

Registered Charity No. 900380

Winter 2020

Langford

TRUST

FOR ANIMAL
HEALTH & WELFARE

newsletter



Patron:
Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Cornwall

A huge thank you to a Langford legend

2020 has been a year of unimaginable change for all of us and for the Langford Trust this is certainly true.



This year, Trust Manager Elizabeth Coombs has made the decision to retire after 23 years of dedicating her time, energy, and fundraising expertise to the Langford Trust. Elizabeth, in partnership with the Trustees, has established the Langford Trust as the well-respected charity it is today; renowned for its work to further animal

welfare and veterinary science both in practice and education.

Elizabeth's enduring passion and commitment have enabled her to raise considerable funds and cultivate a deeply loyal network of supporters and donors. It is thanks to our generous donors and Elizabeth's hard work, that the Trust has been able to assist Bristol Vet School in establishing world class teaching facilities at Langford; funding buildings, equipment and clinical research projects that aim to advance veterinary knowledge and make a real difference to the health and welfare of all animals. Elizabeth's charisma combined with her grace and goodwill has been the force behind the excellent working relationship the Trust has forged with Clarence House and confirmed HRH the Duchess of Cornwall as the patron of the Langford Trust since 2006.

In recognition of Elizabeth's dedication to the Langford Trust and all that it stands for, we wanted to take this

opportunity to share with you some of her memories. We also felt this was a befitting way to inform all our supporters about Elizabeth's retirement as sadly the disruption of the coronavirus pandemic has meant we have been unable to honour her with any kind of celebratory event.

Sam Probert, our new fundraiser, had the pleasure of interviewing Elizabeth.

The Langford Trust was founded in 1990 with an aim to improve the teaching facilities at the University of Bristol Vet School. You joined the Trust in 1997, what made you decide to come and work for the charity in the first place?

Since 1987 I'd been working in the research microbiology labs at Langford so knew about the Trust, and many of the people involved with it, from its inception. As I had raised funds for hospice care and pony club whilst being the District Commissioner, it seemed like a natural progression for me.

Fast forward to 2020, and you are now retiring after working as Trust Manager and Fundraiser for over 23 years. This is a truly outstanding achievement. Can you tell us what has encouraged you to remain at the Langford Trust?

That is a very easy question; Langford encouraged me! Its people; students and staff as well as the patients and their owners. It is truly a wonderful place to be - geographically as well as academically. The Langford Trust has been able to contribute so much to veterinary science by helping to improve the infrastructure, the equipment & the clinical research at Bristol Vet School. I am very, very proud to call so many of the clinicians and the students my friends and humbled by the number of them who all keep in touch. You will soon learn Sam that every donor you meet, or with whom you correspond is a joy. These are people who do not need to give us anything at all and yet they do. They do

Continued from page 1 —

it because they either love animals or they want to make difference to education. Every single donor restores one's faith in human kind. For me it was a win-win situation.

You have clearly dedicated a considerable amount of time and effort over the years to fundraising. What would you describe as your proudest moment?

Golly Sam this is a difficult one. Please may I add an 's' to moment? They have all been team moments, in chronological order I think perhaps the following standout: In 2002, raising well over £22,000 when we were the chosen charity at Badminton Horse Trials. We established a fabulous relationship with the wonderful team of Hugh and Jane and all their staff throughout the following 17 years running their dog creche for the four days of the Trials. Gaining the Patronage of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall in 2006 was incredible. Getting to know Her Royal Highness and her lovely Clarence House team has been a joy and a privilege.

Securing the support of Kirsten Rausing and the Alborada Trust which ensured the building of the last piece in the Equine Centre - The Alborada Building. Officially opened by our Patron and swiftly followed with the unveiling, by Miss Rausing, of a portrait of the beautiful and talented mare Alborada. This building was a source of great pride to the Trustees and all involved.

Undoubtedly, there are times when things don't always work out. Have you experienced any difficulties that you wish you had the capabilities to change?

