

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, MAY 18

Estates and Campus Services were represented at the Celebrating Excellence Fair held at the beginning of May. Our gazebo, decorated with turf and plants by the Grounds team, displayed mood boards featuring Estates and Campus Services developments and enhancements.

Each mood board was located on a large campus map - made out of cake! Nigel Taverner and his team in Essex Food did a fantastic job of recreating our campus in an edible format. The cake was cut by Chris Oldham and provided 750 individual slices, which were very well received by all.

The icing on the cake (excuse the pun) was when the Estates and Campus Services gazebo won the prize for the best display. It was an enjoyable event which allowed us to showcase the hard work of all our teams to all Professional Services staff. Take a look at the [photos on flickr](#)



LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to eleven members of the Campus Services' team who received Long Service Awards, contributing 150 years to the University between them.

The 20 year award was presented to **Shona Chalcraft**, **Agnes Larmie** and **Pamela Robinson** who are Housekeepers in Accommodation Essex, and **Teresa Warren**, who is the Senior Early Years Educator at the Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery.

Marking a decade at the University are **Angie Flynn**, Deputy Head of Accommodation (Operations), **Mary Henley** and **Sevila Uljanova** both Housekeepers with Accommodation, **Gordon Hogg**, Facilities Assistant in Accommodation, **Trudi Monk**, Catering Supervisor in Essex Food, **Amanda Askew**, receptionist in Essex Sport and **Craig Warriner**, Fitness Instructor in

Essex Sport. Everyone received their awards from Registrar and Secretary Bryn Morris at a special reception in Wivenhoe House. Photographs of the event can be [viewed on flickr](#).



BIRD'S EYE VIEW

The latest annual rooftop inspection has been completed by the [Estates Management team](#). Staff check that the roofs are safe, report on loose fabric and remove any debris. The team also ensures that roof structures such as aerials and antennae are secure.



NEW LOOK WEBSITE FOR DAY NURSERY

[Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery](#) has developed its website to provide more information to current and prospective parents, including lots of photos of the new rooms and gardens.



STAFF UPDATES

[Event Essex](#) have successfully recruited their summer reception team. A warm welcome to:

Lewis Rehal

Miriam O'Connell

Victoria Anderson

Ross Dowd
Tom Baker
Savanna Rayment
Paul Howlett
Angelica Krikler
Rossen Petkov
Jake Begley

Welcome back to **Natalie Jones** who is returning to Wivenhoe Park Day Nursery as Deputy Manager following maternity leave.

Essex Sport has four new members of staff: **Simon Lister** who is Business Development Manager, **Gent Sinani**, Administration Supervisor, **James Homewood**, Health and Fitness Senior Supervisor and **Chester Birch**, Health and Fitness Supervisor.

Ella Green has left Event Essex. We are delighted to announce that **Kathy Henry** accepted a permanent position.



NATIONAL VEGETARIAN WEEK

Essex Food celebrated National Vegetarian Week with a cooking competition that drew the crowds to Square 4 of the Colchester Campus.

In the run-up to National Vegetarian Week, staff and students were encouraged to nominate their favourite recipe to be considered for the menu in Canteen.

Three shortlisted entries, **Vegan Chilli**, **Masala Rice** and **Chickpea Curry**, were chosen by the University of Essex [Vegan and Vegetarian Society](#) and Essex Food.

These recipes were featured on the menu at Canteen for National Vegetarian Week.

The final winner was decided after a special sampling event in Square 4 where nearly 160 people voting on their favourite.

Chickpea Curry won first place and will be available on the rolling menu in Canteen.



Connor Dowd, General Manager of Essex Food, said: "We received great feedback and positive comments on the competition and on the quality of the food. We always welcome suggestions from our vegetarian and vegan customers."

INNOVATION CENTRE

As the Innovation Centre rapidly takes shape, you can watch this short montage of [webcam photos](#) showing the progress made from January this year.



WIVENHOE HOUSE HOTEL SHORTLISTED

The team at [Wivenhoe House](#) were delighted to receive the Opentable Diners' Choice award for both the brasserie and the afternoon tea. The hotel is also one of three finalists in the Hospitality Assured 20th anniversary award, focussing on excellence, collaboration and making a difference. The winner will be announced later this month



STAFF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SIMON LISTER



Can you tell us about your role?

I look after the membership of Essex Sport, the customer journey and usage of the Essex Sport Arena. I am also responsible for corporate sponsorship for our performance sport teams and the Arena.

What did you do before this job?

I began my working life as a cartographer for the Royal New Zealand Navy. After completing my surveying diploma, and seeking a greater challenge I moved into Conference and Events, producing business to business conferences and developing corporate sponsorships

More recently I worked for General Motors in New Zealand and was involved in sport sponsorship on an international scale, particularly focussing on motorsport and golf. My latest tenure was in the non-profit sector working with the Employers and Manufacturers Association in corporate partnerships, membership retention and loyalty programme implementation.

In my other life I am a professional dancer and have represented New Zealand on the world stage. I was the 10 Dance Champion in New Zealand for three years and finished in the Top 30 in the World Latin Championship in 2003. That's the reason I first came to the UK as London was, at the time, the home of the best dance teachers.

For the last four years I have been a full time Dad which has been the best thing I have ever done. I have been teaching Latin American and Ballroom dancing on Thursday nights at the University and I continue to build students' confidence and skills on the dance floor. The dream is to one day have enough dancers to compete in the intervarsity dancesport competition circuit.

Why do you like working here?

I think Essex is an incredibly empowering place to work. I already feel part of the Essex family.

Do you have any secret ambitions?

I invested in a rather expensive classical guitar many years ago. It has slowly gathered dust over time but I would love to one day get up on stage and rock out some great Fleetwood Mac covers

GOLD GREEN IMPACT AWARD

The Event Essex team have received GOLD [Green Impact](#) award for 2018!

Louise Ratnage and Katie Aylott have led team involvement in all activities. Event Essex grew chilli plants and sun flowers in the office and all staff have taken part in their yearly Wivenhoe Trail walk. Congratulations for all your hard work to achieve GOLD!



TOILET REFURBISHMENT

Work is currently taking place around campus to refurbish the accessible toilets. The photo attached is recent completion 5B.348. Work will be continuing to update the toilets on campus.

Take a look at current works taking place on campus [here](#)



ESSEX REBELS GO PROFESSIONAL

[Essex Sport](#) are delighted to announce that their womens basketball team, Essex Rebels, are entering the professional league. Read more about their journey [here](#).



We hope that you enjoyed the latest Estates and Campus Services newsletter. If you'd like to contribute to the July edition, please send your story to Kathryn Scrivener (k.scrivener@essex.ac.uk) by 30 June 2018.