



2021

**ALUMNI AND
FRIENDS FUND
REPORT**



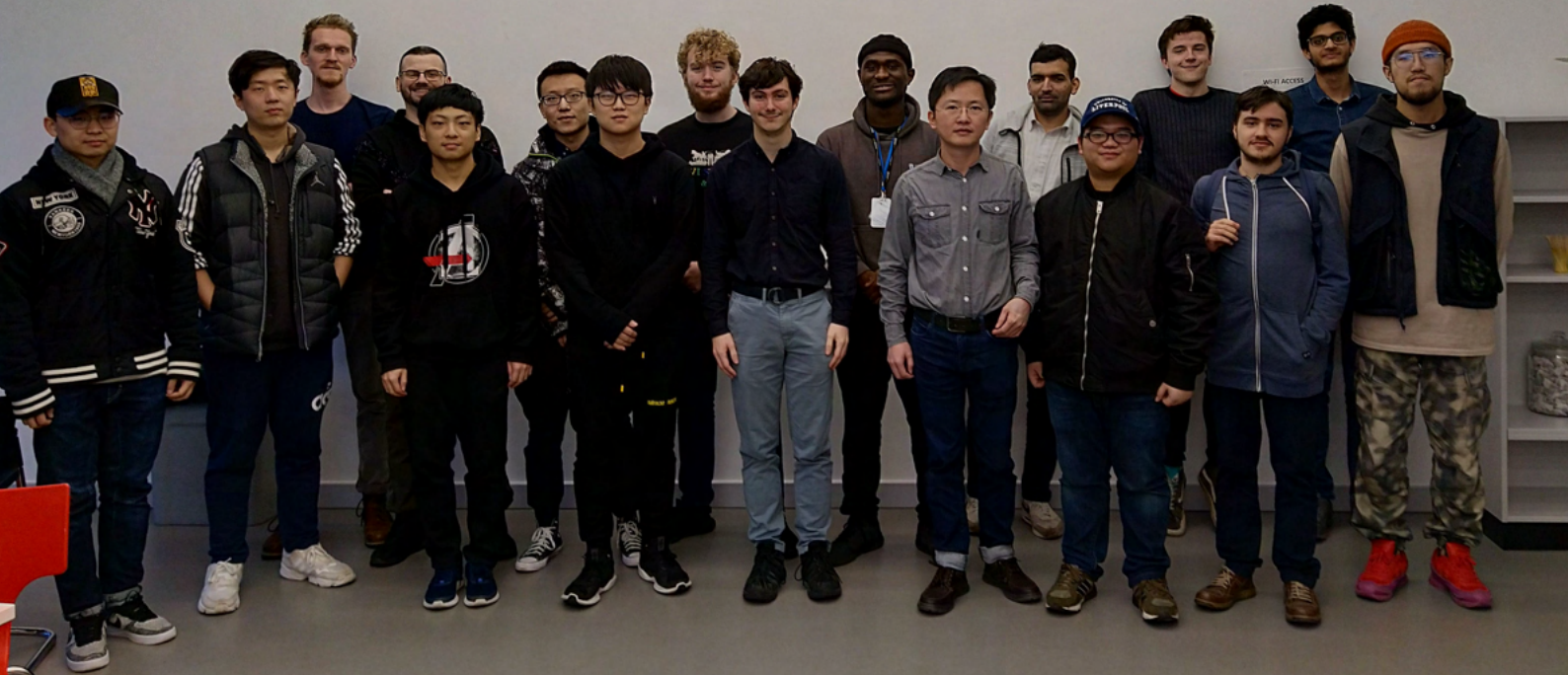
Thank you

Thanks to your contribution, this year, we have been able to support seven projects that have enhanced the student experience in this difficult time.

Alumni and Friends Fund award recipients have been sending us photos and videos to share their activities and express their gratitude for the support given. As some 2019 projects were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also included their updates in this report, alongside this year's projects. We hope you will enjoy learning more about what students and staff have been able to accomplish thanks to your support.