Sadly, because of lockdown we had to miss the luncheon party at Clarence House in June, which Her Royal Highness had wanted to give the Trustees and significant donors to celebrate our 30th 'birthday'. Alongside this, I had intended holding a research symposium to celebrate the excellence in clinical research that we have been very pleased to fund, as well as introduce new projects. I do hope, with a bit of luck, these can be rearranged for 2021.

Undoubtedly, the most heart-breaking piece of news since lockdown is the closure of the Equine Referral Hospital. Much of this complex was funded by the Langford Trust with the help of some wonderful, and extremely generous, donors and Trusts. This includes the Marjorie Coote hospital stable yard of which the late Sir Hugh Neill and his daughters Jill and Sue are justifiably very proud. I imagine it also includes the Jim Joel treadmill building which the Childwick Trust helped us fund, as well as the aforementioned truly wonderful surgical facility the Alborada Building. Every Trustee over the last 30 years has been extremely proud of the Langford Trust's presence within the equine centre. We know we have made a huge difference to the health and welfare of all equids - not to mention all the students who have learned from some of the best equine medics and surgeons and have gone on to become specialists in the numerous and varied specialities within the 'cloak' of equine veterinary care. I wish, with all my heart, that I could reverse the events that have led to the university making this difficult decision.

As Trust Manager you have certainly witnessed a significant amount of change. What do you see as the future role of the Langford Trust?



I have experienced such pride that the Langford Trust has been able to contribute to the improvements to teaching veterinary science and diagnosing and treating all species of our precious animals. Without any doubt, there is still a need for the Trust to support clinical veterinary science. Veterinary medicine moves forward at great speed so there will always be a need to conduct clinical research into new and established diseases and their causes. Vets in general practice look to a vet school to find valid answers that are evidence based. Hence our wonderful clinicians and scientists will continue to need our help to complete some of their vital, ground breaking research.

You are admired amongst many donors and staff at the vet school and are leaving your replacement very big shoes to fill. What words of wisdom do you have for her?

I would urge Sam to be herself and, in the words of Sinatra, do it her way. It is so easy to be passionate about a cause when one is surrounded by brilliance and enthusiasm; there is a fair bit of both at Langford. What is more Sam is so much more au fait with this social media malarkey- with Sam at the helm, the Trust may truly realise it is in the 21st century!

And finally, you have been fortunate enough to work with many different vets, vet nurses, research staff, students, university employees, Trustees, supporters and donors. Is there anything you would like to say to them in your final words as Trust Manager?

This is tricky, simply thinking of this question I can already feel a huge lump in my throat! Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your support and friendship. God Bless you all.

From everyone involved in the Langford Trust, thank you Elizabeth for all that you have done. We are delighted you will continue to be part of our community in the role of Trustee; your wealth of knowledge is invaluable. We wish you a well-deserved, happy and relaxing retirement.

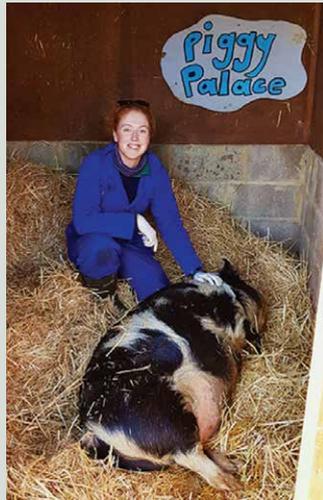
Interview by Sam Probert, Fundraiser for the Langford Trust

Fundraising for clinical research

The Langford Trust is appealing for help to fund PhD projects at the Bristol Vet School. Our challenge is to fundraise for pioneering clinical research which could have a considerable impact on the health and welfare of animals. The target for 2021 is £300,000; can you help us achieve this?

Antimicrobial Resistance on Smallholding Farms

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a topic of global health concern, both for human and animal health. AMR within the commercial farm environment has previously been studied but there has been little analysis of smallholder farms. Smallholdings are the fastest-growing sector of the UK farming industry. With funding from the Langford Trust and a major grant from the Medical Research Foundation's National PhD Training Programme in Antimicrobial Resistance, Claire Scott will examine the relationships of smallholding farmers with their animals as well as with animal health, with a distinct focus on antimicrobial use and resistance.



