

SUTTON BONINGTON

AGRIMAG 2020



SB GUILD &
OLD KINGSTONIAN ASSOCIATION

“

SB really is the jewel in
the crown of the
University of Nottingham

”

Dr Ian Hardy, Warden, Sutton Bonington

Magazine Design

Amy Bagster

Content Compilation

Amy Bagster

Lorraine Sabin

OKA Committee

Julian Wiseman

Lorraine Sabin

SB Guild





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A photograph of a modern campus building with large glass windows and a green lawn in the foreground. The text "Campus Reports" is overlaid in a large, white, cursive font with a black shadow.

Campus Reports



FROM THE WARDEN

Dr Ian Hardy

Bonington Hall Annual Report 2020

I believe this will be my last ever report to Agrimag, of which more below. It is now 1st October (which happens to make it 19 years to the day since I joined the School of Biosciences at SB) and I last wrote in April 2019: even April 2020 seems like a century ago – mostly due to the ever changing Covid-19 situation. But let me wind back to pre-pandemic days and pick things up from May 2019 onwards.

Spring and Summer at SB were similar to most Springs and Summers of late (2020 excepted) and we had a good SB Fest and Summer Ball. Julian Wiseman had a retirement event in May and that certainly marked the end of one of the great SB eras – I am glad to say that Julian is still around and helping with ‘matters SB’, such as OKA and Agrimag of course! Both Helen Scatcherd and Paul Clearly left their management roles at CLV for separate pastures new. I was sorry to see them go as they were both really good colleagues for a number of years and both were very student-oriented. Paul was replaced by another Paul, and Helen by Emily, and soon afterwards, at the end of the summer the new intake of students duly arrived. While it superficially seemed like we had the usual mix of Vets and Bioscientists, there were two differences. First, the 150 Vets may have arrived at the same time as would normally be expected but were the first cohort of the Vet School’s new Dual Intake system. Thus, their timetable was rather different to previous years, but outside of the Vet School this was really only initially manifest by them coming back onto campus a week earlier than the Bioscientists in early January. Second, among all the University of Nottingham students were 60 Nottingham Trent students who had been sold rooms at fairly short notice by CLV, on the suggestion of University of Nottingham accommodation managers. All well and good except that it had not really been worked out how much they would be

able to integrate into various aspects of campus life beyond using the shop, dining hall and hopper bus. We got there eventually, after a lot of discussions, and they were able to do most things that UoN students could do, except for playing in UoN sports teams.

During the autumn term Rodrigo 'Rigo' Nova stepped down as Deputy Warden after 14 years of great service to, and in, the Warden-Tutor team, but he has stayed in the Vet School doing his day job. He was been replaced by two of the Tutor team sharing the Deputy's role 50:50 – Claire Jansons and Steve Hooton, until Steve left the University in August for a new job in Leicester. Clare has carried on as sole Deputy – of which more below. Also, both Emily and 'new Paul' left CLV and we had a short string of interim managers (all of them nice people) until things settled with the arrival of Daniel Reeve. Dan has now got to know the place and is a real asset. Further, during the Autumn term it transpired that we did, after all, get the Bonington Hall funds returned to us that has been extracted for the Res Life Programme to run on other campuses (see Agrimag 2019) – so that was good news.

In the run-up to Christmas, and indeed for quite a while before that, the news was full of the issues surrounding the impending Brexit. At the Christmas Dining In I made the following pre-dinner speech, which may be worth preserving here for posterity (even though it seems such old satire in the light of what happened in the UK post-Christmas):

Manifesto for Christmas (2019)

We are going to *Get Christmas Done!* We would rather be dead in a ditch if it is not done by 25th December. Why spend money from the magic chocolate money tree on Brussels sprouts when we could be spending it on presents? It is not going to be a 'Hard Christmas' or a 'Soft Christmas', but a 'Merry Christmas' (except in Northern Ireland, where it will be a 'Happy Christmas'; but it is the same really, honestly!). We are not going to have 'No Christmas', which the Scrooge Party would want. Humbugs will be banned and we will not let the Grinch steal our Christmas. At Christmas dinner, Oliver Twist will be able to have 'more', pigs will be given extra blankets, bread will be saucier and puddings will contain Sterling silver coins (and certainly no Euros). And while watching Christmas telly, we will take back remote control.

At New Year we are going to transition from 2019 to 2020 without passing through the international date line. We will do this in 12 days. After this, the three French Hens will have to apply for residency permits. We will do new present buying deals for next year – not just with our longstanding partner, Santa, but also with the anti-Santa and only highly skilled elves will be allowed to wrap presents.

So, let's *Get Christmas Done!* The only thing we need to do now is to get some Turkeys to vote for it.

In the new year we started in earnest to prepare for the second cohort of the Dual Intake Vet School students, while squeezing in an excellent Battle of the Bands in February, and there were also 14 days of University and College Union strikes during the period – I can tell you that the picket lines were cold but we had good cheer and in my view it needed to be done.

But as usual I only struck in my academic role and not as Warden (because pastoral care and emergencies to my mind supersede industrial relations issues). The 150 'April Vets' were due to arrive right at the end of March and officially start on 1st April. We were very mindful that they would only experience term-time campus life for a week and then might find themselves on a somewhat quiet campus for the next four weeks over Easter. So, we organised a big Dining In for them towards the end of their first week to which as many other SB students and staff as possible were invited (nearly 500 diners in total) and we also invited a number of senior University staff and arranged some great after-dinner events. There was also a programme of musical events and other activities for throughout the Easter period arranged in close coordination by myself, by Gail Bembridge (our excellent Hall Secretary) and also by numerous staff in the Vet School, to really make these students feel welcome and happy with their unusually timed Freshers' experience.

And then Covid-19 happened.

So, the April Vets were asked not to come after all and thus started their university learning on-line. Students in residence at that time were shortly afterwards asked to go home if at all possible. All the planned events were cancelled and basically everything changed into 'the new normal', as it has become known. Teaching went online, staff bailed out of their offices and campus became very quiet. About 80 students, mainly internationals, stayed on in Bonington Hall. The shop and the CLV office have remained open but that has been almost it. The Dining Hall and the Bar and indeed the whole of the Barn were shut down shortly after face-to-face lectures ceased, as were the Library, the Sports Centre and so on. The Shuttle Bus remained running a reduced timetable and has had so few people riding in it that it would almost not be a surprise if even the driver wasn't on board. Covid-19 really managed to flip everything on its head – earlier reports to Agrimag will bear witness to me encouraging students to get out of their rooms, stop looking at their screens and go to the various events that are put on on campus. From April, I found myself instead encouraging students to stay in their rooms, communicate via their screens and to not socialise in large groups.

The next step was to consider bringing the 'April' Vet students onto campus during the summer because one can only come so far in learning to be a vet via the online experience (feeling fetlocks has to be a hands-on thing, I believe). After many meetings via Microsoft Teams (another aspect of the New Normal) between the Vet School, many others in the University (including myself) and CLV, it was decided that it was both desirable and feasible to welcome the April cohort onto campus at the end of July. There were very many systems and structures put in place for this, chief amongst these was that the students in a given flat also formed a teaching group or 'bubble', such that social distancing was maintained between households as much as possible, both during lab classes and at all other times. Overall, this went well and it was an achievement for the SB campus to be the first in the UK to bring students back after the onset of the pandemic. I managed (by wading through and complying with an unmentionable amount of tiring but necessary regulations) to arrange three outdoor social events with live music played and food served to socially separated household groups. I think the event on 2nd August was probably the first during-pandemic gig

on a UK University campus – nice in hindsight but at the time I would rather not have had that extra element of pressure as it was complex enough as it was. The first and the second event went well but the third had to have the live music cancelled and just provide the food (to be collected and taken away on a rota) because of an adverse turn of events in the national situation with Covid-19 and an associated change in the law. In fact, the law was set to change two hours after the end of the event, but it did not seem right to go ahead with a social gathering (even though carefully pandemic-compliant) on the eve of the change.

In the same period, the University decided to not renew the SB catering contract with Sodexo, so in late July we said goodbye to some very long-standing colleagues, notably Georgina Shelvock, and some newer but nonetheless very highly valued ones, such as Kaylee Mills and Alex Carvajal. The shop staff were, however, transferred over to employment by the University. The situation with catering is now a little fluid. We have had to weather a September intake period with no bar or events licence, and indeed not really a bar or a Dining Hall. The evening meal element of the accommodation package is no longer in operation (sensible during the pandemic) and it is not clear whether it will be reinstated. My advice would be to reintroduce it because eating together 5 times per week is a sure-fire way of getting students from different flats and different courses to know each other and thus build and maintain the SB community. As I write, catering in The Barn has started up again, on a pay-as-you-eat basis.



In the last two editions of Agrimag, I reported that the University's pastoral care systems were under review. The University is now making some changes and, as part of this, my role as Warden of Bonington Hall will no longer exist from 1st January 2020. Further, during almost all of the Autumn term I will be a Visiting Professor at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, and am due to leave SB imminently. From mid-September and until Christmas, the Resident Tutor team will be headed up by Claire Jansons and one of the Resident Tutors (and former Guild Chair), James Wilson, is now Senior Resident Tutor. I will return briefly to the role (for just ten days) when I get back from Poland in December, and then I definitively leave the role exactly 16 years to the minute since I started in it in 2004. From January onwards there will be a new system in which the Tutor team will be headed up by a full-time manager whose role will focus on building the SB community and this will be taken to include students living off campus just as much as those living on campus. These are laudable aims and indeed I have been doing the same, as far as my resources would allow, for all of my time in the role. I wish my successor, whoever that might turn out to be, well in the role and will assist them if and when appropriate. I will still be around for at least a while because these changes have no bearing on my academic role in the School of Biosciences and I can continue to live in the Warden's house for up to one year from January 2021.

Given that this report essentially serves as my sign-off from many years of involvement in SB via the Wardenship, I will provide some reflections and summaries of what this has involved. First, while it seems I will be the last Warden of Bonington Hall I have not been the first. At an OKA weekend in 2018 there was a 50 year reunion (organised by Graham Ferris) and we (George Foxcroft, Graham and I) managed to construct the list below (originally on a bit of paper while leaning on the SB bar, as is right and proper at such events) of SB Wardens. The information may not be exactly accurate and we only have times and dates for some Wardens, but it is the best we at present have. The uncertainty arises in part due to there being no honours boards for Wardens or Deputies (unlike for Hall President or Guild Chairs) and thus the information can disappear under the sands of time. Those of you in the mood for rudimentary addition will notice that not all the years from 1972 to 1988 are accounted for. I hope readers will be able to write in with corrections that can be broadcast in future editions of Agrimag.

SB Wardens

Mrs MacDonald

Dick Whittington

Donald Coult (as a full-time job)

George Foxcroft (4 years, 1968-72)

Andy Taylor (5 years)

Dave Stokes (5 years, 1988-1993)

Stuart Thompstone (9.5 years, 1993-2003)

Ian Hardy (16 years, 2004-2020).



SB Deputy Wardens

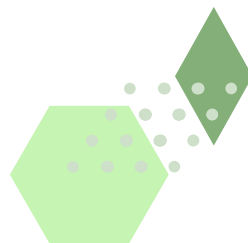
(all since ca 2005 – some of whom also served as Acting Warden)

Slawomir Sujecki

Rodrigo Nova

Steve Hooton

Claire Jansons



During my own time in the role, I have, I hope, served the SB community to the best of my ability. The diversity of issues and situations that this has involved has been truly enormous, especially given that there have been very many substantial changes to the SB campus during this period. Some of this work was done via committees [some of which have replaced earlier versions]: SB Campus Operations Group, Liaison group [meeting with the third-party catering and accommodation providers], SB Development Group [allocating alumni donations], Hall Council (as Chair for >5 years), Bar Committee (as Chair), SB Amenities Committee (as Chair for >10 years) and the Campus Safety and Security Committee and the Biosciences Learning Community Forum [a staff-student liaison committee]. I also served on a panel which extensively reviewed the Warden-Tutor system across the university (ca 2005) and as a member of University Court (2004-2010). Most recently I was a member of the wide-ranging committee assessing the feasibility of students returning to campus during the Covid-19 pandemic (2020). I have also appointed >50 resident tutors, who I am proud to say have all proven excellent choices and who have served the SB students well, and I (with assistance from a succession of top-notch Hall Secretaries) have managed the social and infrastructural budgets (around £30K per annum), and liaised closely with Hall Catering and Accommodation management. I would like to at this point squeeze in acknowledgements to Sarah Johnson (Biosciences School Manager) who must have sat for hundreds of hours with me on many of the above committees and whose contribution to SB was really rather large (Sarah recently left the University), to Una Lilley (Student Union) for similar efforts and impact, and also the Hall Secretaries, latterly Gail Bembridge, who have been of great assistance in these endeavours.

The above paragraph details some of the mechanics but these are not really what the role has been about: it has been about providing the best possible support and the best experience to the SB students. Some of this has been great fun (eg hosting around six Dining Ins each year) but other things have been no fun at all, serious and sometimes tragic. The students on SB have actually been remarkably well-behaved and a pleasure to have around but nonetheless the disciplinary issues I have dealt with include: disorderly behaviour and assault, drug possession and abuse, vandalism and theft, failure to conform with fire safety procedures and other Hall rules. Similarly, the majority of students have a smooth passage through their time at SB but there have also been pastoral care issues to deal with, including homesickness, complex interpersonal relationships within accommodation units, minor and serious illnesses, serious and complex mental health issues, fatal, serious and near-miss accidents, suicides and, most recently, a pandemic.

As readers of Agrimag and residents on SB will know, Bonington Hall and the whole of the SB campus have undergone major expansion and refurbishment during the last decade and a half and I have been necessarily involved in many aspects of these (the major changes started to happen a year after I was appointed to the role). Some of the projects and sub-projects I have been closely involved with (in some instances initiating) are as follows:

- ◆ Expansion, refurbishment and reorganisation of the whole Hall following leasehold sell-off to 3rd party accommodation and catering provider companies, plus several subsequent changes of provider companies and management structures (Opal, then CRM and now CLV)
- ◆ Development of a new amenities and catering building ('The Barn') on the campus,
- ◆ Development of a new Senior Common Room and two student common rooms
- ◆ Major refurbishment of the Bar areas (both in the previous and current facilities)
- ◆ Development of, and new equipment for, a new Music Practice room
- ◆ Development of a new Climbing and Bouldering Wall facility
- ◆ Development of new barbecue facilities
- ◆ Providing equipment and other support for many student societies, past and present: Streetdance, Men's Rugby, Ladies Rugby, Hockey, Clay Pigeon Shooting, Cycling, Alternative Arts, Watersports, Snooker, Tec Society, Equestrian, International Students Society, SB Players, SB Music Soc, and many more.



For the above efforts I was given a University of Nottingham Vice-Chancellor's Achievement Award (2011) and this year I was completely taken by surprise by the notification that I will be awarded a Vice Chancellor's Medal. The latter announcement is now published on the University's web site as follows:

Dr Ian Hardy. Based at Sutton Bonington. Ian is Associate Professor in Biosciences and has also been Warden of Bonington Hall for over 15 years. Ian is fully involved in projects to upgrade facilities on campus such as the Barn, Music Room, Harpers Bar refit and the common room. Alistair Wright (SB Guild Chair 2013-14 and SB Farmers' Market President 2015-18) supports this nomination. saying "the campus would not look or feel the same without Ian's tremendous input. He was a great supporter of the street lighting project for Station Road, transforming safety between the campus and Kegworth and also helped to establish the SB Fest event."

So, while it is a tiny bit strange to be being given a medal for one's efforts in a role by the same organisation that is making one redundant from that role, I will not dwell on that aspect. I will look back at all the positives that the experience of being SB Warden has provided for me and I sincerely hope I have reciprocated by providing for SB in at least equal measure.

I would like to thank everyone I have interacted with during this period. This includes many dozens of colleagues, as many dozens of Resident Tutors, scores of Student Guild members and, of course, many thousands of other students.

SB really is the jewel in the crown of the University of Nottingham – as long as the SB campus community continues to make sure that it is.

Dr Ian C.W. Hardy

Warden of Bonington Hall

1st October 2020

Post-script added 9th December 2020

I was not intending to write any more text but several notable things have happened since 1st October and, as this will be my last opportunity to record them, here some is.

Firstly, on the point of setting off to Kraków to carry out my Visiting Professorship, the UK Government changed the status of Poland in regard to travel advice (due to a high incidence of Covid-19) which invalidated my insurance and also made travelling to the city somewhat questionable in a general sense. So, I unpacked my van, deliberately missed the ferry, and carried out my Polish teaching duties (in English) online from the Warden's house at SB.

Secondly, to my delight, the School of Veterinary Medicine and Sciences decided to make me an Honorary Associate Professor in recognition of my assistance to the SB students over the years. This means that until the end of this month I will simultaneously be a member of the Registrar's Department, the Vet School and the School of Biosciences: I am considering changing my name to 'Trinity'.

Thirdly, I was equally delighted to be made an Honorary Vice President of the Old Kingstonian Association at the November 2020 AGM – thank you, OKA!

Fourthly, the University included me and very many others in a '*Fantastic Faculty Award to University Security, Halls and Catering teams*' for dedication, creativity and contribution to Covid Recovery, 2020. I don't add this to this list out of self-aggrandizement but to pay tribute to those colleagues who have indeed helped the University get through the pandemic. From what I have seen from the sidelines this term the current Bonington Hall Tutor Team, led by Claire Jansons, has done a tough job fantastically.

Fifthly, and absolutely finally, I want to let Agrimag readers know that I will be leaving the University of Nottingham altogether at the end of next term. This is because I have recently been appointed as Professor of Agricultural Entomology in the Faculty of Agricultural and

Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland (to start on 1st April 2021). This will obviously be a huge change for me and, at present, I have never been to Helsinki nor do I speak any Finnish. But I would think that some sort of boreal adventure must await ... I am sure I shall set foot on SB sometime beyond my forthcoming departure but for now I say farewell and best wishes to all those who are or have been associated with this most special of campuses.

Addendum: Feedback from SB community members on learning that I will be leaving the Wardenship.

“I’ll be sad to see you go! You were a great help and motivation when I was trying to communicate with CLV about clearing the last rent payment, and it seems you’ve achieved a lot in your time on SB on top of the countless students you have undoubtedly inspired as they passed through the university. I wish you the best of luck for your future endeavours!”
2nd Year Vet student

“You probably don’t know who I am but I have seen you a lot around campus, served you in the bar and been present at many events. I would like to say a huge thank you for everything you have done on the campus, the events you organise and the time and effort you put into making the campus a better place. It is a shame but I hope there are great opportunities for you in Poland.”
Sutton Bonington Student

“Ian
I am terribly sorry to hear this – you have been incredible, and I absolutely and truly mean it when I say that they will not find someone to replace you – your passion and care for the students has been endless. I wish you all the best for the future.”
Vet School Professor

“I am so sorry to hear about the decision to make [the] Hall Warden post redundant. Thank you, Ian, for your years of enthusiastic and unstinting service to the SB campus and your kind support of me in my role in the Vet School.”
Vet School Associate Professor

“Hi Ian
You have made a fantastic contribution to campus life, and you have been a great supporter of the School and in particular our students. It has been great working together.”
Senior Vet School Professor

“I will miss you as Warden, Ian.”
Students’ Union Officer

“I just wanted to thank you personally for all that you have done for the students at SB. I know that you have always worked in their best interests, and that you have dedicated so much of your time to the role of warden. I hope that you will enjoy your time in Krakow and your continuing role at the University.”
Member of University Senior Management

"I am so upset to hear your position is ending. You have been an absolute asset to the student body and it is such a shame that you won't be able to represent them in the same way. I know that progress for the University is important but I really do think that the students will feel your absence for a long time to come. I appreciated your help and guidance during my year on the Guild and even more so in the years afterwards organising [Events], and I will miss knowing you are around for us all. I will always have incredibly fond memories of you at Dining ins and having a chat when we passed each other on campus and you could update me with campus affairs. You are so important to Sutton Bonington and will be missed in your role as Warden. I hope you stick around in Biosciences for a long time to come, to pass on your statistics wisdom at least. Thank you for everything you have done for SB since my arrival in 2014, and for helping to make it my favourite place on earth."

Post Graduate Student and past Student Guild Member

"You are amazing. Thank you again."

Past Resident Tutor and current Biosciences Staff member

"Dear Ian

It is impossible to understate your role in enhancing campus life on SB and your commitment to enriching the social, cultural and academic community both for students and staff."

Biosciences Professor

"Sorry to hear about the Warden's role being scrapped. Whatever happens, pretty sure there won't be the dedication and care that you have brought to the role for the last x years."

Biosciences Associate Professor

"Thanks for everything you've done for the SB campus community over those 16 years – in the nicest possible way, you really are part of the SB furniture!"

Vet School Manager

"It will be a sad loss for SB. You have gone above and beyond your role and remit as Hall Warden. You have been a tremendous support to the April cohort, personal shopper to those that have had to quarantine and that have been a long way from home and family support!! Always being available to help in all areas and your continued commitment until you leave is commended! It has been an absolute pleasure working with you."

Vet School Administrator

"I am sorry to hear that an era is coming to an end. I'm sure that the new team will do a great job, but I'd like to thank you for all of your hard work as Warden. Nobody has put more effort into making SB a great place for students to live and work than you have. You've been at the centre of the community for 16 years and have given so much time, care and passion into the role. Thank you."

Biosciences Senior Professor

"Thanks for letting me know that this has all come to pass, but very sorry to hear that this is where we are and that all your enthusiasm, energy, experience, knowledge and negotiating skills (with students, etc) will be lost to SB."

Biosciences Professor

“You will be such a loss to the team, leading the resident tutorial team with your local knowledge and experience from the 16 years of being in post is invaluable! Hopefully the University understands the impact it will have on the support of the students living on their campuses, especially with not having the experience and a senior member of staff available in the evenings and through the night. Thank you for all your help and support over the years; without you and the team some of the students may well have had different outcomes to situations they have been in. It has been a pleasure working alongside you.”

Student Services Manager

“Really big changes and I can’t imagine anyone in a new ‘structure’ putting as much personal effort into it as you.”

Vet School Professor

“You have carried out a great job over the years that I have known you. Thank you for all your assistance and support to Security Services.”

University Security Officer

“Many thanks for all your hard work as Hall Warden. You have always had the students' best interests at heart and I hope whoever is taking over is as enthusiastic, imaginative and student experience-focussed as you have been.”

Senior Vet School Professor

“I just wanted to say to you personally I think it is amazing you have provided this continuous support to SB students for 16 years! I am sure your finishing will leave a big gap.”

Biosciences Administrator

“Thank you so much for the huge contribution you have made to the life of students on our campus over so many years. You have given your all in pastoral care and your interest in the wellbeing of the students, and I cannot imagine the campus without you in this role. So glad you will still be around, but will greatly miss the support you have given me over so many years. Thank you!”

University Chaplain

“Wow ... the end of an era!! SB owes you a huge debt of gratitude. Life in hall was always one of our biggest selling points. I have great admiration for your dedication to the role. Work/life balance does not really apply when you have to deal with miscreants in the middle of the night.”

Biosciences Professor

“Just wanted to say many thanks for your years of dedicated service to SB. Your enthusiasm and commitment to representing and looking after the students on SB will be sorely missed and your successor will have big boots to fill. All the best.”

Vet School Student

“Ian

Everyone at SB (past and present) owes you a big debt of gratitude.”

Biosciences Professor



“I very much enjoyed my time as a tutor with you leading the team and I just wanted to say what an incredible service you have provided to the campus for all these years. During my time as a tutor, you were a great mentor to me and also a friend. The University will be losing their most passionate warden and I can’t help but feel it truly will be a loss to the campus. Thanks for all that you have done and continue to do.”

Prior member of the Resident Tutor Team

“Dear Ian

On behalf of the [Student Society] we would just like to say a big thank you for everything you have done in your post as Warden in the last 16 years. We recognise all the time and energy you have invested in this University community and can see clearly how the whole campus has benefitted. We are glad to still have you around SB. Thanks again.”

Sutton Bonington Campus Student Society Committee member

“Just a swift word to say how sorry I am to see that you are no longer Warden. Sorry for SB – you know how much of your work has been appreciated. It is work that has helped make Sutton Bonington the wonderful, unique place that it is, and makes working here a thing to be enjoyed, not endured. You will be greatly missed here Ian, and your work that generates the atmosphere at SB will be missed too.”

Sutton Bonington Campus Estates staff member

“Your contribution to the jewel in the crown has been enormous and you have pushed great volumes of water uphill during your tenure as Warden!”

Former Senior Professor in Biosciences

“That’s very sad news, Ian. Sutton Bonington has gone through unrecognisable change in the last 16 years, and Bonington Hall has adapted, enabling a positive student experience under your guidance. We always appreciated your fair and reasonable discipline, understanding the need for students to explore the freedoms of university life whilst remaining within the law and not creating a danger or nuisance to themselves or others. Likewise, and arguably more importantly, your pro-active support of the student guild & wider community. I would assume your service will be recorded by the Agrimag and alumni references.

Best wishes”

Former Bonington Hall President



Prof Gary England

Dean of School of Veterinary Medicine & Science

We have had another excellent year as a School. Of particular note, this year was the start of the dual intake of veterinary students, a programme that has been several years in planning. The first cohort joined us in September 2019, embarking upon a significantly refined and improved curriculum. All plans were in place for the April 2020 cohort to arrive when the country went into national lockdown at the end of March. Nevertheless, we registered the April cohort students and taught them initially entirely remotely, delivering the full curriculum (including practical classes) according to the timetable, despite the country being in full lockdown. It was inspiring to be part of a school that continued to deliver an excellent student experience given the circumstances, and we became the first of any university in the UK to be back on campus for teaching in July. Late summer was therefore really busy, and also importantly at this time we were able to become one of the first schools in the University to return to our laboratory research activities, thanks to the amazing work of the health and safety, and facilities staff and to the Research Sub-Deans.

Whilst the pandemic did disrupt a significant part of the end of the academic year, earlier in the year was more normal. It was such a thrill to receive once again exceptional results in the National Student Survey. I know that all the staff of the School are extremely proud of this achievement, and importantly, to have this level of support and recognition from our students means a huge amount to us. Throughout the year, we also had excellent feedback from students on the Veterinary Physiotherapy course, and importantly the MSc/PGDip Veterinary Physiotherapy course gained accreditation from the Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners.

During the year, we started a new post-graduate programme as the first cohort of students joined on the Bioinformatics Apprenticeship. This is a really interesting programme, which is part of our strategy for growth in the post-graduate arena delivered via the apprentice route.