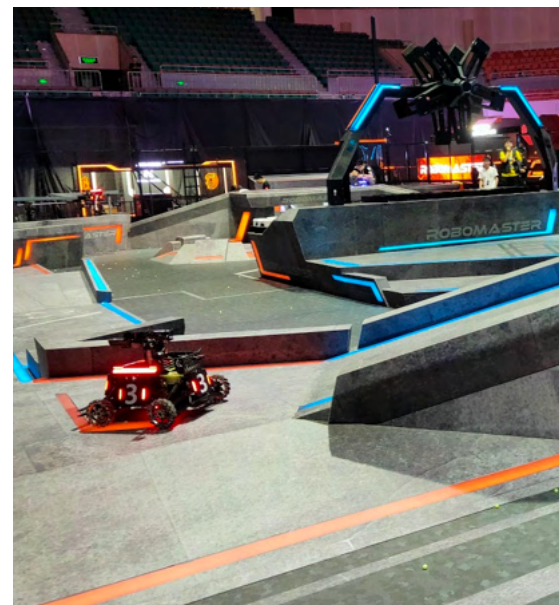
Above: The University of Liverpool Canoe Club on their Christmas paddle at Royal Albert Dock in 2019.



Coding and Robotics Society

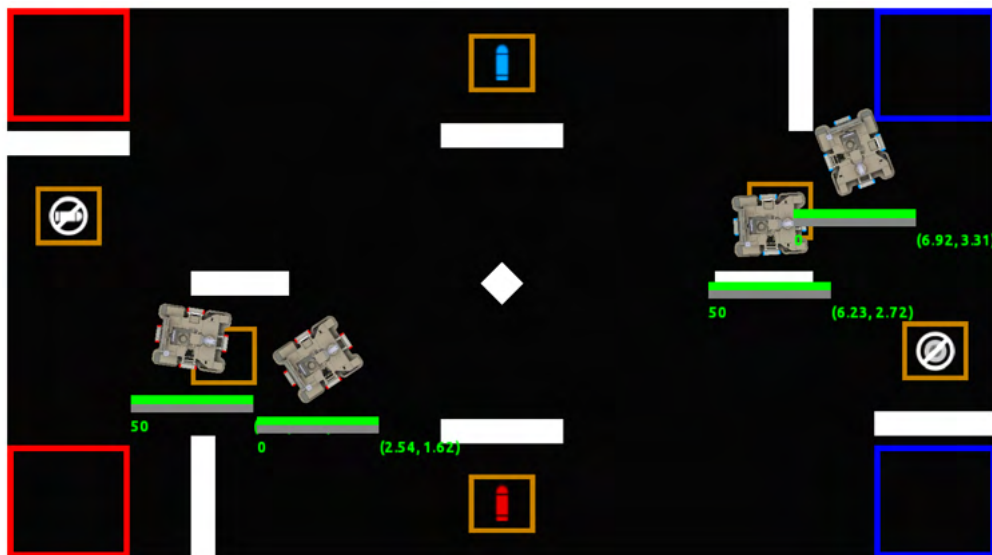
The society received funding in the 2019-2020 academic year to purchase robotic hardware to participate in the International Conference on Robotics and Automation RoboMaster AI Challenge, in which robots programmed by rival teams compete for victory. The students put a lot of work into creating the software that controls their robots, which allows them to move, sense the environment around them, make decisions and attack the opponent. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team could not participate in the 2020 competition, but they continued to meet online every week to develop a sophisticated code.

From top to bottom: members of the society, a past Robomaster Challenge, and the robot that was purchased thanks to the grant.





Receiving the funding will not only allow them to participate in the 2022 RoboMaster University Challenge, but it has also given them invaluable experience by working on this project as a team. After the competition, the robots will continue to benefit the students, who will use them for testing, demonstrations and training.



Top to bottom: team members catching up online, and a simulation that the team used to learn how the robots would behave using the software they created.

COPING WITH COVID

Coping with COVID Podcast

Dr Helen West and Dr Suzi Gage started the Coping with COVID Podcast in March 2020 to provide medical, nursing and allied health students with practical ways to look after their mental well-being during the pandemic. Thirty-three episodes have been released so far, which have been downloaded more than 3000 times. Thanks to the support of the Alumni and Friends Fund, Helen and Suzi have been able to continue to help thousands of students cope with feelings of isolation and anxiety.



[Listen to the podcast](#)

On the right, from top to bottom: Dr Helen West and Dr Suzanne Gage, Institute of Population Health.





EARTH

At the beginning of the year, the Experimental Archaeology Research and Teaching Hub at Ness Gardens was in the early phases of development, and on-site activities were limited and dependent on the weather. However, thanks to the award, EARTH's replica Roman kiln will be rebuilt this summer to allow for all-year-round usage and the centre will be able to purchase new equipment, such as a momentum wheel, tools, a storage unit, a shelter, and more. All current and future Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology students will be able to use the centre to learn pyrotechnology techniques and carry out experiments that would not otherwise be possible.



