies as the home of La Sagrada Familia recovers from the pandemic.

Key role

"The pandemic was a terrible time for many people around the world," says Jose Francisco Melenez Roman, project lead and PhD student at Surrey. "For the tourism industry, it was a wake-up call that confirmed much needs to be done to ensure sustainable practices are at the

foundation of the industry.

"Through hundreds of hours of collaborative work with stakeholders from the civil, private and public sectors, we've empowered city stakeholders to design agile and innovative tourism solutions to build a more resilient future. We hope these play a key role in building Barcelona's capacity to address tourism sustainability issues collectively in more innovative ways."

Progress

Surrey researchers have helped to design several projects looking at enhancing sustainability business skills and civic pride. These will progressively establish sustainability requirements within Barcelona's tourism sector, and incentivise the use of sustainability indicators to inform tourism policy and business decisions.

The team from Surrey also helped design a project to help small companies in Barcelona develop their voice in tourism decision-making across the city.

IMPROVING ANTI-MALARIA MEDICINE

The British Heart Foundation is funding a University study investigating the implications of anti-malaria medicines on cardiac rhythm.

Devastating

"Malaria is still one of the most devastating and widespread infections in the world – and it's an infection that disproportionately affects people from the most disadvantaged countries," explains Professor Kamalan Jeevaratnam, the project lead on the three-year study from our School of Veterinary Medicine.

"Our previous work suggests that drugs to treat malaria, either individually or when used in combination, increase the risk of heart rhythm disturbance through multiple mechanisms. We must delve deeper into this issue and determine whether these side effects can be countered."

Eradicating malaria

Surrey's project will address cardiac safety in novel anti-malarial agents whose development is central to the global challenge of both managing – and eventually eradicating – the disease. The study will be pivotal in producing novel, precise and reliable cardiac safety principles, and in assessing underlying risk for rhythm disturbances. Its outcomes will be relevant not only for anti-malarials, but could be applicable to drug repurposing and development for other diseases in the future.



We're fighting malaria alongside the British Heart Foundation



Kitchen air pollution is a hot topic at GCARE

FIGHTING INDOOR AIR POLLUTION

Developing countries should focus on keeping unnecessary occupants, such as children, out of kitchens during cooking to help reduce their exposure to dangerous levels of air pollution.

This is the recommendation from researchers at our acclaimed Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE).

Action needed

The same work also highlighted the benefits of using cleaner fuels and electric appliances to help reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels within a kitchen.

"We appreciate some recommendations may be unfeasible for low-income households," says Professor Prashant Kumar, lead author and the Founding Director of GCARE. "But we felt it critical to arm people with the knowledge and awareness to encourage governments and aid organisations to directly support more sustainable and higher impact interventions."

"As a result, we hope that decision-makers in many of these countries will begin the foundational work of promoting cleaner fuels for cooking and safer habits within kitchens."

Harmful CO₂

The study is the first to monitor 60 low-income kitchens across Asia, South America, the Middle East and Africa for CO₂ exposure, ventilation and thermal comfort.

The GCARE researchers and their partners found that kitchens that regularly had more than two people present during cooking sessions exhibited higher CO₂ levels.

The team also found that cooking resulted in an average increase of 22 per cent in CO₂ levels across the 60 homes.

