



## Welcome to your 2021 Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering Alumni Newsletter



Dear Alumni,

I should begin by introducing myself... I am the Head of School of Engineering, and since Peter Gardner's retirement in April I have taken on the role of interim Head of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering until a successor is found. It's my privilege to introduce the latest edition of the Department of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering newsletter, in which you will be able to read about the work we have been doing over the last year.

[Read more from Clive Roberts](#)



## School of Engineering presented with keys to new building

Building work was completed in February on the new £46.5m School of Engineering thanks to national contractor, Willmott Dixon. The state-of-the-art 12,000 sqm facility spans five floors and features a double-height atrium. The development aims to not only

bring together many of the institution's engineering disciplines, but also provide opportunities for successful collaboration between academia and industry.

Find out more about the new School of Engineering Building



### Hydrogen-fueled train to be showcased at COP26

Experts at the University of Birmingham have welcomed the announcement by Network Rail that it will be showcasing the hydrogen-powered HydroFLEX train at the COP26 Climate Change Conference.

[Find out more](#)



### Relaunch heralds bright new future for National College

The University is launching the new National College for Advanced Transport and Infrastructure in a special collaboration to produce a new generation of highly skilled professionals.

[Find out more](#)



### Electrical engineering graduate interviewed for the IET

Inge-Sarah Andersen graduated in 2017 and is now a Signalling Project Engineer for Network Rail. She has been interviewed by a TV presenter for the Institute of Engineering and Technology's Magazine.

[Find out more](#)



### Heritage railway looks to build a locomotive for the future

The Severn Valley Railway has teamed with the University to work on a ground-breaking scheme. The project will see the UK's first-ever conversion of a diesel locomotive to run on hydrogen power.

[Find out more](#)



### New hardship grants for engineering students funded by Birmingham graduate, Emeritus Professor Barry P Hughes

We are delighted to announce a new bursary to support students in the School of Engineering who are experiencing financial difficulty. Thanks to the generosity of Emeritus Professor Barry Peter Hughes and his family, the Professor BP Hughes Bursary will support Engineering students experiencing hardship and facing unexpected financial challenges. This Bursary will provide comfort, security and peace of mind for cohorts of engineering students across the next decade.

[Find out more about the Professor BP Hughes Bursary](#)



### **EESE Soc are back with a bang**

It has been a little while since the Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering Society (EESE Soc) has been active. Now they have a new opportunity to learn, socialise and trailblaze, and big plans for the coming year!

[Read about EESE Soc's plans](#)



### **An industrious year for RailSoc**

As for everyone, it's been a strange year for RailSoc with members not being able to meet and having to transfer events online. In spite of everything they have delivered a record number of industrial talks and continued to thrive during the pandemic!

[Read what RailSoc have been up to](#)



### **Success for our students at the annual Societies' Awards**

For the second year running we took the EPS Societies' Awards online to celebrate our remarkable student groups. The celebrations were not halted and watch parties were held across our societies and Schools! We're proud to announce the School of Engineering RFC have won Sports Team of the Year for the third time! Congratulations also to the Women in Science and Engineering Society who were named Society of the Year, and well done to all the nominees, shortlisted students and worthy winners!

[Watch the 2021 Virtual Societies' Awards](#)





## Henda Grion, Alumni Volunteer of the Month

We are delighted to announce that Henda Grion has been named the University's Volunteer of the Month for August 2021. Henda graduated last summer and has been a wonderful Alumni Ambassador, particularly for international students over the past six months.

[Find out more about Henda's volunteering](#)

## Graham Harvey: Fond memories and camaraderie

Graham joined the University of Birmingham in 1980 to study Electronic & Electrical Engineering and has fond memories of the department and camaraderie amongst his peers. In his alumni profile Graham shares some of those memories and friendships.

[Read Graham's alumni profile](#)

**WE ARE  
BIRMINGHAM**  
**ALUMNI**

**MENTORING**

### Help inspire our students

From recent graduates to industry leaders, you are making important things happen. You can inspire young people and offer an insight into the opportunities awaiting them. What will you share?

[Share your Birmingham story](#)

### Could you be a mentor?

We all know the benefits of having someone to bounce ideas off, especially when it comes to our careers. Your advice is invaluable. If you'd like to be that person, we'd love to hear from you.

[Email Grace to become a mentor](#)



## Innovative 'EPS Futures Foundation Year' programme supports young people from underrepresented groups to study STEM

Every year, 69,000 jobs for engineers and skilled technicians in the UK go unfilled. We are seeking to address this with the 'EPS Futures' foundation year. Through the generous support of donors such as Martin-Baker Aircraft, EPS Futures will provide life-changing opportunities for young people. Alongside mentoring and professional expertise from alumni and corporate partners, we will help unearth future engineers and scientists who otherwise may not have the chance to fulfil their potential.

[Find out how we're supporting young people study science and engineering](#)

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## News roundup

Undergraduate programmes in Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering have [ranked highly in the 2021 National Student Survey](#).

Seventy graduates take part in ['Meet your alumni' series](#).

Andrew Stephenson, UK Minister of State for Transport, has formally opened a [new purpose-built centre designed to deliver specialist research in railway engineering](#).

[Supporting students into engineering](#) and physical sciences at Birmingham.

Birmingham researchers confirm [speed, simplicity and sensitivity for new COVID-19 test](#).

Latest episode of [Port Postdoc podcast explores](#) Climate Challenge research.

Dr Sakdirat Kaewunruen has been awarded the [Rail Winner of TRA VISIONS 2020 Senior Researcher Competitions](#).

Rail experts on board with the [2021 Transport Decarbonisation Plan](#).

Hydrogen set to do the [heavy lifting](#).

Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education welcomes [new Professor in Rail Strategy, Professor Paul Plummer](#).

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### Do we have the correct contact details for you?

Make sure you update your details to ensure you receive the latest news and information about events in your area. [Update now](#)



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