In teaching and research, there were some great successes for our staff and students. In particular, Professor Martin Green was awarded the 2020 Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal for contributions to the understanding and promotion of dairy herd health. Professor Rob White was awarded the Doctor of Science degree for his work on porto-systemic shunts in dogs, and Professor Kate White was elected to be a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for meritorious contributions to clinical practice. Rachael Tarlinton and Steve Dunham were awarded the status of De Facto Diplomats of the European College of Veterinary Microbiology. In addition (and once again!), Richard Payne received the Vet Soc Ball award as the Best Member of Staff!

Tracey Coffey, Janet Daly and Jasmeet Kaler were promoted to Professor, Robert Atterbury, Tania Dottorini, Sharon Egan, Amelia Garcia-Ara, Vicky James, John Remnant and Richard Payne were promoted to Associate Professor, and Adelle Bowden, Adam Redpath and Jess Tomlinson were promoted to Assistant Professor.

The Vice-Chancellor's Medal was awarded to two undergraduate students, Olivia Bass and Clemmie Bridges, for their enthusiastic support in the planning and delivery of our April Cohort programme. As a result of her research on the pathogenesis of claw horn disease, Sophie Wilson won the Dairy Show award for the Dairy Industry Vet of the Future. In addition, at the UK Equine Student Conference, Freya Rooke won the postgraduate poster prize and Kirsty Stratfull won the undergraduate poster prize.

Many staff had notable activities outside of the School; Rachael Tarlinton was interviewed by Kate Humble for the BBC's Animal Park talking about her work with Koalas, Lisa Yon undertook several interviews about her elephant, wildlife and CryoArks project work, and Rob Atterbury featured in the Channel 5 TV programme 'Secrets of Your Supermarket'.

There were multiple fundraising events, including: Emma Palfreyman, Jes Squire and Victoria Doggett, who completed the Race for Life Muddy 5km; Jes also participated with Hany Elsheikha in a Head Shave for the NHS; the School donated significant equipment, consumables and PPE to the NHS; and there were multiple activities to support Vets in the Community including a Virtual Pet Show.

In March, Vets in the Community launched its new mobile clinic, and as well as supporting pets, the students involved in the programme distributed donations of food and blankets to their owners. Vets in the Community were highly commended in the Community Impact Award category in the University of Nottingham Activities Awards.

Other work that had significant impact included the Online Resources Tool for Vets, Vet Nurses and Vet Physios compiled by Emma Drinkall, and the fantastic Virtual Work Experience MOOC that allows undergraduate applicants to achieve significant understanding of the veterinary profession prior to applying.

Staff from the School won another INSPIRE grant to give our undergraduate students extra opportunities to participate in research. This will again fund our students to attend national and international conferences, summer studentships and other research activities.

The School hosted the Sex in the 3 Cities 2020 public lecture delivered by Professor Alan Pacey, from the University of Sheffield Medical School. In addition, this year the Farm Animal Veterinary Society Congress was held at Nottingham and was a huge success.



During the year, we completed the expansion of the clinical skills laboratory, the conversion of small group teaching rooms into more flexible spaces, and the expansion of locker rooms and dissection space ahead of the April intake. There are more plans in place for a further round of expansion of our facilities to occur throughout the next academic year.



With national restrictions in place at the end of the academic year, the degree conferment and graduation celebration was undertaken remotely on 24th July with various University online activities. A face-to-face degree ceremony will be held in the future by the University.

However, within the School we had a wonderful live online event to celebrate the graduation of the 10th cohort of Nottingham Veterinary Surgeons. This was combined with a very special and memorable Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons membership ceremony conducted by Dr Mandisa Greene, President of the Royal College. In a Teams 'masterclass' event, the whole year of graduates recited the RCVS Declaration at the same time (well, given the lagging via the internet it was almost at the same time!), and then posed for photographs with the President. The President gave an inspiring address, which was followed by a poignant and moving poem by Olivia Bass and an emotional closing speech from Zara Abas. The ceremony concluded with a brilliant video and photo presentation representing events from the graduates' time with us at Sutton Bonington. All the excess champagne was suitably re-homed!

Prof Simon Langley-Evans

Head of School of Biosciences

I cannot begin this, my fourth Agrimag piece as Head of School of Biosciences, without addressing the main event that impacted on us during 2020. The SARS-COVID pandemic which struck us in March and continued to disrupt our activities for the rest of the year, dominated every aspect of our work and campus life. The national lockdown saw our research laboratories shut down and our staff and students sent home to continue their work as best they could. Sutton Bonington was taken over by the rabbits who provided some company for the 100 or so students who had remained socially distancing in Hall accommodation. This was a crisis that none of us expected and none of us were prepared for and I feel tremendous pride in my colleagues and in Biosciences students, who all showed immense resilience, adaptability and calm acceptance of difficult circumstances. With summer exams cancelled, we put in place a whole new range of assessment activities for our students and teaching staff discovered the wonderful world of Microsoft Teams, which became our lifeline for teaching, tutorials and staying in touch with each other. I am pleased to report that our Class of 2020 performed brilliantly under difficult circumstances, and although we were only able to offer them a 'virtual graduation' event through social media in July, we hope to have a proper celebration of their achievements in the winter.

The pandemic caused major ripples across the University in terms of finances and in order to make the necessary savings a voluntary redundancy scheme was launched. This had a big impact on our School and as a result we said farewell to Head of Operations Sarah Johnson, Technical Services Manager Sue Woodward, Tim Foster, George Shaw, Steve Ramsden, David Quain, Bill MacNaughtan, Andrew Rosenthal, Emma Hooley, Sheila Northover, Diane Jones, Louise Cheetham and David Greening. This year also sees the retirements of Marcos Alcocer, Scott Young, George Mann and Jonathan Lynch. We will hugely miss everyone who has left us and our School is going to be a lot smaller! As a result of the staffing changes that occurred during the pandemic we made some changes to the Leadership Team within the School. Matt Dickinson took over from Malcolm Bennett as Head of Plant and Crop Sciences, and Emma Allaway stepped up as acting Head of Operations to cover the role vacated by Sarah Johnson.

The year 2020 has not been all bad though and my colleagues have continued to be highly productive in their research and teaching. We have had many successes in applications for grant funding, with a total



of £12.6m awarded to our researchers. This has included major further funding (£4.5m) for Professor Martin Broadley from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to continue his exciting work to tackle hidden hunger in Sub-Saharan Africa.

One of the real positives that will come out of our pandemic response is an acceleration of plans that we had to revamp our teaching, particularly in Year 1. We will be making greater use of digital tools and interactive learning for our students and hope to enhance their broader skills by removing dependence on memorising facts for exams as a pathway to success. Work has also continued to refurbish the North Laboratory building, which will contain three new teaching spaces, completely redeveloped laboratories, offices and meeting rooms. We hope to reoccupy the new space soon.

A number of academic colleagues had their great contributions to research, teaching and the life of the University recognised through promotion. Kate Millar and Sofie Sjögersten were both promoted to Chair, and Sarah Ellis, Jian Jia, Barry Lomax and Tony Bishopp were all successful in their promotions. We were very proud to learn that Professor Malcolm Bennett was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the understanding of plant root development and growth. These successes have all been very welcome in a very challenging year for Biosciences. I look forward to sharing more with you next year.

Prof Debbie Sparkes

Division of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences

Much has changed since my last report to Agrimag. As you can imagine the Division was impacted greatly by the Covid-19 pandemic and everyone has worked extremely hard to mitigate the challenges that it has brought. More of that later, but I want to start with some good news. Once again, colleagues in the Division have been successful in the latest promotions round with Barry Lomax promoted to Associate Professor in Environmental Science and Sofie Sjögersten to Professor in Environmental Science: many congratulations to both of them. I am delighted to report that Dr Sarah Cook joined the Division as Assistant Professor in Environmental Aquatic Science. We also welcomed Emma Gregson to the Division as a Teaching Associate providing cover for Keely Harris-Adams's maternity leave. And, last but by no means least, many congratulations to Keely and her husband Adam who are now proud parents to a beautiful baby girl, Elodie.

But, as you can imagine, 2020 has been dominated by Covid-19. In March, we were all asked to work from home, and only critical workers were permitted on campus. All research stopped and teaching moved online. Clearly this had an impact on all members of our Division, with major disruption to ongoing research and a huge effort to convert our teaching for online delivery. We were gradually allowed to return for research work, as buildings were declared Covid-secure and, more recently, restrictions were relaxed to permit some office

work and face to face teaching. As I write this in January 2021, in Lockdown 3, we are back to working from home wherever possible, but laboratory and field work is continuing where it is safe to do so. I must say a big thank you to all members of the Division for the way that they have coped with all the challenges that the pandemic has brought and a special mention for John Corrie who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the building is Covid-secure and that safe working practices are followed.

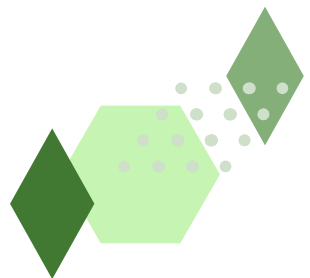
We waved a sad goodbye to several members of the Division in 2020 which was particularly difficult as we couldn't do so in person. Scott Young, Associate Professor in Soil Chemistry, retired in August after almost 36 years at the University. George Shaw, Professor of Environmental Science and Steve Ramsden, Associate Professor in Agricultural Management both left in July after 15 and 28 years respectively and Emma Hooley, who has kept the Division on the straight and narrow for 18 years, also left in July. They will all be greatly missed. We keep saying that, once it's safe to do so we will hold a joint farewell party for you all – we haven't forgotten, but the goalposts keep moving!

Our postgraduate community has also been very successful with a large number of students defending their PhDs in the past 12 months. Congratulations to: Saeed Ahmad, Ibrahim Rashid Ali Haji, Sankalp Arya, Mihai Cimpoiasu, Hannah Cooper, Olivia Cousins, Edna Can, Elliot Hamilton, Linxi Jiang, Mohamed Mohamed, Chandnee Ramkissoon, Lewis Rose and Dorien Vanhees.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, colleagues in the Division have continued to secure research grants in a wide diversity of areas such as: A review of the effectiveness of the dog microchipping legislation; Application of novel soil management technologies for poverty alleviation in traditional rural communities; Developing a real-time monitoring service for Mexico's Caribbean Coast; Reengineering the rhizosphere for improved drought tolerance and food security, and a Feasibility study for automated dairy cattle udder inspection.

I hope to be able to report on a return to 'normality', whatever that may look like, in my next report.

Debbie Sparkes
Head of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



Prof Kevin Sinclair

Division of Animal Sciences

The past year has understandably been dominated by the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which saw teaching transferred to online delivery back in March 2020; a format that has largely continued throughout the first semester of the 2020/21 academic year, and which looks set to continue for the remainder of this academic year. That said student intake (BSc Animal Science and MSc Animal Nutrition) was strong, up slightly from the previous year, and projected student numbers for 2021/22 also look good. This year there are more UK-based students undertaking the MSc course on a part-time basis, and our move to the provision of online teaching materials has certainly ensured that these students are able to fully participate in the course with minimal inconvenience. Movement restrictions, however, have impacted on our ability to take the students on Case study visits, but our industry speakers have been fantastic at providing pre-recorded lectures and giving live Teams tutorials.

This past year also saw the departure of one of our long-standing colleagues, Dr George Mann, who took early retirement at the end of September. Having previously obtained his BSc and PhD from Edinburgh University, George came to Nottingham in the early 1990s to take up a post-doctoral position with Professor Eric Lamming, studying the physiology of the *corpus luteum* (CL) and effects of progesterone on early embryo development and survival in the cow. He became a tenured member of faculty at the University in 2003 and was promoted to Reader in 2007. In addition to his teaching, George continued to undertake work on the physiology of the CL and fertility of the dairy cow. His work is among the most highly cited in the Division.

Some notable highlights for colleagues in the Division this past year:

- Dr Cormac O'Shea and Dr Gavin White (along with Dr Neil Doherty and Dr Judith Wayte) were recipients of the Lord Dearing Award for innovative teaching with the iHen Project. This provides a physical and virtual animal learning experience. Students can work directly with the animals concerned and participate in a range of related projects and exercises. The project initially made use of Alumni funding to invest in facilities and stock and has very cleverly engaged with industry since to further enhance the student learning experience by developing their understanding of career opportunities in animal production, nutrition and health. The free-range laying hens have attracted considerable media attention and the facility is accessible to all who visit the Sutton Bonington Campus.



- PhD students successfully defending their theses in the last year include:
Qifan Zhu (Prof Ramiro Alberio)
Connie Clare (Prof Kevin Sinclair)
Victoria Simmonds (Dr John Harris)

- Some additional notable achievements/publications in lockdown year:

Ramiro Alberio

- ◇ BBSRC grant (£930K): Developmental roadmap of primordial germ cells in humans and pigs.
- ◇ Paper: *Cell Reports* - 'Specification and epigenetic resetting of the pig germline exhibit conservation with the human lineage.'

Phil Garnsworthy

- ◇ Keynote Address (virtual): 2020 Korean Society of Animal Science – 'Sustainable Intensification of Animal Production'
- ◇ Paper: *Scientific Reports* – 'Effects of dietary PUFA sources on expression of lipid-related genes in bovine milk somatic cells.'

Reinhard Stoger

- ◇ Paper: *Scientific Reports* – 'Thiamethoxam exposure deregulates short ORF gene expression in the honeybee and compromises immune response to bacteria'

Kevin Sinclair

- ◇ Keynote address (virtual): At 3rd Ovatoools symposium, Navigating the Future of ART, Fort Lauderdale, USA. 'Metabolic determinants of the embryonic programme: Implications for parental nutrition and assisted reproduction'
- ◇ Paper: *Theriogenology* – 'Analysis of bovine blastocysts indicates ovarian stimulation does not induce chromosome errors, nor discordance between inner-cell mass and trophectoderm lineages'

Kevin Sinclair

Head of Animal Sciences

15 Jan 2021

Prof Ian Connerton

Division of Microbiology, Brewing & Biotechnology

Last year I optimistically introduced MBB as a new division within the School of Biosciences, and ended my contribution that I “hope to report further successes next time”. Everyone will be aware of the toll that the Covid-19 pandemic has taken on everyday life, and the University and MBB have not remained untouched by change.

March saw the lockdown of the University and the scramble to finish the academic year and employ online teaching. I would like to thank the technical staff for mothballing the labs efficiently in the BABs and Food Sciences buildings. I would also like to thank the teaching staff for delivering online teaching and for making the end of the academic year as good as it could be under difficult circumstances. Exam boards came and went online, and I am pleased to say that academic standards did not suffer with high performing undergraduate cohorts in Biotechnology and Microbiology. I would especially like to congratulate our new graduates heading out to a brave new world. However, given the examination successes a few will find their way back to Sutton Bonington as postgraduate students.

A word about our current postgraduate students who have had their projects curtailed without access to laboratory research. Research students have kept in touch – Teams has become a mainstay of University life for online supervision and the delivery of seminars. Life goes on and I would extend congratulations to those students who have defended their PhD theses in lockdown: Hebe Parr (Brewing), Arthur Gadon (Brewing and NCMH), Geraldine Lafontaine (Microbiology) and Philip Richards (Microbiology). Our Masters students are in the final stages of their degree having submitted their dissertations, and are at the time of writing preparing for their final online poster presentations. I thank them for their understanding and judging by the dissertations I have seen so far, the dry projects do not lack imagination or application.

We have had a few retirees/leavers from the technical staff, notably Steve Johnson and Dave Greening from the BABs building and Marlies Fischer from the Food Sciences building. A special thank you goes to Marlies who stopped on to maintain the labs, culture collections and expensive equipment after lockdown.

We also say goodbye to Prof David Quain, who has retired from Brewing Science. I am sure he will continue to enjoy a few beers. At the opposite end of her career we welcome Dr Ellen Nisbet to Microbiology. Ellen joined the Division in lockdown from the University of Cambridge but has not set foot in her office yet. She plans to continue her research into dinoflagellates that among other things give reef corals colour and are the source of toxins in shellfish poisoning – you will note neither Cambridge nor Sutton Bonington are that near the sea, so I presume we will be making artificial seawater.

As indicated the division has not escaped the financial impacts of Covid-19 on the University, and it is with some sadness that I inform you that some cherished Masters courses are in the

process of closure. These include the MSc in Applied Biomolecular Technology (ABT), Applied Biopharmaceutical Biotechnology and Entrepreneurship (ABBE) and the part-time courses in Brewing Science. These have been tough losses for all staff.

The next phase of developing online teaching and rekindling our research whilst keeping our staff and students safe is going to be a challenge, but as always we are making plans!!

Ian Connerton

Head of MBB

Prof Matt Dickinson

Division of Plant Sciences

The six months since the last Plant & Crop Sciences update has been a strange experience for both students and staff. We started the Covid pandemic with a swift transformation to working from home, online delivery of teaching, and new student assessment approaches. Fortunately most final year students had completed the research for their projects before lockdown so were able to write these up as normal, and the outcomes were some excellent results for our graduating final year students. We wish them well for the future.

As lockdown progressed, academics, research staff and PhD students re-engaged in writing grant applications and research papers. This has already resulted in one major success, with the award of BBSRC Lola (Strategic Longer and Larger grants) funding of £5 million to a consortium including Malcolm Bennett, David Salt, Leah Band, Tony Bishopp and Rahul Bhosale. This project, which also involves the Universities of Durham, Liverpool and Cambridge, is aimed at discovering how SUMO (Small Ubiquitin-like Modifier) post-translational modifications transduce environmental signals into specific physiological responses, and will be key to understanding some of the fundamental 'rules of life' that regulate processes ranging from development to disease resistance. A number of colleagues have also had research papers accepted, including Guilhem Rey, who was back in the lab in Plant Sciences as soon as it reopened after lockdown and within 2 weeks was able to collect the final data required for resubmission of a manuscript to Current Biology, which has now been accepted.

Plant and Crop Sciences were in the privileged position of being one of the first labs allowed back to work after lockdown. With restricted lab capacity, one-way systems, plenty of hand sanitizer and face masks, we started back in the Plant Science building at the end of June, and in the South Lab building a couple of weeks later. It has been pleasing to see the way in which colleagues have returned with enthusiasm and dedication and adapted to the changed ways of working – indeed I'm not sure that the labs aren't busier now than they were pre-lockdown! There are many people to thank for getting us back to work, in particular the technical team led by Jools Marquez. Special thanks also go to Mark Meacham and Catherine

Tomlinson for working in the glasshouses throughout lockdown and keeping our plants watered and fed. Unfortunately, due to voluntary redundancies, we have lost a few staff from the Division, in particular the administrative support from Doreen Dakin and Diane Jones and technical support from Marlene Oldman, whilst Jennifer Dewick has transferred from the Division to take up a new role in the School research office. The other change at the start of July was that I agreed to take over as Head of Division for the next 2 years from Malcolm. Malcolm has done an excellent job in the role, and as well as his success with the BBSRC funding, we congratulate him on being elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS) back in April; he is going to be a hard act to follow. However, we have a great collegiate bunch of colleagues in the Division and an excellent cohort of research and undergraduate students, so I'm confident we will weather the Covid storm and have more successes to report next year.



Matt Dickinson
Head of PCS Division

Prof Paul Wilson

Rural Business Research Unit (RBRU)

As I look back on my recent *Agrimag* entries for the RBRU, some common themes of uncertainty and the weather have frequently cropped up. As I write this year, the combination of three letters spring to mind that have summarised 2020 so far – as for most of us who work in farming – A,B,C. You are forgiven for wondering what I am on about. For those in the farming world the complications of, and interactions between, Agricultural production, Brexit and Covid-19 have introduced more uncertainty to an already uncertain situation, and I use this *Agrimag* entry to note some of these below.

Since our previous *Agrimag* entry, our farmer co-operators, particularly in the East of the country, have been subject to one of the wettest autumns and winters on record. The impacts on arable farming have been substantial, with little or no winter crops established in the autumn as farmers were unable to do any field work. This was followed in the spring of 2020 by the complete opposite – fields that were waterlogged and unfit to walk on, quickly turned to deserts. The small window in between these two states enabled farmers to plant spring crops to enable something to be grown for harvest in 2020. Yields so far have been variable, or very poor, with oilseed rape being particularly badly affected from the combination of pest pressure and poor growing conditions.

In addition to the agricultural production challenges, the “B” word [Brexit] lingers on. There has been extensive excellent work done by colleagues in Defra, using the data and insights that we supply to them from the Farm Business Survey (FBS); these have supported the

development of the new Agriculture Bill that will shortly be making its way through its final stages in parliament. The data from the FBS has provided over 50% of the evidence base of the analysis that sits behind the Agriculture Bill, and has helped to make changes to initial proposals, including extending the transition period (away from Basic Farm Payment) from 5 year to 7 years; additionally the transition process will take into account farm size to provide a greater time frame for smaller farms to retain a larger proportion of the Basic Farm Payment during the early years of the transition.

It is not possible to cover 2020, without covering Covid-19 impacts on agriculture and horticulture, and on our work on the FBS. Some of the main issues that have arisen over recent months, as observed from our work on the FBS and through our conversations with farmers and growers, are set out below. Several milk producers have been severely affected by lower milk prices, contract cancellations and supply reductions; in some cases we have seen milk being thrown away as milk buyers refused to collect it as their own markets to hotels, coffee chains and fast food outlets vanished. In response, and drawing on analysis of FBS data, Defra put in place a dairy support fund for affected dairy farmers; while this was a modest sum for many dairy farming businesses it was nevertheless welcome, and yet again showed the importance of the work we do on the FBS in informing policy-making in Government. Horticulture growers supplying plants to garden centres were severely impacted at the start of the pandemic in the UK, as their market outlets closed down; some quickly developed online marketing outlets. As the season went on, obtaining seasonal labour become a challenge for many horticulture units, with restrictions on travelling to the UK, in particular from Eastern Europe where many growers source reliable and hard-working seasonal labour. Those farm businesses that have diversified into holiday accommodation, campsites or small industrial unit lets saw demand disappear as lockdown hit hard, or the impact of closing the economy left some with unpaid rents on their industrial units. Many tourist ventures subsequently have seen major increases in demand as lockdown eased in the UK, but travel restrictions abroad remained. These issues and more have all been highlighted directly to Defra in our 'Coronavirus Intelligence' reports that we quickly put in place and regularly supplied to Government throughout the spring and summer – you can find all these freely available at www.ruralbusinessresearch.co.uk/publications/ – under latest publications.

Of course, Covid-19 has also impacted severely on the way in which we do our work in the RBRU. We have quickly adapted to working at home, holding meetings over the internet and holding many more meetings with farmers over the phone, rather than on-farm. I thank all our farmer and grower co-operators for their positive response to how we have had to change the way we work, and for their help in supplying data to us electronically, or boxing up all their paperwork so that we can collect this from the farm while maintaining social distance. I thank also my superb colleagues in the RBRU, whom I cannot praise enough for the positive way in which they have risen to the challenge of this new way of working. Without the support of our co-operators and the professional dedication of the RBRU team our work on the FBS, and the key importance it is having at this point in history, would simply not be possible.

Paul Wilson, Director
19 August 2020

FROM THE FARM

University Farm – Past and Present

This year, Joe Greenfield (Arable Farm Manager) and I thought that we'd do a longer-term review of University Farm and finish with some thoughts about recent events and why the Farm is such an important part of the degree programmes in the School of Biosciences.

In my time at Sutton Bonington I've been involved with the Farm from a teaching perspective and in the role of Farm Director. What has changed since I arrived in the early 1990s? It's worth thinking about agriculture more widely, as many of the changes at Sutton Bonington reflect changes in the industry nationally and internationally. To pick three: farms have become more specialised, technology has advanced, and environmental and market conditions have become more demanding. To give examples of each for University Farm: the mix of crops grown, although still varied, no longer includes a commercial sugar beet crop; robotic milking was introduced in the early 2000s, with further investment recently as part of CDSI (the Centre for Dairy Science Innovation); and prices for the Farm's main cereal crop, wheat, have varied from less than £100 per tonne, to – briefly – over £200 per tonne for milling wheat in 2007. Prices for milling wheat may yet breach £200 per tonne again later in 2020 or 2021.

It's interesting to consider the reasons why farms have become specialised. From an economic perspective, there are potential gains from reducing costs associated with specific enterprises. The only way that you can really do this is to remove the enterprise entirely (costs are 'fixed' for some decisions, but not others). However, there is another, overlooked reason for farm business specialisation and that is that individual enterprises – 'the wheat crop', the 'dairy enterprise' – now require much greater levels of management as our understanding of agronomy and dairy science – and other agricultural sciences – is much better than it was. One way of freeing up sufficient time to master this understanding is through farm specialisation. Despite some enterprise trimming, University Farm still remains a relatively 'Mixed Farm', with a range of cereals, break crops, forage crops, new and old woodland, dairy and sheep, as well as trial and teaching facilities. Sugar beet is now grown again, but as a trial crop, overseen by Professor Debbie Sparkes and her team. The sheep flock are part of the teaching facilities: started in 2018 with the purchase of 20 Lleyn shearlings from the Chatsworth Estate, the flock currently has 50 or so ewes producing (at market) about two lambs per ewe for sale through a local box scheme organised by Dr Matt Bell. Both sheep and cereals on the farm are part of the second year teaching on the Agriculture degrees: students can choose to manage and make marketing decisions for the sheep flock or for plots of milling and feed wheat (this year we used Skyfall and Leeds and it will be interesting to see how the crops have yielded in what have been very challenging growing conditions).

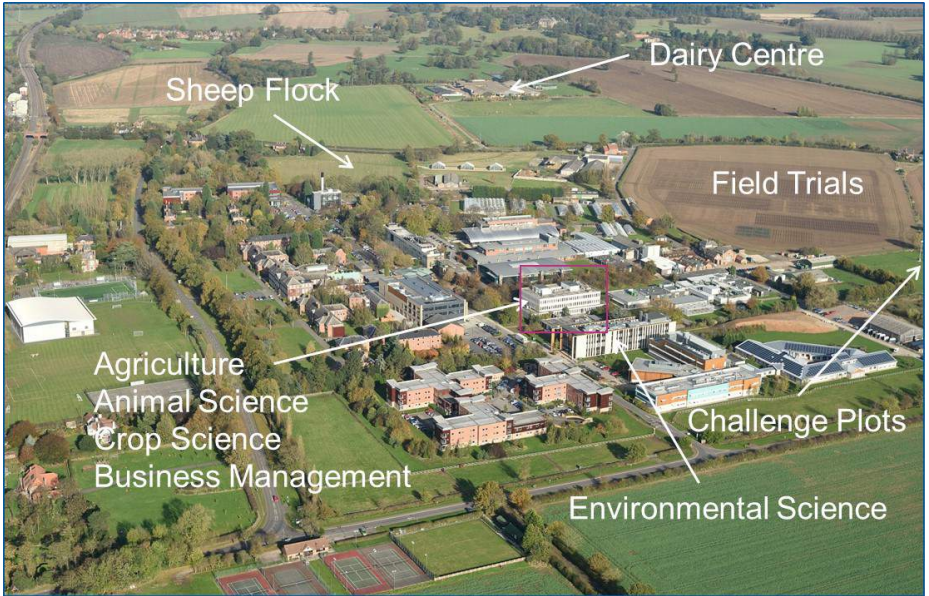
One of the main changes at the Farm has been the introduction of robotic milking. I remember visiting the old dairy, at Kingston upon Soar, in 1993: as some of you will remember, it was a very different place to the current dairy facilities – not least because you had to wear a pair of wellies, rather than the plastic overshoes that are used at CDSI. Yields would have been perhaps half of what are achievable today: biological potential has also developed over time. There were also no facilities for methane measurement, an area of research that has been led and developed by staff at Sutton Bonington, particularly Professor Phil Garnsworthy and Dr Bell and their co-workers.



