



# Royal College Day

*—Programme—*

**ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS**  
66 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1B 1AD

FRIDAY 5 JULY 2024



## Annual General Meeting

### **10.30am – Registration and refreshments**

Open to all registered veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses

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### **11.00am – AGM starts**

- Formal declaration of RCVS Council election results and appointments
  - Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023
  - Council Meeting to approve the new 2024 Officer Team - President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer
  - Address from RCVS Chief Executive Officer, Lizzie Lockett
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### **12.00pm – AGM closes followed by a buffet lunch in the Florence Hall**

## Honours and Awards Ceremony

### **1.00pm – Awards Ceremony starts**

- Presentation of Awards
  - Address from VN Council Chair Belinda Andrews-Jones RVN
  - Address from outgoing RCVS President, Dr Sue Paterson FRCVS
  - Investiture of new President, Linda Belton MRCVS, Senior Vice-President Dr Sue Paterson FRCVS and Junior Vice-President Professor Tim Parkin FRCVS
  - New President's remarks
  - Guest speaker address from Professor Susan Jebb OBE PhD FRCP (Hon) FMedSci  
Chair of the Food Standards Agency - 'The Role of Vets in the Food System – a view from the Food Standards Agency'
  - Afternoon Tea in the Florence Hall.
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### **4.00pm – Royal College Day concludes**



## Welcome to Royal College Day 2024

A big welcome to everyone attending this year's Royal College Day, our Annual General Meeting and awards ceremony and my last official engagement and duty as RCVS President for 2023/24.

These events are always a useful opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the year and the lessons that we can learn from the events behind us and how we can apply these, as both individuals and as an organisation, to what is to come.

Certainly, I can look back on a busy year that has seen me travel to all corners of the UK for engagements and to give speeches, hold conversations, take part in panel discussions, and much, much more. Whether it's been about our under care guidance changes, the need for reform of the College's governance or the Competition and Markets Authority market investigation, not all of these conversations have been easy and opinions abound. However, I didn't become RCVS President for an easy time, and there are always knotty issues and unpopular decisions and I've enjoyed many of the robust, constructive debates I've had. I may have even changed a few minds!

Luckily for me, my last day of being President might also be my easiest, as we welcome the opportunity to celebrate the best of what vets and vet nurses do and are capable of with our RCVS Honours and Awards. I greatly look forward to bestowing all these awards and talking with our award winners to find out more about their fantastic work.

I also look forward to leaving this work in the very capable hands of my successor Linda Belton who I wish all the best in this fantastic role.

Finally, I am very excited to be welcoming this year's guest speaker, Professor Susan Jebb, who was, until very recently, Chair of the Food Standards Agency, the body which has the very fundamental responsibility of making sure our food is safe to eat and comes from trustworthy sources, as well as having further responsibilities in public health and sustainability. Professor Jebb will be bringing the insights of her long experience in the field of public health and, latterly, at the FSA. With this talk I hope she can give a valuable insight into the role that vets play in promoting sustainable farming practices and in helping to ensure food security.

I hope you all have a wonderful day, and you have the opportunity to catch up with colleagues and make new friends.

**Dr Sue Paterson** *FRCVS*  
President





## Changes to RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurses Council

*These pages feature a list of all the retiring and incoming members of both RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurses Council, including details of their committee memberships and any other notable positions within the College.*

### RCVS Council

#### RETIRING MEMBERS

##### **Dr Melissa Donald MRCVS: elected 2016 – 2024 (eight years' service)**

Served as: RCVS President 2022/23; Chair of the Registration Committee; Chair of the Standards Committee; Finance and Resources Committee; Nominations Committee; PIC / DC Liaison Committee; Registration Appeals Committee; Specialist Recognition and Advanced Practitioner Appeals Committee; Advancement of the Professions Committee (Observer); Education Committee (Observer); Chair of the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice Subcommittee; Fellowship Board; Vet Futures Project Board; Chair of the Hardwick Street Refurbishment Group; Brexit Taskforce; Covid-19 Taskforce; RCVS Knowledge Board of Trustees; Officer Team.