[Listen to Dr Peter Hommel talk about EARTH](#)

From top to bottom: the pyrotechnology area at EARTH, some pots made on site, and the replica Roman kiln.





University of Liverpool Canoe Club

The club received funding in the 2019-2020 academic year to purchase much-needed safety equipment, including buoyancy aids, carabiners, first aid supplies, a group shelter and more. The grant has allowed them to replace old and missing items, so that they will be able to train safely, knowing that they can rely on their new equipment in difficult situations.

While the pandemic has slowed down their plans, they will soon be able to complete their purchases and have all items ready for the next academic year.

From top to bottom: a recent paddle at Royal Albert Dock, the 2019 BUCS Slalom competition, and the 2019 fresher's trip.





Lucy, former Treasurer, sends her thanks to donors: “On behalf of all the members of the Canoe Club, I would like to say a huge thank you for choosing to support our club in our endeavour to make kayaking a safe and enjoyable activity for all students at the University. This funding will help us develop as a club at all levels, helping members be more confident using safety equipment, when either rescuing other kayakers or being rescued themselves after capsizing, and in trying new skills on the river.”

Above: the club's trip to Scotland in 2020.



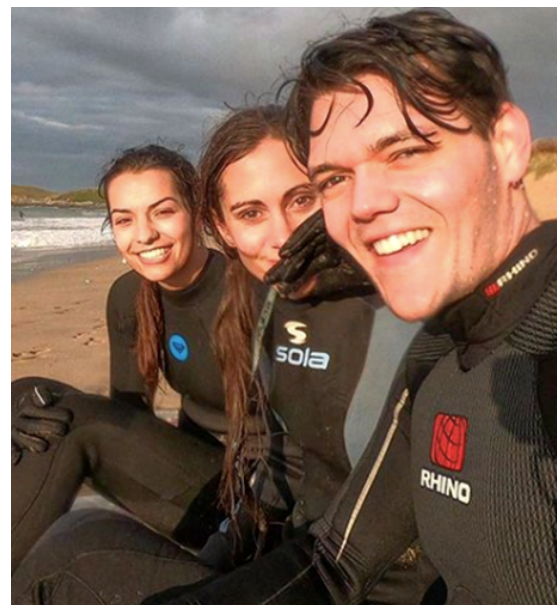
University of Liverpool Surf Club (LivSurf)

LivSurf is a popular club at the University and, every year, up to two hundred new students join the club, keen to learn to surf for the first time. Over the years, some of their equipment has become worn and, due to the costs, the club would have not been able to replace those items. Now, thanks to your support, they have been able to purchase new surfboards and wetsuits. Victoria, former Treasurer, expresses the club's gratitude: "We will take extremely good care of it to ensure it lasts for many years and benefits as many people as possible. Thank you so much."



[Watch a short video with photos from the society.](#)

From top to bottom: LivSurf at BUCS, and members of the club practicing at the beach.





University of Liverpool Men's Veterinary RUFC

The University of Liverpool Men's Veterinary Rugby Union Football Club is made up of mostly veterinary students who train without a coach. They organise their practice sessions with their own resources and they received funding this year to buy new training equipment, which the club did not previously own, including tackle shields, agility and speed equipment and a first aid kit.

Thomas, Treasurer of the club, would like to thank Alumni and Friends Fund donors on behalf of all members: "We'd just like to say thank you so much for this funding, all the boys are so appreciative and excited to have some new kit to play with at training. It is the best news the club has heard in a while and has lifted many spirits in these trying times."

From top to bottom: the 2019–20 Men's Team, the team at a recent training session, and their 2019–20 trip to Dublin.