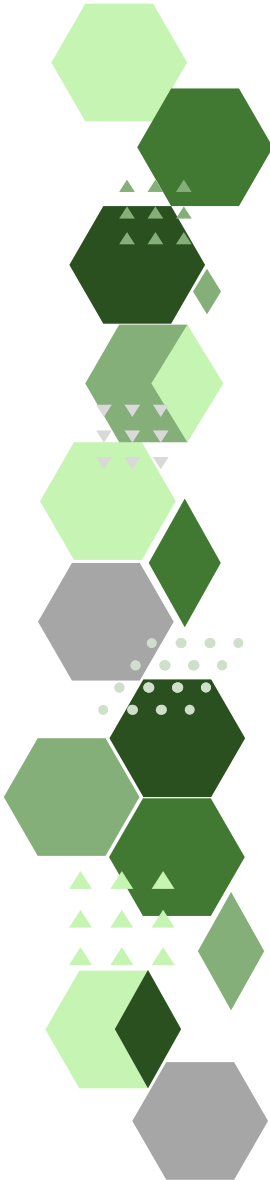
This year's markets don't look too bad from a farm perspective: milk prices, although dropping back in 2020, are still above levels five years ago and as noted, milling wheat is pushing towards £200 per tonne. However, as always, costs of production have also increased and winter wheat only gives a good price if there is wheat in the ground. This year's biblical conditions in autumn and early spring meant that much of the planned winter wheat area was replaced with spring barley – and spring crops don't grow well in dry conditions: the flood was followed by drought in what was one of the driest late springs on record. Despite this, crops this summer look very promising, the cows are milking well and all lambs from the student flock have been sold: you wouldn't know what a sodden then torrid year it has been. This is largely due to the efforts and ability of farm staff to adapt quickly: for example, higher seed rates and micro-nutrients in the field have helped to compensate for difficult conditions.

University farms are challenging to manage: we have only touched on some of the issues here. New agricultural policies, with greater emphasis on the provision of public goods, will pose further challenges and opportunities. But this is also what makes a resource like the SB Farm so important and useful for applied learning. Long may this continue.

Stephen Ramsden and Joe Greenfield



FROM THE SPORTS CENTRE



The start of the academic year of 19/20 repeated the pattern of a year on year increase in the number of students making use of the sporting facilities and provisions that the University has to offer. It was clear to see that sport had continued to become an integral part of student life and our student representatives once again made the University proud in their sporting achievements.

This positivity unfortunately was short-lived, as society markedly changed when the pandemic hit, forcing our facilities to close for the latter half of the academic year. Whilst as a department, UoN Sport moved to providing an online offer to students in terms of online classes, fitness challenges and forums it most definitely was a stark contrast to the face-to-face contact that our staff and students are used to.

Over the summer of 2020, in line with government guidelines, the sports facilities were approved to re-open and we did so with a phased approach to operations. As a department we worked at length to ensure that all our facilities and provisions complied with health and safety guidance in every area and had begun to operate, for the foreseeable future as a 'new normal'. The SB Sports Centre was operating on a one-way system throughout most of the indoor facilities. All attendees were required to wear a mask through circulation areas, sanitise their hands as they entered and exited the facility and sanitise any equipment used before and after use.

To assist with members' understanding of how to safely use the facilities we also created a virtual tour that explains how the facility is now operating, which can be viewed on the UoN Sport website.

The staff at the SB Sports Centre have worked hard to educate members on the new operations at the facility and just as we were all getting used to the changes, we entered a second lockdown post-Christmas and were forced to once again close the facility.

This time around we are very well prepared and have now increased the offering on the UoN Sport Health & Fitness Hub online that can be accessed via the UoN Sport webpage. The Hub provides free access to on demand online workouts, from high intensity interval training to the more relaxed yoga sessions. There are weekly

challenges to take part in, regularly updated health and fitness blogs and links for members to connect with our fitness instructors.

We are all highly anticipating the go ahead to welcome our members back to our facilities and are extremely positive in the notion that we will, at some point bring our sporting offer back in line with expectations and will continue working hard to bring provisions and facilities back into use as soon as it is safe to do so.

I look forward to continuing the positive work already started with Amy Bagster this academic year and am confident that she will continue to provide Sutton Bonington students with a voice and point of contact in her role as Sports Officer within the Guild.

For any further information, suggestions, or feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch and let us know where we can offer support.

Lauren Barker
Centre Manager
14 Jan 2021



Rewind Forty Years

Reminiscences of 1980 by Prof Phil Garnsworthy

On 1st September 2020, I reached the milestone of 40 years since I was appointed Lecturer in Animal Production at Sutton Bonington. Naturally, I started to think about how different things were back in 1980.

My starting salary was £5,725 per annum, but to put that in perspective my first house cost £10,750 and beer cost 30p a pint. I got the job straight from my PhD; in fact, I did not have my viva until mid-September. In those days, job applicants were invited for interview on the understanding that they would make a firm decision on the day if offered the position. Of course I accepted, but Julian Wiseman tells the tale of someone who asked for a few days to think about it; the offer was withdrawn immediately and the second choice was appointed – how harsh is that?

We worked at the School of Agriculture, which was also the Faculty of Agricultural Science. There were three departments – Agriculture and Horticulture, Applied Biochemistry and Nutrition, and Physiology and Environmental Science. Departments were divided into sections, and I worked in the Animal Production Section of A&H. The Faculty/School was completely autonomous, and Faculty Board was the forum where decisions were made, often after long debates (the record was a five-hour meeting finishing at 7 pm). The budget from the University was split between the three departments according to number of academic staff. Each section had its own maintenance budget to spend how they wished. Individual academics had an account for research balances (slush fund) where surpluses were deposited to support their own activities ... those who earned the money spent the money.

My office was on the top floor of South Lab, which was the newest building in 1980 (opened in 1969). Where the Food Science, Plant Science and BABS buildings are now was all open space (Field 12), where we grazed the research herd of 36 dairy cows, and had some trial plots and glasshouses. To the south, there was an orchard run by the Horticulture section (free apples if you brought your own sacks) and paddocks for grazing sheep and cows. Gateway and the Vet School buildings now occupy the orchard and paddocks.

Student intake was 120 per year in 1980 and there were 55 academic staff. The relatively small numbers and collegiate ethos meant that we knew almost every student in the School. I can still remember my first Animal Production class, even though I have taught several thousand students since then. In those days, students had grants to cover living expenses, and local authorities paid their tuition fees. Parking was not an issue as there was ample space in South Lab and North Lab car parks. Professors had reserved spaces marked by their name on a kerbstone, and students parked by the boiler house.

Secretaries were essential before the advent of the PC (Personal computer, or politically correct job title), and we had about one secretary per three academics. Letters and reports were dictated or hand-written, typed, and corrected with Tippex; copies were made with

carbon paper or, for handouts, a Roneo machine (predecessor of the photocopier). There was a photocopier in the library for copying journal papers, but it was prohibitively expensive for producing class handouts. For computing, we made punch cards on a machine in the Main Building, and sent them up to University Park in a van; printouts would come back next day, so if you made a typo in Genstat it could be a long process.

Lectures were delivered using chalk and blackboard or, for progressive lecturers like me, acetate sheets on an overhead projector. I will never forget my first lecture; I had spent several weeks preparing acetate sheets and rehearsing, but when I put my first sheet on the projector the bulb blew ... Disaster! With later experience, I would have phoned a technician or stolen the projector from next door but, as a naïve lecturer, I proceeded with my lecture and wrote all my notes on the blackboard. A tutee said it was the best lecture he had ever attended, so I think I got away with it. Another disadvantage of acetates was that the ink ran if it was raining when you walked over to the lecture block. The alternative was to use slides and a projector, but sometimes slides got stuck and melted.

The teaching year was divided into three terms and the course had a two-three-four structure. Students spent two terms studying general subjects before their qualifying exams; they then had subject-specific teaching for three terms before Part 1 exams; they then specialised in three subjects (triads) for four terms before finals. Triads were usually taken in course-specific combinations (eg Agronomy, Animal Production, Farm Management for Agriculture; Animal Production, Animal Physiology, Animal Nutrition for Animal Science). The simple timetable never changed because each triad was taught on one day per week, eg Animal Production was taught from nine to five on Fridays with suitable breaks. Coffee was served every day at 11 am in the Senior Common Room (now the Committee Room) and Tea was served at 3.30 pm. Virtually all academic staff attended as it was a good chance to meet with colleagues (what we now call networking).

In conclusion, there are major contrasts between working at SB now and forty years ago: students have become paying customers who need to be satisfied; decisions are now made centrally; we have no money; academics do a lot of routine administration; computers and online information rule our lives. One thing has not changed, however, which is that SB is still a great place to work ... here's to the next forty years!



Introducing Our New Staff

Dr Andreas Kartakoullis



I joined the School of Biosciences as a Research Fellow and I am a member of the Food Flavour group under the supervision of Prof Ian Fisk since January 2020. I moved from Cyprus to Nottingham to work in a UKRI project called “Precision Food Processing Technology” that aims to offer to the food industry new screening methods based on hyperspectral imaging and data science. I am really excited that I have the opportunity to be a member of such an interdisciplinary project and collaborate with large companies in solving real-world problems.

I am originally from Cyprus and I received a PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of Crete. Before moving to the University of Nottingham, I was a postdoctoral researcher at IRTA and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (2017-2019). IRTA is one of the largest agrifood research centres in Spain and part of my research interests was the development of smartphone-based food analytics.

Dr Annie Blissett

Having graduated with a BSc Food Science Degree in 2003 and awarded an accompanying PhD in 2007 I am delighted to be back working at the University of Nottingham. It is a privilege to be a Food Innovation Technologist working within the Driving Research and Innovation team based at Sutton Bonington Campus. The role is a joyously diverse challenge, supporting local food and drink SMEs through engagement with the wealth of specialist knowledge within the University.



After over 15 years working within the food industry, developing new food products for UK retail, it is an exciting opportunity to be able to share some of the innovative approaches and technical methods I have used over the years to unite and help drive the growth of some truly exciting entrepreneurial businesses.

Once it is safe to do so, I am very much looking forward to returning to campus and enjoying what I remember to be a very friendly, enthusiastic community atmosphere!



**Sutton Bonington
GUILD**

Sutton Bonington Guild 2019-20



Guild Chair

Vice Guild Chair

Treasurer

Hall President

Wellbeing Coordinator

Wellbeing Coordinator

Sports and Activities Officer

Senior Ents

Junior Ents

Junior Ents

Equal Opps and Welfare Officer

Charities and Campaigns Officer

Publicity Officer

International Representative

Caitlin Birchall

Allana Garaghty

Harriet Critchley

Amy Bagster

Daisy Atherton

Poppy Ballantine

Clemmie Bridges

Matthew Warren

Sophie Griffin

Scott Macdougall

Christie Allan

Lucy Newman

Harriet Foster

Hardika Behl



Caitlin Birchall

Guild Chair

The academic year 2019/20 was certainly an interesting year for Sutton Bonington and the Guild. This has much to do with the COVID-19 pandemic and also the pioneering cohort of April starters within the Vet School. However, that comes slightly later in the year...

Way before the pandemic and lockdown became a reality, we started the year with Welcome. The week involved many events to integrate the new students into the SB community. The Guild had many roles in this week, including physically welcoming the new students, planning the events for the week, and explaining our wider role to them. We planned a UV party, the 'Keggy Krawl', and a big finale party. As well as this, we planned some more inclusive and interactive events, such as Alan Bates: The Comedy Hypnotist.

However, the events didn't stop at Welcome Week. Events continued throughout the year, these including the many infamous barn parties, my personal favourite being the silent disco. As well as this, we took the lead in running the 'Til The Cows Come Home OKA Reunion Weekend event; this was well loved and included our traditional beer and cider bar as well as a Dining In for all attending. This Dining In was one of 3 in the year, the others being the Pirates of the Caribbean and the Polar Express themes. These Dining Ins were well attended and enjoyed by all, with a bottle of wine brought along ensuring a merry night for many.

Throughout the year, the Guild promoted and supported many charity events. The biggest achievements on this front are, in my opinion, weeklong named events. Examples of these weeks include, but aren't limited to, SHAG week (Sexual Health And Guidance), Drug and Alcohol Awareness week, and Raising and Giving week. Other fund-raising events that the Guild was proud to support were the multiple inter-society tournaments that took place throughout the year. These tournaments were primarily run by various societies on campus, who the Guild are proud to support.

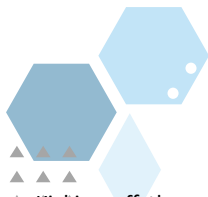
The societies and groups on campus also had some notable events this year. Some of these events include: the annual Pantomime and Christmas Concert, run by the SB Players and SB Music Soc respectively; the ever popular, monthly Farmers' Market, ran by the Farmers' Market Committee; and the SB Sports Meal, organised by the SB Mixed Hockey Society. There were also some amazing moments for some of our groups this year, most notably, in my opinion, the opening of the Vets In The Community Mobile Trailer. Another thing we should mention is the addition of the rainbow crossing to campus, celebrating the LGBTQIA+ students on campus, and the welcoming, inclusive environment we aim to provide for all students.

After an incredible 2 terms, the year as we know it was cut short. As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic gave the university no choice but to transition to online learning from the 23rd March 2020. This came just 1 week before we planned to welcome the new April cohort of vet students to campus. Although we had many events planned for the April cohort,

including an extraordinary Dining In and Silent Disco, these all had to be cancelled and the April welcome transitioned completely to online platforms.

We continued to support students during the 3rd term, including events online and publicising support networks. As well as this, we supported the April cohort by adding 3 April Officers to the Guild structure.

Overall, we had an incredible year, and it was a privilege to be involved with everything the Guild was responsible for. It was amazing to welcome the April cohort, albeit online and I am extremely proud of the many things that the Guild achieved. I hope that officers to come will follow in the steps of those this year and work to provide a high quality of support and student experience for years into the future.



Amy Bagster Hall President

- ▲ Kicking off the year with a show-stopping event entitled 'PAT testing' introduced me to a whole new world of contractual compliance. Bringing in the lovely electrician Steve from 'Century Electrix' allowed students in halls to PAT test their electrical appliances. We had a steady stream of customers for the three hours, testing everything from the standard kettle to a portable washing machine! Who says keeping in line with health and safety regulations can't be fun?

After successful construction of last year's Christmas tree in glorious Victorian tradition, the laws of gravity in this probabilistic universe are still scratching their heads over the successful lack of falling over that followed; despite the severe leaning-tower-of-Pisa effect, and all those who doubted (myself included)! It is always a morose period of the year when Christmas festivities cease, however the time that has followed goes to show what great things can happen when a period of reflection is followed by a new year of action.



The Polar Express Dining In saw a special gift brought in from the North Pole, and an extra special one from Whoville. We were graced by the presence of Father Christmas and his nemesis the Grinch to deliver Candy Cane Grams to the people of Bonington Hall. It was lovely to see all the inter-campus love being shared and spread.

Speaking of love, to save some hearts from loneliness on Valentine's Day, the classic live SB edition of Take Me Out was organised. Lucky winners received vouchers to take their date to 'the island of Nando's'. The event was a raging success.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, all other Halls events planned had to be cancelled. We were still able to welcome the highly anticipated first Vet April cohort into halls following the lockdown and the April Student Ambassadors did an excellent job providing some Covid-secure entertainment for the students in the evenings when sports and societies were unable to.

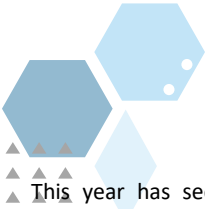
Throughout the year, I was able to share the student voice with members from the University's UK estate via their exhibition session, giving input and feedback surrounding current life on SB as well as thoughts and ideas about their development framework. I have been lucky enough to attend multiple platforms addressing current and ongoing student issues regarding University-related welfare at our weekly Guild meetings and the Learning Community Forum, as well as the Bar development meetings; and planning and helping organise Guild events and sharing ideas brought forward to help make life on SB that much sweeter.

I have had a spectacular year on Sutton Bonington campus, both as a student taking part in academic activities, and as a Guild member getting stuck-in with everything else extra-curricular. To all those living in halls, I hope you have been able to explore, enjoy and continue to benefit from all that Sutton Bonington Halls has to offer, even though it might look very different from what it used to. I for one, shall now turn to the new academic year with all the changes and challenges I anticipate it will offer, and begin looking forward to passing my torch over to whomever is successfully elected.



Christie Allan

Guild Welfare Officer



▲ This year has seen a busy calendar for the entire Guild with welfare events being no exception. The first big event of the year was Sexual Health and Guidance Week where there were a record number of takers for the Screen for a Slice initiative! The week also included a bake sale and pub quiz to raise money for the Terrence Higgins Trust, raising awareness surrounding consent as part of the “Let’s be clear on consent” campaign and various activities to highlight the importance of sexual health. The Wellbeing Week collaboration with VetSoc was filled with freebies, wellness classes and guidance aimed to signpost students to where they can find help if they need it. New for this year was also the CPR workshop which ran with great success offering students the chance to become CPR-trained during their lunch break.



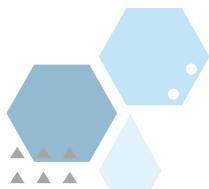
Another highlight of the year was bringing back “Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week”. This University-wide event aimed to educate people surrounding the potential risks of substance misuse. In typical Guild fashion this also included an abundance of freebies and competitions delivered to the SB community to help people get involved. The Guild, alongside the ‘Student Health Team’, dedicated time to talking about sexual abuse and violence and frequently stood in the concourse to offer free tea and biscuits while handing out information on services available both on campus and in the surrounding area. Stalls in the concourse became a regular occurrence, with the Guild working alongside the Student Support and Wellbeing team to offer “Wellness Packs” and support during exams, free fruit during “Body Image Awareness Week” and endless bake sales!



Before the year was cut short we were able to offer a day of activities for University Mental Health Day. Activities included: writing postcards to loved ones, creating a “positivity pebble” to leave around campus, creating a positivity wall and encouraging people to reflect on positive aspects about themselves. There was also a campus-wide scavenger hunt where tokens were exchanged for wellness gifts that included colouring books, puzzle games, pamper packs and journals. Of course there were also a lot of snacks on offer, with both fresh fruit and retro sweets up for grabs!

The Community Café returned this year and was a great success! Running monthly in the Guild Space with different activities and refreshments, students and staff were all welcome to take the time to have a break in their day and look after their own mental wellbeing.

Despite the abrupt end to the year, Guild presence online via the “SB Buddies” Facebook group encouraged everyone to be kind to themselves and to look out for each other, supporting “Mental Health Awareness Week” by sharing the different ways you can be kind to yourself. The support shown online is a true testament to how amazing the SB community is and is something we should all be proud to be a part of!



Lucy Newman Charities and Campaigns Officer

- ▲ Throughout the 2019/2020 academic year, the Guild held various charity fundraising events, supporting a range of charities, and ran many important campaigns, covering a large spectrum of topics and issues. As Campaigns and Charities Officer this year, a key focus of mine was to collaborate with other societies and student groups at Sutton Bonington for the Guild events, in order to encourage integration and inclusivity across the campus.

The annual **Sexual Health and Guidance (S.H.A.G) week** was held in November 2019 and the chosen charity for the week was the Terrence Higgins Trust, a British charity which provides information and services relating to sexual health and HIV. Alongside the usual ‘Screen for a Slice’ STD screening, we held multiple fundraisers across the course of the week. We held a lunchtime bake sale, in collaboration with SB Food Society and SB Charity Society, and this was greatly enjoyed by students and staff alike. We also ran an evening pub quiz, in collaboration with SB Feminist Society, where all of the rounds were based on sex-related themes (Genitalia Trivia/Animal Business/Contraception is Key/Movies/It’s all fun & games until it’s an STI) which were not only highly entertaining but also very educational! Both events were a great success and a final ‘guess how many condoms in the jar’ fundraiser helped to bring our total amount raised to £170 for this worthy cause, which we were really pleased with.

Eating Disorder/Body Image Awareness Week, another annual week in the calendar, occurred in March 2020 and the charity I selected to support for the week was BEAT Eating Disorder Charity. It was a really great week and we held a Just Dance fundraiser (in collaboration with SB Feminist Society), an ABC (anything but clothes!) barn party and a film night with free pizza.

Other annual events that we honoured this year were the **University Mental Health Day** and **Sexual Consent Week**, both of which are University initiatives that we supported with educational social media posts and lunchtime stalls hosting various free goodies, informational material and fun activities for students to take part in. Furthermore, we again carried out free, on-campus **HIV testing** with bookable slots for anyone throughout the day.



During this academic year, we continued our support with Guild social media publicity for the SB Feminist Society's **'That Time of The Month'** monthly charity sanitary collection, which they launched last year. For the first week of each month, buckets are placed in the Barn Concourse, Costcutter and the Vet School Atrium to collect donations for The Free Period Nottingham, which distributes them to vulnerable women in the community.



Furthermore, we continued to support The Rucksack Project with their collection of **clothes and bedding for homeless people in the community** through Guild social media publicity.



At Christmas time – the time of giving, as they say – we held two different charity events. Firstly, the **Candy Cane Fundraiser for the Christmas Crisis Appeal**. We bulk ordered candy canes and then students, particularly first years, were able to purchase them for someone else on campus during the Sodexo evening meal time slots over the course of a few days. At the SB Christmas Dining In, 'Father Christmas' handed them out to the lucky chosen ones! This was a really lovely and fun initiative which raised over £50.



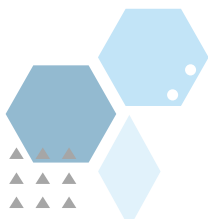
Secondly, we held a **British Red Cross 'Wrapping for Refugees'** collection over a couple of lunchtimes, in collaboration with SB Charity Society and some other students on campus, to collect items (eg toothbrushes/deodorant/shower gel, etc) to be sent in boxes to refugees in need.

As with much of the nation, we supported the **Register to Vote campaign** leading up to the December 2019 general election, with informative Guild social media posts & explanations on how and why to register. Our goal was to encourage members of the campus to engage in political affairs within their community, as well as on a wider scale, and to further understand why using their voice and their vote is so important.

In terms of improving campus facilities, the Guild put together and distributed an extensive **Sutton Bonington campus parking/bus service survey** to all students. It covered all aspects of transportation and University bus usage, particularly between Sutton Bonington and Kegworth, as well as parking requirements on campus. The aim of this was to

gain a greater understanding of the current pitfalls in the arrangements, understand the needs of the members of our campus and develop plans or ideas for improvements that have since been passed on to relevant staff and management teams.

Finally, I had arranged a charity **Giving and Raising Week** to be held in March 2020, however given the unfortunate circumstances, it had to be cancelled. There were going to be events every day, each supporting a different charity (Save the Children/Nottingham's Women's Centre/RSPCA Radcliffe/Post Pals/Air Ambulance Service/Samaritans), and it involved collaborations with SB Charity Society, SB Feminist Society, Shelter Medicine Society and Nerf Gun Society. There were not only events to raise money, including bake sales and charity crafting, but also opportunities for students to donate their time to great causes, such as writing letters to children with terminal illnesses and litter picking in Kegworth. It was so important to me that there would be events that had no financial requirement so everyone was able to get involved. There were also going to be charitable social events; – a 'Keggy Krawl' pub crawl, a Nerf Gun games afternoon and an Art Attack day to highlight the talent on campus! I hope and have faith, given that all of the (somewhat tedious!) groundwork has been done, that this wonderful week will be able to run in the future when the situation allows!



Olivia Holmes

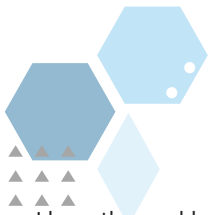
April Cohort Representative



My first year at vet school was an amazing, although unusual, experience! Firstly, I was lucky enough to be a part of the first April Cohort, which was amazing as we are able to be the pioneers for future April students. Secondly, I started my year during the Covid-19 pandemic, which meant I had to start my year online at home. Even though we were online, the Vet School and the societies made sure that we had the best experience that we could, whether that was putting on online events or sending us some free Vet School merchandise!

Once we got to campus, my experience of first year only became better. I was able to take part in fitness classes, socially-distanced events organised by the Guild and the Vet School, and I was also able to meet everyone that I had met online in-person. The highlight of my year was both the VetSoc Fun Run and watching Loxley Nutts perform live at the bandstand.

Although it has been a challenging and difficult year, I wouldn't change any of it as I was able to make some lifelong memories with some lifelong friends.



Ali Povey

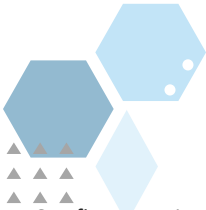
April Cohort Representative

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at vet school being part of the first ever April Cohort. Initially when I received the offer I was unsure of what my university experience would be like, starting mid-year; however, as soon as the course began, albeit in extraordinary circumstances, I was instantly reassured by the Vet School that this year would nevertheless be enjoyable.

Studying online during lockdown had its challenges but it allowed me to meet people before arriving on campus which made the transition less daunting. Once we arrived on campus, the April ambassadors organised countless events to help us meet new people. The Vet School also organised a week of treats including a free ice cream van to keep us positive during this unique situation.

Undoubtedly this year has been difficult, as we couldn't socialise in the usual way but sports societies, April ambassadors and the Guild helped us to make the most of our university experience and have fun safely. I have made an amazing group of friends and feel even closer with them as a result of our shared experience, overcoming this year's challenges.





