

Registered Charity No. 900380

Spring 2021

Langford

TRUST

FOR ANIMAL
HEALTH & WELFARE

newsletter



Patron:
Her Royal Highness
The Duchess of Cornwall

The Langford Trust would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the new Head of Bristol Vet School, Professor Tim Parkin and give you a flavour of the work the Trust plans to embark on to support the school in furthering its excellence in veterinary education and research under Tim's stewardship.

Tim arrived at the vet school in November 2020 and, undoubtedly, had a start unlike any other head of vet school before him! Since his first day on the job, he has been battling the relentless challenges of operating a vet school during a pandemic. Despite this testing start, Tim kindly agreed to find time to speak with Sam Probert about his new role and what he hopes a continued partnership with the Langford Trust can achieve.

Tim, you joined Bristol Vet School in the midst of lockdown 2.0. Can you describe for us what the first few months have been like at Langford?

Non-stop! I am sure that any new Head of School is extremely busy, in particular when they are new to the School, but this does feel a little bit manic. I mostly describe myself as a Covid-firefighter at the moment. The simple day to day logistics of keeping up with National, University or School changing environments and expectations occupies the vast majority of my time. Having said that I have to say that I could not have joined a better team of colleagues. It really is a

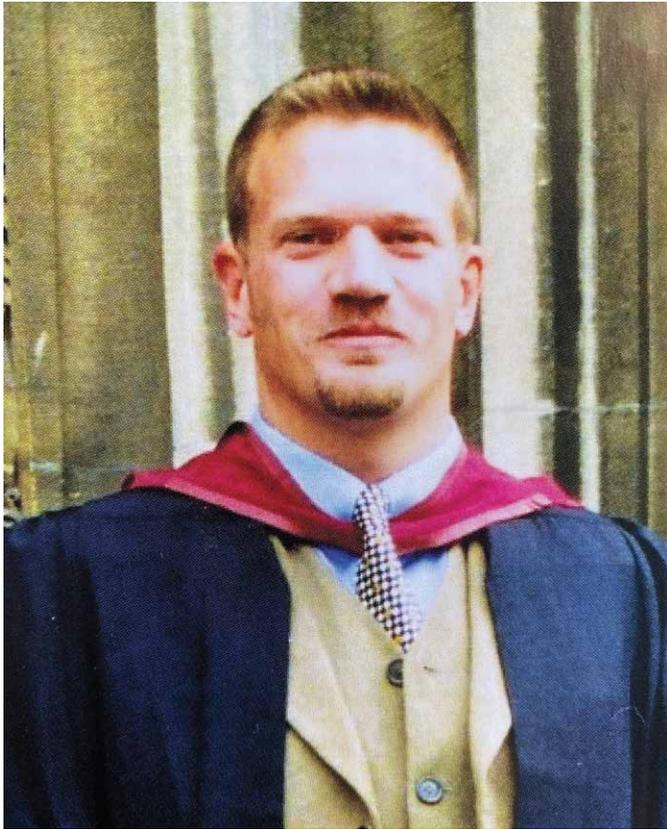


credit to them all that they/we have been able to keep the show on the road over the past 12-months. I am however, looking forward to that light at the end of the tunnel finally arriving and me being able to give some thought to more strategic planning for the School as a whole.

Tim Parkin is a well-known name for some of our supporters, particularly amongst our alumni network. For those who don't know you, can you give us a little history on your background and your previous links to the vet school?

I can honestly say that there is no other position at a UK Vet School to which I would rather have been appointed. I graduated from Bristol with degrees in Zoology and Veterinary Science in the 1990s and spent a total of 8-years as an undergraduate in Bristol and have enormous fondness, in particular, for my time at Langford. I was one week away from going into farm animal practice, but the lure of a PhD in the

A time for hope & new beginnings



epidemiology of racehorse fractures, advertised in the Veterinary Record the week before our finals vivas, was too hard to resist. I completed that PhD from the University of Liverpool in 2002 and moved, via the Animal Health Trust, to the University of Glasgow in 2007. I have been extremely lucky to work with many racing jurisdictions around the world using big-data analytical techniques to address particular welfare concerns of each jurisdiction.

In my first summer holiday on the veterinary degree, I was lucky enough to work on a Wellcome Trust Vacation Studentship walking the fields of Somerset, talking all things Epi, with the PhD student for whom I was working. I would love to inspire and enable current and future students with similar experiences. Those early experiences clearly played a very significant role in my whole career.