##### **Dr Kate Richards MRCVS: elected 2020 – 2024 and 2015 – 2019 (eight years' total service)**

Served as: RCVS President 2021/22; Chair of the Education Committee; Chair of the Nominations Committee; Chair of the PIC / DC Liaison Committee; Chair of the Specialist Recognition and Advanced Practitioner Appeals Committee; Chair of the Standards Committee; Advancement of the Professions Committee; Finance and Resources Committee; Registration Committee; appointed veterinary surgeon member of Veterinary Nurses Council; Chair of the Certification Subcommittee; Primary Qualifications Subcommittee; Register and Registration Subcommittee; Chair of the Mind Matters Initiative; Council Culture Working Group; Covid-19 Taskforce; Environment and Sustainability Working Party; Estates Strategy Group; RCVS representative on Federation of Veterinarians of Europe; Hardwick Street Refurbishment Group; Vet Futures Project Board; Officer Team; Operational Board.

##### **Professor James Wood OBE FRCVS: appointed by University of Cambridge 2013 – 2020 and Veterinary Schools Council 2020 – 2024 (11 years' service).**

Served as: Chair of the Registration Appeals Committee; Education Committee; Veterinary Nurses Council; Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice Subcommittee; CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee; Recognised Veterinary Practice Subcommittee; Routine Veterinary Practice Subcommittee; Council Culture Working Group; Covid-19 Taskforce; Estates Strategy Group.

##### **Professor Stephen May FRCVS: elected from 2021 – 2024, 2012 – 2020 and Royal Veterinary College appointed 2001 – 2009 (19 years' total service)**

Served as: President 2017/18; Chair of the Education Policy and Specialisation Committee; Chair of the Specialist Recognition and Advanced Practitioner Appeals Committee; Disciplinary Committee (pre-



Legislative Reform Order); Finance and Resources Committee; Nominations Committee; Planning and Resources Committee; Registration Appeals Committee; Specialist Recognition and Advanced Practitioner Appeals Committee; Standards Committee (latterly as an Observer); Education Committee (Observer); CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee; Post-nominals Subcommittee; Register and Registration Subcommittee; Chair of the Operational Board; Estates Strategy Project Board; Vet Futures Project Board; Brexit Taskforce; Chair of the CPD Compliance Panel; Chair of the CPD Working Party; Chair of the Graduate Outcomes Working Party; Chair of the Graduate Outcomes Working Group: EMS / Clinical Education; Chair of the Legislation Working Party; Chair of the Panel of Assessors for Advanced Practitioner Status; Chair of the Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging Board.

#### NEWLY- ELECTED MEMBERS

**Dr Zara Kennedy MRCVS**

**Dr Sinéad Bennett MRCVS**

**Professor David Barrett FRCVS**

#### NEWLY-APPOINTED BY VETERINARY SCHOOLS COUNCIL

**Professor Christopher Loughrey FRCVS**

## Veterinary Nurses Council

#### RETIRING MEMBERS

**Alison Carr: appointed lay member 2013 – 2024 (eleven years' service)**

Served on: Examinations Appeals Committee; CPD Compliance Panel; CPD Referral Group

**Donna Lewis RVN: elected 2021 – 2024 (three years' service)**

Served on: CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee

#### RETURNING MEMBERS

**Susan Howarth RVN**

#### NEWLY-APPOINTED MEMBERS

**Jessica Franklin**

**Lisa Grainger**

#### NEWLY-ELECTED MEMBERS

**Kirsty Young RVN**



# *RCVS Honours & Awards*

Veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses are expected to meet high standards in order to safeguard animal health and welfare.

However, some individuals far exceed expectations, and we feel this should be recognised and celebrated through the RCVS Honours and Awards. We also like to recognise the achievements of those who have contributed to the health and welfare of animals by working in fields related to the veterinary professions.

This year, we are presenting the awards described below, and you can read more about our winners on the following pages.



## **The RCVS Queen's Medal**

The RCVS Queen's Medal is our most prestigious honour for veterinary surgeons and was launched with the kind permission of Her Majesty the Queen. It recognises a veterinary surgeon who has achieved a highly distinguished career, with sustained and outstanding achievements.

Nominations may be made by any Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) or registered veterinary nurse (RVN), excluding current RCVS Council members.



### **VN Golden Jubilee Award**

The VN Golden Jubilee Award was introduced in 2011 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first veterinary nurse training course.