Laminitis in horses and the gut microbiome

The microbiome is the community of organisms (bacteria, protozoa, viruses and fungi) within a particular environment (in this case, the gastrointestinal system). Recently it has been shown that the microbiome can exert a strong influence on overall health.

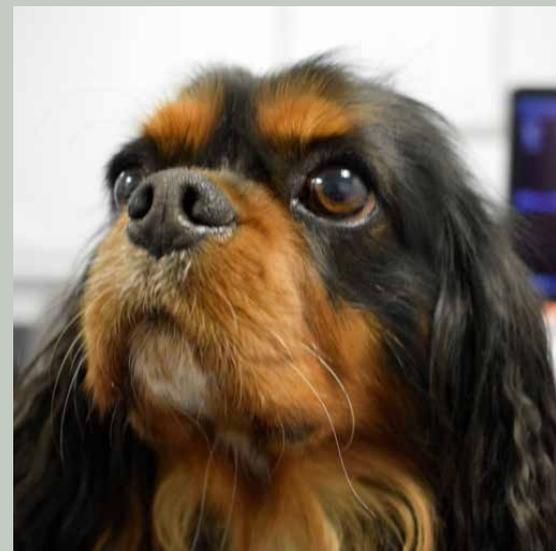
Laminitis is an extremely painful and poorly understood disease of horses' feet that has significant welfare and economic impact worldwide. It often ends with euthanasia as our ability to treat this disease is limited. To date, no one has studied the microbiota of horses with naturally occurring disease. Anna Hammond BVM&S Cert EM (Int Med) FHEA MRCVS will conduct a case-control and longitudinal study monitoring fluctuations of the gut microbiome in naturally occurring laminitis cases and their pasture companions. The aim is to identify microbiological biomarkers linked to laminitis risk which will improve our understanding of the disease and enable novel approaches to its prevention.

Heart disease in dogs

Myxomatous mitral valve disease is the most common canine cardiac disease, which is extremely common in middle-aged and older small to medium sized dogs. Millions of dogs are affected worldwide every year. In some dogs the disease is benign, but in other dogs the disease progresses, resulting in heart failure and premature death.

Currently we do not understand what drives these differences. Research taking place at the University of Bristol Veterinary School seeks to change this. Our eventual goal is to develop new treatments aimed at slowing down disease progression.

The Langford Trust is seeking donations to fund a research team led by Dr Melanie Hezzell, a world expert in myxomatous mitral valve disease, to investigate the contribution of damage to the lining of the cardiovascular system (the endothelium) on disease progression.



For further details on these and our other clinical research studies, please refer to: www.langfordtrust.org
We really appreciate any support you can give.

Christmas is coming!



The Langford Trust for Animal Health and Welfare is delighted to reveal three new and exclusive designs for the charity's 2020 Christmas card collection.

Our charity cards are a fantastic way for the Trust to publicise its work to a wider audience. All funds raised by the sale of our cards will be used to support clinical research projects into small and large animal diseases at Bristol Vet School.

In July, the Langford Trust launched an online card design challenge as an inspiring activity for followers to engage in, whilst coping with the grim restrictions of lockdown. We also hoped the challenge might discover some previously unknown artistic talent to help promote our work. Thanks to the enthusiasm and great efforts of everyone who entered, the Trust has not been disappointed and we've had a tough time choosing the final designs.



Our first fabulous card is, 'Christmas Joy' by Naomi Johnston; a self-taught artist from Birmingham. Naomi is a full-time carer for her autistic son and they are lucky enough to have Mildred the cockapoo as their constant companion and entertainer. During lockdown Naomi created her own inspiring Instagram challenge drawing over 100 original pictures for people to enjoy and colour in.



Ten-year-old Lottie Gardner has been chosen as our second finalist with her gorgeous illustration, 'A Canine Christmas'. Lottie lives local to the vet school in North Somerset and is an avid dog lover. Believe it or not, she owns a chocolate Labrador called Fernie who can actually read! Clever Fernie works at a local primary school helping to inspire pupils with their reading.



