Royal Holloway has won Times Higher Education’s Outstanding Contribution to the Local Community Award in recognition of its response to the 2014 floods in Egham and Staines. The College’s Community Action volunteers were among the first people on the scene and included registered volunteers, staff and Students’ Union clubs. Volunteers filled and distributed sandbags, sorted and gave out food and clothing parcels, drove minibuses to support volunteers and military personnel and used boats to reach houses cut off by rising water. The College also opened its doors to the local community, making laundry facilities available and housing Thorpe Lea Primary School on campus after its classrooms were flooded.

Phil Simcock, the College’s Community Action Volunteer Manager, said: “It is fantastic for Royal Holloway to be recognised in this way. Through Community Action our student volunteers give up their time to lead and support a range of projects and initiatives, from pre-planned activities to unexpected situations, such as the floods, to make a real difference to our wider community.”

Brianna Middleton MacPherson from the Students’ Union, said: “At the Students’ Union we were over the moon to see volunteering at Royal Holloway rewarded nationally. Our student groups, sports clubs and societies dedicate a lot of time and effort into volunteering in our local community and it’s great to see their hard work being recognised.”

Royal Holloway has recently appointed two influential figures from the world of law and engineering to positions within the College’s newly created departments. It’s hoped these appointments will continue to strengthen the College’s world class research and teaching.

Former Chief Inspector of Prisons Professor Nick Hardwick joins the College as Professor of Criminal Justice. Professor Hardwick will teach on undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes in the School of Law, which was launched last year. He brings with him a wealth of experience from his previous roles as Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, Chief Executive of the Refugee Council and Chief Executive of the charity Centrepoint.

Professor David M Howard has joined as Head of the Department of Electronic Engineering, a new department which will welcome its first undergraduate students in September 2017. A top priority will be to attract more female students and help to achieve a genuine gender balance in a subject where the national average for female students is only 10 per cent of the cohort.
The College is building new accommodation for 621 students on our North Campus, between Harvest Road and Chestnut Drive. The construction project will meet demand from students for more College provided accommodation, at the same time relieving pressure on the local housing market. The start of the main construction works was slightly delayed meaning we will be welcoming students into this new accommodation in September 2017. The delay has had no impact on the exterior design of these buildings, which we have worked on closely with the local community, and for which we have planning approval from the local authority.

In January work began to make a section of Harvest Road two-way. This is to encourage cars which leave our campus to turn towards the A30 rather than driving through Englefield Green. We are confident that the change to road layout will help to manage traffic flow through the village. Work is progressing to schedule, and the road should reopen to cars and pedestrians in April.

To keep up to date on our plans around the campus estate, please visit royallholloway.ac.uk/estateplan
**Student radio interviews inspiring local residents**

Last November student radio station *Insanity Radio* launched a series of interviews with older local residents as part of Winter Welfare Wednesdays, a campaign run with Age UK Runnymede and Spelthorne Borough Council, aimed at combatting loneliness in older people. The interviewees shared their inspiring stories and gave advice to people facing a lonely Christmas.

Alice, a local resident who is 103 and originally from Austria, talked to the students about receiving a telegram from the Queen on her 100th birthday, her memories of the First World War and how she helped her husband escape from a concentration camp during the Second World War, before fleeing to the UK. She also had an opportunity to request her favourite songs which were played live on air.

Jon O’Shea, Head of Community Outreach at Insanity Radio, said: “We wanted to provide older people with the chance to give advice to others in this situation, as well as share how they combat loneliness themselves. We also wanted the students of Royal Holloway and the local community to hear the inspirational backgrounds behind the older generation, and to consider how they could take part in activities that support older people.”

To listen again to the interviews visit insanityradio.com/community-winter-welfare-Wednesdays-2015.

For more information about Insanity Radio’s community work please email outreach@insanityradio.com, visit ‘Insanity Radio Community Project’ Facebook page or follow @Community1032 on Twitter.

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**Research will help NHS to target screening for heart disease**

Research by Royal Holloway’s Institute of Cardiovascular Research reveals that stroke patients are significantly at risk of coronary artery disease and heart attack even in the absence of symptoms associated with the disease.

The research, carried out in partnership with Ashford and St Peter’s Hospital, reviewed data from 50,000 individuals to establish the risk of heart disease and heart attack in stroke patients with no medical history of heart problems. In the largest study of its kind, researchers found that one in three stroke patients have plaque build-up which is constricting the inner diameter of their artery by half, restricting the flow of blood and oxygen to the heart. In 3 percent of cases, patients will experience a heart attack within one year of their stroke – higher than previously thought.