The Award is aimed at veterinary nurses who have had a sustained and distinguished career, who can demonstrate a leadership role within the profession and who can act as an ambassador for the value of veterinary nurses and their work.

Nominees must be RVNs (excluding current VN Council members) but nominators can be RVNs or MsRCVS, also excluding current RCVS Council and VN Council members.



### **Honorary Associateship**

Honorary Associateship of the College is a prestigious honour that we confer on a small number of non-RCVS members each year, in recognition of their special contribution.

We are keen to recognise the full range of individuals who contribute to the veterinary sphere, for example, veterinary nurses, scientists, lecturers, charity-workers, farriers, farmers and those involved in the commercial field.

### **The RCVS International Award**

The International Award recognises veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and lay people who have worked internationally from within or outside of the UK. This could involve, for example, raising veterinary standards, veterinary education, improving animal health and welfare, developing leadership, and/or promoting mental health and welfare.





### **The RCVS Inspiration Award**

This award is bestowed upon a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse who has recently demonstrated the ability to inspire and enthuse others consistently throughout his or her career. It is open to those who have inspired and motivated individuals, groups or who have worked at a profession-wide level. The award recognises those who have gone 'above and beyond' what may normally be expected from a professional colleague.



### **The RCVS Compassion Award**

The Compassion Award is bestowed upon a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse who has demonstrated compassion towards fellow professionals and/or members of the animal-owning public, either as part of a one-off initiative or sustained over a longer period of time. The individual needs to have made a significant impact and shown genuine compassion over and above what might have been expected of them as part of their day-to-day work.

### **The RCVS Impact Award**

This award is bestowed upon a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse who has recently made a considerable impact that has affected the profession at large, animal health or welfare, or public health. Such impact could have been made through any field of veterinary endeavour, including clinical practice, research, education or veterinary politics.







## Presentation of the RCVS Queen's Medal

### **Professor Stuart W.J. Reid**

*CBE BVMS PhD DVM(Hons) DipECVPH FRSB FRSE FRCVS*

Professor Stuart Reid is President and Principal of the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) and was RCVS President in 2014-15, a year which saw, amongst other things, the introduction of the courtesy "Dr" title for veterinary surgeons and him completing the London Marathon to raise funds for mental health. He was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2018 for services to the veterinary profession and higher education.

Stuart is RCVS-recognised as a specialist in veterinary epidemiology and in veterinary public health by the European Board of Veterinary Specialists. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. His research interests are focused on zoonotic disease and antimicrobial resistance in a One Health context. He has over 160 scientific publications, including in PNAS, *Nature* and *Science*, and he has secured over £16m in competitive funding during his career.

Stuart's nominator for the Queen's Medal was Robin Hargreaves, who served as BVA President during Stuart's 2014-15 term. Robin said: "Professor Reid has directly influenced the learning environment and educational outcomes of many hundreds of veterinary professionals through his teaching, administration, and leadership at the institutions he has led. Further to this, by his involvement in the Veterinary Schools Council and now the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) in the USA, and his work with affiliate teaching institutions around the world, he influences veterinary education globally.

"His huge body of work in informatics and epidemiology will have had impact on animal welfare and human health. In particular, his work on antimicrobial resistance seeks to help animals both human and non-human in the face of one of the world's greatest threats to health and survival.

"Professor Reid's work and communication around mental health issues within our professions has been central to the widespread awareness of mental health as an issue. He has helped to bring together experts from across the field to better understand the drivers of poor mental health, and develop strategies to support those affected, whilst breaking down stigmas and barriers to access such support.

"Few individuals can have had so much influence at the intersection of animal and human health, teaching, research, administration and third sector voluntary work. I can only speak for the influence he has had on me and it is profound and inspiring."





## Presentation of the RCVS VN Golden Jubilee Award

### **Dr Andrea Jeffery**

*Ed.D. MSc FHEA DipAVN (Surg) Cert.Ed RVN*

Dr Andrea Jeffery RVN is an educationalist, VN pioneer and former Chair of the RCVS Veterinary Nurses Council. She was the first veterinary nurse to chair VN Council as well as being the first to sit as a member of RCVS Council, appointed by the University of Bristol Veterinary School.