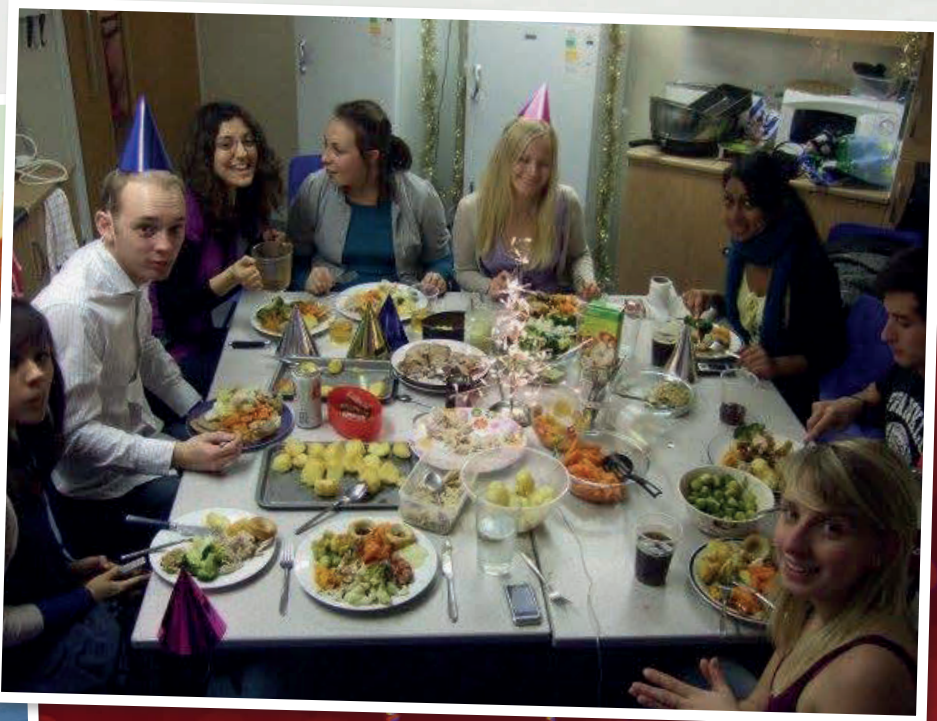
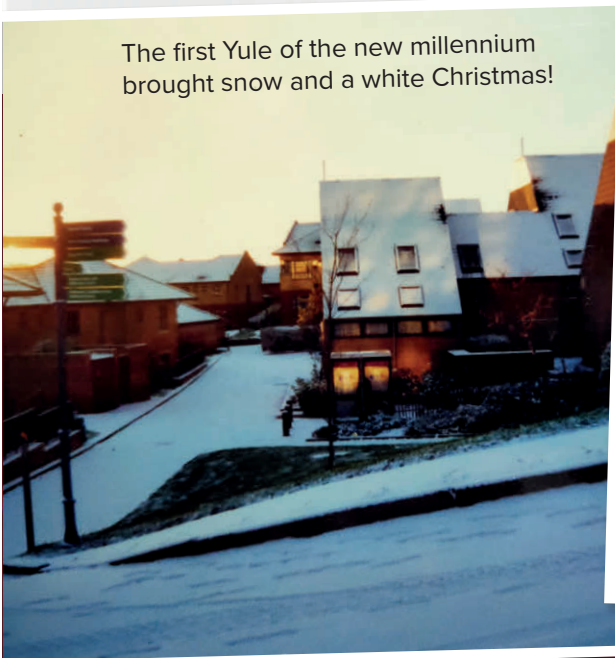
DO YOU REMEMBER?



CHRISTMAS AT SURREY

With the festive season around the corner, we remember past Yuletides on Stag Hill campus...

The first Yule of the new millennium brought snow and a white Christmas!



Harry Holkham shared this glimpse into his Manor Park flat's festive feast from 2009. Looks like it was a cracker of a spread!

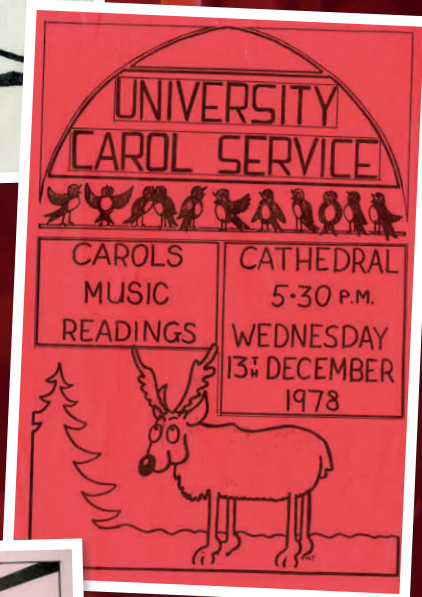


In 1979, our Chancellor, HRH The Duke of Kent, sent students dashing through the campus snow on a cross-country race

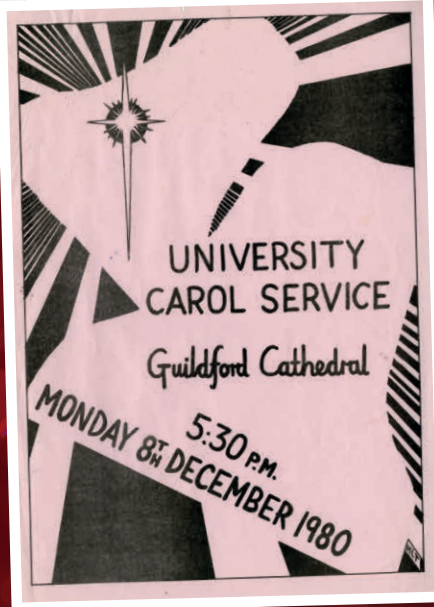


Our annual carol service was a big draw for students who remained on campus for the holidays in 1972

In 1978, we wanted to hire a famous artist to draw Rudolph and a chum. But the price was 'two deer'...