What encouraged you to come back to Langford?

As I suggested previously, I loved my time at Langford and have to say I have found exactly the same friendly happy atmosphere that I remember from my time as a student. The opportunity to come back, as Head of School, to a Vet School that holds so many fond memories (including a rather dodgy appearance in the final year panto and somewhat laboured performances on the football or rugby field playing for the inaugural Nice Fridge teams) was impossible to resist!

Having started your veterinary career here at Langford, what are your hopes and aspirations for the next 4 years as head of the vet school?

There are enormous opportunities at Bristol Vet School to grow our student numbers and to some extent alter the profile of our veterinary student body. It is a priority for me to genuinely widen the pool of candidates from which we can select our students. In terms of how we serve the profession, success for me will be Bristol Vet School producing graduates who are more resilient and better able to cope with the rigours of the profession, so that they can enjoy a prolonged and successful career in the many areas that veterinary surgeons work.

I also want to build on the success of our other programmes (Veterinary Nursing and the Masters in Global Wildlife Health and Conservation). We have very significant opportunities to develop innovative programmes and career paths working closely with Bristol Zoo when they relocate to Wild Place.

There are also very significant opportunities in research for the school. This was one of the big draws for me at the school. I am, at heart, an epidemiologist who also happens to be Head of School and have a real passion for helping to facilitate growth in this area. If now is not the time to really develop and ensure One-health achieves much that has been promised when is!? If I can facilitate the research growth and aspirations of all of our research oriented colleagues, I will regard that as a job well done.

My aim, by the time I hand over to the next Head of School is that Bristol be 'The School of Choice' for staff and students alike. If we achieve that, everything else that we want to achieve will follow.

A global pandemic has been the biggest and most unexpected obstacle any organisation has faced in recent times. Aside from attempting to get back to some sort of new norm, what do you foresee as the main challenges the vet school needs to embrace?

We will not be going back to what we used to do. I see a much more flexible working and learning environment in the future. We have to embrace this as an opportunity to ensure better work/study-life balance for our staff and students alike. Gone are the days of lecture after lecture for our students and gone is the 9-5 expectation to be in the office. Adjusting our curriculum to ensure we are able to provide all that the students need in this new environment will be the biggest challenge. But it is a great challenge to have —

we can make the Veterinary Programme more flexible and therefore accessible to a much wider student population. Sometimes a shock, such as the one we are hopefully coming towards the end of, is exactly what we need to catalyse that seismic change which has probably been long overdue.

With the help of its generous donors, the Langford Trust has spent the last 30 years, supporting the significant development and expansion of the vet school. We strive to relieve suffering and further animal welfare through promoting veterinary science teaching, clinical practice and research. To ensure we continue to deliver value where it is most needed, how would you like to see the Trust develop its relationship with Bristol Vet School?

For me the Langford Trust can be an incredible force for good. I would like to see the Langford Trust providing scholarships for our leaders of the future. Research funding, in particular for veterinary clinical research, is going to be even more difficult to come by post-COVID. Those niche areas of research, which will rarely if ever, be a priority for Universities simply because they do not generate significant grant income or high-impact papers, must be supported.

Many of us who work in veterinary academia would not be doing so without similar early career support, often from charitable funding organisations. A Langford Trust PhD Scholarship programme at Bristol Vet School aimed at supporting veterinary academic leaders of the future, would be an incredible legacy for the Langford Trust to deliver over the next 30 years. I look forward to helping the Langford Trust develop such a programme over my time as Head of School. Thank you Tim, for taking the time to give us an insight to your work and the future direction of the vet school. On behalf of the Trustees and our supporters, we wish you every success in your role and look forward to further helping and celebrating the important work of the vet school and its community.

Interview by **Sam Probert**, Fundraiser for the Langford Trust

The Trustees are hoping to launch a Langford Trust PhD scholarship programme in partnership with Bristol Vet School and look forward to bringing you details of this work in our next newsletter.



A thank you for all your goodwill

Christmas 2020 may have lacked the traditional festivities but the importance of connecting with people shone through. Supporters, old and new, took the opportunity to support the Langford Trust at this difficult time by buying our charity Christmas cards. Sadly, Covid-19 restrictions meant we were reduced to solely selling online but it didn't dampen our spirits. We raised an incredible £3,320!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to purchase cards and remember the Trust. Each card sent offers a chance to introduce someone new to the charity and perhaps spark interest in our work - this is invaluable.