As VN Council Chair, Andrea oversaw the creation of the first *Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses*. In 2007, along with fellow former VN Council member Hilary Orpet RVN, Andrea developed the 'Orpet and Jeffery Ability Model', the first model of veterinary nursing care which helped to provide a standardised approach.

Andrea has spent a large period of her career working as an educationalist in higher education, including 17 years at the University of Bristol where she was programme lead for the undergraduate veterinary nursing programme. Latterly, Andrea has worked as Chief Nursing Officer for Linnaeus with responsibility for more than 2,000 nursing staff.

Andrea gained her Doctorate in Education in 2020 and her research continues in understanding the factors that influence retention within the veterinary nursing profession. In 2023, Andrea was co-editor for two new veterinary nursing textbooks: *Professionalism and Reflection in Veterinary Nursing* and *One Health for Veterinary Nurses and Technicians*. These textbooks are an indicator of the widening scope of the practice of veterinary nursing.

Her nominator, Trish Scorer RVN, Lead Pre-registration Experience Manager at Linnaeus, said: "Andrea co-created a career framework for the nursing teams across the Linnaeus primary care and referral practices. This means that from the start of their career, through all role levels, nursing teams have clear and transparent career pathways, ensuring that nursing is a career for life with clear signposting for each career stage."

Trish added: "The work which Andrea undertook with Hilary Orpet in the creation of the Orpet and Jeffery Ability Model for the first time helped define nursing activities and accountabilities in terms of patient care and delegated authority. It helped to provide an evidence base to our practice and whether the nursing care interventions we make do make a difference to the care we provide patients.

"Andrea has spoken and will continue to speak in forums that raise awareness of veterinary nursing as a profession and how vital is the role of veterinary nurse as part of an interprofessional team within clinical practice."





## Presentation of Honorary Associateship

### **Professor Diana Williams** *BSc PhD*

Diana Williams was until recently Professor of Infection Biology and Microbiomes at the University of Liverpool's Institution of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Studies, where she has benefitted animal health and welfare through her teaching and her research, particularly in the field of livestock health, welfare and productivity.

At Liverpool, Diana developed a research programme aiming to improve control of parasitic diseases of livestock, particularly sheep and cattle. Initially, working with Professor the Lord Sandy Trees FRCVS, she was involved in research into the abortifacient parasite, *Neospora caninum*. This led to better understanding of the epidemiology and transmission of the parasite and improved control of the disease. The team developed the first commercial diagnostic tests to detect infection in dogs and cattle and worked on the feasibility of a vaccine for preventing abortion in cattle. More recently, Diana has led a major research initiative, raising the profile of *Fasciola hepatica* as an important cause of disease and production losses in sheep and cattle, establishing the prevalence of resistance to triclabendazole, and developing a point-of-care, rapid diagnostic test that is due to be launched commercially later in 2024.

Over a 20-year career at Liverpool, the veterinary parasitology course that Diana has taught has been consistently rated as one of the most popular in the curriculum, instilling in veterinary graduates a lifelong interest in the subject.

Her nominator is Professor the Lord Trees, a Crossbench Peer in the House of Lords and Emeritus Professor in Veterinary Parasitology from the University of Liverpool. He said: "Diana Williams has made a great contribution directly to animal health and welfare, and indirectly to aid the veterinary profession's ability to improve animal health and welfare.

"She has done this, first, through her teaching role in academia to over 3,000 veterinary undergraduates since 1994 at the University of Liverpool, giving them a great understanding of the causation, impact and control of parasitic diseases in the UK and globally, and imbuing in them a great interest in the subject; second, by influencing thousands of vets and associated professionals with her outreach and knowledge transfer activities; and third, through her world-class research, informing and influencing tens of thousands of animal health and public health professionals globally in improving the control of important parasitic diseases."





## Presentation of Honorary Associateship

### **Dr Iain Berrill** *MSc PhD*

Dr Berrill, a fish biologist and Head of Technical at Scottish Salmon, was nominated for working closely with fish vets to improve the health and welfare of fish in the Scottish aquaculture industry. Dr Iain Berrill has always had an interest in the marine and freshwater environment. This interest led him to undertake an undergraduate degree in Marine Biology at Swansea University and it was during this degree that he was first introduced to the concept of aquaculture. From that time his career focus has been to understand and support the sustainable development of the UK finfish aquaculture sector.