The 1980 service brochure featured jingling bells and a star. The Xmas No.1 that year was St Winifred's School Choir singing *There's No-one Quite Like Grandma*. It was clearly a classic Yuletide all round!



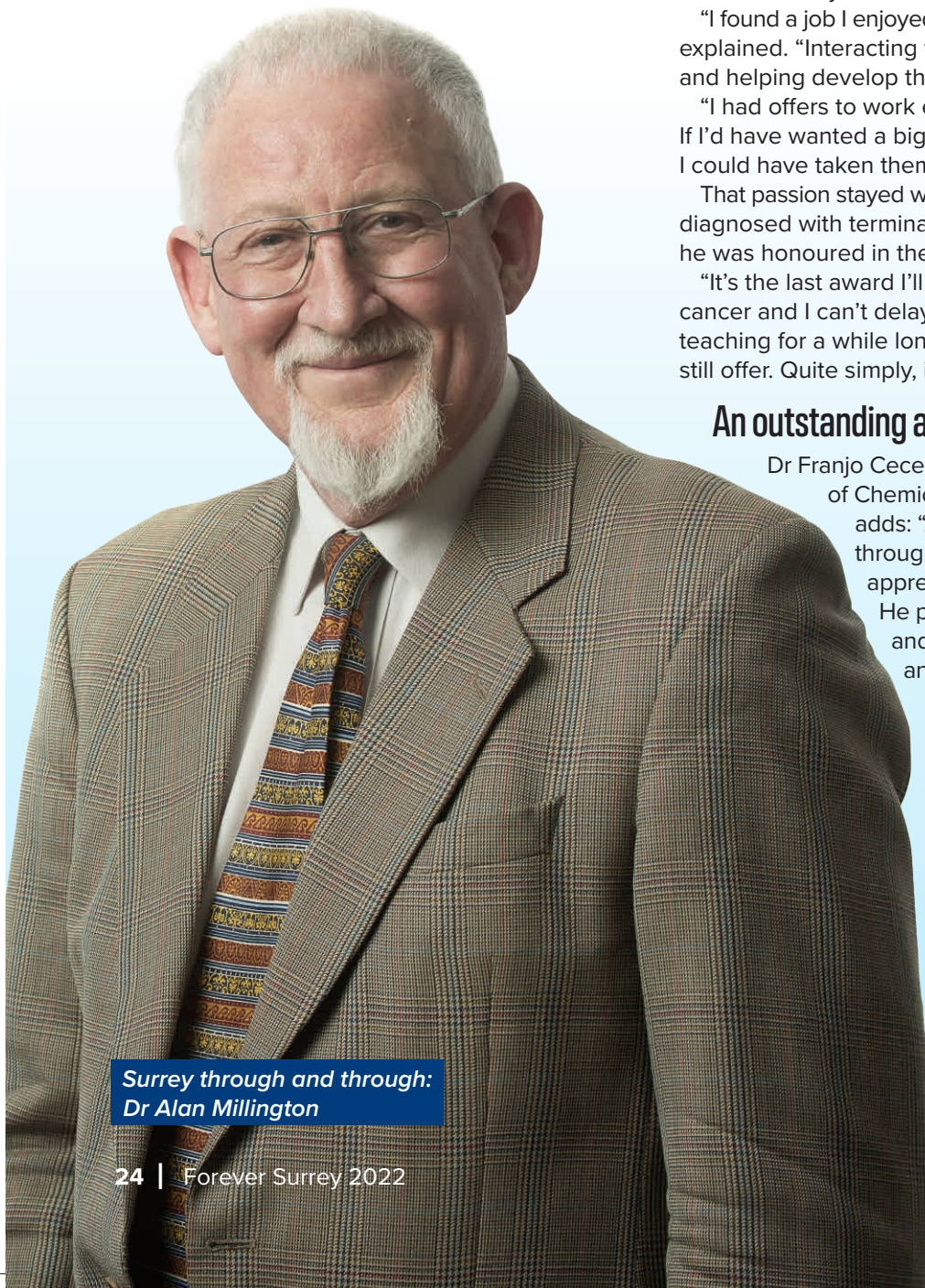
Students and staff took part in the 2019 Santa Moves charity run, which involved a 2km jog through campus dressed as Father Christmas