We are now planning our 2021 Christmas cards and hope we will be lucky enough to find more beautiful designs to inspire you. If you are a budding artist, you might be interested in our Christmas card challenge. It's a great way to celebrate the talent of our supporters whilst helping a worthy cause.

And if by any chance you are already thinking about your Christmas card purchases for 2021, feel free to let us know. Predicting stock requirements is never easy, so it's really helpful to know who wants what. We would be delighted to hear from vet practices, organisations or individuals who would like to sell cards or who plan to send cards to customers. Please contact the Langford Trust office if you would like to discuss all things Christmassy – it's never too early!

Design a Christmas Card Challenge

The search is on for the Langford Trust's 2021 Christmas card collection. We're launching a competition to discover engaging, original designs that will help promote our charity. Can you create a heart-warming Christmas card that captures the real joy of animals?

Our challenge is open to all ages until 31st July 2021. For further information visit langfordtrust.org and download a guide to entering.

Alternatively, if you would prefer a printed copy, please contact the Langford Trust office to arrange for details to be posted to you.

Do get involved, or, if it's not for you, encourage a friend to join in. Every design created will help highlight the importance of animal health and welfare.



2020 winning design by Lottie Gardner, age 10.

Wanted — Super Heroes

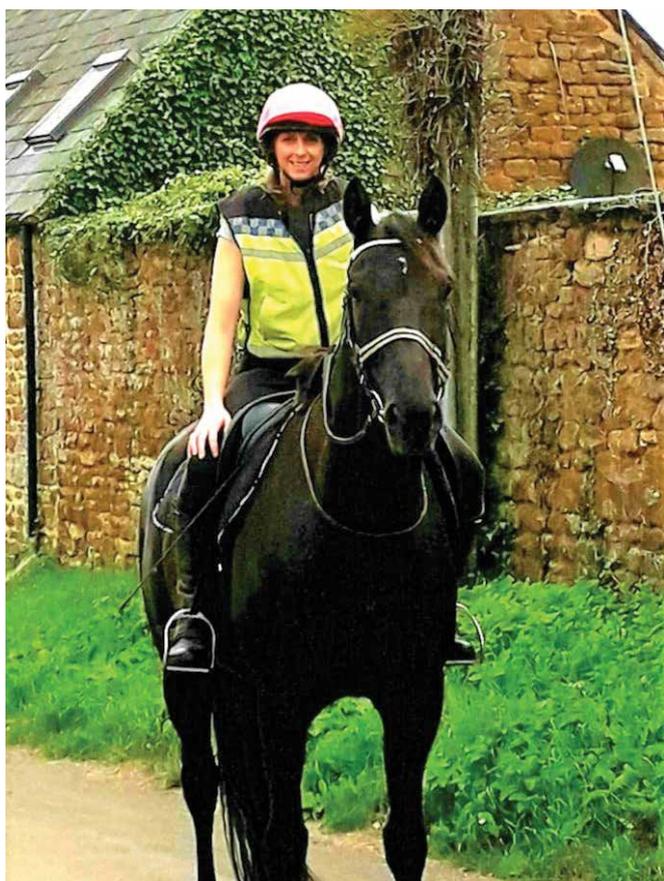
Online shopping is a regular activity for many of us, but did you know you can generate free donations for the Langford Trust when you shop?

Purchase a holiday, insurance, a fridge or smaller everyday items like food and clothes, and the retailer you buy from will donate to our charity. John Lewis, M&S and 4,000 other retailers are all part of this scheme. It does not cost you an extra penny and will really help us fundraise.

Please be a shopping hero and join our challenge. We want 50 supporters to register to fundraise as they shop and between us we can generate £1,000 for the Trust by Christmas!

Mel Boughton is the owner of Jack, a 10-year-old gelding, who sadly suffers with trigeminal mediated headshaking. Mel's struggles over the last 5 years to help Jack overcome this debilitating condition, have galvanised her into fundraising for the Langford Trust.

Trigeminal mediated headshaking is a neuropathic facial pain syndrome in horses, of unknown cause. Affected horses throw their heads up and down



Be an animal hero today.

Will you join the challenge and help us as you shop?

Take 3 simple steps:

- Register at giveasyoulive.com and smile.amazon.co.uk
- Select the Langford Trust for Animal Health and Welfare as your chosen charity
- Start shopping

And in case you forget, you can even add a shopping icon to your browser. It will helpfully pop up with a reminder when a retailer you are shopping with will donate to us. Happy shopping!