Milinda Hewagama

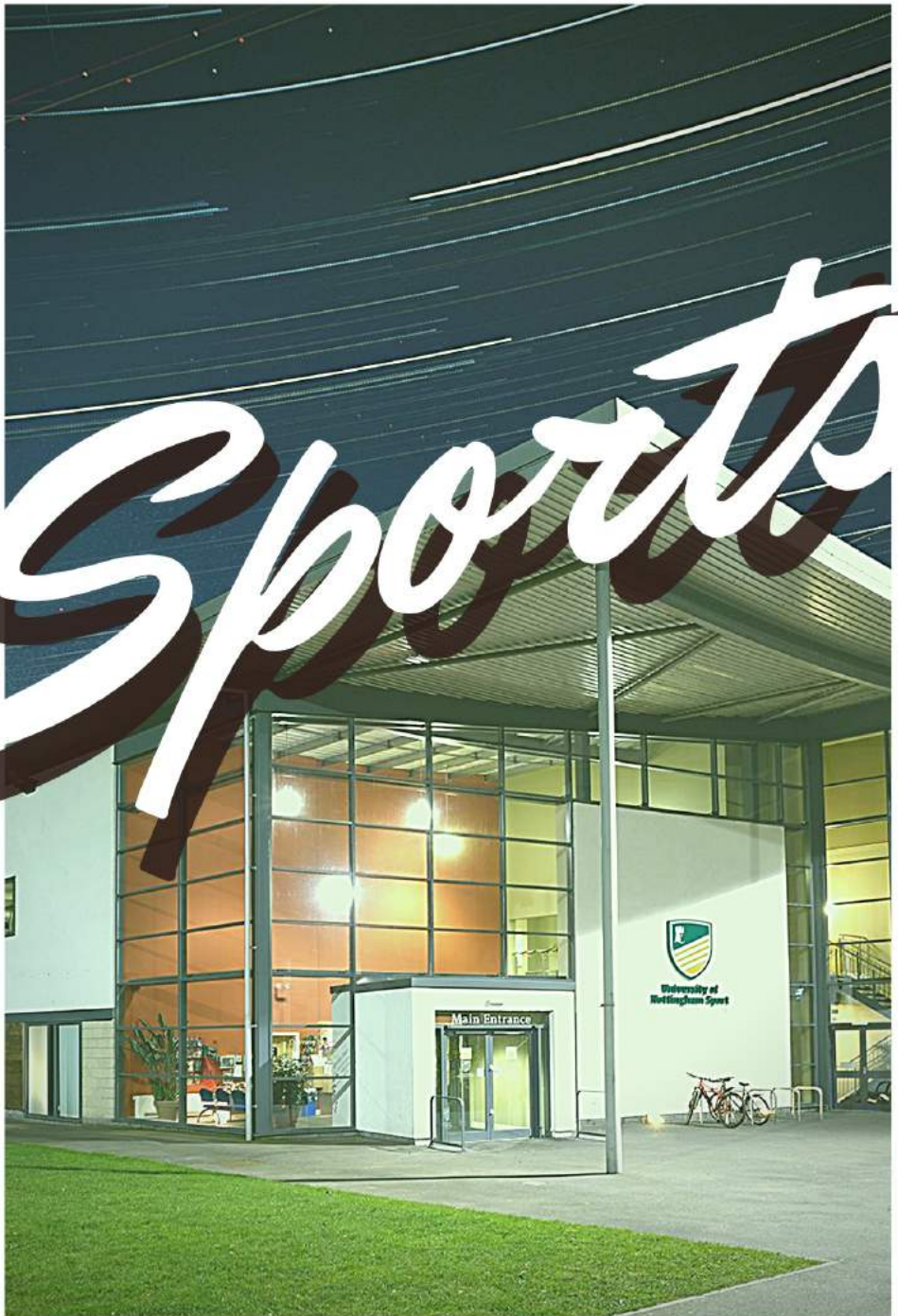
April Course Representative

Our first experience of vet school and university was unorthodox to say the least. However, it was definitely one to remember. As the first April cohort, it is quite ironic seeing as it wasn't even April when we actually moved into university! We spent the first few months of our veterinary career learning from the comfort of our own homes, which was not the start anyone was expecting of course but we're living in unprecedented times. I guess we were to expect the unexpected. After finally moving onto campus towards the end of July, the April cohort were the only people on campus so it felt like we owned SB. We were going around Nottingham, SB, Kegworth and Loughborough scouting out all the best pubs and spots we could find, seeing as we couldn't go out clubbing like normal freshers. However, we were making the most of what we had. We also had help from the Vet School and the Guild, who put on events for us to do in the months when no one else was here so that we didn't feel left out ... but we knew that wasn't going to happen because we were the brand-new April cohort, the pioneers of a whole new, never before seen aspect of the Vet School.

As time went on, we got to grips with all the new systems and we all jumped in headfirst, eager to learn. Soon enough, September came around and the rest of the University started to come back. SB slowly started getting busier, which was exciting because it meant people to meet, societies opening up and the campus slowly starting to regain life. The months passed as we did university in this new COVID-friendly way and before we knew it, exams were over and our first year was done before it felt like it had even started!



Sports





SUTTON BONINGTON

Archery



The 19/20 academic year saw Archery officially branch out to Sutton Bonington with our first stall at this campus's Freshers' Fair and a popular taster in term one. We had lots of interest and loved talking to you all! This year's beginner's course was our largest to date with 134 sign-ups making for the busiest three weeks we've ever seen – and plenty of new club members! With new members come novice competitions (and accompanying socials) and this year our novices did so proud winning medals in nearly every category at the Warwick Open Novice Tournament.

However, Archery does a lot more than just compete and in the first term we hosted both a Halloween and a Christmas Fun Shoot because the best way to celebrate holidays is shooting pumpkins and winning chocolate. Throughout this year our Social Sec has organised Crisis, Ice Skating, Laser Tag and many other socials including our fabulous annual Christmas Dinner. This year we went to Pitcher and Piano and had our first club Secret Santa to end the first full term!

In term two there was success at the Nottinghamshire County Championships with two of our archers walking away with titles. Shortly after this we held our home BUTTS leg (inter-university competition) hosting archers from Warwick and Birmingham and despite our attempts at gracious hosting, had another successful medal haul. At BUTTS Champs in Birmingham there was success in both the experienced and novice categories, with three of our archers winning first overall in their categories and two of our experienced archers in a semi-final knockout against each other.



Then there was BUCS central qualifiers – the national inter-university championships where novice and experienced archers shoot in a bid to qualify for the finals. Novices are awarded medals at qualifiers and this year novice members achieved a Gold in the Gents' Recurve and Ladies' Barebow, a Silver in the Gents' Barebow and Non-compound Team, bringing back one of our best novice medal hauls to date. Ultimately the eight archers we sent to BUCS Finals brought home a Team Bronze for the Ladies' Recurve, a Gents' Barebow Silver for an SB student and plenty of BUCS points.

Despite a premature end to our training sessions this year we've still been as involved on SB as we can. Not only did we get new storage for the outdoor season and laid plans to shoot indoors at SB, but we ended the year with three SB students on the incoming Archery committee with many plans for the campus when we return!





SUTTON BONINGTON *Climbing Club*



SB Climbing has expanded massively this year – doubling in size to almost 100 members! This growth has enabled us to do more than ever this year, and engagement has been amazing! As well as our regular Tuesday and Thursday evening sessions at our wall on campus, we've really loved our Wednesday afternoon trips to The Climbing Station where we get some really great training from the coaches there. This enabled us to have a team of 23 go to Varsity at The Depot in Nottingham this year where UoN triumphed!

We've really invested a lot of time and effort into improving our own SB wall by inviting alumni back to reset the wall more often, buying new holds and holding many games nights and competitions. This is the real heart of our Society and the new Committee has lots of great plans for further improvements. With an extremely generous donation of £500 given by OKA, we have been able to purchase some shiny new rental shoes for our members! We have also begun plans to reach out to the wider SB community by offering Postgrad/Staff sessions on Friday lunchtimes, which is something we really hope to build upon.

Besides climbing, our Society has a really fun social community. This year, we've had loads of pub socials including quiz and nachos nights which have been very popular! We also attended Sports' Ball and Societies Ball where we attained Gold STARS status for the first time ever! These events have been advertised via our brand-new Instagram page ([sb_climbing](#)) which has helped us to reach out to more people than ever before.

Overall, SB Climbing is becoming a bigger and better society year-on-year and we hope to continue offering a fun, friendly community where anybody is welcome!

President: Helen Jennings



SUTTON BONINGTON Mixed Hockey Club

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Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photographs

This year SB Mixed Hockey ran our usual 2 training sessions a week, however this year one of the sessions was hosted at a new AstroTurf in Loughborough. New and returning players enjoyed using this pitch and we saw record numbers running up to training each week; due to the new pitch, convenient location and time of training. We have also moved our home match pitch to Groby for the season with Leicestershire and Rutland Mixed Hockey. We enjoyed a very successful season, with many goals being scored and many new players having a go at playing competitively for the first time. We finished the season a respectable 6th place in Division 2.

This year we introduced a new social membership for Hockey. This gives injured players, and friends of the Society who don't fancy playing, the opportunity to still be a part of the family, for a fraction of the price. Therefore we held several socials this year, all of which had great turnouts, probably the highest numbers SB Hockey has ever seen at a social! These socials included a mystery weekend away to Peterborough, nights out with SB Tennis and the introduction of pub nights every week or so, the relaxed atmosphere of which was enjoyed by all. The highlight of the social calendar this year was the brand new SB Christmas Sports Ball, hosted by our Social Sec which invited all sports teams from SB. This event sold out all 250 tickets in a matter of hours and was enjoyed by all, therefore will be the event to look out for next year!

Charity fundraising is an integral part of our Society, and by hosting the Booball tournament (with over 100 people attending!) and the Big SB Car Wash we raised over £1000 for the charities CoppaFeel and Mind UK. These events are another way to bring everyone from the society together to run large enjoyable events that allow the whole of SB Campus to get

involved. We also gathered 2 teams to support the SB Tennis and Netball tournaments, further showing our support and dedication to charities as well as turning our hand to different sports and socialising off the hockey pitch.

We ended the year, unfortunately prematurely due to the pandemic, with great successes at the SB Societies Ball. A great night was had by all and we proudly retained our Gold STARS status. As well as this we won awards for Best Event (SB Christmas Sports Ball), Best President and Best Society.

The successes we have had this year reflect the hard work put in throughout the year by our Committee and fantastic members, and I hope SB Hockey will continue in the future to be a welcoming, successful and active society.



SUTTON BONINGTON *Dance*



For the year of 19-20 SB Dance:

- ◆ increased our number of classes and had more people take part in them
- ◆ held out first showcase at the end of the winter term, each style of dance presented a piece and performed in front of a live audience
- ◆ our hip hop class entered their first competition – Go Hard or Go Home – and came 7th out of 17 other teams!



SUTTON BONINGTON *Lacrosse Club*

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Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

SB Mixed Lacrosse is a popular and inclusive club attended by students from all year groups and courses, giving us a brilliant spectrum of personalities and abilities. We train twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, catering to all that attend. We also compete in the England Lacrosse Mixed League, with regular matches on Sundays, home and away.

Most people come to the University never having played lacrosse before in their life (which is the case for the majority of our current players) and this can be really daunting for new Freshers arriving, however we are a really welcoming bunch and at the start of every season we go back to the basics to make sure that anyone new can start from square one and not be thrown in at the deep end. It takes a couple of weeks to pick up but once you get going you'll improve leaps and bounds. The Freshers from the 2019 intake are now playing incredibly well and it's hard to believe they've been playing for less than a year!

We train on a Tuesday 8.30-9.30pm and on a Thursday 5.00-7.00pm, with training including a range of activities and drills. We often include a lot of fitness to help improve our stamina, lots of drills focussing on throwing/catching, cradling, ground balls, defending/attacking and shooting.

This year we've done well in our league games, although the last part of the league had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, so we don't have an official league position! We've gone from strength to strength with skills and working as a team, now making us a force to be reckoned with. Many of the Freshers who have only been playing for a few months have also been

playing in these matches and have been an asset to the team. We're proud that all our hard work in training has been paying off and we're excited to see what we can achieve next season.

Lacrosse is an extremely sociable society and thanks to the hard work of our Social Secretaries we've had some amazing socials. These have included lots of fancy dress themed nights out to Crisis/Bierkeller/Ocean, house parties, bowling, and even a tour to Leeds. This has helped create a lovely atmosphere within the team and we're a very close knit group.

Elections for the Committee for the next season are currently underway and it's looking like there's going to be a fantastic new Committee to follow on from the hard work of the current one!





SUTTON BONINGTON Rugby Club

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Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

A feisty game at the end of Freshers' Week versus a main University side kicked off proceedings to what was to be another great year for SBRFC, one of the biggest and best societies on SB. After moving leagues this year for a new challenge, the boys went on to win the top division of the Leicestershire club league – a third season in a row league win. The league has only been getting more competitive as well. This is testament to a challenging, self-driven environment that the boys have really taken to this year, where we have notably improved our rugby brains under our coach, Dave , who regularly tests us with the latest drills and tactics. The boys train twice per week ahead of games, Monday evening and Wednesday afternoons.

The girls are equally a competitive team who love to work hard and improve, whereby all abilities are welcome into their rugby "famalam", ranging from a large number of girls who have never played before, all the way to very experienced and seasoned players. We take part in a Freshers' competition versus other Universities early on in October, which gives new players valuable game time and experience before playing their first 'proper' game. Whilst rugby is often seen as a male sport, women's rugby is going from strength to strength with more attention in the media following the England Women's success. This is very much replicated here on SB with women discovering the thrill of the game and the family team environment unique to the sport of Rugby, where it establishes and grows confidence. The girls train twice per week under the guidance of a coach from the Men's team, with us looking to have even more fixtures than ever next year.

President: John Price

SBRFC's quality continued off the pitch as always into the SBRFC family, where regular socials have been as good a craic as ever, led by our fantastic Social Secs. This includes mixed socials, our Kinky Christmas barn party and of course Tour where the girls terrorised the Newcastle locals and the boys made the very worthwhile trip up to Liverpool. A weekly highlight this year has been playing down at The Pitch of Dreams (The POD) with support from fellow club members and students, before then heading to our adopted rugby pub, The Coach House, to chill out. Moving into the summer, we will be doing mixed 7's training in the late evening sun before trying to head to a 7's festival as usual, which is a great way to end the year together.

Please look at our SU, Facebook and Instagram pages for more information and do not hesitate to get in touch if you are interested in SBRFC.

Facebook: @SBrugbyclub
Instagram: @suttonboningtonrfc



Women's Captain: Grace Murray



Men's Captain: Toby Stephenson



SUTTON BONINGTON *Swimming Club*



Sutton Bonington Swimming Club is a branch of UoN Swimming, giving SB members an opportunity to swim closer to home. It caters to a wide variety of capabilities from performance level to social swimmers.

This year has seen the continuation of all the great work set up in previous years, with weekly training on a Monday night run by our President Josie Hawkins and Captain Emily White. This is the only session currently available at SB, but there is the opportunity for swimmers to train on main campus with the UoN team. Our weekly session consists of a variety of training including: technical skills, speed work, stamina and team work. Throughout the year swimmers have seen improved times in regular time trials as well as improved lung capacity. These improvements have been seen in both our social and performance swimmers. We have adapted land training to form pool fitness sessions, aiming to target specific muscle groups and improve technique. Although these are not our most popular sessions we have seen the most improvements from swimmers that attend these sessions. While we don't teach people how to swim, our President and Captain teach diving, turns and technique improvement.

We have continued with more socials this year, as last year had such great feedback. These included: bowling, Christmas fun session, drinks and many more. We try to encourage social participation to make everyone feel comfortable. It allows an opportunity to integrate our performance and social swimmers.

Unfortunately, due to COVID 19 our plans and sessions were cut short, but hopefully we can return to normal soon. With a promising new Committee just elected we're hoping they keep the Club growing and developing as demonstrated in the past couple of years.

President: Josie Hawkins



SUTTON BONINGTON Tennis Club



Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

This year SB Tennis have continued to run two-hour training sessions with an external coach every Wednesday afternoon. The main difference to these sessions has been that the number of members attending has more than doubled since last year, with all four courts filled with players every week. This year we have expanded so much that at some sessions there are almost too many people for the courts available! We have also updated the equipment since last year by replacing grips on all of the tennis rackets and buying new balls to play with.

The number of socials has increased dramatically this year with numerous events including:

- Running the Halloween barn party joint with the Riding and Allotment Societies
- "Battle of the Societies" – nights out with the SB Mixed Hockey team to determine the best mixed society on campus
- A Tennis pre-gathering and tennis table at the Christmas Sports Ball
- A Tennis table at Societies Ball

Unfortunately, our end of year Mini-Golf and Annie's Burger Shack social was cancelled this year due to the pandemic, but we hope to re-organise this for next year.

This year, for the first time ever, Tennis ran their own inter-society tournament. It was Christmas themed (Xmas jumpers and music) and raised over £100 for Cancer Research UK. We have also taken part in several other intersociety competitions this year:

- In the Charity Netball tournament, we made the final and came a very close 2nd
- In Booball we came 3rd after gaining a place in the semi-finals. As a prize we received free mini-golf vouchers which we are planning to use in a future social next year.

Our society received several awards this year at Societies Ball:

- Gold STARS points (for the first time ever, last year we didn't even have Bronze)
- The Most Improved Society Award (for all of the reasons explained above)

The amount that SB Tennis has grown this year gives me great hope that in the coming years it will remain a popular, fun and active society for all future students to enjoy.



SUTTON BONINGTON *Ultimate Frisbee*

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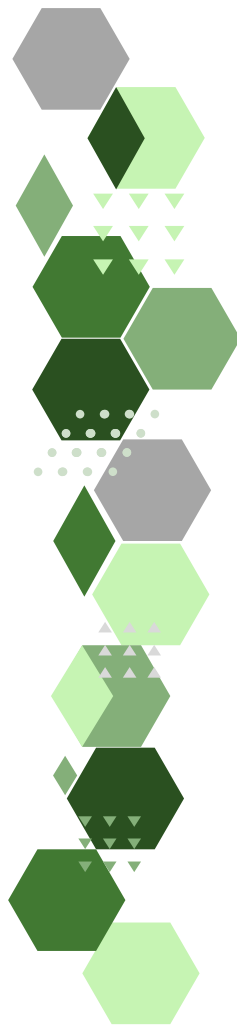
2019/2020 has been another great year for Shambulls! Again, we were very popular with the Freshers and had a huge turnout at the beginning of the year. We expected this to drop off over a few months, but we continued to have such a high turnout at Wednesday training sessions that we had to split it into 'Beginner' and 'Advanced' just so there was room in the sports hall! We are considering an extra session for next year due to the high demand! It has been nice to keep in touch with recent graduates this year, with friends returning for training sessions and socials. We didn't win 'Best Society' at Societies Ball but we are telling ourselves this is only because you can't win that two years in a row. We did however win a couple of individual awards and we achieved Gold STARS status!

This year was jam-packed with games. We entered several Beginners tournaments, to give our Freshers their first experience of a proper Frisbee event. There were multiple tournaments throughout the year for everyone to get involved with, both indoors and outdoors. Alongside the tournaments, this year we ran the first East Midlands Friendly League – huge thanks to Katie Reynolds for organising! This involved regular indoor games against nearby teams, with time afterwards for pick-up games and some fun training. We created new friendships and picked up tactics from other teams throughout the year. We had hoped to organise a celebratory awards ceremony at the end, but unfortunately this is on hold due to Covid. Luckily, our fourth InsideOut tournament happened the weekend before lockdown was announced, so we enjoyed this as a last blowout before our year abruptly came to an end. As always, the day was well-spirited and everyone had loads of fun – this was helped by the addition of a burger van to the event!

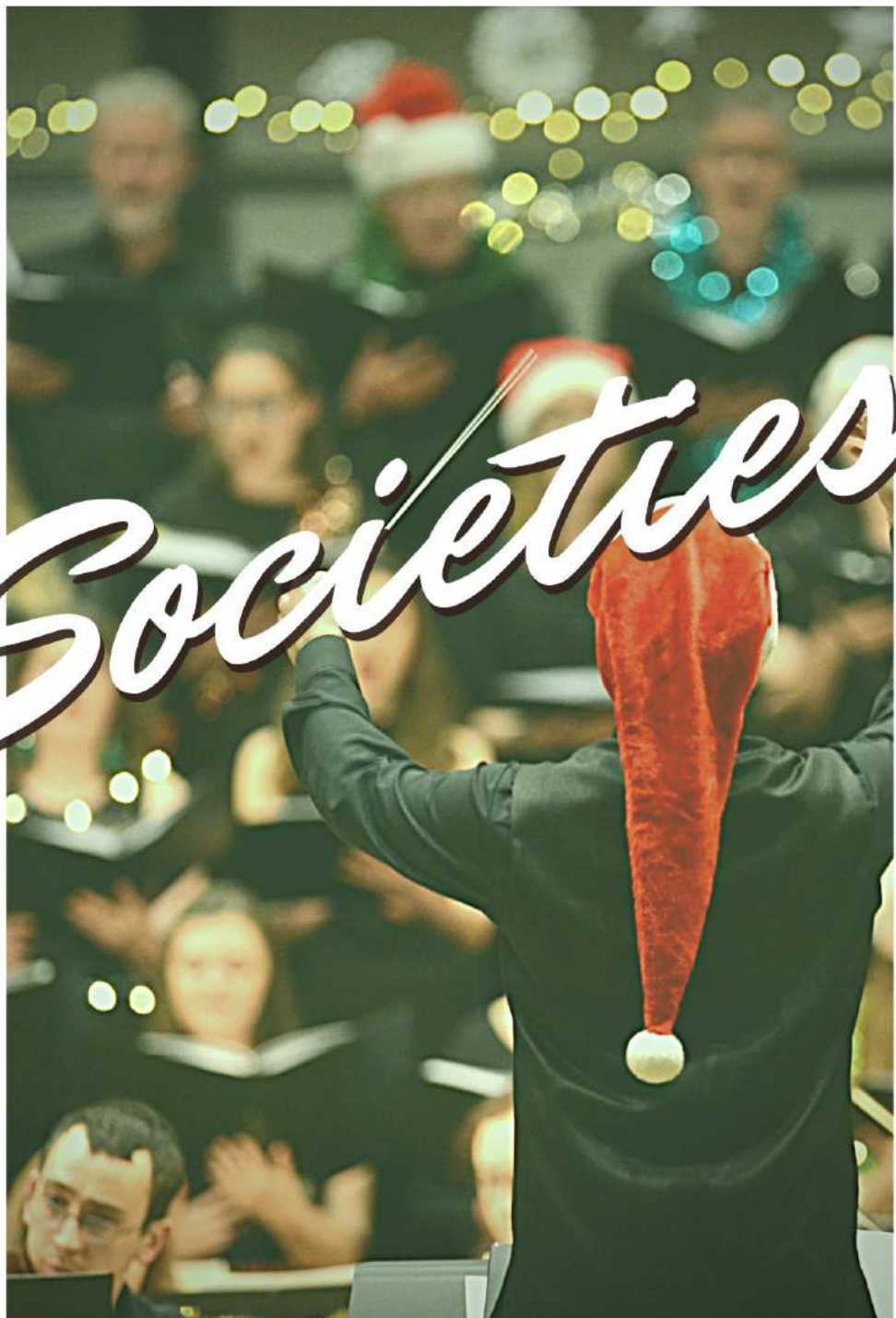
President: Katie Reynolds

It has been a sociable year for Shambulls. Thank you to Social Secs Jessica Jones and Katie Guyott for organising a variety of both alcoholic and sober socials that really bonded the team. One of the highlights was a trip to a waterpark with Coventry Uni's Ultimate Frisbee team. The location for Tour 2020 (Cardiff) was kept very secret by Tour Secs Josh Kerry and Ryan Cook. It was a well-planned and thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

We would like to thank the whole Committee for their hard work over the last year. Special thanks go to Tom Bridges for filling out all of the paperwork allowing us to get Gold STARS this year. Finally, thank you to our President Katie Reynolds – you have contributed so much to Shambulls this year and we look forward to you continuing to support us in your role as Advanced Coach next year!



Societies





Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photographs

The SB Allotment Society gives students and staff the resources to have a go at growing their own in the on-campus allotments and polytunnel.

Following last year’s success, in October we joined up with SB Farmers’ Market to go pumpkin picking at a local farm. In line with the Halloween mood, we also collaborated with SB Riding and SB Tennis societies to host the Halloween Barn Party. It was a fun night, with two DJs and some amusing Halloween costumes.

Allotments have many benefits for mental health and wellbeing, so we were delighted to be given the opportunity to run a stall at the SB Well-Fair. As with last year we ran a ‘plant your own herb seeds’ stall. It was a delight to see people get really stuck in with the activity.

Flowers are a staple of Valentine’s Day, so in February, we ran a stall for people to plant their own tulip bulb, either to give to a loved one or keep for themselves as their own ‘plant partner’. We hope that people were successful in both their tulip-growing and love-announcing pursuits.

This year we started the Allotment Work Days, where members came down to the allotments to work together, either to sort out the communal areas or enjoy their own plot. We made a lot of progress with sorting out the allotments, from a well-needed tidy of the sheds to cleaning the polytunnels with an impressively sourced power washer. They were an excellent way for members to meet and chat and we will continue them next year.

President: Sarah Bailey

Perhaps our highlight of the year was welcoming in our new mascot – Mr Darcey Carota (See what we did there? – Thanks, Lucy, for the name), the giant plushie carrot. He has enjoyed coming along on all our adventures and has been a huge support to the Society by giving the softest squishiest hugs you can imagine.

Unfortunately, most members were unable to enjoy the main growing season in the allotments due to the coronavirus outbreak. However, the few members that stayed on or near campus have helped the allotments to flourish. Just before the lockdown was in place, we began a small campaign to raise awareness of how gardeners can support important pollinators. We sourced seeds and bulbs for members to plant flowers. Although our allotments may not have the fruit and veg we'd all hoped to grow, there are still many flowers for SB's wildlife to enjoy. We can't wait to see people get stuck in next year and get the allotments thriving!

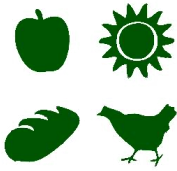




Sutton Bonington Christian Union has continued to have a busy schedule this year! Currently, our weekly events consist of an early morning prayer meeting, Globe Café and Rooted which is our main weekly meeting.

Globe Café, which is run jointly with the Chaplaincy, is an opportunity for international and non-international students to meet, learn about each others' cultures and enjoy tea and cake. This year Globe have held a number of events and themed nights including tea tasting, cupcake decorating, games nights and many more! They are continuing to meet online over the summer. Rooted is an opportunity for us to chat, play games and to read the Bible together in a relaxed atmosphere.

We ran lots of events throughout the year, aimed at spreading God's love across the campus and allowing people the opportunity to learn more about what we believe in. These included various talks from external speakers such as 'How can I believe in a God who allows suffering?' and 'Can science and God be compatible?' We also ran various social events such as our acoustic music and puddings' evening and a night walk.