IN OUR THOUGHTS

"AN EXCELLENT COLLEAGUE AND AN OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC!"

Dr Alan Millington, who passed away earlier this year, started his long association with Surrey in 1962 when he studied for a BSc in Chemical Engineering at Battersea College of Technology.

In 1968, he came to Guildford to take a role as a part-time lecturer and complete his PhD. This was the period when Battersea College was gradually transferring to Guildford and becoming the new University of Surrey.



**Surrey through and through:
Dr Alan Millington**

Guildford campus pioneer

"I remember turning up to my office in the AC Building on my first day," revealed Alan when we interviewed him last year. "The campus consisted of Senate House, the Senate House Restaurant, buildings AA, AB and AC, the Lecture Theatre Block and Battersea Court. The rest was a building site.

"My office consisted of a telephone, a chair and a tea chest with a plank across it to act as a desk.

"On the plus side, the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Peter Leggett, insisted we were all fed well if we had to tolerate working in those conditions. He set up a catering marquee where buildings BB and BC now are. The surroundings were spartan but the food was splendid."

"Teaching is what I wanted to do"

And some 53 years later, Alan was still at Surrey.

"I found a job I enjoyed in an environment I liked," he explained. "Interacting with bright and inquisitive minds and helping develop those is the best job in the world.

"I had offers to work elsewhere and return to industry. If I'd have wanted a bigger house and more responsibility, I could have taken them. But teaching's what I wanted to do."

That passion stayed with Alan, even when he was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He spoke about this when he was honoured in the Vice-Chancellor's Awards last year.

"It's the last award I'll receive," he said. "I have terminal cancer and I can't delay the inevitable. But I hope to keep teaching for a while longer. That's something useful I can still offer. Quite simply, it's what I do and it's what I love."

An outstanding academic

Dr Franjo Cecelja, Head of the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, adds: "Alan was Surrey through and through, hugely respected, and hugely appreciated by staff and students alike. He presented a friendly face in a crisis, and he was a highly regarded teacher and administrator.

"Among his many contributions, he established the Multi-Disciplinary Design Project at undergraduate level. This unites all the engineering departments and is still a flagship activity of our programmes.

"Quite simply, he was a great friend, trusted, and an excellent colleague and an outstanding academic. Rest in peace, Alan."

**"Alan was hugely respected,
and hugely appreciated by
staff and students alike."**

Dr Franjo Cecelja

STUDENT LIFE AT BATTERSEA DURING WORLD WAR TWO



Harold and friends in 1941

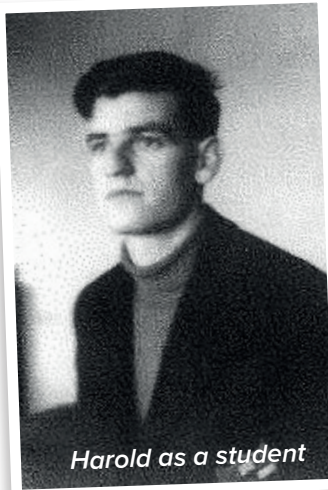
WORLD WAR TWO

Air raids devastated many parts of London



Battersea Polytechnic was the forerunner institution to the University of Surrey. Engineering alumnus Harold Rowling MBE – who celebrated his 100th birthday in February this year – tells us about student life there during the Second World War, his service in the jungles of Burma and his career afterwards...

Tell us about student life during World War Two...



Harold as a student

During 1941, there was a daily apprehension of invasion by the German Army. Life was further dominated by nightly air raids. After the final lecture of the day, most students hurried away from Battersea to the relative safety of their suburban homes.

I was in lodgings a short bus ride away from the Polytechnic. I had severe claustrophobia, so I couldn't enter the air-raid shelter. The benefit of this was I had more time to study. But I was young and wartime conditions were just part of life.