In 2010, Iain moved into the Scottish salmon farming sector, to work for the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO; now Salmon Scotland), the industry trade body. Initially brought in to set up and manage an industry fish health database, Iain's role and responsibilities expanded greatly and he is currently Head of Technical, providing technical input into all aspects of the company's activities, and its engagement with sector professionals, with a key focus on fish health and welfare, the environment, and science and research. This regularly includes providing steering and advisory support for collaborative research projects.

Iain is a former Director and Trustee of the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum (SARF) and a former Steering Group member of the multinational Gill Health Initiative. He currently sits on various industry and government working groups, including the Scottish Government's Farmed Fish Health Framework and Regulatory Liaison Group. He is also the salmon sector representative for the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA), including its Targets Task Force Initiative, which focuses on antibiotic stewardship.

His nominator, Ronald Soutar MRCVS, who is Head of Veterinary Services at Scottish Sea Farms Ltd, said: "Iain is the go-to person for vets and others outwith the sector wishing to access information on fish health and welfare or seeking a conduit to the agreed opinion of Scottish aquaculture's vets. He has, for example, provided vet-related information to the Scottish Government's Farmed Fish Health Framework, to the BVA's working group on sustainable aquaculture and to the VMD in relation to the use and availability of medicines for farmed fish.

"Without Iain's work, and the way in which he does it, the work of Scotland's salmon vets would undoubtedly have been harder. He has dealt incredibly competently with many issues which would have diverted us from the very important focus on the daily care of farmed fish."



## Presentation of Honorary Associateship

### **James Ferrie** *DipWCF FWCF*

James Ferrie has been the farrier for the University of Glasgow's School of Veterinary Medicine for some 50 years, helping to train generations of equine vets, providing lectures and practical workshops to students, contributing to books and scientific papers, and working with vets to maximise treatment outcomes and welfare.

Jim gained his first formal farriery qualification, Dip WCF with honours in 1977 and had achieved the highest qualification, FWCF, by 1982. He then became a Worshipful Company of Farriers Liveryman and examiner in 1986, only retiring from examining in 2022. Along with his brother, Allan Ferrie FWCF, they operated a large Farriery Practice from their forge in Ayrshire for 34 years. They trained a total of 32 apprentices and at the peak of their business, they had the responsibility of the hoofcare for over 2,500 horses routinely, specialising in draught horses and therapeutic shoeing.

Jim has travelled the world competing in and judging farriery competitions and also giving clinics and lectures. He competed many times at the highest level, including the World Championships in Calgary, the Royal Show in Stoneleigh, the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh and at the American Farriers Convention, winning classes and placing at them all. Over the years, he has spoken to thousands of farriers, vets, equine specialists, horse owners and riders at conventions, trade fairs, clinics and universities.

His nominator is Patrick Pollock FRCVS, Professor of Veterinary Surgery and Remote and Rural Medicine at both the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh and Director of the Glasgow Equine Hospital and Practice and Head of the Division of Equine Clinical Sciences at the University of Glasgow. He said: "It is not an exaggeration to say that no farrier has contributed more to equine welfare than Jim Ferrie. In 2024, it will be 50 years since Jim took over as the farrier at The University of Glasgow's School of Veterinary Medicine and, since then, he has shaped the careers of hundreds of veterinary surgeons, many who have gone on to greatly improve equine welfare.

"As well as providing a weekly specialist referral farriery service to the equine clinics at the University equine hospitals in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Jim has lectured across the globe to farriers, veterinary surgeons and horse owners and developed multiple novel approaches to equine foot problems and lameness, including an approach to foot imbalance, the most common cause of foot lameness in the world, that has been truly transformational in terms of the welfare of all types of equids."





## Presentation of the International Award

**Dr Nancy De Briyne** *FDVM, EBVS European Veterinary Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law*

Dr Nancy De Briyne has been Executive Director of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) since 2021, having worked at the organisation since 2000. FVE is the representative body for veterinary organisations from 38 different European countries, including the United Kingdom, and acts as a coordinating body, allowing veterinarians from across the continent to share best practice and knowledge.