Spotlight on Equine Research Fundraising

vertically, strike at their noses with their front legs and snort and rub their noses. They can be dangerous to ride and handle. Neuropathic pain does not respond to normal painkillers and other treatment is difficult, mostly because we do not know the cause. Research at the University of Bristol shows the condition affects 1-4% of the UK equine population, so this is a significant welfare problem.

Mel is determined to help all horses suffering with this condition and approached the Langford Trust to explore how best to do this. As a result, the Langford Trust has established a fund specifically for research into trigeminal mediated headshaking. A better scientific understanding of this condition and identification of potential therapies is essential if we want to make a real difference to horses.

To raise funds, Mel designs and sells an array of handcrafted gifts and keepsakes via Nodding Neddies on Facebook. If you wish to find out more about this project or would like to donate to the Langford Trust headshaking fund, please visit langfordtrust.org/news or contact the Langford Trust office.



Read our appeal story on Oddy the Choodle and discover how leading veterinary cardiologist Dr Melanie Hezzell, with our help, hopes to validate an area of damage within the heart as a new treatment target.

An investigation into the role of the early-life microbiome in ruminant health and production

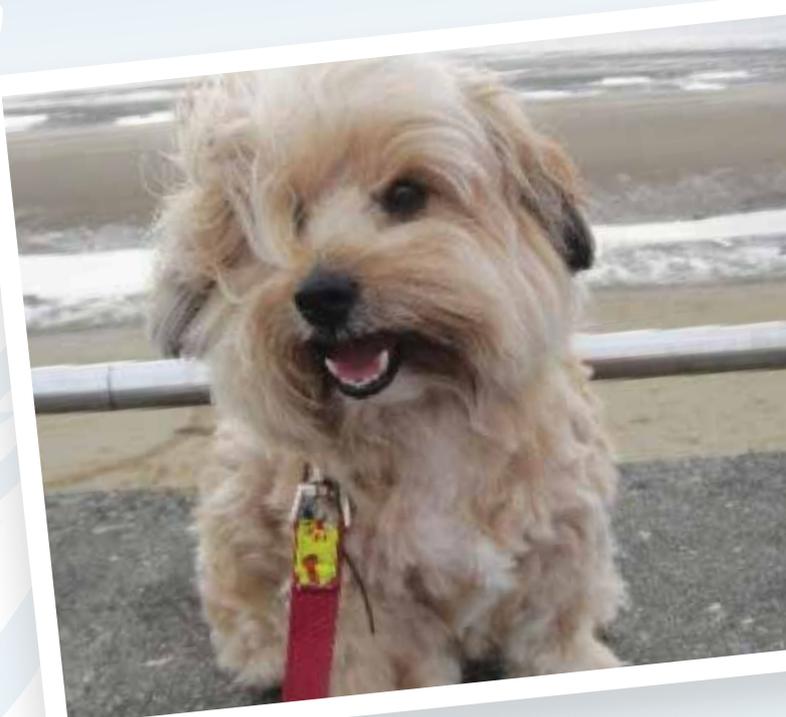
Dr Laura Peachey, lead investigator, will address key questions with regards to the power of ruminant microbiomes to influence growth and immunity in small ruminants:

Do early life microbiomes correlate with health and performance in small ruminants? Does depletion or enhancement of early life colonisation with gut bacteria alter health and performance in small ruminants?

Working with Rothamsted Research, a non-profit research centre that focuses on strategic agricultural science to the benefit of farmers and society worldwide, this study will contribute to assessing ways to enhance productivity, minimise the contribution of ruminants to future climate change and reduce antimicrobial usage.

The total cost to support both these research studies over a period of 3 years is £300,000. Please, if you can, help us make these research studies a reality.

For further information on any of our fundraising appeals please refer to our website page langfordtrust.org/appeals.



Help raise funds for clinical research

Fundraising during the ongoing pandemic is difficult, yet the increasing demand for expert veterinary care and new therapies continues. It is clear that advancing veterinary science and our understanding of animals is needed more than ever.

Sometimes an animal is ill or treatments fail and we simply don't know why. With your help, we can make new discoveries and develop different approaches to animal care that can work towards changing this picture.