What else do you recall about your undergraduate years?

My engineering studies were dominated by the work required to complete the course in two years instead of the normal three. If you failed the end-of-term exam, you had to leave and you'd be in a khaki uniform within three weeks.

At the time, I felt guilty about being able to study while most men of my age were in uniform. Of the 30 boys in my form at school, only 15 were alive when hostilities ended in 1945.

Can you tell us about your military service?

A few weeks after my finals, I became a commissioned officer in the RAF, receiving further training as an engineer officer.

Did you see service overseas?

I was posted to India as part of the build-up for the onslaught on the Japanese army in the jungles of Burma. I was put in charge of towed gliders. Each carried 20 soldiers into clearances in the jungle behind enemy lines. Little engineering knowledge was required for this – just skilled carpentry.

The real enemy wasn't the Japanese, but the voracious tropical termites. The casein glue that fixed the wings to the fuselage was manna from Heaven for them. The attachment would rarely last longer than 48 hours before the wings fell off.

The atomic bomb brought the conflict to an abrupt end.

What did you do after World War Two?

I enjoyed a lifetime of work in engineering research and development, with occasional diversions into other fields. Examples of my work are in the Science Museum in London. My young daughter memorably told her fellow pupils that: "Daddy's in a museum!"

I also wrote a paper for the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. For this, I was awarded the Thomas Hawksley Gold Medal, the Institution's highest award.

I've had a satisfying working life. And it all started at Battersea in the dark days of 1941.

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ALUMNI AWARDS



"THIS AWARD IS FOR YOU, GRANDMA!"

The touching tribute given by Dr Shabnum Sarfraz (pictured left) was one highlight when three amazing women received their 2021 Vice-Chancellor's Alumni Awards from Professor Max Lu.

Our Surrey Showcase Live event in June saw the presentation of our annual accolades celebrating Surrey graduates who've made significant contributions to society.

Dr Shabnum Sarfraz, our Alumna of the Year, and Sarah de Carvalho MBE, the recipient of our Outstanding Contribution to Society accolade, attended the ceremony in person. Sadly, filming commitments meant actor Ella Balinska, our Young Achiever of the Year, had to join the assembled audience by satellite link from America.

And it was a moving celebration as the three women talked about their careers, experiences and achievements.



Sarah, Max and Shabnum at the ceremony

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Dr Shabnum Sarfraz

Shabnum left Surrey in 1995 with an MBA degree in one hand and her two-week-old daughter in the other. Since then, she's been on what she describes as "an incredible journey".

"My MBA was instrumental in helping me climb the career ladder, occupying prestigious positions and doing work I truly connected with," says Shabnum.

Shabnum has primarily worked on program and policy reforms to improve public health and human development. Following graduation, she pursued and carved a stellar career in international development organisations and non-governmental organisations.

"In 2016, I was invited to lead the Government of Pakistan's largest public health management authority reform," she continues. "I head the complete national social sector portfolio. This includes health, population, education, human rights, gender, youth and SDGs. I sit in the Federal Ministry of Planning and Development, which is headed by the Prime Minister. I lead state delegations for Pakistan on global/regional platforms."

Shabnum saw Covid-19-related challenges as an opportunity for innovation. She says: "The limelight the



social sector received post-pandemic helped me in advocating for, developing and approving policies for a more equal and resilient Pakistan.

"In 2021, for example, I raised the National Health budgets by an unprecedented 410 per cent."

Much of Shabnum's personal and professional journey has been about changing accepted narratives.

"You're the hero of your own story," she says. "It is mostly within your power to make it a productive and fulfilling one! Winning the award was a moment I'll cherish, for the generations before me and after."

"My grandmother, Bakht Bano, was raised in a village with no school for girls. She did everything to ensure her daughters achieved higher education. It was her unbreakable spirit which took her two daughters, three grand-daughters and five great-grand-daughters to premier universities in this part of the world.

"This award is for you Grandma!"



VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ALUMNI AWARDS

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

Sarah de Carvalho MBE

"I was working as a TV producer and, in 1993, I heard about street children in Brazil being murdered," reveals Sarah. "I thought I'd go for a month and see what I could do. I stayed and set up the charity, Happy Child International, to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate poor kids who were living on the streets."