The third design to complete our collection is 'Pigs in Blankets,' a fabulously witty creation by the talented Anne Turner. You may well recognise the name, as Anne is a long-standing supporter of the Langford Trust and has previously gifted her artwork for our charity cards. Her love of animals and wonderful sense of humour is captured beautifully in all her drawings.



All our cards are available to view at langfordtrust.org/shop

The Langford Trust wishes to congratulate Naomi, Lottie and Anne for creating such unique and beautiful cards for us. We are extremely grateful to them all, as well as everyone who took the time to enter our design challenge.

Thank you and we wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas!

ORDER FORM

Please fill out and complete all details.

Name:

Address:

Post code:

Telephone: Email:

Christmas Cards in packs of 10		Price	Quantity	Total
A Canine Christmas	128x128	£4.30		
Christmas Joy	128x128	£4.30		
Pigs in Blankets	128x128	£4.30		
Which Way	128x128	£4.30		
By the Fireside	116x160	£4.50		
Pulling the Sleigh	116x160	£4.50		
Christmas Cats	110x110	£4.25		
In the Stable	128x128	£4.30		
It's a cracker	155x108	£4.20		
Dappled Express	174x118	£4.20		
Notelets:				
Winter Woolly - pack of 5	Special offer 2 packs for	£2.50		
Pigtails - pack of 5	Special offer 2 packs for	£2.50		
Walter de Wodeland - pack of 5	Special offer 2 packs for	£2.50		
British Bird Wallet (8 notecards 2 of each design)		£4.50		
100% cotton polo shirt S(37); M(40); L(43); XL(46)				
black; bottle; burgundy; sky; white		£18		
97% cotton+ 3% elastane ladies fit polo shirt 8; 10; 12; 14				
black; navy; sky; white; pink; fuchsia		£18		
100% cotton rugby shirt S; M; L; XL				
black; bottle; burgundy; navy;		£30		
100% cotton ladies rugby shirt 8;10;12;14;16				
dusky pink; fuchsia; sky; heather		£30		
Sub-total				£

Please add 20% for postage & packaging £

Donation in support of: horses farm animals cats dogs £

Please treat my donations as gift aid

please sign the gift aid declaration to enable us to claim 20p in the £1 from the inland revenue
NB you must have paid an amount of tax at least equal to the relief that we claim.

Signed: **TOTAL:** £

Pet's name on brick (minimum donation £20)

Please send me information on: Standing Order Legacy Ambassadors Friends

Cheques payable to **The Langford Trust** and send to:

The Langford Trust, C/O Mrs Sam Probert, 14 Church Road, Winford, Bristol, BS40 8EW

Together we will make a difference.

To make a real difference to animal health and welfare there is more funding needed for further clinical research into equine, farm animal and small animal diseases and we can only support this vitally important work if we have your help.

We are eternally grateful to all our donors and particularly to:

Mrs Atkinson; Miss Bowering; Alan Browning; Miss Dale; Elizabeth Davies; Dr Nicola Grint, Mr & Mrs Heasman; Hayley Keoghan; Chris Laurence; Dr & Mrs McClean; Mrs Peake; Mrs Scott; Mr & Mrs Stevens; Marie Stevens; Favel Watton; Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust; Primrose Trust; West of England Daschsund Association; Estate of Mrs Joan Archer; Estate of Ms Ann Baldry; Estate of Mr T H Bannister; Estate of Sheila Mary Gray; Estate of Mrs Joan Porter.

Will you help?

Become an Ambassador

Our Ambassadors support our work with an annual standing order of £250 and spread the word about the Langford Trust. They also have invitations to Langford House for various events. Especially those where are Patron is present.

Become a Friend

Our Friends support us with an annual standing order of £25 and above

Remember us in your will

A gift in your will to the Langford Trust can make a huge impact on the work of the Trust. Legacies from people who care for animals in their lifetime help to ensure animal health and welfare into the future.

Please do contact us if you would like to know more about leaving a legacy.

Fundraiser

Organise your own fundraising events in aid of the Langford Trust. Some supporters sell our Christmas cards, others run a marathon, enjoy a sponsored dog walk or host a digital challenge. We are grateful for any way in which you think you might be able to help us.



For more information please contact us at:

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www.langfordtrust.org