SUTTON BONINGTON Farmers' Market



The past academic year has been a great one for SB Farmer's Market with several changes and fun events being run. Kegworth Library now has a regular stall at markets, offering a wide range of books, with profits helping to support the Library and provide new reading material. The completion of a survey at the beginning of the year provided an excellent insight into what attendees wanted to see at future markets. As such, several new stalls have joined our market including a pizza oven, doughnuts, and the addition of a monthly charity/student stall.

The attendance of the local air ambulance service was a highlight, with a cake raffle, donations and stall fees contributing £690!

We organised the annual Christmas and Easter Craft Markets which were a continued success, with many local artists and crafters coming together to display and sell their wares. From crocheted scrunchies to beautiful canvases and sustainable beauty goods, these stalls, along with our excellent regulars, brought all on the campus together.

Our yearly pumpkin-picking trip to Wymeswold Fruit Farm in collaboration with Allotment Society went down a treat and was just in time for Halloween! Several lucky students also had the opportunity to make their own Brownie Creations on campus with the excellent staff of Buffalo Brownies, a regular at our markets.

Like many, Coronavirus did impact our Society and we were disappointed to cancel our April market. However, the safety of attendees and our stallholders is our top priority. As the situation improves, we aim to bring back the SB markets which staff, students and the public alike have come to love. Increased safety measures will be necessary to ensure everyone's safety, but we look forward to seeing everyone in late September and are eager to welcome the new April cohort with our first market of the 2020/2021 academic year!



Our first year as a society has been more than we could've imagined! Our Committee worked brilliantly together and we have built up a family of members from across campus.

Our biggest achievement this year is the launch of our monthly period product collection 'That Time of the Month'. With the help of students on campus, we collected tampons and pads for The Free Period Nottingham, who passed them on to schools in the area. We won the award for the Best Charity Event for this campaign at the Societies Ball, and we were very proud!

This year we have also attended Reclaim the Night March as a society, raised money for BEAT (an eating disorder charity) by hosting a dance event, and provided a safe and welcoming space for our members to discuss and explore their own political ideas. We have also started to build up great relationships with other similar organisations, like The Women's Centre in Nottingham. We are so excited for what the next year will hold for us!



SUTTON BONINGTON *Food Society*

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During the 2019-2020 academic year SB Food Society has taken part in many socials, events, and trips. We started the autumn semester off with weekly Bake Off viewings. This helped new society members to meet everyone else on campus with a passion for food and many other students studying the same course. All our members really enjoyed this weekly meeting, especially when we got closer to finding out who would win Bake Off 2019! Along with the Nutrition and Dietetics Society, we hosted The Great SB Halloween Bake Off. Members from both societies bought along Halloween-themed cakes and bakes for each of us to enjoy whilst watching the Bake Off in the Barn.

Our biggest event was traveling to the NEC in Birmingham to the Winter Good Food Show in November where, this year, we had tickets to see Mary Berry cook some festive party food in the Big Kitchen. We also had plenty of time to browse the stalls, buy refreshments, cooking utensils and gadgets and taste some delicious food.

In the Spring semester we attended the SB Societies Ball at Colwick Hall, where we enjoyed a three-course meal in the company of the other SB societies. As a society, on a couple of occasions, we travelled to Nottingham for meals out. These were held during the day so that more members could attend. We all had a great time and got to know each other much better.

Due to Coronavirus some socials were cancelled, and our AGM was postponed and had to be held over video call on Zoom. Even with some of our events being cancelled or put on hold, the Food Society have had a great year and managed to run many very successful and enjoyable socials.



SUTTON BONINGTON *Music Society*



SB Music Soc has celebrated a great many successes this year, despite the academic year being cut short. Our year got off to a fantastic start in September where we participated in Welcome Week and acquired many new talented musicians into the Society. The SBSO, SBS and SBBB have gone from strength to strength, putting on many great concerts this year and led by Luis Carlos Salazar, Maria Scullion with Alice Bloodworth & Femke Smits, and Cameron Dee & Issy Buxton respectively – the SBSO & SBS Christmas Concert, SBBB Jazz in the Barn and SBS Songs in Spring to name just a few. I am also very proud to report that SB Folk Band has really boomed this year. The group have participated in many external events and it is really lovely to see how far they have come in the last few months, all thanks to the hard work of Sarah Jones. In addition, we trialled the new SB Chamber Group led by Luis. Whilst still in its infancy, I look forward to seeing the development of the group next academic year. A special tribute must also be paid to Charlotte Riley for coordinating room bookings and concert organisation, and also to Tom Chalker for writing and supplying all of our music.

We have held several fun socials this year thanks to Social Secretary Caitlin Marshall; the Christmas meal was especially fantastic. Lastly, very much not least, a big thank you to General Secretary Maria Scullion and Treasurer Alice Bloodworth for keeping me on track under my somewhat dodgy and extremely forgetful leadership. I can't wait to see where the new Committee take the Society next year. Despite everything that has happened in the last few months of this academic year, I am so pleased with everything we have achieved. Fingers crossed we will soon have a lovely set of Timpani, with thanks to the OKA for their generous donation, and be back to what we all love doing – making music.

President: Phoebe Johnson



SUTTON BONINGTON

Nutrition & Dietetics

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It's been a really busy yet fun year for NDS. Based on member feedback, we've held many more socials this year to try and integrate year groups. These ranged from nights out at Crisis, Ward Round, the Christmas meal at Annie's Burger Shack in Nottingham and to the Potluck Welfare social, all of which were well attended.

In keeping with tradition, we held our annual Big Veg Little Veg mentoring scheme and trip to the BBC Good Food Show. The mentoring scheme is a really helpful way to integrate year groups and make sure first year students settle into University life well. In March, Isa Robinson MSc ANutr came to speak to us about the role of social media in Nutrition, which was really interesting and brought a different perspective to Nutrition.

It has been a fantastic year of fundraising for NDS – in October we held a bake sale for BEAT, the eating disorder charity, and in March, we joined in with Mind's 27 27 campaign. This involved running 27 miles over 27 days in solidarity with the 27% of University students who report a mental health problem while at University. In total, NDS raised £315!

The icing on the cake was receiving Gold STARS society status for another year at Societies Ball, a testament to the hard work all of the Committee have put in to growing NDS this year. Not to mention there were 3 tables of us! NDS has grown in numbers and status this year and we hope this success lasts for years to come.

President: Lauren Fisher



This past year has been a very fun one for NUVZS. We continued to regularly welcome speakers from the exotic world throughout the year, to help inspire and boost the academic knowledge of our members. We also pioneered a session on how to get into exotic medicine, partnered with Medivet, and this had a great turnout.

We have over-exceeded our charity targets this year, having three main events, all relevant to current global issues. One involved the devastating bush fires in Australia and saw us cycling the distance of one impacted national park.

We managed to take our members behind the scenes at two zoological collections, which we received very positive feedback from. Let's not forget continuing the legendary 'Rumble In The Jungle', welcoming over 500 animal-dressed students to dance.

More recently NUVZS has adapted to the current climate and not only continued to host interesting talks but ensured that members can still participate in these online and therefore remotely.

We look forward to welcoming the new students in person and hosting some brilliant new events.



SB Players

SUTTON BONINGTON *Players*

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Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

This year SB Players' membership increased to 35 members due to publicising efforts and the performance given at the Freshers' Fair. Because of this, casting for the pantomime was made difficult. We gave roles we hoped would show everyone's talent. It was well received; almost every seat was filled. A comments book was introduced at the performance and we read them out after the show.

We planned for our Triple Threat showcase to be performed before the Easter break. All the cast and our background and costume designers put a lot of hard work in to get it ready but unfortunately the circumstances meant the performance was cancelled. We were able to get together and perform it for ourselves and hope to have a showing once university life is back to normal.

A 24-hour show was also planned to be introduced after Easter to include the April cohort in society activities. This will be carried over to next year.

At Societies Ball 2020 we were awarded with Gold STARS status for a second year and our set designer won Most Active Society member.

This year's AGM was one of the most productive we have had. Collectively the Society made the decision to add two new roles to the constitution. The Publicity Officer would handle all publicity so the Social Secretary may now focus on fun events for our members including welfare events. The Design Coordinator will serve as a point of contact between the Committee and the Design team and oversee all design projects in the place of the Creative Director. It was agreed these roles will improve the function of the Society and take pressure off other society members.

President: Harmony Goodwin



SUTTON BONINGTON

Student Food Cooperative

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It has been a fruitful year for the SB Student Food Cooperative, as we continue to provide affordable, healthy food of great quality to the SB community. We're so grateful for our ever-growing bunch of volunteers who help keep SCOOP open.

For those who don't know, SCOOP is a co-operative, meaning that we are not focused on making a profit and hence our products are sold to our members at cost-price, making them affordable on the tight student budget!

This year, we have increased the range of products we carry in the shop. We sell 'student staples' which include rice, pasta, tinned pulses and tomatoes, herbs and spices, teas, drinking chocolate, 'Nakd' bars, crisps and chocolate. There's something for everyone in the SCOOP shop! We have also continued to sell our weekly organic fruit and veg boxes which have proved very popular this year, selling over £400 worth of fruit and veg since September.

For the next year, we're hoping that our success carries on so that we can provide an even greater variety for our members. In addition, we're hoping that more people start to be proactive about their food choices.

We would like to express our thanks to all the students and staff who have shown us support this year and hope you will continue supporting us in the year ahead as SCOOP continues to listen to your suggestions and provide great quality food at a competitive price. The unfortunate abrupt end to this year has had some negative impacts on SCOOP, meaning that a lot of stock will have become unsellable by next year, but we're hoping that with your continued support we can continue to thrive in 2020/21.

President: Katie Sellens



SUTTON BONINGTON

Surgical Society

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The Nottingham Vet School Surgical Society is a society where students of all years can come to learn and practice very valuable surgical techniques. The sessions are led by Rob White, who is a Professor of Small Animal Surgery and lectures here at the University. Our day to day sessions are held in a relaxed setting where we get to practise a variety of suture patterns, knot tying methods, sterile gloving and gowning and other surgical techniques. It is a great environment to really get to grips with some of the skills that every vet will require once they graduate. Students become familiar with common veterinary surgical instruments and build confidence they can take with them to their clinical placements and beyond.



During the year, the Society teamed up with NSAVS, a sub-society of VetSoc, to put on some talks. The speakers included Mr Tim Martin, a human maxillofacial surgeon at Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, and our own Rob White. Tim gave us a fascinating presentation and spoke about his career in the field of oncological and reconstructive surgery and Rob stepped us through the procedure for carrying out an ovariohysterectomy in a bitch. We also had a Christmas party with suturing-related games and festive treats.



Just before lockdown, we had our AGM and voted in a committee for the next academic year. This year's committee are sad to be moving on from the society, but we are excited for what the new committee has to bring to the Society when everything returns to normal!

President: *Ralph Simpson*



SUTTON BONINGTON *Veterinary Society*

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Nottingham VetSoc is the largest and one of the most active societies at Sutton Bonington. Our aim is to create a supportive and inclusive community to support our students through every stage of their Vet School journey, from your first to your last day! We also aim to introduce students from all courses to the wider veterinary and animal care community. We pride ourselves on creating the ultimate university experience for our members through clinical talks, social events and unforgettable experiences.

In the past year, we have created a strong focus on student welfare by implementing more events, including Welfare Week which aims to champion mental health awareness and highlight support options available to our members. Our LGBTQ+ rep also worked hard to increase support and awareness in the veterinary profession, which has led to talks on inclusivity and equality, as well as the unveiling of our Rainbow road here on SB!



President: Charlotte O'Loughlin

Our sub-societies (NSAVS, NFAVS, NEVS, AVS and IVSA) aim to bring every aspect of veterinary medicine directly to our members through clinical talks, practical sessions and day trips. This year, NFAVS hosted the annual FAVS Congress which was jam-packed full of practicals, lectures and of course a glamorous ball! NSAVS aimed to support our students through puppy sessions during high-stress times of the year. NEVS brought the glamour of the races to our members through their highly successful trip to Ascot, providing a memorable day for all! As always, AVS and IVSA were very successful in representing Nottingham Vet Students on a national and international platform.

Once again, we have run several memorable events throughout the year, such as the 'Ward Round' bar crawl and of course, VetBall. However, the abrupt end to the academic year challenged our Committee to convey our supportive and dynamic community spirit online. This led us to create our highly successful 'VetSoc Community page' on Facebook and this provided an outlet for members to share experiences, coping mechanisms and many animal pictures to encourage students to stay positive in these unprecedented times. In addition, we launched online events such as our Virtual Kindness day, allowing students to send anonymous emails of support direct to their peers' inbox.

As a society, we are proud to support our wider community through various fundraising events. This year we have raised thousands of pounds for multiple charities, such as the RSPCA, Vets in the Community and the NFU. Our members were challenged to complete the Robin Hood Half Marathon, bare all in the VetSoc Naked Calendar and go head-to-head with other vet students at the FAVS pub quiz!

It has been a memorable year and we can't wait to be back on campus, supporting our members once again!



A photograph of a person wearing a teal t-shirt and dark pants, petting a black and white dog. The person's hands are resting on the dog's head and neck. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a light-colored wall and some foliage. The text "Student-Led Projects" is overlaid in a white, cursive font with a black outline, slanted across the center of the image.

*Student-Led
Projects*



SUTTON BONINGTON *Rucksack Project*

The Rucksack Project is a student-led project which aims to provide a rucksack filled with much needed supplies to support the homeless and vulnerably-housed community of Nottingham throughout the year, especially through the winter.



This year has been a really fantastic one for the Rucksack Project!

At the end of the Autumn term we hosted a popular bag-packing night, in which we assembled a record 86 rucksacks for the homeless and vulnerably housed community of Nottingham. We handed out these bags alongside the Nottingham Souprunners, committee members from Vets in the Community, student volunteers from the University, and with lots of help from our friend at The Big Issue. We are looking to extend our network further in 2020/21 to improve our understanding of how best to support rough sleepers.

Over the last year, our social media presence and engagement has skyrocketed. We have advertised far more this year than we have in previous years; we used business cards to invite people to our winter handout and spread the word about our work. As a result, we've been inundated with donations and have been able to pass on some items that we couldn't use to Emmanuel House in Nottingham.

In 2019/20 our committee grew to include a UP Representative, to extend our outreach to University Park campus.

Our biggest goal for 2020/21 is to host an additional handout. We are aiming to pack bags full of summer-specific items and toiletries for distribution in the Summer term. Alongside generic items such as sun cream, wet wipes and water bottles, this would include much-needed sanitary towels. Due to obvious reasons, this didn't go ahead in 2020, however we have already started to look into avenues to secure donations for these bags. The responses and help we've had so far have been really positive.



SUTTON BONINGTON

Vets in the Community



Photograph courtesy of Penguin Photography

It has been an exciting year of achievement for Vets in the Community (ViC). Founded in 2012, our student-led project provides free routine veterinary care for the pets of homeless and vulnerably housed people in Nottingham. Clinics run twice a month in Nottingham city centre and consultations are carried out by vet students from all years, under the supervision of staff members.

Thanks to the tireless work from our team, and years of planning and fundraising, we were able to purchase a purpose-built mobile veterinary clinic. The £30,000 mobile clinic is fully equipped with two large consultation rooms. We hope to now provide a wider scope of service and improved accessibility for our clients. We want to thank everyone who helped make our vision a reality. It would not have been possible without the support and generous donations that have allowed us to reach this momentous milestone.

We coordinated several successful events throughout the year to raise the funds required to keep our clinics running. Back in September 2019, 35 fantastic student runners completed the Robin Hood Half Marathon raising over £1,400 for ViC. Later in November, we hosted our first charity fashion show.

We began working with vet nursing students from Nottingham Trent University for the first time this year. Their help at clinics has been invaluable and it was wonderful to celebrate together at our Christmas party.

On the 4th March this year, we held an official launch day for the mobile clinic at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. Long-time The Big Issue vendor and client, Shane cut the ribbon with his dogs Loopy Lou and Mr Fang. The event received media coverage from BBC East Midlands, The Big Issue, Vet Times and on MRCVS online. ITV central captured our first time in action with the mobile clinic at our current venue, King Edward's Park on Carlton Road.

There were some fantastic entries at our annual event SB Cake Off in March, where we raised over £450. We would like to thank OKA for their donation of £50 which went towards buying equipment to stock the new trailer.

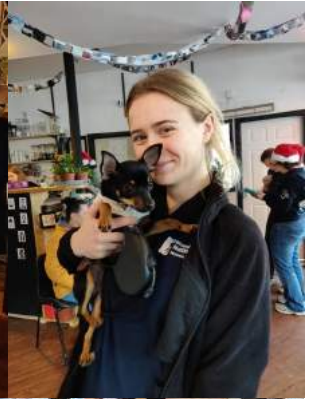
Unfortunately, since March, we have been unable to provide our fortnightly clinics. However, we have continued to support our clients during the pandemic by making regular contact, sending out medications for their pets and delivering pet food around Nottingham. We launched our Virtual Pet Show in May to continue providing our essential service. The online photo competition, judged by Julian Norton (The Yorkshire Vet) and Louisa the Vet (Instagram), had 216 entries from the public and raised over £2,000.

An article written by student committee member Laura Beesley on 'Honing skills and helping the homeless' was published in the Vet Record in June.

To end an amazing year, we received the University of Nottingham Student's Union Overcoming Adversity Award in recognition of our continued work during lockdown and Highly Commended for the Community Impact Award.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram (@vetsinthecommunity) or twitter (@vetsincommunity) to find out more.





Christmas party with NTU nurses



Virtual Pet Show winners Moss and Cami



Cutting the ribbon



The new mobile clinic!



Jenny delivering food

Cake Off winners and entries



Student Awards



SCHOOL OF *Biosciences*

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ASHGATE PRIZE

The Ashgate Prize is awarded annually to the candidate who, by recommendation of the Heads of Division of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Plant and Crop Sciences, and on the results of the final examinations or honours project, is adjudged to be the best student in Horticulture.

Joseph Mullender (*BSc Biotechnology*)

BROUGH PRIZE

Awarded annually to the final year BSc Nutrition or Master of Nutrition student from the School of Biosciences achieving the highest overall percentage mark in their project.

Lau Yu Bin (*Malaysia student*)

PETER BUTTERY PRIZE

The Peter Buttery Prize is awarded to the Part II student attaining the highest overall module mark for the final year Animal Nutrition module.

Megan Russell (*BSc Animal Science*)

CAMPBELL SCIENTIFIC PRIZES

The Campbell Scientific Prizes are awarded annually on the recommendation of the Board of the School of Biosciences to the students registered for (1) the BSc Environmental Biology or Environmental Science degree and (2) the MSci Environmental Biology or Environmental Science degree, who submit the best dissertations containing elements of environmental instrumentation, measurement or mathematical modelling.

(1) **Rebecca George** (*BSc Environmental Biology*)

(2) **Chloe Morgan** (*MSci Environmental Biology*)

CROP MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

The Challenge Prize goes to the team of students, in the Crop Management Challenge module, who perform best in managing agronomic, financial and risk factors associated with growing a crop of wheat on University Farm.

Crop Theme:

Elliot James Carey (*BSc Plant Science*), **Alexandra Baxter** (*BSc Agricultural and Crop Science*), **Talya Herd** (*BSc Agriculture*), **Angus McIvor** (*BSc Agriculture*), **Osasumwen Aikhionbare** (*BSc Agricultural Business Management*)

Livestock Theme:

Patrick Turner (*BSc Agricultural and Livestock Science*), **Adam Clark** (*BSc Agricultural and Livestock Science*), **Camilla Cummins** (*BSc Agricultural Business Management*), **Rosie Grewer** (*BSc Agriculture*)

DKD & EH REES ACADEMIC MERIT PRIZE

Awarded to the students registered for the BSc Microbiology degree gaining the highest overall average in Year 1 and Year 2.

Year 1 – **Beth Titchiner**

Year 2 – **Jade Brewster-Mahon**

FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION PRIZES

The prizes are awarded annually to the candidates who, by recommendation of the Head of Division of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and on the results of the final examination or honours project, are adjudged to be the best students in Management.

Highest marks in the final examination:

Olivia Gardner (*BSc Agricultural Business Management*)

Highest marks in the final year research project:

Anna Swinson (*BSc Agricultural Business Management*)

INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE PRIZE

Awarded annually to the student achieving the highest marks in a final year honours project in the area of Horticulture, nominated by the Heads of Division of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Plant and Crop Sciences.

Molly Brooks (*BSc International Agricultural Science*)

LAMMING PRIZE

The prize shall be awarded annually on the recommendation of the Professor of Animal Physiology to the undergraduate student who has submitted the best dissertation on a research project in Animal Physiology.

Helen Jennings (*BSc Animal Science*)

LONGWILL PRIZE

The Longwill Prize is awarded annually to the candidate who, on the results of the final examinations, is adjudged to be the best student in Agriculture. The Board has resolved that this prize should be awarded to the student gaining the highest marks in the subject combination containing a majority of modules in the areas of Animal Production/Crop Science/Management.

Henry Scholefield (*BSc Agriculture*)

LONZA BIOTECHNOLOGY PRIZES

These prizes are awarded to:

(1) the student who has achieved the Best Overall Academic Performance on the BSc Biotechnology degree.

Anastasiya Buryak

(2) a student for being the Best Student Ambassador on the BSc Biotechnology degree.

Marta Marcheluk

JOHN MADOCKS PRIZE

Awarded annually on the recommendation of the Head of Division to a final year student on any one of the courses in the Division of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences who is adjudged to have contributed most to the work, well-being and standing of the Division.

Henry Scholefield (*BSc Agriculture*)

MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY PRIZE

Awarded to the best second year student in a Microbiological subject or one containing a high proportion of Microbiology.

Jade Brewster-Mahon (*BSc Microbiology*)

THE NUTRICIA TOP MASTER OF NUTRITION STUDENT AWARD

Awarded annually to the final year Master of Nutrition student from the School of Biosciences achieving the highest overall percentage mark.

Joanne Kingsnorth (*MNutr Nutrition and Dietetics*)

THE PERKINS/FOWLER/WAITES PRIZE

Awarded to the undergraduate student who obtains the highest mark in a research project in Microbiology or Food Microbiology.

Evan Rudge (*BSc Microbiology*)

PLANT SCIENCE PRIZE

Awarded to the student with the highest aggregate Part I mark in the Plant Science area.

Robert Leete (*MSci Plant Science*)

RASE AGRICULTURE STUDENT AWARD

The Royal Agricultural Society of England prize is awarded to the candidate who, on the results of the final examinations, gained the highest marks in the subject combination containing a majority of modules in Animal Production, Crop Science and Management.

Henry Scholefield (*BSc Agriculture*)

THE RURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT PRIZE

Awarded annually on the recommendation of the Module Convenor to the team of students achieving the highest marks in the case study component of the module 'Rural Business Management'.

John Price (*BSc Agriculture*), Lucy Spalton (*BSc Animal Science*), Alexandra Baxter (*BSc Agricultural and Crop Science*), Freya Peverell (*BSc Agricultural Business Management*)

KEITH SCOTT MEMORIAL PRIZE

Awarded annually on the recommendation of the Board of the School of Biosciences to the student who is adjudged to have made the greatest sporting contribution to the School.

John Price (*BSc Agriculture*)

SHIELDS PRIZE

Awarded annually to the candidate who is adjudged to be the best student in the final year of the course leading to a degree in Food Science.

Ellen Wright (*BSc Nutrition and Food Science*)

SOCIETY OF BIOLOGY STUDENT AWARD

Awarded annually to the final year BSc (Hons) student from the School of Biosciences achieving the highest overall percentage mark in a degree that comprises at least 50% Biology in Part I and Part II.

Joanne Kingsnorth (*MNutr Nutrition and Dietetics*)

PROF WM WAITES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PRIZE

Awarded for the highest overall degree average for students completing the BSc Microbiology degree.

Evan Rudge

T K WARLEY PRIZE

The prize is awarded annually for the best essay written by either an undergraduate or a graduate within 12 months of graduation from the University or a postgraduate currently registered for a Higher Degree at the University on one of the following subjects: Rural Business Management, Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Policy in Western Europe or International Trade in Agricultural Products.