In 2012, Sarah studied for an MBA at Surrey. This helped her forge skills for her next project, which was triggered by two chance meetings.

She explains: "In Brazil, I met a girl called Rose. When she was 11, she was sent to the streets to beg for food. Caught up in trafficking, she was sold for the next five years. She told me her 'clients' came from all over the world.

"Back in the UK, I had a meeting with the Metropolitan Police. They were trying to catch potential sex offenders in the run-up to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. They said if we could raise awareness about how countries could prosecute citizens for the abuse of children in other nations, we could prevent up to 95% of these crimes.

"That's how It's a Penalty kicked off.

"In a nutshell, we harness the power of major sporting occasions to stop human trafficking, exploitation and

abuse globally by staging events to raise awareness.

"We've run campaigns at the last five Super Bowls, the 2018 and 2022 Commonwealth Games, the 2014 Football World Cup, the Olympics and Paralympics in 2016 and 2020, and the 2020 European Football Championship. We're hoping to run one during the World Cup in Qatar, too."

Sarah says winning the award was a lovely moment.

"When I got the email telling me I'd won, it made my day," she reveals. "It's always nice to be recognised.

"Human trafficking is the fastest-growing illegal business in the world. It's a Penalty want to combat this.

"And, in case you're curious, I couldn't recommend this type of work enough. Be a change-maker.

"We need change-makers to make society better."

YOUNG ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

Ella Balinska

"Acting was always an extracurricular school activity for me," reveals Ella, who studied at Guildford School of Acting (GSA) and graduated in 2020. "Then I watched Zoe Saldana in *Avatar*. I thought, 'I'd love to be on a film set doing all the things to help make this happen!'"

Ella says she was similarly smitten when visiting GSA.

"I came for an open day," she adds. "I was impressed by the family environment in this conservatoire setting in the middle of a diverse and multi-cultural campus.

"I'd study Monday to Friday. On weekends, I'd work in Selfridges and I'd attend auditions on my lunch breaks. I landed roles in *Midsomer Murders* and *Casualty*. A pilot I shot, *The Athena*, was picked up by Sky."

Ella took a leave of absence from her course to fulfil this and another exciting work commitment.

She continues: "I shot *The Athena* for six months. Filming finished on 24 August. On 26 August, I flew to Germany to shoot the big-screen reboot of *Charlie's Angels*. Since then, I've shot a movie called *Run Sweetheart Run* and the Netflix series, *Resident Evil*.

"There's more stuff, but I can't tell you about it yet!"

Something Ella can discuss is the scholarships she set up.

"As the world slowed down during Covid-19, my work rate increased because I had to finish my degree remotely," she adds. "During that time, the Black Lives Matter movement was at its peak. That provided the focus for my dissertation.

"I also wanted to explore how the University and GSA could be made more of an ally within the entire movement. That's why the Ella Balinska Scholarship celebrates talent from diverse backgrounds. It's about giving opportunities for cultural expansion within the industry."

Ella's not just focusing on acting at the moment either.

She adds: "I'm also moving into the producing space. I hope I'll be able to cast my equally skilled acting friends."

Speaking of her award, Ella reveals: "I was touched to be selected. I hope the attention it brings me also highlights all the other talented people from Surrey who do amazing things."



OUR ROYAL APPOINTMENTS

REMEMBERING HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II AT SURREY



HM The Queen's visit in March 1992

During her 70-year reign, HM The Queen was a much-respected symbol of stability as the UK and the world experienced enormous social, political and technological change.

Staff and students at our University had the chance to meet our monarch on the three separate occasions that she visited our campus.

Her first visit came in March 1992. This was to celebrate the centenary of the foundation of our forerunner institution, Battersea Polytechnic. Accompanied by our Chancellor, HRH The Duke of Kent, she also launched our Centre for Satellite Engineering, which later became our acclaimed Surrey Space Centre.

Her next visit was in December 1998. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was by her side and she presented Professor Sir Martin Sweeting with The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for his pioneering work on small satellites.

Her final visit came in October 2015 when she officially opened our School of Veterinary Medicine. Again accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, she met staff and students during a truly memorable day.



HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1998



At our Vet School in 2015

"SPORTS CAN UNITE COMMUNITIES AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS!"