Lead researcher Professor Pankaj Sharma said: “Following a stroke most stroke patients go on to die of heart disease rather than their stroke. Our research findings go a long way to explaining why this is the case. We are urging the NHS to screen all stroke patients for silent heart disease to prevent the deaths of thousands of patients each year.”

The researchers recommend that following a stroke all patients should be assessed by cardiologists and screened for silent heart disease and this new protocol should be mandated by the NHS, something not routinely done in the UK.

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**Interested in working as an exam invigilator?**

Our Student Administration team is recruiting paid invigilators for the 2016 examination period (Tuesday 26th April to Friday 27th May). We are looking for reliable and punctual individuals who are fluent in English and can remain calm under pressure. For further information and to request an application form, please contact Student Administration on 01784 443340 or email Student-Administration@royalholloway.ac.uk

To find out more about our research here at Royal Holloway go to royaholloway.ac.uk
**College events**

We hold lots of events in the College each year which are open to the public. Details of all our events can be found at: royalholloway.ac.uk/events

**Science Festival**

*Saturday 5 March, 10am to 4pm*

Royal Holloway’s annual science open day is a great opportunity to discover and be inspired by some of the amazing science research we do. This event is for all ages and all activities are free.

**Runnymede Literary Festival**

*Saturday 12 to Thursday 24 March*

Organised by Royal Holloway in association with the Runnymede Literary Association and Runnymede Borough Council, events include lectures, talks and workshops, and readings from professional writers. Over the week there will be paid and free events, taking place at Royal Holloway and Egham Public Library. Visit royalholloway.ac.uk/english/rfest for a full programme.

**Sarah Fox and the Choir of Royal Holloway: Songs from America**

*Tuesday 15 March, 7pm*

An evening of music from America including samples from the choir’s new recording of American choral music. For the second half, award winning soprano Sarah Fox will present A Walk along Broadway. Work from composers including Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and Jerome Kern will be performed.

£20, £5 students. To book tickets visit royalholloway.ac.uk/events

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**See the Picture Gallery in a new light**

Over the winter our beautiful Picture Gallery has received the first new lighting system since Founder’s was opened in 1886. The changes will bring the natural light to the recommended museum standard as well as providing a more flexible lighting system for events such as exams and recitals.

The first public opening of the refurbished Picture Gallery will be on Saturday 5 March as part of our Science Festival. Regular public opening will resume on Wednesday 9 March. You can visit every Wednesday during term time from 10am to 3pm. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and give any assistance that you might need.

During the refurbishment we needed to find a new home for some teaching of music performance which normally takes place in the Picture Gallery. In January and February, students rehearsed at a local church, Our Lady of the Assumption in Englefield Green. Rehearsals culminated in a free weekly recital open to the public. These performances proved popular, and we are looking into holding a series of regular events in the future. We have also reached an agreement with the church to allow holders of Royal Holloway parking permits to use their car park on particularly busy days.

Many thanks go to Our Lady of the Assumption for hosting our students.

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**Improving communication with our community**

To provide more opportunities to meet with members of the local community, representatives from Royal Holloway will be attending councillor surgeries in Englefield Green once a term. Local people are invited to discuss topics relevant to the College and its neighbours. Councillor surgeries are held at the Social Hall, Victoria Street, Englefield Green TW20 0QT.

They start at 11am. Royal Holloway representatives will attend on the following days:

- Saturday 12 March 2016
- Saturday 14 May 2016
- Saturday 12 November 2016

To support ongoing communication with the local community, we will be installing noticeboards in Egham and Englefield Green. These will carry Royal Holloway news, information on events and projects as well as details on how to contact the College.

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**Car parking when visiting our campus**

We are always happy to welcome visitors to our beautiful campus and have provision for visitor parking during College events, such as public lectures or concerts, or for people visiting the Chapel or Picture Gallery. Visitors should park in car parks 1E, 1W, 12 or 4. These car parks are well signposted and for most events additional signage will be in place.

Designated Blue Badge spaces are in car parks 1E and 1W. Please contact our premises team in advance of your visit by emailing premisesadmin@royalholloway.ac.uk if you require any assistance.

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**Contact us**

If you would like to speak to a member of our team please call 01784 276612 / 01784 443394, email community@royalholloway.ac.uk or write to Community Matters, Communications & External Relations, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey, TW20 0EX.

Our office hours are 9am-5pm, Monday - Friday throughout the year (including out of term time). If you are passing the College, you could also drop your letter into our main reception.

Please ensure you mark it for the attention of Estate Communications Manager.

If you would like to receive a digital copy of Community Matters please email us at community@royalholloway.ac.uk