Madeleine Twidale (*BSc Agricultural and Crop Science*)

SCHOOL OF *Veterinary Medicine*

PRELIMINARY YEAR PRIZES

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Animal Care and Behaviour (£50)

Charlotte Robinson

Highest Overall Mark in Chemistry: Atomic Structure and Bonding (£50)

Charlotte Robinson

Highest Overall Mark in Animal Biology: Introductory Maths (£50)

Charlotte Robinson

Highest Overall Mark in Chemistry: Compounds and Reactions (£50)

Charlotte Robinson

Highest Overall Mark in Animal Biology: Cell Structure and Biochemistry (£50)

Charlotte Robinson

Highest Overall Mark in Animal Biology: Health and Disease (£50)

Ryan Reader

Highest Overall Mark in Animal Biology: An Introduction to Body Systems (£50)

Louise Curtin

Highest Marks in Hypothesis Seminar Series (£50)

Jasmin Ali, Matthew Blevin (*shared*)

YEAR 1 PRIZES

Overall Achievement (£50)

James Fellows

Highest Overall Mark in Circulatory and Respiratory Systems (£50)

James Fellows

Highest Overall Mark in Animal Health and Welfare (£50)

Stephanie Andrews

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Neuromuscular System (£50)

James Fellows

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Professional Skills 1 (£20 each)

Amy Bagster, Harriet Bailey, Niamh Dunne-Mason, James Fellows, Rachael Healy Thomas, Lisa O'Donnell, Molly Reed (shared)

YEAR 2 PRIZES

Highest Overall Achievement (£50)

Archie Moffat

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Endocrine and Integument System 1 (£50)

Olivia Abbiss

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Reproduction 1 (£50)

Yasmine Ali

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Gastrointestinal System 1 (£50)

Archie Moffat

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Urinary System 1 (£50)

Rebecca Gibson

Highest Overall Mark in Animal Health and Welfare 2 (£50)

Olivia Abbiss

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Personal and Professional Skills 2 (£50)

Joanna Burley, Archie Moffat (shared)

Best Portfolio in Veterinary Personal and Professional Skills 2 (£50)

James Bennett, Sarah Smallwood (shared)

YEAR 3 PRIZES

Highest Overall Achievement in BVMedSci degree (£50)

Katie Snelson

Highest Overall Achievement in year 3 (£30)

Katie Lord

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Research Project (£30)

Georgia Mitchell Finnigan

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Public Health (£30)

Ruth Foster

Highest Overall Mark in Principles of Veterinary Science (£40)

Elise Cooper, Madeleine Eggleton, Lucy Joyce, Katie Lord (shared)

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Clinical and Professional Skills (£30)

Katie Snelson

Best Portfolio in Veterinary Clinical and Professional Skills 3 (£30)

Jai Goh, Beth Kelly (shared)

YEAR 4 PRIZES

Highest Overall Achievement in year 4 (£30)

Emma Cousins

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Musculoskeletal System 2 (£30)

Emma Cousins

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Urinary System 2 (£30)

Stijn Brussen, Emma Cousins (shared)

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Lymphoreticular Cell Biology 2 (£30)

Emily Plant

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Neuroscience System 2 (£30)

Georgia Donnelly

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Endocrine and Integument System 2 (£30)

Emma Cousins

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Reproduction System 2 (£30)

Robyn Platts

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Cardiorespiratory System 2 (£30)

Emma Cousins

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Gastrointestinal System 2 (£30)

Emily Plant, Stephanie Taylor (shared)

Highest Overall Mark in Veterinary Personal and Professional Skills 4 (£30)
Emily Allen, Alisa Kelly, Erin Wyllie (*shared*)

Best Portfolio in Veterinary Personal and Professional Skills 4 (£30)
Holly White

YEAR 5 PRIZES

Highest Overall Achievement in the BVM BVS degree (£100)
Lowri Heseltine

Veterinary Instrumentation Prize for Highest Overall Achievement in Year 5 (£200 vouchers)
Christopher Williams

Barry Edwards Memorial Prize for Highest Overall Achievement in Equine (£50)
Katy Grosvenor

James Hollingworth Memorial Prize for Highest Overall Mark in Farm Animal (£50)
Lowri Heseltine

Mac Johnston Memorial Prize for Greatest Achievement in Small Animal (£50)
Emily Holdsworth

Moredun Foundation Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Large Animal Studies (Books)
Bobby Plant

Outstanding Achievement in Personal and Professional Skills (£20 each)
Heather Elven, Hannah Hambleton-Jewell, Phillippa Hammond, Freddie Jones, Christopher Williams, Hannah Winston

Our Graduates



SCHOOL OF *Biosciences*

Undergraduates

UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Hannah	Piggott	Agriculture
Elliot	Kirwan	Animal Science
Annie	Miller	Animal Science
Youcef	Benbattouche	Biotechnology
Connor	Boscherini	Biotechnology
Rose	Marsh	Biotechnology
Alvaro	Perona Lopez de Heredia	Biotechnology
Molly	Frain	Environmental Biology
Charles	Lowsley Williams	Environmental Biology
Sadie	Loynds	Environmental Science
Carla	Roberts	Environmental Science
Amelia	Hobday	Food Science and Nutrition
Ellen	Bartlett	Nutrition
Edward	Koffler	Plant Science

UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA

Cemre	Isildayancan	Agriculture
Jessica	Dando	Biotechnology
Blanca	De Santiago Noche	Biotechnology
Rehman	Jakhrani	Biotechnology
Reanne	Phillips	Biotechnology
Molly	Frain	Environmental Biology
Ross	Broadfield	Environmental Science
Sean	DeRosa	Food Science
Paula	Botelho Bonamigo	Nutrition
Flora	Hodgson	Nutrition
Zack	Goodenough	Plant Science

AGRICULTURAL & CROP SCIENCE BSc Hons

Alexandra	Baxter	Lorna	Paterson (IDY)
Yoana	Dimitrova	Jake	Richards

AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK SCIENCE BSc Hons

James	Wood (IY)
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AGRICULTURE BSc Hons

Allana	Garaghty	Adam	Holding
Jonathan	Gate (IDY)	John	Price
Rosie	Grewer	Henry	Scholefield (IDY)

ANIMAL SCIENCE BSc Hons

George	Alcock	Jennifer	Harrison
Aiden	Barlow	Bethan	Humphris
Naomi	Boyd	Jodie	Jackson (IDY)
Clementine	Bridges	Helen	Jennings
Roberta	Browne	Genevieve	Letang
Victoria	Chantler	Tilly	Loveland-Perkins
Jessica	Cooper	Sally	Manasseh
Emily	Corns	Imogen	Marley
Harriet	Critchley (IDY)	Katharine	Mason
Nicolien	Dinklo	Kathryn	Morris (IDY)
Louise	Eyre	Bethany	Ramshaw (INT)
Giulia	Fanzio	Megan	Russell
Molly	Francis	Maria	Scullion (IDY)
Elizabeth	French	Lucy	Smith
Heather	Gallagher	Innes	Spendier
Florence	Galliers	Darcie	Stott (INT)
Ella	Gibbs	Lucy	Tanner
Amber	Gray	Aerin	Thompson
Yifan	Guo	Charlotte	Vaughan

IDY with Industrial Year

CS with Year in Computer Science

INT with International Year

IDP with Industrial Placement Award

BIOTECHNOLOGY BSc Hons

Yusuf	Ahmed (CS)	Liam	Kayes
Christina	Allan	Viktorija	Kiselova
Hugo	Bouvier (INT)	Rufus	Knight (IDY)
Anastasiya	Buryak	Yazid	Malki
Alfred	Chan	Joseph	Mullender (IDY)
Mica	Cunningham	Lucy	Nicholas
William	Eaton	Esther	Omo
Oliver	Frost	Michelle	Oppong-Baah
Luke	Gardner (CS)	Mohamed	Rahman
Samuel	Garvey (IDY)	Pejmun	Rassapour
Julian	Grinsted	Richard	Sears (CS)
Connor	Hicks	James	Sellars (IDY)
Pui Man	Ho	Carl	Senior
Jade	Houston	Finn	Sheridan
Aixian	Huang	Alisha	Singh
Victoria	Humphries (IDY)	Ruskin	Springer-Hughes
Emma	Jamieson	Alexander	Williams
Dominic	Jones	Tyrese	Williams
Yugan	Kalaiyogan	Nemira	Zilinskaite

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY BSc Hons

Rebecca	George	Megan	Roberts (IDY)
Kelly	Lidbury	Emma	Snedden
Michael	Owen (INT)	Saumya	Surendran

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE BSc Hons

Hiba	Al Housni	Lydia	Leather (CS)
Richard	Allen (IDY)	Max	Leeson
Antony	Brown	Hannah	Markham
Joseph	Carr	Connor	McCloskey (IDY)
Charlotte	Collins	Robert	Morton
Amelia	Cooper	Ethan	O'Neill
Charlotte	Davey	Anna	Pithers

Samantha	De Ponte	Matthew	Smith (IDY)
Alex	Flinders	Stephen	Todd (CS)
Samuel	Hume (INT)	Scarlett	Watson
Richard	Kalu	George	Wheeler
Olivia	King (IDY)	Chenyi	Yao

FOOD SCIENCE BSc Hons

Elizabeth	Atkin (IDY)	Catherine	Moore (IDY)
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FOOD SCIENCE & NUTRITION BSc Hons

Georgia	Milne	Christopher	Stephenson
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INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT BSc Hons

Osasumwen	Aikhionbare	Eleanor	Kivneen
Taha	Alibhai	Freya	Peverell (IDP)
Olivia	Gardner	Anna	Swinson (IDP)

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE BSc Hons

Molly	Brooks (IDY)	John	Nunns
Alice	Hannam (IDY)		

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE BSc Hons

Fraser	McCarter	Felicity	Scott
Amelia	Milsom		

MICROBIOLOGY BSc Hons

Atif	Alam (IDY)	Albert	Huynh
Fahd	Ali	Susanna	Ikwen
Lucy	Allen	Eleanor	Matthews
Victoria	Atkins	Amy	Pointer
George	Blackburn	Srinivas	Pulla
Dylan	Bradley	Evan	Rudge
Roy	Carmona	Maariya	Shahzad

Daniel	Collins	Dakshayeeni	Sivasankaran
Liam	Cremona	Milli	Wilde
Joseph	Davies	Isaac	Wright (IDY)
Conor	Gillen		

NUTRITION BSc Hons

Batula	Abdulrahman	Katie	Kell
Rhys Mathew	Adams	Nadzhilya	Kerimova
Nabila	Al-Bulushi	Cheok Wan	Lam
Fay	Aliawy	Jia Xin	Lee
Rebecca	Asson	Siang Ming	Lim
Ruth	Beardsley	En-Hsun	Lin
Ryan	Beck	Wing Lam	Ma
William	Bell	Xianyang	Ma
Lina	Benjelloun	Joshua	Nott
Aarti	Bhogaita	Lee	Rex
Emily	Bolger	Sianne	Robinson
Cheuk Kwan	Chow	Sarah	Shamim (IDY)
Pei-En	Chung (IDY)	Kelsey	Smith
Adellah	Easat (IDY)	Zhi Chin	Tang
Ilektra	Ellina	Shiyi	Tang (IDY)
Jade	Gribble	James	Taylor
Alexander	Gurton	Bogomila	Tosheva
Paula	Hadlow	Wing Hei	Tsang
Hannah	Inkster	William	Valender
Katherine	Juska	Tingfei	Wang (IDY)
Eloize	Kazmiersky	Xiaochao	Zhou

NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE BSc Hons

Kate	Ainsworth	Jana	Polakova
Phoebe	Anderson (IDY)	Jennifer	Rutherford (IDY)
Annabel	Atkinson (IDY)	Elizabeth	Shearing (IDY)
Humaira	Azeem	Rebecca	Tolson (IDY)
Yeuk Fei	Chan	Emily	Wilkins (IDY)

Isabel	de Bono (IDY)	Walailuk	Wisasang
Hayden	Elves (IDY)	Laura	Wolczynski (IDY)
Georgia	Jewers (IDY)	Ellen	Wright
Sophie	Maher	Siyi	Yin

PLANT SCIENCE BSc Hons

Daniel	Macken	Alex	Weeks
Andrew	Massey		

ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY MSci Hons

Polly	Appleton	Agne	Griciute
Hayley	Curran	Chloe	Morgan

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MSci Hons

Phoebe	Jones	Katarina	Saunders
Richard	Kalu		

FOOD SCIENCE MSci Hons

Xuanting	Guan (IDY)
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NUTRITION MSci Hons

Mei Va	Lai
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PLANT SCIENCE MSci Hons

Bryony	Gardner
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NUTRITION & DIETETICS MNutr

Samantha	Baily	Rosie	Jasper
Sophia	Brown	Olivia	Joseph
Grace	Cain	Joanne	Kingsnorth
Abby	Cain	Claire	Lynch
Faye	Chorlton	Nicole	Macnamara
Helena	Cope	Kirandeep	Marsh
Sophie	Corbett	Rebecca	Martin
Hannah	Curran	Cariss	O'Hara
Michaela	Goodwin	Rachel	Paulden
Ben	Havercroft	Chloe	Roberts
Aaron	Hutchinson	Samuel	Wheeldon

Postgraduate Taught

ADVANCED DIETETIC PRACTICE MSc

Emily	Bridge	Laura	Nicholson
Catherine	Clements	Natalie	Wilcox
Herrick Zi Min	Kong	Debaj	Zentuti

AGRIFOOD PGCert

Georgina	Thomas
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AGRIFOOD PGDip

Lucy	Maclennan
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AGRIFOOD MSc

Aurora	Barraza Amador	Andrew	Russell
Peter	Bright	Daniel	Vera Nunez
Tom	Exton		

ANIMAL NUTRITION PGDip

Peiying Zhao

ANIMAL NUTRITION MSc

Hema	Bowe	Hsin-pei	Li
Emily	Brooks	Sophie	Miller
Fernando	Cornejo Pacheco	Najim	Sekh
Frederick	Forsy	Paige	Stevens
Sarah	Hormozi	Rikki	Trim
Esra	Karaduman	Tingting	Wang
Evangelos	Kolios	Wenjie	Zhang
Mikki	Koot		

APPLIED BIOMOLECULAR TECHNOLOGY MSc

Nour	Asaad	Afrina	Mohamad Matrol
Yueyan	Cen	Yi	Ren
Nathan	Courtier	Christina	Spyrou
Emilie	Cracknell	Qiyue	Wu
Liuhan	Ji	Ran	Xu
Jameisia	Legall		

ABBE MSc (APPLIED BIOPHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY & ENTREPRENEURSHIP)

Taewoo	Chun	Labiba	Oishee
Vlad	Dinu	Daniel	Power
Jake	Hobbs	Lizeth	Sanchez Lopez
Jazmin	Leon Pedraza	George	Whitcroft White
Mehrad	Moghtadaei		

BIOTECHNOLOGY MSc

Nicolaus	Antippa	Christopher	Martin
Yuan	Chang	Yusuf	Muhammed
Liwen	Hu	Krityaa	Puri
Wenxi	Huang	Sharmarke	Said Mohamud

Alina	Kuzembayeva	Shuya	Shi
Nuohan	Li	Callum	Tebbatt
Yilin	Liu	Hui	Zhang

BREWING SCIENCE MSc

Andrew	Barnes	Thomas	Evans
Guilherme	Campos Lopes	Mario	Menjivar Lahud
Jaideep	Chandrasekharan	Rebecca	Mussell

BREWING SCIENCE & PRACTICE MSc

Daniel	Barratt	Carmen	Fabian Bautista
James	Birkby	Georgia	Hollis
Benjamin	Bonham	Smruti	Naik
Jorge	Chedraui Urrea	Marzena	Niedzielska
Jose	Espinosa Rocha	Luis	Osorio Cobos

CLINICAL NUTRITION MSc

Khalid	Alahmari	Abrar Yahya	Dahman
Haya Maqboul	Alali	Abrar	Farrash
Manal	Alasmari	Hala Ayman	Fatani
Zainab	Alaytani	Aryam	Hader
Waad Zakaria	Alharazi	Thi Ai Nhi	Hoang
Bayan	Aljilani	Afnan Ali	Hussain
Jamal Meshal	Almutairi	Asrar	Mansour Alsaeedi
Sultan	Almutairi	Christina	Mourelatou
Abdullah	Almutairi	Ana	Navarro Lazaro
Sami Owaidh	Almutairi	Inyang	Offiong
Fahad Hamad	Almutawazi	Marah	Shakhshir
Abdulmajeed	Alofi	Elizabeth	Suschana
Hamoud Ajab	Alotaibi	Milia	Tamer
Fahd	Alotaibi	Hannah-May	Weaver
Mohammed	Alshehri	Jingyu	Yang
Haitham	Alyahya	Lu	Zeng
		Mi	Zhou

CROP IMPROVEMENT MSc

Ayse	Coban	Jasmine	Littler
Geckem	Dambo	Ismail	Ozasik
James	Dowers	Niki	Tsoutsoura
Xiaoran	Li		

FOOD PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT PGDip

Mariam Ayitsa	Akolo
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FOOD PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT MSc

Naheetha Fathima Raja Mohamed		Enze	Li
Vivek Rajeshbhai	Chotai	Xiao	Li
Jaykumar Dipak	Damania	Dihang	Li
Jose	Diaz Cornejo	Hui	Li
Yujing	Ding	Mingdi	Li
Hope	Fields	Dingyue	Miao
Sidoni	Frank	Anisha	Pandian
Churan	Hu	Thibbadarshini	Ravechandran
Xinbao	Huang	Wanhan	Sun
Lin	Jiang	Dandan	Xing
Toluwanimi	Jones	Tuo	Xu
Katherine	Kerbaker	Tianzhao	Zhang
Jizheng	Li	Yu	Zhao
Mei	Li		

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES MSc

Katie	Alliband	Xing	Qiu
Hannah	Burdett	Alison	Smith
Shirin	Chaudhary	Nina	Thomas
Jun	Du	Ashiki	Unadkat
Miriam	Gulamali	Yan	Wang
Amnah	Jasem	Baolu	Xu
Aleena	Khusro	Danyang	Yao

Shuchang
Jhama

Liu
Malla

Siqi
Kexin

Zhang
Zhang

SENSORY SCIENCE PGCert

Veronique
Danielle
Lauren
Hannah

Bradbury
Dale
Henry
Jones

Claire
Sinead
Catriona
Heba Ali Mohamed Shendy

Kent
Macmillan
Quigley

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Postgraduate Research

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ANIMAL SCIENCES MRes

Marion

Sorley

BIOSCIENCES MRes

Farah
Isabella

Farah
Hannay

Grace

Scott

FOOD SCIENCES MRes

Jiaqian

Shao

FOOD SCIENCE & ENGINEERING MRes

Viktorija

Iliopoulou

Alexandra

Kremmyda

MICROBIOLOGY (BIOSCIENCES) MRes

Kirsty

Falcus

PLANT & CROP SCIENCE MRes

Dominic

Jones

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES PhD

Mohamed Khadar Mohamed

AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS & MANAGEMENT PhD

Edna De Andrade Vieira Can

BIOSCIENCES PhD

Doha Abdullah	Albalawi	Abdelbasat A M	Kazouri
Kirsty Alison	Boden	Paramita	Kuswandi
Stephanie	Brindley	Megan	Rafter
Ferran	Casbas	Fiona	Sach

BIOSCIENCES (Adelaide-Nottingham) PhD

Cindy	Callens	Sally	Draycott
Olivia	Cousins		

BREWING SCIENCE PhD

James Mallett

CROP SCIENCE PhD

Amar	Alshmam	Jake	Richards
Chuan Ching	Foo	Aleyda	Sierra Gonzalez
Konrad	Neugebauer		

BBSRC DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP PhD

Susana	Duarte Silvestre	Nicholas	Redman
Stefan	Fairburn	Amma	Simon
Matthew	Heatley	Catherine	Walker
Emily	Morris	Alexander	Ware

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PhD

Saeed	Ahmad	Hannah	Cooper
Michael	Asigbaase		

FOOD SCIENCES PhD

Yangyi	Chen	Normando	Mendes Ribeiro Filho
Holly	Cuthill	Jade	Phillips
Patchaniya	Eakpetch	Kurnia	Ramadhan
Arthur	Gadon	Yi	Ren
James	Huscroft	Saniye	Samanci
Alexandra	Kremmyda	Hui	Zhang

NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES PhD

Basma	Daffa	Kimberley	Slinger
Zoe	Huggett	Rui	Wang
Husna	Kaya Kacar	Qiong	Yin
Yihe	Li		

SENSORY SCIENCE PhD

Marit	Nijman
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SOIL SCIENCE PhD

Ibrahim	Ali Haji	Lewis	Rose
Jasmine	Burr-Hersey	Dorien	Vanhees
Olivier	Humphrey		

SCHOOL OF *Veterinary Medicine*

Undergraduates



VETERINARY MEDICINE & SURGERY BVM BVS

Zara	Abas	Barbara	Costa
James	Adams	Libby	Daley
Fareha	Ahmed	Hamish	Diamond
Petra	Back	Sarah	Dolbear
Iona	Baker	Kate	Duffy
David	Band	Joe	Elliott
Olivia	Bass	Heather	Elven
Polly	Berks	Sophie	English
Liberty	Bingham	Stefano	Espenica
Kate	Bleasdale	Sophie	Evans
Erin	Bond	Sarah	Febry
Chloe	Bonsell	Gabi	Flower
Simon	Boothroyd	Liane	Gannon
Poli	Boynova	Ceri	Garner
Lydia	Brownlow	Robyn	Garner
Anna	Burrows	Rosie	Gillis
Hannah	Childs	Ollie	Gittins
Lucy	Chubb	Caitlin	Glover
Huw	Churchman	Molly	Glyn-Jones
Natasha	Clark	Charlotte	Good
Harriet	Clough	Jade	Gould
Olivia	Considine	Emma	Griffin
Anna	Copland	Katy	Grosvenor
Megan	Coram	Hannah	Hambleton-Jewell

Pippa	Hammond	Steph	O'Reilly
Izzy	Hannay	Hollie	Parsons
Jim	Hanley	Kayal	Patel
Lucy	Hardingham	Veronica	Paul
Rachel	Harrison	Loren	Payne
Lucy	Haslam	Hannah	Penfold
Felicity	Haywood	Harry	Pink
Lowri	Heseltine	Bobbie	Plant
Anna	Heslop	Jason	Powell
Madi	Hewitson	Jess	Price
Millie	Holdsworth	Rhiannon	Price
Sam	Hood	Elliot	Pye
Maisie	Hopkins	Lily	Quinn
Freya	Hughes-Jones	Anzal	Rana
Alice	Huxley	Eleanor	Ransford
Cordelia	Jefferson	Felicia	Robertson
Freddie	Jones	Charlotte	Rowe-Jones
Taylor	Jones	Lucy	Rudd
Ben	Jowett	Toby	Ryman-Tubb
Franziska	Kastner	Jade	Saunders
Katie	Kelly	Louise	Scanlon
Maisie	King	Rachel	Sharpe
Edward	Kingsbury	Steph	Shone
Sam	Law	Abi	Speakman
Katy	Leckie	Elliot	Sutherland
Olivia	Little	Layla	Thompson
Emma	Lockwood	Ellie	Townson
Nicole	Lowcock-Carter	Claudia	Treasure-Chapman
Alice	MacArthur	Chloe	Tredinnick
Jess	MacPhail	Kaitlin	Turnbull
Laurene	Malkowski	Megan	Turner
Nicola	Mansbridge	Nina	Wait
Sam	Marsh	Stef	Wallace
Joe	Masters	Emily	Walton
Lis	Matthews	Anna	Wang
Caitlin	McIntosh	Katie	White
Phil	McKean	Jade	Wilding
Keshia	Merry	Becca	Wildman
Madeline	Mestas	Chris	Williams
Georgia	Miller	Hannah	Winston
Abbie	Morgan	Alexandra	Wisely
Ben	Morfitt	Rachael	Wood
Annie	Mulligan	Hannah	Woodward
Tara	Norris		

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Postgraduates

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POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE: VETERINARY EDUCATION

Phillippa Hammond

Jacob Kitchen

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE: VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SURGERY

Margherita Cescon

Stefanie Pratt

Angelos Chrysopoulos

Catherine Rosie

Brian Crowley

Jonathan Ruiz

Max Foreman

Charlotte Swain

Andrew Hewitt

Melissa White

Jonathan Mayer

MASTER OF RESEARCH: VETERINARY SCIENCE

Louise Scanlon

Emily Walton

Abigail Speakman

MASTER OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Andrew Henderson

Katie Waine

Jacqueline Huxley

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY: VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

Jennifer Allen

Simon Blythe

Lewis Burton

Andrea Clarkson

Louise Corah

Simone De Brot

Mohammad Harun

Thomas Ingram

Purba Islam

Eliana Lima

Veronika Metzler

Mayowa Musah-Eroje

Rose Reader

Mary Talatu Angani

Patrick Taylor

Morné Van Der Mescht

Ge Wu

Alumni News



OLD KINGSTONIAN ASSOCIATION

OKA OFFICERS 2019/20

President:	Dr K N Boorman
Vice Presidents:	Prof W Haresign, Dr D W Pickard, Mr S A Cramer, Dr G R Foxcroft, Dr G Banks, Dr R G Bardsley, Dr K Wonnacott, Prof J Roberts, Mrs S Golds, Mr D Wheatcroft, Prof N Crout, Prof J Wiseman, Prof G England, Mrs S Northover, Prof M Luck, Ms L Baker
Chairman of the Committee:	Dr K N Boorman
Vice Chairman of the Committee:	Prof Bob Webb
Secretary:	Dr J H Kydd
Reunion Secretary:	Alastair Wright
Treasurer:	Prof J Wiseman/Prof I Fisk
Auditor:	Mrs B Simpson
Committee:	Head of School (Prof S Langley-Evans) Warden of Bonington Hall (Dr I Hardy) SVMS Representative (Dr Julia Kydd) President Treasurer Secretary Auditor Student Guild Chair Student Guild Treasurer Student Guild Secretary SVMS Student Rep Reunion Secretary



OKA COMMITTEE MEETING AND 93rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Senior Common Room (Normanton House) 11.00 am
Saturday 16th November 2019

Minutes

Present: Neil Boorman (Chair), Julian Wiseman (Hon Treas), Julia Kydd (Hon Sec), Ian Hardy, Betty Simpson, Bob Webb, Simon Brennand, Caitlin Birchall (Guild Chair), Harriet Critchley (Guild), Allana Garaghty (Guild), Sophie Griffin (Guild), Matthew Warren (Guild), Scott Macdougall (Guild), Lorraine Sabin

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Simon Buttenshaw, Ron Bardsley, Will Haresign, Karen Wonnacott, George Foxcroft, Karen Braithwaite, Malvika Johal, David Wheatcroft (only meeting missed since 1954; previous Guild Chair), Ian Fisk, Martin Luck, James Wilson

2. Minutes of the last meeting (17th November 2018)

These were accepted as a true record and duly signed.

3. Matters arising

OKA Weekend is now part of the role of the Senior Ents Officer on the Guild.

Jake has agreed to continue his work with the OKA website.

OKA publicity – OKA logo symbol to be placed on the blank wall at the North entrance of The Barn. Update: IH reported that nothing was evident a few weeks later.

IH has been in discussions with a company concerning the OKA logo on the windows. OKA has agreed to support the initiative.

4. Secretary's report (JHK)

A series of historical OKA rules have been found in the archives and are in the process of being compiled into a single, current document. The dual intake (September and April) cohorts have been started by SVMS and are proving successful to date. The meeting in

June 2019 between representatives of the Guild and Julian Wiseman on behalf of OKA was also successful in highlighting the importance of active Guild involvement in OKA.

5. Treasurer's report (JW/IF)

IF and JW are dual signatories on the account. As the account is healthy, recent OKA donations have been £2,000 to the Music Society towards the purchase of timpani and £500 to the Climbing Society to purchase special shoes. OKA would like to encourage more applications from societies and limit the account funds to £20,000.

JHK to ask Una how to improve publicity for OKA and draft terms of applications. It may be that Una emails all Society presidents, with information about the application process and how successful awards would benefit SB campus. It is likely that societies will need to contact Julian with a business case detailing their request and explaining the benefits that a donation would bring.

The Chelsea Flower Show Prize has now been revoked as the donation has finished.

JW thanked Betty Simpson for her audit of the accounts, and the alumni and both Schools on campus for the donations made to OKA this year.

6. Agrimag Co-ordinators' report (JW/LS)

Agrimag 2018 was distributed in late Spring to over 1100 alumni – 801 hard copies and 338 electronic copies. Approximately 50 people so far have chosen to change to the electronic version for next year. The collation of Agrimag 2019 is well underway and Clemmie Bridges, Guild Officer, has designed a colourful new template. The Committee thanked Clemmie, Imogen Marley and Lorraine Sabin for their work with Agrimag. There was a discussion on whether to send the magazine to current students via email and through social media via the Guild. This may help promote awareness of OKA and increased membership on graduation.

7. Campus and Hall Developments (IH)

The wardens have had great issues accessing necessary student details on Campus Solutions.

Deputy Warden Rodrigo has stepped back (after approximately 14 years) and two part-time tutors are acting as IH's Deputy. Thanks were extended to Rodrigo for his hard work in supporting Bonington Hall and IH during this time.