Entrepreneur Alberto Verme Jr graduated from Surrey Business School with a BSc (Hons) in Business Management in 2018. He's now running AAVL, his own boutique family office focusing on the entertainment and sports industries.

Did you always want to be an entrepreneur?

I knew I wasn't best suited for a nine-to-five role. I also had a desire to run an organisation based on the values I'd learnt at home. Hard work and integrity are two key principles I learnt from my family. My father came from humble beginnings in Peru and he worked as a janitor to put himself through university. My mother made a similar journey.

What was your favourite part of the course?

It sounds clichéd, but it was everything. I still remember my walks from Guildford School of Acting with my coffee to my 9am lectures, always with a huge smile on my face. I arrived at Surrey a boy with ideas, confidence and charisma. I left laser-focused, mature and with more tools to help me succeed.

You founded AAVL in 2019. Can you tell us about that?

AAVL stands for authenticity, ambition, values and loyalty. We focus on three main areas – management of sporting talent, commercial and branding opportunities, and angel investing in high-growth potential start-ups in the sports field. We're not interested in making quick money. We take a holistic approach that looks at long-term relationships, development and growth.

Can you tell us what this involves?

I recently had a meeting with a brother and sister who are elite-level footballers. Their dad's also a famous coach. We could easily market them to attract plenty of short-term

sponsorship. But we want to take the time to tell the human story of this family as that best represents them and their values. We've seen with players such as Marcus Rashford how sports people can inhabit the geo-political space and make a positive contribution to society. My clients recognise they're also spokespeople for their communities and they're keen to use their positions to do greater good.

How do you find your clients?

When we started, we approached people we wanted to represent. Our reputation for honesty means we now have people contacting us.

How did you get into sports management?

I worked at Chelsea Football Club from a young age. I was fascinated by the whole process of scouting. I then worked at Manchester City. Seeing how a group such as City Football Group, which owns Man City and 11 other clubs around the world, operates was fascinating. CFG offer a best-in-practice model for similar organisations.

What would success look like for AAVL?

Sports is essentially a language. It can break down social barriers, bring together communities and inspire future generations. The aim of AAVL is to build a sustainable business that does ethical work and adds value to our portfolio of clients. For example, the growth of women's football provides a huge area to develop the business. It will allow exploration into the failings of the men's game and the lessons learnt. This will offer the possibility to create a more sustainable and ethically driven business model, providing future longevity for the women's game.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

SURREY AROUND THE WORLD

Our alumni team is back on the road and meeting up with former students at national and international networking events.

London calling

At Sea Containers in London, former students caught up with Surrey Business School staff, including Professor Annabelle Gawer and Dr Carla Bonina, who presented their latest findings from our Centre of Digital Economy. A virtual reality (VR) experience offering insights into how companies operate also demonstrated how this technology will educate future business leaders.



*Surrey academics
Annabelle and Carla*



*Some of our guests with
St Paul's in the background*



Our alumni in Dubai enjoyed a fun night

Destination Dubai

Our informal get-together at The Hyde Hotel Dubai saw graduates in the region catch up with each other. But one guest had an even more impressive journey.

That was Emile Jouzy, who graduated in Hotel Management from Battersea College of Technology – the forerunner institution to the University – in 1961. Emile also ran into another Surrey alumna, who recognised him as a close friend of her father. Small world!



*We were delighted
to welcome Emile*

Good morning Malaysia

At the W Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, there was an excellent turnout as our alumni in the region heard about the latest news and research at Surrey. And several decided to pay an impromptu visit to campus – courtesy of our VR tour around the University grounds and facilities.



*Alumni in Malaysia headed back
to campus via our VR experience*

FROM SURREY TO SILICON VALLEY

Silicon Valley CEO Jeremy Burton has worked with key industry figures such as Michael Dell and Mark Benioff. A passionate Middlesbrough supporter, he's also a proud Surrey alumni.



Jeremy Burton

When did you come to Surrey?

I arrived in 1986 to study a BEng in Information Systems Engineering. The North-East at that time was riddled with unemployment. My dad used to run the local Benefits Office. I knew how tough it was.

Coming to Surrey was a breath of fresh air. It was a dynamic environment and it possessed a different mindset. Studying computing also meant I was going into a growing industry where it was unlikely I'd be made redundant.

Tell us about your degree...