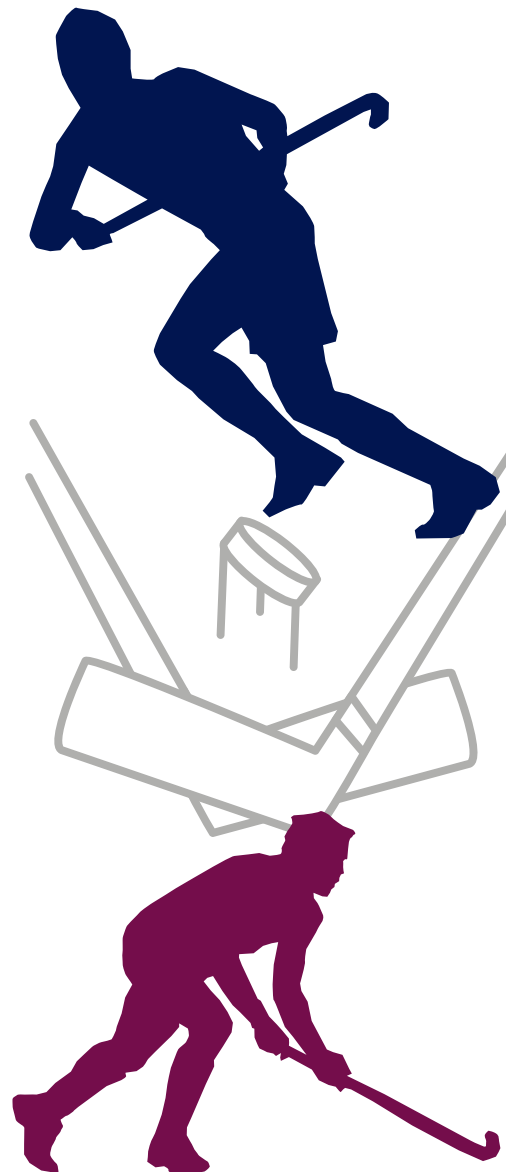


University of Liverpool Vets Hockey Club

The club received funding to buy a first aid kit, PPE and sanitising equipment, which have allowed them to continue to train safely, when restrictions allowed. In this difficult year, training has given them solace: "Hockey gives us an opportunity to let go and forget about all the issues we may be facing, and provides an opportunity to meet with people from all years who can give us advice and tips on how to cope at the moment", Carrie, Team Captain, explains.

Carrie sends her heartfelt thanks: "You have without doubt helped prevent a decline in mental health amongst our players and allowed us to keep some form of normality in our university lives this year. We cannot thank you enough as a team and hope you are proud of what your funding has allowed us to achieve."

Above: the 2019–20 Team.





Photogrammetry Team

The Photogrammetry Team is a group of students and early career researchers in the Department of Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology. Simply put, photogrammetry is the science of creating virtual 3D models from multiple 2D photographs, and it is a key skill for archaeologists. The team received funding this year to allow them to safely continue their activities outdoors during the pandemic. Thanks to this, not only have they been able to learn new skills, but the models they have created have benefitted other students (in Liverpool and all over the world!), who have been able to access them online.



[Hear from Dr Ardern Hulme-Beaman, team leader](#)

From top to bottom: location of the prehistoric footprints at Formby beach, and the team taking photos to create the 3D models.





Whose History?

Whose History? is a project lead by Dr Eleanor Lybeck, Lecturer in the Institute of Irish Studies and in Department of English. Due to be completed this summer, the project will tell an alternative history of the campus through the stories of the people who have lived, studied and worked here, as well as neighbouring communities. Through live performances, animations and activities, *Whose History?* will reveal the hidden fabric of our university community. The series will launch during Welcome Week in September 2021 and will benefit all incoming students across the University.



[Hear more from Dr Eleanor Lybeck](#)

From top to bottom: plaque on Mulberry Street commemorating the Irish famine; Dr Eleanor Lybeck, Institute of Irish Studies; and African-American actress Mary E. Webb.



Since 2019, in addition to these initiatives, the Alumni and Friends Fund has also been able to support other projects, societies and clubs: the **Postgraduate Bioethics Conference**, which will take place this summer; the **International Veterinary Students Association (IVSA)**, who were hosted by IVSA Lublin and are now waiting to welcome exchange students in Liverpool once restrictions allow; the **Judo Club**, who have been able to buy 172 square meters' worth of mats and relocate to a bigger training space; a **wildlife-friendly pond**, which will be built on campus; and, finally, the **University of Liverpool Boat Club**, who used the grant to replace their old, broken oars.

In the past two years, your continued support has already helped thousands of students, and it will carry on benefitting future students in the years to come. Finding a way to express our students and staff's immense gratitude is difficult, but we will begin with two simple words: **Thank you!**



Above: members of the Judo Club.

Thank you!

If you would like to continue to support current and future generations of students by making a gift, please visit our website:

liverpool.ac.uk/giving/priorities

Please consider making a regular gift – even a small amount makes a huge impact!