The Langford Trust is appealing to charitable grant giving trusts and individual donors to give what they can to establish 2 pioneering PhD research projects at Bristol Vet School:

An investigation into the effect of endothelial glycocalyx damage in canine myxomatous mitral valve disease progression (MMVD)

MMVD is the most common canine cardiac disease, with a lifetime prevalence of 100% in some breeds, resulting in the untimely death of millions of dogs worldwide each year. The disease reduces a patient's quality of life and longevity, which in turn has a negative impact on the patient's owners' quality of life.

Invest in animal health and welfare for generations to come

On 23 February 1990, 8 individuals came together with a common purpose - to further animal health and welfare. With the starting sum of £100, each pledged to relieve suffering in animals through the promotion of veterinary science and together formed the Langford Trust for Animal Health and Welfare.

Over the past 31 years, the Trust has nurtured the ambition of its founding Trustees; working hard to protect animals, advance veterinary research and improve veterinary education. We are proud of our achievements and know that without our supporters none of this could be possible. Together we make a real difference to animals. It is a partnership many people value and it is a promise many help us to fulfil by remembering the Langford Trust in their Will.

A legacy gift will achieve so much

Leaving a gift in your Will is a remarkable way to guarantee your passion for animals lives on and will help protect animal welfare for the future. A legacy gift of any size can make a lasting and meaningful contribution to the work of the Trust.

The Langford Trust believes a greater understanding of animals and their needs is key to improving their lives. For this reason, we fund equipment and facilities at Bristol Vet School to aid the treatment and care of animals and to offer veterinary students state-of-the-art learning environments. We also fundraise for clinical research that will make a real change to animal health and welfare. By supporting the vet school, we maximise the impact of our work and ensure its credibility; we invest in world leading veterinary specialists and educationalists with a global reach.

Mrs Pat Impson kindly left a proportion of her estate to support the Langford Trust's work for better standards in animal treatment and welfare. She wanted to improve farm, particularly cattle, veterinary health as well as support the feline centre. After outlining her wishes to the Langford Trust, Mrs Impson was thrilled that the Trust created the Pat Impson Memorial Fund in her honour. Thanks to her



generosity the fund has now financed a Postgraduate Cattle Scholarship, providing a 3-year residency training programme in bovine health management and in 2021 will assist in funding a 1-year MSc research project into identifying subspecies of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex in Kenya.

A small legacy recently bequeathed by Mr Michael Robinson is helping to ensure the Langford Trust can continue its fundraising work. Part of Mr Robinson's unrestricted gift is being used to raise awareness of our latest appeal for key research into canine heart disease and to secure further vital funding.

Leaving a legacy is simple

If you too choose to leave a gift to the Langford Trust in your Will – thank you. Your decision today will provide a better future for generations of animals and humans to come.

To help you write your Will, we have put together a legacy guide containing details on the types of gifts you can leave and the information your solicitor will need. If you already have a Will and would now like to include the Langford Trust, you can ask a solicitor to prepare a short codicil to incorporate your wish.

To request a copy of our legacy guide or to arrange a confidential chat about your legacy wishes, please email sam.probert@bristol.ac.uk or contact the Langford Trust office on 07986 537302.

Whatever you are able to give, will be so very gratefully received.

Thank you!

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; Ms Hayley Keoghan; Chris Laurence; Dr & Mrs McClean; Mrs Peake; Mrs Scott; Mr & Mrs Stevens; Ms Marie Stevens; Favel Watton; Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust; KM Buttars Charitable Trust; Primrose Trust; West of England Dachshund 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; Estate of Mr Michael Robinson.

How can you help?

Donate

You can donate online at langfordtrust.org or call 07986 537302 to make a card payment. If you prefer you can post a cheque made payable to 'The Langford Trust' and address it to:

The Langford Trust, Langford House, Langford, BS40 5DU.

Fundraise

Organise your own fundraising activity in aid of the Langford Trust. Some supporters sell our Christmas cards, others run a marathon, enjoy a sponsored dog walk or host a cake sale and coffee morning! We are grateful for any way in which you think you might be able to raise money for the charity.

Become an Ambassador

Our Ambassadors support our work with an annual standing order of £250 and raise awareness of the Langford Trust. The Ambassador membership includes an annual event at Langford House together with our Trustees and a tour of the vet school.

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. If you wish to discuss leaving a legacy to the Trust, please contact the Langford Trust office.



For more information please contact us at:

Langford-trust@bristol.ac.uk

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