I realised quite early on that software rather than hardware was the future. My course at Surrey aligned with this view. It was more focused on software and networking rather than traditional electrical and electronic engineering.

I played for the University Football Team for three years, too. A trip to France to play a team in Deauville and the 1990 tour to Russia remain epic memories.

Tell us about your first job...

I worked as a programmer at ICL and it was mundane work. A slice of luck saw me secure my next role. I met a woman at a party who worked at Oracle and I asked if they had any jobs going. Two weeks later, a manilla envelope with a list of jobs appeared in my pigeonhole. I applied for a UK-based role and I got it. I never met the kind lady who sent me those jobs again. But that was a defining career moment.

Why was that?

I started there in 1993 and I eventually worked for Mark Benioff, who's the

CEO of Salesforce.com. He liked me and he asked me if I wanted to move to America and work for him. I went home to ask my wife if she wanted to live in the USA. Her reaction was: "We can't. We haven't paid off the sofa!" Six weeks later, we moved to America.

What are your key memories of moving to Silicon Valley?

I arrived on the West Coast in 1995 when the entire country was gripped by the OJ Simpson trial. The thing I immediately loved about the US was that nobody cared if you didn't have the 'right' accent or if you hadn't attended a certain school. All they cared about was what I could do and how good I was.

By 1999, I was a Senior Vice President at Oracle. I then accepted a role to become Chief Marketing Officer at Veritas, a fast-growing software company that was bought by Symantec.

Tell us about your first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) role...

That happened in 2008 at a company called Serena. Six months later, the world went into financial meltdown. We had half a billion dollars of debt. My job at that time purely involved keeping it afloat. I learnt a huge amount. Difficult times are often when you learn the most important lessons.

In 2010, I moved to the EMC Corporation, which was acquired by Dell in a deal worth \$40 billion. I also worked with Michael Dell post-merger on creating the new company.

What are you doing now?

I'm the CEO for a software-as-a-service company called Observe. We analyse massive volumes of machine-generated data, so organisations can offer a better digital customer experience. We employ about 90 people. It's a fun job. In my last role, I was responsible for almost 13,000!



Jeremy at Graduation



Jeremy with Michael Dell

AND FINALLY...



DOWN TIME

Professor Andy Adcroft is Deputy Dean of Surrey Business School – and a regular on the stand-up comedy circuit. He reveals what keeps him entertained out of office hours.

Who's your favourite stand-up comedian?

My all-time favourite is Stewart Lee. His stage and TV stuff, such as *Comedy Vehicle* on the BBC, is breathtakingly funny and clever. More than anything else, I wish I could write and tell stories like him.

What else makes you laugh?

I was raised in working men's clubs, so *Phoenix Nights* is both poignant and very, very funny. I like pretty much anything that's funny. I'm also into those "epic fail" videos on YouTube, which I watch with my 12-year-old boy. Nothing makes him laugh like someone standing on a rake.

What are you reading at the moment?

The Long Win by Cath Bishop, which looks at attitudes to sport and how we need to shift away from a medals and winning mentality. I'm also reading *Endless Perfect Circles* by Ian Walker, who's our Head of Department of Psychological Sciences. It's about ultra-long-distance cycling. Riding bikes is very important to me.

What kind of music are you into?

I still listen to the music I grew up with like The Jam, The Specials and Billy Bragg. I also have the odd hankering for country and western music. "Tumble out of bed and I stumble to the kitchen, pour myself a cup of ambition" from Dolly Parton's *9 to 5* remains the greatest opening line to a song ever!



Stewart Lee is Andy's stand-up hero

What's your favourite recent boxset?

I'm working my way through *The Crown* because I wanted to see what all the fuss was about: my jury is still out. Otherwise, it's the *Star Wars* stuff on Disney+ and *Game of Thrones*.

Do you have any guilty viewing pleasures?

Too many to mention! Every night on Challenge TV they have back-to-back episodes of *Bullseye*, which is usually the last thing I see before going to bed.

Which social media platform are we most likely to find you on?

I've started to experiment with TikTok with content on strategy and cycling. My main teaching is in strategy, so I use TikTok to offer students a different way of engaging with some of the more heavyweight theory.



The Crown wasn't a hit but Andy likes a bit of Bullseye

Finally, we've built you a time machine. Where are you going?

Nowhere! The past is the past and the future will take care of itself, so I try and live in the here and now.