The dual intake of SVMS has impacted on Hall Tutors' cover, with students present on campus all year round.

After two CLV Hall Managers left, the tutor flat was let out to a student.

There is a need for more accommodation, but Ratcliffe House is still mothballed. There are complex issues of ownership, but it should be ready in April 2020.

There is a new Operations Manager at Sodexo and the contract renewal is due in June/July 2020.

Hall Warden positions are up for renewal in September 2020. The University is not replacing wardens who resign on UP.

Events are being planned over Easter and for the Summer, including a Dining-In on Thursday, 2 April when the Vice Chancellor will be attending as well as the Pro Vice Chancellor for Medicine and Health Sciences. SVMS have donated money for staff to attend. The Warden has been given an extra budget and has already booked two bands.

The OKA Weekend is planned for 12-13 December 2020 and will include a Dining-In.

There is a budget of £100 per student. This is normally donated to the SB Hall Budget, but the University are now keeping some of it for welfare purposes and therefore the overall budget is rather stretched this year.

There are 50 Nottingham Trent University students living now in SB Hall. They are located in flats separately but are in the same buildings as Nottingham students. They can join societies as Associate members, and use the Library and Hopper Bus, but they are not allowed to play for UoN sports teams and they are not covered by UoN pastoral care or discipline. There has been one noise complaint issue; CLV are handling this, rather than the SB Hall Tutor Team.

Harpers Bar is improving all the time. It is almost finished, with just the vinyl on the door to finish. The Student Union have made £5,000 available and there are plans to create some outside space for the SVMS Spring intake and reduce the lighting in the main entrance. Acknowledgements of fund donors will be displayed inside.

Lauren Barker is the new Sports Centre Manager.

Cover of Hall Warden and Hall Tutors for SVMS dual intake out of term in January 2021 has been arranged but any provisions by the Guild cover are currently unknown.

8. Appeals to Alumni (Development Office)

No report has been received. The SB Development Fund meet on 25 November 2019. Debbie Sparkes chairs this Committee; JHK to request a report after that meeting to add to the minutes. There is £5-8,000 to allocate.

9. J D Ivins Memorial & Kesteven Travelling Scholarships and other awards (JHK)

No information has been received about these and no-one present could give an update. JHK to ask Sarah Johnson and Karen Braithwaite to clarify the process. Lana Gibbard is the new Senior Manager of the SB Student Services Centre.

10. Election of Vice Presidents

Simon Brennand was elected to recognise his long-standing and excellent contributions to SB campus. Proposed: J Wiseman; seconded: N Boorman. Carried nem con.

Jake Richards was elected to recognise his substantial contributions, as an undergraduate and postgraduate student, to the Guild, Bonington Hall, OKA and in particular the maintenance of the OKA website. Proposed: I Hardy; seconded: J Kydd. Carried nem con.

JHK to email them both.

11. Election of Officers

NB explained that he is leaving the area and will be standing down as Chair of the Committee. The Committee formally thanked NB for his 17 years of service. JHK/IW/JW to ask for nominations for the future Chair. JW will continue as Assistant Treasurer and act as interim Chair.

12. AOB

a. Proposal for OKA from Campaign and Alumni Relations Office (CARO)

The proposal documents were distributed prior to the meeting and comments from members were read out. It was acknowledged that compliance with GDPR and financial regulations is necessary, and that the databases should be merged. However, there was consensus that the OKA funds should not be merged with the SB Development Fund. JW and JHK to arrange a meeting with CARO to discuss the matter further.

The Guild Officers are happy to continue with the name, 'Agrimag', as it alludes to the history of the Campus; this supports previous discussions and surveys. JHK to send minutes to the Guild via Allana Garaghty.

b. Guild Chair Position

IH met the Vice Chancellor at one of her surgeries and suggested that the Guild Chair becomes an SU-funded sabbatical position, largely to accommodate the new SVMS dual intake. This is largely an SU matter, but the VC has some influence and will speak to MB and the Students' Union. The Guild, Vet Soc and IH have started making plans for Freshers' Week, but there has been no SU involvement to date.

c. Recognition of Prof Julian Wiseman's extensive service to OKA

This was proposed by Simon Brennand, in recognition of JW's 40 years of service as the heartbeat of OKA. It was agreed that JW would attend a future Dining-In to celebrate.

d. Student Rep

James Wilson, PhD student, has suggested that there be a permanent student rep on the OKA Committee, who can act as a link between the Guild and the OKA Committee. The Committee agreed and the Guild are to decide who will be the rep.

13. Date of next meeting: Saturday, 14 November 2020, 11.00 am

OKA Statements of accounts as at 31st December 2019

Expenditure			Income	
AGRIMAG Print	3733.00		Interest on investments:	
AGRIMAG Post	836.86		Lazard	1141.33
AGRIMAG Admin	52.33		Bank Interest	2.82
Bake-Off Prizes	175.00			
SB Fest	250.00		Membership	4490.00
SB Climbing Soc	500.00		Donations	7499.00
SB Music Soc	2000.00			
OKA Reunion	250.00			
OKA Web	92.85			
Decorating	212.40			
SODEXO	22.00	8124.44		
Add surplus		5008.71		
TOTAL		13133.15	TOTAL	13133.15

Balance sheet as at 31st December 2019

Liabilities			Assets	
Life membership capital	505.00		Cash at Bank:	
			Current	37554.22
			Reserve	1410.21
Accumulated Fund	34738.52		Investments at cost:	
Surplus	5008.71	39747.23		1287.80
TOTAL		40252.23	TOTAL	40252.23

Julian Wiseman, October 2020

OKA Assistant Treasurer

ALUMNI *OXA Reunion News*

1974 Graduates

A group of 1974 and 1975 graduates held a 'get together' in Devon, pre-pandemic!



Left to right, standing:

Paul Rochford (1974), Mo and Dave Hinshelwood (1974), Jayne Hulbert, Martin Tucker (1974), Linda Spalding, wife of Steve Spalding, and his son James (Steve (1974) sadly died in 2018 so it was wonderful to meet his wife and son), Susan Williams, Keith Hulbert (1974), Henry Pranker (1974), Diana Longthorp (née Whidborne, 1974), Gerry Hoot, Lynne Hoot (née Maile, 1974) Caroline Pranker, Malcolm Leitch (1974), Glenys Tucker, Andy Whorton (1975), Nikki Leitch (née Pillely, 1975), Helen Holloway (1975), Kate Lake (1974), Bill Longthorp (1975), Ken Holloway (1974), Paul Brown (1974), Earl Williams (1974)

Sitting:

Caroline Varley (née Yardley, 1974), Carey Whitley (1974), Julia Whorton (née Norton, 1974)

ALUMNI *Other Contributions*

Julian Francis

We received the following from Julian Francis who worked at SB in the mid-1960s.

I have been encouraged to contact you by Professor Fred Harper who was a student at Sutton Bonington 50+ years ago when I worked for about 15 months (1966-67) at Sutton Bonington's Experimental Farm, mainly looking after animals that were connected with various PhD experiments/research. I have kept in touch with Fred and also with Duncan Pickard PhD over the years.

After leaving Sutton Bonington in 1968 I came to India as an agricultural volunteer and worked for 3 years on an Oxfam-supported project in Bihar, India where, among other things I helped set up a dairy farm at an agricultural children's school. In 1971, I was in charge of a big Oxfam-supported refugee relief programme for Bangladeshi refugees who fled to India during the Liberation War, when 10 million refugees bolted to India from what was then East Pakistan. Since then I have lived and worked in India (15 years) and Bangladesh (29 years), involved in extreme poverty alleviation programmes and also working on issues related to the needs of people with disabilities. More recently I have been involved with the Rohingya refugee crisis.

The agricultural education and experience which I gained at Merrist Wood Agricultural College in Surrey and at Sutton Bonington has been of great value in the work I have done over the years. For this work, last year the Bangladesh Government honoured me with full Bangladesh Citizenship and in the 2019 New Year's Honours, I was honoured with an OBE for "services to development in Bangladesh". A fuller citation is attached below.

Although I was not a student at Sutton Bonington, whenever the football or cricket team were short of numbers, I would fill a place! Fred was the captain of the 1st XI football team in those days.

Another amusing tidbit is that when I was at Sutton Bonington, the manager of the workshop was able to obtain wholesale-priced wellington boots and in 1967 I purchased 3 pairs, one of which I brought to India in 1968, and I still use them. They have been with me in floods, cyclones and muddy refugee camps.

Citation: Julian FRANCIS received an OBE for services to development in Bangladesh. He is recognised for his outstanding contribution to Bangladesh since its independence. He first went to Bangladesh after supporting refugees who had fled to India during Bangladesh's independence struggle, during which he played a leading role in delivering humanitarian aid to some 600,000 people of the 10 million refugees affected by the conflict in 1971. Over the five decades since, Julian has demonstrated a strongly principled and passionate commitment to helping the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Bangladesh. Using his deep understanding of Bangladeshi society and culture, he has been a central figure in delivering on a wide range of humanitarian and development programmes providing vital health, education and livelihood support to some of the poorest and most marginalised communities in the country. Julian is a hugely respected and well known figure in Bangladesh and his work has reflected real credit on the UK.



On learning of his award Julian Francis said, "It is indeed a great honour to be recognised in this way. At the same time, I honour the many colleagues who, over the years, have worked closely with me, at times moulding my thoughts and actions to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged".

Sylvia Parrett (1961)

'How things were' – college life 1958-61

by Sylvia Parrett nee Poulton (Hort student)

Sutton Bonington was very cold compared to Wiltshire where I lived, and there was often snow in winter, besides flooding of the road to Long Eaton in spring, necessitating provision of a raised walkway alongside the road there. At times there could be bad smog/fog. In November 1958 four of us went by car to the Engineer's Ball at the main university campus. On our return the smog/fog was so bad that one of us had to walk in front of the car waving a big white hanky, while another drove the car at less than a snail's pace.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

I had an interview at Sutton Bonington in December 1956 when I was 16, travelling by train via London. I was picked up from Kegworth station and then taken for a short walk round with 2 other candidates, before Refectory lunch with some of the interviewing panel.

The interviews were taken by the Dean of the Faculty (Professor Hallsworth), the Professor of Horticulture (Prof Hudson) and two horticultural lecturers. I received a letter two days later offering me a place for October 1958 and in early December a letter from the main University

saying that, although I was already qualified for matriculation, in order to ensure exemption from the Intermediate exam (which necessitated an additional year's study at the main University), I must pass Chemistry at 'A' level before admission, which I did.

We all had to complete a year's practical experience pre-college. I applied to Bath Parks department and also to Kew but neither would accept girl students, and then I applied to Hillier Nurseries in Winchester who were prepared to employ me. I was interviewed by Harold Hillier himself. During this pre-university year I had two personal letters from Prof Hudson asking about my progress.

County Scholarship

It was necessary to obtain a County Scholarship which covered all tuition fees and a contribution towards maintenance, based on family financial circumstances. I was awarded a Wiltshire County Agricultural Scholarship with tuition fees paid (£60 per session) and £233 towards maintenance (probably about a third of the amount they considered necessary). Hall of residence fees were £140 per session (ie academic year). For this I had a formal interview at County Hall, Trowbridge with a large panel of people, following a practical 'site' based interview at school with the County Rural Subjects Organiser in Feb 1957. I also had to do an hour's essay, school based. There was a choice of about 4 topics. I chose to write on a quote from Virgil's Georgics: 'the diligent farmer plants trees of which he himself will never see the fruit'.



Flooded road to Kegworth

THE ACADEMIC YEAR

The three sessions ran from early October to early July. Pre-sessional Conference: first year students, 'Freshers', were invited a week before term began in order to familiarize themselves with college life. This included presentations by the different societies, an outing to Nottingham main university campus, a visit to Nottingham Playhouse and a pre-sessional 'hop'.

Lecture programme

We had a full lecture programme with three hours each morning including Saturdays and three hour lab practicals in the afternoons, with the exception of Wednesday & Saturday which were reserved for sport. On arriving at SB we were told by the 3rd year students, the 'old lags', that we should work as follows: year 1 for 6 weeks in the summer term, year 2 the whole summer term and year 3 all the year. Fairly good advice. Most of the social life of the campus was managed by 1st and 2nd year students. In the third year on Saturday mornings we were expected to attend seminars given by fellow students on the work of their theses. Relevant staff also attended. There were geology coach trips laid on to parts of Derbyshire in the summer of year one, to supplement our soils lectures.

During the first two years both Ag and Hort students attended the same lecture programme, only specialising in year three. The Hort Dept ran compulsory study tours in the vacations for all Hort Students. After the summer term in year one we had a tour based around London, staying at Nutford House, a Hall of London University. At Easter of the second year we had a tour based in Holland, staying in a youth hostel.

EXAMS

First year exams were held in June. Papers were: Agriculture & Horticulture, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, Agric Microbiology, Agric Botany theory & practical, Agric Zoology theory & practical, Plant Pathology theory & practical, and Genetics. Thus there were 11 x 3 hour papers.

In the first year we were required to make a weed and grass collection and also an insect collection with examples from all the insect phyla. Proper display boxes were loaned to us so that we could set them out properly, after identifying them.

Second year exams

Six mock papers were held in March. BSc Part 1 exams were held in June. They were: Ag & Hort 1 & 2, Microbiology, Biochemistry & Animal Physiology 1 & 2, Ag Botany theory & practicals, Ag Zoology theory & practicals, Soil Chemistry – ten x 3 hour papers.

It was necessary to achieve a certain level in these in order to be considered for the honours course in the final year.

After summer exams some students had to have an oral exam. If you did particularly well, or were borderline, your name could appear on the provisional list. This gave an opportunity for borderline candidates to revise the subject prior to the oral.

Third year exams

Mock papers were held in March. These for me were: Hort i) Propagation & environmental control, Hort ii) Organisation and productivity, Hort iii) Essay on control of light & water in crop production, Hort iv) Winter pruning of apples, to be marked in June by result.

BSc Part 2 exams were held in June. These were: Hort i) Plant and its environment, Hort ii) Principles of plant propagation, Hort iii) Organisation & production, Hort iv) 3 hour essay – I chose 'The virus problem in horticulture', Statistics, besides Hort practicals 1 & 2.

Thesis

If approved to follow an honours course, studies and experiments began at least a week

before the start of the autumn term. A thesis tutor was allocated with whom potential thesis subjects were discussed, who saw you regularly through the autumn and spring terms leaving the summer term for writing it up. Three bound copies had to be produced (typed carbon copies in those days), one for the department, one for the college library and one for the student. I think it cost me 15/- (75p) for the typing.

One Saturday morning during the summer term honours students had to present their theses and findings to a group of interested students and relevant staff. Presentation was for about an hour followed by very challenging questions.

Towards the end of the term I also had an oral exam for about an hour based on my thesis with a professor from another university who had relevant experience in the subject matter. My examiner was Prof O.V.S. Heath, Professor of Horticulture at Reading University, with a particular interest in plant physiology and the action of stomata.

Student numbers and results

Besides a good number of Postgraduate students on campus, in our year's intake we had 56 students in year 1 (including 8 girls), this had dropped to 46 in year 2 and in year 3 there were only 39, of whom all but one graduated – he failed his finals.

Results: BSc with honours – 1st class = 3 (8%), 2nd class Div 1 = 12 (30%), 2nd class Div 2 = 7 (18%)

BSc Pass Div 1 = 4 (10%), Div 2 = 12 (30%)

Conferment of degrees for our cohort was held in Nottingham on 7 July 1961.

COLLEGE LIFE

Accommodation

Almost all students lived in hostel accommodation, three for men and one for women. The few living out, locally, were the married ones and the postgrads. There were about 40 girls, the degree student's number being made up by a 2 year Diploma course in Dairying with around 14 students each year, mainly female. (The Dairy Dip course finished in 1961 as the authorities decided that all students on campus should be following a degree course.)

We mainly had our own rooms but shared communal wash rooms with washing machines, ironing facilities and drying cupboards. A series of rooms with baths was upstairs – there were no showers. A couple of gas rings and a toaster were in the washroom area for limited weekend cooking. There was a large common room which was little used except for meetings or talks. We had a fine grand piano in the girl's hostel and twice Professor Ivor Keys came out at the weekend and gave us a piano recital there.

Visiting hours in our hostel were from lunch time until 9pm and this was rigorously monitored by the lady warden. We were locked in at 10pm, although late keys could be issued after signing in a book and stating where you were going and your approximate time of return. If a student was away for the weekend they could agree to let their room to a visitor (for which the college was paid – the quoted price was for 17/6 (75p) for one night's stay with 5 meals ie Saturday lunch to Sunday supper).

Only a handful of students had cars (in our year only three had cars), a few had motorbikes and the bike shed was fairly full.

The meeting centre at college was JCR (Junior Common Room) where we had our morning coffee breaks and also coffee at 9pm. We took turns at coffee duty for the latter, generally twice a term – getting there at 8.45pm to put the water boiler on and put the cups and saucers out. It ran for half an hour & then we washed up.

A typical day

Refectory was used for all meals, with breakfast from 8am, which was always good – generally bacon and egg type but sometimes scrambled eggs and boiled eggs at the weekends. Theory lectures were held in the Main Hall, or one of the lecture rooms, from 9am - 12.30pm with the half hour break for coffee in JCR. Meals were invariably good, with plenty of food. Supper was at 6pm. Many used the library for study afterwards until it closed at 9pm.

Lab practical sessions were held from 2-5pm but it was understood that we would come out around 3.30 - 4pm to have a tea break in Refec. Lectures and practicals were not compulsory but most students attended most of the time. Lab pracs were slightly vulnerable (and I missed a few to go to Nottingham), although prac experiments still had to be completed and written up. In the first and second terms of year one in Zoology we had to draw insect specimens for our practical books. There was not enough time in the timetabled class so several students, including me, were there in the evenings as well, trying to catch up.

We walked to Sutton Bonington to buy local supplies – toiletries, stamps, biscuits etc on Wednesday or Saturday afternoons, but walked to the station and then by train to Nottingham for anything special eg dress fabric. We girls had a sewing machine in the common room which was kept very busy before formal dances and we made clothes for the Carnival float people too.

At 10pm we were locked into our hostel. Men were allowed in until 9pm but the girls were vociferous in not allowing them in until 10pm (vote taken at a faculty meeting – although the men were relaxed about their hostel visiting hours – until 10pm – sometimes allowing for some unsightly visions in their corridors). Very often we had coffee in each other's rooms after this 10pm curfew – sometimes two and sometimes a group. This could go on until 2am or more while we sorted out the world and exchanged views. Life was very busy and it was never dull.

COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

Debating Society

Every Tuesday was a dining in night. We were expected to dress a little more smartly and the (non-compulsory) talks were given in the main hall. Guest lecturers came from all walks of life and covered a range of subjects ranging from a talk by the Vice Chancellor on the Bayeux Tapestry to the more prosaic, such as a talk on Basic Slag. A public speaking competition was held annually on a dining in night. You spoke for ten minutes on a subject of your choice to the whole student body. The prize was a wooden shield with the university shield and university motto. Besides talks, one evening we had a showing of the influential film 'Hiroshima mon amour'. Loughborough Toast Masters came one summer and gave those interested a course on public speaking.

The Christian Union was non-denominational and held a short Daily Morning Prayers service in the main hall, prior to the morning's lectures. This was taken by the students and included a Bible reading. Sunday afternoon meetings were held, with a speaker, during the Autumn and Spring terms, in the women's hostel. Many students attended the services in St Michael's church in Sutton Bonington. After Evensong we were invited back to the vicarage by Revd T Bryan and his wife for an informal 'Squash' which consisted of talk, tea and sandwiches and some group games.

The Theatrical Society ran a variety show each autumn term (two nights – for students and then staff) and usually a three act play in the spring term for which auditions were held. Unfortunately on student's night the domestic bursar invariably put things like tomatoes and other potential missiles on the menu and these did get thrown regardless of the standard of the show.

Sports Clubs were: badminton, men's cricket, women's cricket, cross country, lawn tennis, ladies hockey, men's hockey, mountaineering, rifle shooting, and rowing (in Nottingham). In May 1959 I was invited to join the men's cricket team as a scorer for a friendly match against Hugh Stewart Hall at the main Nottingham campus. This was fine and I managed all right until the end. The team were invited to tea afterwards in Hall but it was a men only Hall. Therefore, to overcome the problem, I was made an 'honorary' man for the occasion and had to face the stares of 300 men during the meal and walking out afterwards. The Ploughing Club included weekly practices and the annual Interschool Ploughing Match with Oxford, Cambridge, Wye (London), Reading and Sutton Bonington teams.

Outings

There were occasional coach trips for those interested. I went to Stratford to see Hamlet and to Leicester De Montfort Hall for a Royal Ballet performance and with a few other students I followed a pottery class at Loughborough College in the spring in year one. During our time at SB we were also able to go to jazz concerts in Nottingham by Acker Bilk and Chris Barber and also to attend a memorable talk by the then archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsay, at the main university.

The JCR and Social committee was responsible for running the 'hops' on Wednesday and Saturday evenings in JCR, using records for the music. A short course on ballroom dancing was run during the autumn term to teach the basic ballroom steps and on Monday evenings at Jazz Club we jived to rock-type records from 7-9pm. As more students became car-mobile numbers attending the hops decreased and were discontinued during some of our third year. The committee was also responsible for some formal dances. We had a Christmas Dinner Dance and a Summer Ball at the end of session (double ticket 15/- in 1960) – this was held the day before the formal Faculty End of Session Dinner. These dinners had typical menus for the time, eg fresh grapefruit, turkey & tongue salad & new potatoes, fruit & fresh cream, cheese & biscuits, dessert, coffee.

In Nottingham at the main university there was an Engineers Ball in the autumn term and a Union Dinner and Ball in the spring term (double ticket 30/-). There was also a formal Union Ball with buffet supper for leavers at the end of the final term. We went to these by coach.

Carnival and Rag Week

In late October there was a Carnival Queen Ball in Nottingham. In 1958 this was at the Sherwood Rooms from 8.30pm-1am and two days later a Rag Ball, also in Nottingham, at the Palais de Dance. The following day was Carnival day in Nottingham where decorated floats from the different faculties were paraded through the streets, while collecting for charity. In our 2nd year we had a harem on the float with Frank as the sultan and various girls as his harem in bra tops, yashmaks and billowing trousers. Accompanying girls wore saris and walked alongside with the collecting tins. The wife of a Malaysian student showed us how to put on a sari so we were very properly attired. That year we won against all the rest of the university so were very proud of ourselves. Previously we had visited Beeston, Long Eaton and local pubs selling the student magazine 'Chickerah' (which contained an assortment of jokes), again for charity. A total of £300 was collected that year, I think by all the faculties collectively.



Student pranks

In our third year we arranged quite a complicated spoof. Most new students coming for pre-session conference came by train. We put up notices on the entrances by the roadside leading from the station that all new students should go to re-register. We pretended that accidentally their application forms had been destroyed and that they had to complete new forms. These included the usual name and address details but also asked them their hobbies and interests. They were measured for height and weight (by students looking very 'medical' in lab coats) then interviewed by about 5 'staff'. The poor fellow who had written down 'music' as an interest was asked in a lordly way what he thought of Scriabin – he hadn't, and looked very non-plussed. We managed to catch about 15. It was written up in the Notts Uni Student newspaper and then picked up by the Daily Mail. The Daily Mail 17 October 1960 headline on an inner page was 'Girl doctors hoax students – but we did not have to strip' and an article describing what happened.



ALUMNI *News of Former Students*



Clair Firth (1998)

Animal Science with European Studies

Things are still going well in Austria. I graduated as a vet in 2014 and completed my doctorate in 2018.

I am now a postdoc at the Vetmeduni Vienna, researching antimicrobial use, stewardship and resistance – primarily still on dairy cows but hoping to branch out into pigs and poultry eventually. Maybe one day I'll even step into the viper's nest of small animal medicine and antibiotic use! Obviously conferences are non-existent at the moment but I'm still extremely busy supervising students (undergrad and doctoral) on various projects, and also giving webinars to farmers/vets.

Since 2017, I've been working in farm practice 2 days a week – it's mixed practice (85% cattle, mainly dairy, 5% pigs, 5% equine, 5% small animal), 150km southwest of Vienna, at the foothills of the Alps, so the roads can get pretty exciting in winter; luckily many years of Buxton/Peak District winters have trained me well! (And having a 4-wheel-drive and snow tyres obviously helps too – only been stuck once in 3 years!)

Brexit has forced me to reapply for my (previously automatic) permanent residency and work permit; hopefully that will be sorted out soon. Even after 22 years in Austria, it's still an extremely worrying situation. Austria doesn't permit dual citizenship, so that makes life extremely complicated. Seeing the UK leave the Erasmus scheme makes me extremely sad. Without Erasmus and my semester in Göttingen, Germany in 1996, I would never have been able to move to Vienna.

Re: the dreaded COVID – we have been in lockdown on and off since March 2020. I can still travel for veterinary work, as I'm a keyworker, but all uni teaching is now online (which is a bit of a nightmare as the students can't be bothered to talk to us anymore). We have weekly PCR tests at uni and are waiting for our vaccinations. My kids are currently in home school (again) and my eldest is preparing for her A level equivalents in May, so it's all pretty stressful. My husband works in IT, so has no problem with home working and luckily was able to set up all the computers, extra Wifi routers and printer equipment that we needed at home!

Let's hope the world gets back to normal soon – well at least by 2022!

Paul Marles (1983)

MSc Food Science

Present occupation: Technical Manager for Morrisons plc

News: Great years at SB that always stood me in good stead. I'm 62 now and with the grounding I got at SB, I have never been threatened with unemployment throughout my working life. Sadly my old landlady from Normanton-on-Soar died recently and I came back for a trip down memory lane when I attended her funeral. Lil served in the Canteen, the infamous Higgy Trough we all knew and loved. Since leaving SB, I've worked for Birds Eye, Ross Young's and Geest Bakkavör. Now the business I work for has been bought by Morrisons. Every day is a new challenge and even now I'm still learning, although my main aim is to provide a legacy in my role so that others can replace me when I retire, hopefully in 3 years.

I look back at SB with great affection. The socialising, facilities and quality of tuition are unsurpassed. With my youngest daughter hopefully getting into Loughborough Uni next summer, a few more visits may be possible.

Peter Tulloch (1968)

BSc Food Science

Now fully retired except that I continue to be involved with stewarding at the biennial International Brewing & Cider Awards - Chief Steward until I stood down from that role after the 2019 event. The 2021 event should have been held in March of this year, but has been delayed until November this year. I am shadowing the new Chief Steward to complete the handover smoothly. I will still remain involved, but probably as an 'elder statesman', whatever that might entail!! Other than that Sue and I have escaped any threat of Covid-19 and are both double-jabbed, so should be fairly safe for now. We are looking to get out and about a little more this year than we managed last year.

Mike Hails (1963)

What did you do at SB? Agriculture - just managed a pass, but learned a lot.

Present occupation: retired.

Career:

- 1963-4 Postgrad Dip in AgEcon at Reading University.
Dissertation: *Producer retailers in dairy industry*.
- 1964-5 Bromley Public Library as temp Library assistant.
- 1965-7 Assistant Exp Officer at Pest Infestation Laboratory, Slough, learning a lot about insect and other pests of stored products.

1967-2001 Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, which became CAB International and is now CABI (producer of CAB Abstracts and CAB Direct).

A time of building on knowledge base gathered at SB, first in Commonwealth Bureau (CB) of Pastures and Field Crops, Hurley, (1967-75); then CB Animal Health, based at Central Veterinary Lab, Weybridge (75-86) and finally Division of Animal Sciences at CABI, Wallingford, becoming Head of Department of Animal Health and then Quality Manager for Animal Sciences, Human Health and Nutrition. A life of learning and I am so grateful for my time at SB which prepared me for this career.

Publications: Transport stress in animals: a review. *Animal Regulation Studies* (1978) 1: 289-343. *Plant poisoning in animals: an annotated bibliography from the world literature, 1960-1992* in 3 volumes.

2001-2020 (a) Henley Library as Library Assistant

(b) Freelance for CABI: abstracting and indexing from German scientific literature and screening incoming publications.

2020 Now staying at home and fully retired.

Personal: met Pam Young at Reading University in October 1963 where she was doing Mathematics, married in 1967, five children (Simon, David, Richard, John and Jane - Richard sadly died at 6 weeks after a short and difficult life). Active church member (Anglican) and choir member in Horsell and Henley on Thames; Secretary Horsell Residents' Association; member of Henley Choral Society; keen gardener and allotment holder.

Best memory of SB: the people, being 'in hall' for all 3 years, friendly late night gatherings in my room for coffee and chat; Kings Head in SB.

Worst memory: exams at end of first term; 'viva' after finals.

David Sumpter (1961)

Present occupation: Retired

News: After graduation, worked for Fisons Farmwork, then managed a vegetable farm near Cambridge. Moved into the chemical industry and eventually looked after Europe for our fungicide products, from development to marketing. Retired in 1995 and did some consultancy in fruit, vines and amenity horticulture.

Married in 1964, two children and four grandchildren. Played lots of sport – hockey, cricket, squash and golf. Only golf and the gym now remain, though watch lots of hockey. Still in regular contact with Jonathon Aspinwall and John Seddon. Live in West Sussex, near East Grinstead.

Best wishes to Julian who helped to organise our 50th anniversary of arriving at SB. He was amazingly patient with me re: the plans, but then he always is.

John Cowburn (1956)

Present occupation: Retired, mainly research into my family history and that of the local village in Cheshire.

News: Given Paul Ingram's description of "my projects in many wild and woolly parts of the world", maybe I ought to define them in a little more detail:

1956-64 Conservation Officer/Conservation and Extension Officer, Selukwe area of Southern Rhodesia. There were two working chrome mines and a third being developed, three small working gold mines and another large gold mine closing down as well in the area as the normal agricultural conservation and later extension work.

1964-70 Fisons Fertilizer Division in Warwickshire

1970-95 Hunting Technical Services of the Hunting Group. Worked in East Pakistan based at Dacca and four times in Bangladesh based at Dhaka, in southern Thailand based at Songkla, in Iraq based at Al Khalis, in Ethiopia based at Mekelle, in the Sudan based at Kosti for a sugar cane project opposite on the east and south of the Nile and later in South Darfur based at Nyala, in Jordan based at Al Karak for an irrigation scheme alongside and south of the Dead Sea and later for a dam to be sited near Amman, in Nepal based at Kathmandu for irrigation schemes in the Middle Mountains and later on the Terai, in Sind Province in Pakistan based at Hyderabad, and in the Serengeti, Tanzania. I was mainly involved with general agricultural projects, but also deep tube wells and irrigation projects.

It's a small world!

The late Dr Charles Taylor and John Montague and their wives were also in Southern Rhodesia at that time. It so happened during a three day holiday that I and two friends had been visiting the eastern side of the country – we worked in the middle part of the country – and on our way home stopped for tea at a roadside hotel. As we were sitting there on the veranda, down the stairs came John and Dr Taylor and their wives. John, of course, I knew and Dr Taylor recognised me but needed to be reminded when he lectured when I was at SB. They were both there, as were Paul and I, as results of a visit to SB by the Head of the Conservation Department who was on a visit to all agricultural universities in the UK.

Mike Nichols (1955)

Diploma in Poultry Husbandry

I have just received the Agrimag 2019. Congratulations on the new format. Perhaps the 2020 edition will be delayed by the Covid 19 debacle. I read with interest the account of John Hunt's life as an entrepreneur graduate written by Prof Suggett. This has prompted me to summarise the years since I left Sutton B in 1955. This may be of some interest as it is somewhat similar to John's story.

I was one of three students who were accepted for the final intake of the 2 year Diploma Course in Poultry Husbandry. After we had completed the two years and sat for the National

Diploma, the course was closed down together with the Poultry Unit. I enrolled on my 21st Birthday and got engaged to my fiancée Mary the same day.

What did I do? We worked daily on the Poultry Dept farm from 7.00 to 8.30am when we had breakfast in the dining room, followed by a full day of lectures. I played football for a very successful team against University, College and Farm Institute sides on Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays. Most students stayed at the College at weekends so there was always a full side. I was always keen on athletics and in the 2nd year I was Captain of the team. I won the Victor Ludorum Shield in 1955. I also had a trial for Nottingham Forest Football team, was asked to sign on but refused the offer because my future was in farming and I could not afford the cost to travel and train anyway.

As the course end neared, I applied for various positions in the UK and the Commonwealth as a Poultry Adviser, had interviews, and was accepted by Queensland, New Zealand and Tasmania. Mary and I were to be married in Aug '55 and we planned to move out soon after. The salaries offered were £1200 a year with moving expenses all paid. This was much better than the £12 a week Nottingham Forest had offered in 1954.

Then fate, or rather my future father-in-law, intervened. He was the Accredited Poultry Farmer I had worked for and had given me the chance to learn the art of poultry keeping, as it was then. He realised that we were serious about taking a post overseas and had found a smallholding in a nearby village for sale. He asked me if I would be interested in it to get a start in farming. With nothing to lose and after much agonising at the chance to make a start, we decided to go ahead. It was a 6 acre old brickyard with a couple of cottages and an adjoining small cowshed with 94 hens in battery cages. The roof leaked and the water was from an old pump but luckily mains water was being dug up the road and due to be linked up to the house shortly.

We married in August 1955 and I spent my last pound on 4 gallons of petrol to get us home from honeymoon which I had booked months before. Mary had saved hard from her work at Harby Mill and we had to spend most of that to install a bathroom. Her father took me in hand, arranged an overdraft – I had never been in a bank!! The mill gave us credit and the work began. I had to start rearing chickens to fill the cages. I went to any small farm sales and bought the scrap redundant fold units and sheds cheap. Everything was out on range around the old brick clay pits. It was a very difficult time after two years as a student and now in all weathers making sure the chicks were safe in such crude un-insulated sheds.

In the late 50s the air ministry decide to sell off RAF aerodromes around the country. The buildings were auctioned and had to be completely removed. For the next 15 years I bought a variety of buildings from airfields in Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire and rereccted them in a manner suitable to house both growers and layers. For a while in the 60s I was joined by Don Baker, who I had roomed with and we had both done the poultry course. However the partnership was short-lived and we parted in the mid 60s.

In 1962 the nextdoor farm of 62 acres came on the market. I bought it and so began farming at last. The numbers grew rapidly and we were doubling every couple of years. We began employing labour. From the start we mixed all our own feeding-stuffs , never buying branded

feed. The mill was an old railway wagon and the mix was done by shovel, all the feed was bagged in one hundredweight bags. We added turkeys to the poultry and housed them in straw yards. These were Beltsville Whites, a small breed ideally suited to the Christmas market. We sold them retail, plucking by hand with help from local folk keen to supplement their income on piece work. We cleaned one shed out and did all the butchering and packing in it. We would never have passed present day health requirements, but that was in the 60s.

As well as eggs for the packing station we added shed after shed and in several we housed breeders for a hatchery at Mk Harborough, later for Warren Studler and Ross Breeders. Meanwhile the egg market was changing as consumers demanded brown eggs. I decided to go over entirely to brown eggs and in addition, to market them myself under the name Willow Farm Eggs. As well as wholesale we began an egg round in Nottingham and built it up to a full-time job for a young lady. We had a wholesale chap from London once a week with a truck and also ran a van down to a farm south of London near Gatwick Airport. Later a farmer from Kent came and had a truckload too. They all paid a premium price for the brown eggs.

We were grading and packing over a thousand 30 dozen boxes a week, on trays and in cartons as required. The Feed Mill was built in a Nissen Hut. Initially all feed was bagged and taken to every shed on a trailer and then, as we expanded, on a small flat truck. Later we moved on and installed an automatic mill and mixer and set up augers from the mill to bins at each shed so that it was all in bulk.

To get greater numbers in each shed we began to convert the "Deep Litter" sheds to cages, stopped any hatching egg production and concentrated on eggs alone. This way we housed 80,000 layers by 1970. The rearing capability was limited on the 6 acres so we built in 1970 two 12,000 capacity rearing sheds on the 62 acres bought in 1962. These were caged from day old to point of lay. Being isolated from the layers was a good move from a disease point of view.

Apart from the farm I got involved in the local Parish Council which covered the three parishes nearby. Being a school manager too at Harby with our children going through the system, I was persuaded, in 1967, to stand for the County Council Elections and did so as an independent. I was elected and served three years on the Education Committee. I was a governor of Brooksby Farm Institute and of Belvoir High School but after three years, I found it was too time-consuming to do everything and realising this, I did not stand for re-election in 1970.

Back on the farm, with increasing quantities of poultry manure, it was imperative to find some more land to spread it on. At the same time, this practice improved the soil and the value rose. To find land with vacant possession in the Vale was very difficult at that time and I had to go into Lincolnshire to pass over a couple of big estates. I bought a farm at Ropsley, the other side of Grantham first in 1972, followed quickly by another at Pickworth later in the year. With a manager and tractor driver we grew combinable crops and these were used at the poultry site in the feed mix. We also carted back to these acres the poultry manure which improved the yields and saved on fertilizers. We soon needed more land to fully occupy the labour force and we bought a further 314 acres at Wymondham in 1977 which was 18 miles from both Harby and the other two farms in Lincolnshire.

In July 1976 the National Coal Board (NCB) put forward proposals for mining in the Vale of Belvoir. The main site was adjacent to the poultry site at Harby, across the road from our house. A group of locals formed The Vale of Belvoir Protection Group and I was Vice-Chairman. This took a lot of time and effort, which I found difficult with all the farm expansion to attend to as well. I stopped investing in the poultry as if the NCB did eventually arrive, the unit would be ruined and our lifestyle would be finished. I decided to have a look at New Zealand and Australia and possibly sell up and take the family and start again over there. After visiting Victoria, NSW and Western Australia, we had a couple of weeks in Tasmania and that, we decided, was the place to go to as agriculture was a well respected industry and so we set about getting all the approvals, etc for emigration, followed by planning farm sales, whilst still running the whole enterprise. The three farms bought in the 70s were easy to sell but Harby, with the poultry, proved impossible to move, so we set on a manager and decided to retain the staff and carry on with periodic visits from Tasmania as necessary. We paid redundancy to the staff and following feverish packing, we ended up with 6 containers of tractors, cars and household goods. We drove two combines to Tilbury Docks down the A1, all being shipped out to Tasmania whilst we flew out to find a farm to be ready for the goods to arrive. We arrived there on my 50th birthday.

Our three sons, one married, were all looking forward to the move. Andrew, the eldest and married, had a first class honours degree in Ag Botany at Bangor. He had developed severe allergy to all sprays so decided to start Dairy farming well away from any arable spraying; this move eventually cleared up his trouble. First we scoured the place for suitable farms and ended up with 500 acres in the far North West.

Douglas, our second son, with a degree in computer science, decided to settle in Hobart with work for the Police dept. He is a keen campanologist and rings at the Cathedral in Hobart. He has increased the tower from 8 bells to 12 bells; the four extra bells came from England in containers with machinery we were importing for our processing plant.

Robert, our third son at 17 and still living with us, was dead keen to assist me with getting started. He didn't go to University, left school at 16 and was a farmer at heart from day one and has remained so.

After a few weeks we found a farm for sale that would give us time to settle and find our feet. It was only 230 acres in an area where vegetable crops were the prime crop. Our shipment of goods arrived and we had somewhere to unpack, which was a relief. It was, at first, quite difficult to get used to the seasons, the routine of vegetable growing and the irrigation required, so much so that we were not making much headway and decided to make a move into the poultry industry. Egg production was on a quota system which I was opposed to, as it was against my competitive instincts, very much a closed shop. The alternative, table chickens, was nearly a monopoly of one company but was unrestricted so we opted for broiler production.

We had no buildings so Andrew, 60 miles away up the coast, had a neighbour with a small pig shed. He started us off with 200 chickens which had to be flown in from the mainland. We put up a small abattoir and installed the line and plucking machine which I had bought in England on a visit back to Harby. We set up a small feed mill and began milling and mixing

our own feed. This way we claimed we had control over the ingredients and so claimed the rations fed were free of antibiotics, growth hormones and flavouring, and we incorporated this in our advertising. Gradually we built small broiler sheds and expanded steadily. It was very difficult as there was nowhere to wholesale any surplus so we had to sell fresh every thing we produced. Mary was closely involved and set up the office routine, and we occasionally worked throughout the night as we struggled to deliver all round the state. Robert was a tower of strength and enthusiastic right from the start and we worked well as a team. He was soon leading the business as it grew and grew so that by 2000, we were killing and marketing 40-50,000 birds a week.

Andrew bought a 350 acre arable farm to move nearer to our enterprise and set up a broiler operation. Chickens were difficult to buy in the state so he began the breeding and hatchery operation which, from a small number of around 200 a week, is now delivering 110,000 a week to the business. He is a keen conservationist and won the Landcare Award for Conservation for the whole of Australia.

Robert meanwhile bought the farm nextdoor and incorporated that into the business. He also ventured into the clean energy business, buying 6 wind turbines in Denmark to dismantle and ship out to Tasmania. He also won a Nuffield Scholarship for a round the world trip to research the energy market and its benefits for diversification for the farming community. He now has 6 turbines in 4 locations on the island.

Back in the UK we had left our 80,000 layers and 66 acres of land growing wheat. This continued for several years. We survived a serious fraud in 1984 when our grain supplier from Leicester was found to have charged us for an extra couple of tons per load of grain delivered over a long period. Our overdraft at the bank was reaching a level causing some concern as our production and feed levels were quite normal. I had full confidence in my manager and after many phone calls, which at that time had to be booked with the telephone company, I decided to make a flying visit for five days to investigate. Andersons, who had provided a secretary to do my bookkeeping, set a new young man on to do a spread sheet (it was early days for computing at that time). He traced the excess charges back as far as he could and came up with a figure of £250,000 overcharged. I flew back to Tasmania having arranged for a criminal lawyer to lay a trap for the grain delivery at a certain date to be put in another bin and than reloaded as soon as the lorry had departed and taken to be re-weighed locally under supervision of a solicitor. It was a couple of tonnes short of the invoiced weight. Armed with this, the lawyer made an appointment to meet the managing director in Leicester, to lay the evidence before him and demand repayment or we would go to the fraud squad and lay charges. I was given a few days' notice of this and flew straight back to England arriving in time to go with the manager and lawyer to the meeting. The meeting was quite dramatic and was met with denial but after we disclosed that we were determined to go to the fraud squad with all the evidence proven before him, the MD said that they would transfer the £250,000 to our account the next day. I left the meeting and flew off back to Tasmania, making a call to England from Singapore to hear that, "Yes, the money was in the account".

In 1988 I sold off the 62 acres of arable land and closed the poultry farm, leaving it empty. It stood for a year and then a young man came along who wanted to move his small

agricultural machinery business from a business park and make his base on the old poultry site. We helped him with deferred payments and he has now a thriving business there.

With the business now booming I transferred the whole farm over to Robert. By 2000, expansion requiring a few million dollars seemed to be required to meet the demand. We employed over a hundred staff and Robert decided to discreetly put the poultry farm on the market. I was 78 and busy working for him still, as most farmers do. Eventually a new firm, a group of investors, bought it as a going concern. Robert moved to his farm nextdoor and we retired and moved into the small town nearby.

Mary and I are now both 88 and without her continuous encouragement and support, none of the above would have happened. I doubt whether anyone today would stand the hours and pressure we put in to get started. New activities on Robert's farm now occupy our attention with a vineyard of 28 acres and a wedding venue on site. I am out of it now apart from mowing the 28 km of rows in the vineyard regularly.

We still have land in the UK, about 20 acres, some pasture and some woodland. Also adjoining is a railway tunnel half a mile long. It really should be put to use to grow vegetables in the latest commercial fashion. I am not going into that now!!

One thing to be learnt from all the above is that, to quote President Calvin Coolidge (USA, 1923-29):

“Nothing in the world can take the place of “PERSISTENCE”.

ALUMNI *Deaths*

Acheson, Alexander William (Alec) (1954)

Died on 17 July 2020. *See Obituaries.*

Dancer (née Ackland), Tessa (1954)

Died on 12 August 2020. *See Obituaries.*

Dewing, Richard G (1951)

Died on 21 October 2020. *See Obituaries.*

Fort, Michael (1954)

We were informed by his son Mark of Michael's death on 21 June 2020.

Mitchell, John Richard (Professor)

Died on 3 October 2020. *See Obituaries.*

Muhammed, Khalid (Doctor)

Died on 23 October 2020. *See Obituaries.*

Higgin, Ronald (1957)

Ron's daughter, Susan Humphries, informed us that Ron died peacefully at the age of 84 on 6 September 2020. He always spoke most fondly and proudly of his time at Sutton Bonington, and remained friends with many university colleagues throughout his life.

Whalley, David (1969)

Died on 8 May 2021. *See Obituaries.*

ALUMNI *Obituaries*



Acheson, Alexander William (Alec) (1954)

It is with sadness that I let you know of the death of Alexander William [Alec] Acheson. He was a former Diploma in Dairying Student (1952-54).

Alec passed away peacefully, at his home, on 17th July 2020. He is survived by his wife Kathleen, sons Brian and Richard ,and was predeceased by son Donald who was a doctor in Essex. The address at his Funeral Service in St Columba's Parish Church, Knock, Belfast, was given by The Most Revd John McDowell, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, a family friend.

Alec spent his entire career with The Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland. For more than twenty years he was a Divisional Dairying Officer, serving mostly in the Co Down and Armagh area.

Ross Workman
Dip Dairy Student, 1955-1957

Dancer (née Ackland), Tessa (1954)

Tessa died on 12th August 2020 at home. After her Diploma in Dairying (1952-54) at SB, she worked for United Dairies in Buckingham where she met Jim. They married in 1957 and had 3 daughters. They farmed at Maids Moreton till Jim retired and sold the land; some of the buildings were being converted when Jim died suddenly. Eventually Tessa moved in to a barn conversion. Tessa was very good at organizing reunions for us.

Ann Price (née Imhof)

Dewing, Richard G (1951)

I am sorry to have to advise you of the death of Sutton Bonington alumnus Richard G Dewing. His wife, Veronica, rang me today with the sad news and asked me to notify the OKA.

Dick went up to Nottingham in 1948 and gained his Intermediate Degree there before moving to Sutton Bonington in 1949. From there he graduated with a BSc Agriculture in 1951, this being the year that Nottingham University degrees were first awarded. After a spell of National Service he spent his lifetime successfully farming in Norfolk.

He passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday 21st October.

M G (Mike) Fox
BSc Agric 1951

Mitchell, Professor John Richard (1945-2020)

John Mitchell became part of the Sutton Bonington community in 1970 as a PhD student and then stayed as an academic and supporter of the Campus until he died on 3rd October 2020. John had a distinguished academic career in the worlds of food sciences, rheology and biopolymer physical chemistry. As confirmed in the hundreds of tributes that arrived from all over the world, John was unforgettable as a teacher. Some of what he tried to teach may have been forgotten, but the man himself has not. If ever there were an archetypal science professor it was John Mitchell; he would walk in a sine wave down the corridor, chewed many a handkerchief, and his socks, shoelaces, ties and glasses obeyed their own form of entropy. Tales of his wandering very close to the edge of the stage whilst concentrating on his lectures, stepping into a wastepaper basket and carrying on walking, producing overheads covered with footprints all seem to be true! Students could be as baffled by his pronunciation of the word “milk” as in understanding G’,G” and tan δ .

John’s prowess at games also seems to feature in peoples’ memories; his ball hitting (golf, cricket and table tennis) may have had more enthusiasm than accuracy according to many. However, he was a master chess player and, in the 1980s, John would play chess with 8 to 10 students simultaneously, while holding a pint of beer. He continued to teach and play chess for the County until a few years before his death.

His ebullient personality never hid the serious scientist that was John Mitchell. On graduating from the University of Newcastle with a degree in physics his first job was with Unilever. Later he did his PhD on gelling systems and became a lecturer (1974) in Food Sciences at SB. This was the beginning of a long association with both hydrocolloids and industry-linked academic projects. John was promoted to Chair in Food Technology in 1993 and was Head of Food Sciences from 1997-2002. John created SB’s reputation in food rheology. He showed great ability to spot scientific openings and was a founder of many

ventures that still run today. John was there at the conception of the European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence, the very successful journal *Carbohydrate Polymers* and the MSc course “Food Production Management”. His industrial interactions, the hundreds of peer reviewed papers, the editing of journals and books plus his supervision of over 70 PhD students from across the globe ensure a scientific legacy.

John semi-retired from Food Sciences in 2008 and concentrated on editing *Carbohydrate Polymers* with his other regular fix of science coming from being Chair of *Biopolymer Solutions*; something else that gave him an excuse to be on campus.

John was very proud of the generations of students and scientists with whom he interacted. He always expected a lot from his research team, but he was always there with a way forward if they were stuck. He would try not to knock people’s confidence; for example, if you had a totally daft theory he would say “riiight, that’s **interesting**”. However, you did have to watch out for the killer question, not to purposely wrong foot you, but he would suddenly have a different way of looking at something and expect you to keep up as he pursued the idea.

We have lost one of the characters whose work and personal attributes have enhanced Sutton Bonington during the last 50 years. John’s wife Margaret, his family and myself have been heartened by the tributes that came in by post and via LinkedIn. It was uplifting to hear from so many who appreciated John’s contribution to their life and to that of Sutton Bonington. Therefore it is only right that we give thanks for the life of John Mitchell whose kindness, character, teaching, mentoring and scientific abilities have and will benefit colleagues and students past, current and future.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6718534330173403136/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/dec/07/john-mitchell-obituary>

Prof Sandra Hill

Muhammed, Dr Khalid

It is with great sadness we have to inform you that Khalid died on Friday, 23rd October 2020 from a Covid-related illness. In keeping with the requirements of his faith his funeral was held on the Saturday. We received two eulogies which are presented below.

1. Khalid was granted 12 months research leave from his Vet School in Pakistan and came to Sutton Bonington to work with me on sheep reproduction. During this time, he proved to be a very valuable member of my research team and, at the end of it, I had no hesitation in accepting his application for PhD studies in sheep reproductive endocrinology. He was a model PhD student, hardworking and very able, and fitted in with all other members of the research team. On completion, he went back to his lectureship position in the Vet School in Pakistan.

A few years later I advertised for a Post-Doctoral position to work on a project that combined both practical sheep embryo transfer and more fundamental research in reproductive endocrinology, and Khalid applied for it. Based on my experience of his qualities and capability, I had no hesitation in accepting him for this post. Not only was his veterinary training ideal for supporting me in the embryo transfer part of the project, but his expertise in reproductive biology played a key role in working with and helping supervise other postgraduate students involved in the project. This time he came with his wife and two young sons, both of whom were in the same class as my son and daughter at school. They lived across the road from us and became close family friends.

When I moved from Sutton Bonington to take up a senior role at Aberystwyth University this research project was still ongoing, and Khalid and his family came with me. Again, he was highly respected in our new working environment, fitted in well with everyone, and was a joy to work with. Eventually, as the project was nearing completion, I was overjoyed to see him appointed to a lectureship at the RVC, a position that he held until retirement. This relocation did not bring our working relationship to an end; indeed, we continued to collaborate on a number of different research projects, some of which involved the joint supervision of PhD students.

Emeritus Professor Will Haresign
c/o Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences
Aberystwyth University
Penglais Campus
Aberystwyth

2. I had the privilege to know and work with Khalid, both as his Head of Department and as a co-researcher into various aspects of feline acromegaly.

As his HoD, I was always impressed with his total commitment to any task he agreed to undertake, whether it was within his comfort zone or way outside it. Nothing was ever “off-limits” for Khalid; he embraced each challenge with a calm and reasoned approach that I always found completely reassuring – not least because, without exception, his approach always worked out for the best.

Khalid was a kind, caring and humble person who was totally committed to delivering the very best provision for all of his students, be they undergraduates on the BVetMed programme or the numerous PhD students he supervised so meticulously. He was truly and totally committed to progressing his discipline and inspiring others to do the same.

He will be missed by many.

Professor David Church
The Royal Veterinary College
Hawkshead Lane
Hatfield

Whalley, David (1969)

Nottingham University Intermediate 1965, Sutton Bonington 1966-1969

David was born and raised in Birmingham where his father was the Head of Geography at King Edward's School. He left school early and worked as a trainee at Birmingham Botanical Garden. In 1961 he went to Pershore College where he developed his love for all things Horticultural.

In 1965, at the mature age of 23, he enrolled at Nottingham University in the "Intermediate Year" to prepare for his entry to Sutton Bonington in 1966. Throughout his 3 years at SB he worked hard during the week to achieve his BSc Hons degree in Horticulture and at weekends headed off to any rock he could find to try to improve his mountaineering skills.

Following graduation, he took up a job at Littlehampton at the Glasshouse Crops Research Centre (GCRI). In 1973 he married Cathy, a teacher, and they have two daughters, Claire & Katrina and now 2 grandchildren. When GCRI Littlehampton was closed down in the 1980s, David moved into private consultancy work within the UK and internationally. In later years he also lectured at Bournemouth University.

Throughout his working life he lived in the Littlehampton and Middleton-on-Sea area of West Sussex, and finally retired from active work in the Horticulture industry 10 years ago.

His attention to detail was legendary. He was the perfect pruner.

David passed away on 8th May 2021 following several years of declining health.

Gerald Banks