Nancy studied veterinary medicine in Ghent (Belgium), graduating in 1996. After working as a veterinary practitioner in Belgium and the UK, she joined FVE. Her overall role within FVE is to follow the strategy, oversee operations, and ensure the organisation's goals and objectives are achieved. More specifically, she follows closely all dossiers in relation to veterinary medicines, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), animal welfare, and the status of the veterinary profession.

In respect to medicines, she has published papers on antimicrobials, antibiotic sensitivity testing and adverse events of medicines. She has been a member of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency representing the veterinary profession for six years (2016–2022).

Nancy is also a diplomate of the European College of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine, subspecialty Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, and is a member of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

Her nominator was Professor Stuart Reid FRCVS, a representative for UK veterinary education at FVE. He said: “Although her impact has been in several areas, it has been in her advocacy for responsible drug use that Nancy has been internationally outstanding. Antibiotic sales were notoriously high in the early 2000s, which created a reputational risk for the veterinary profession. Nancy worked hard to steer FVE in its role in the fight against AMR and has been the driving force behind innovative FVE initiatives to advocate for the responsible use of antimicrobials and decrease the use of antibiotics in animals. With support from FVE members, allied stakeholders and agencies, Nancy's tireless efforts were instrumental in initiatives that supported a significant shift in the trend of antibiotic sales, which have now nearly halved.

“Each successive FVE Strategy has included objectives and targets related to combating AMR, and each one has resulted in numerous evidence-led position papers, conferences and awareness campaigns, good practice documents, research activities, and scientific publications. While the initiatives themselves have been commendable, it is Nancy's can-do attitude that has truly set her apart.”





## Presentation of the International Award

### **Professor Susan Mbugua** *BVM MSc PhD*

Professor Mbugua is the founding member of the Kenya Small and Companion Animal Veterinary Association (KESCAVA), and before that the Kenya Women Veterinary Association (KWVA). Under her leadership of KWVA, the organisation developed an outreach program that educated women, especially in rural areas, on good animal husbandry, while her leadership of KESCAVA has seen it become a member of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association.



She graduated in veterinary medicine from the University of Nairobi (UON) in 1974; received an MSc from Colorado State University in 1976 and PhD in 1987 at the UON. She joined the Clinical Studies Department of the UON in 1976 where she taught small animal surgery to undergraduate and postgraduate students until 2019.

She has served as the secretary of the Kenya Veterinary Association (KVA), then, secretary and later, chairperson of the Kenya Veterinary Board (KVB). During her career she has participated in many committees undertaking policy reviews of the many aspects of veterinary practice in Kenya. She continues teaching by working with new graduates at St. Austin's Veterinary Clinic, a small animal veterinary clinic in Nairobi.

Her nominator, Dr Anita Patel FRCVS, a dermatology specialist who runs Veterinary Dermatology Referrals, said: "When she was the president of KESCAVA, she organised the members to get involved in neutering and vaccination programs. The members of the organisation have continued with the outreach program, not only delivering neutering, parasite control and rabies vaccinations but educating children and adults on how to care for animals and the importance of prophylactic treatments.

"Professor Mbugua has mentored and trained postgraduate students (both MSc and PhD) and continues to support undergraduate and postgraduate students. As the president of KESCAVA, she led the first official congress for the organisation in 2017.

"Professor Mbugua's leadership, reputation and vision makes her an excellent ambassador for the veterinary profession, especially in Africa. She understands the need to improve the welfare of animals and has the practical experience to achieve this goal. She understands diversity, the culture, and represents and appreciates the role women play in society. She is well known and respected by veterinarians in Kenya and neighbouring African countries. Her achievements in Kenya are being rolled out in other developing countries."





## Presentation of the Impact Award

### **Dr Eve Hanks** *BVM&S CertAVP(EM) PhD MRCVS*

Dr Eve Hanks is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of MI:RNA Diagnostics, and was nominated for the impact of her entrepreneurship and innovation on the world of veterinary diagnostics.

The diagnostic platform provides a new approach to diagnosis to allow tailored, personalised medicine. Eve and her team are working on solutions that will deliver the most impact by means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating a sustainable agricultural sector, protecting consumer safety, reducing the use of antibiotics and increasing welfare and longevity.

In her career, Eve spent 12 years in clinical practice working in farm, equine, mixed, small animal, emergency and, finally, telemedicine roles. She completed a CertAVP (EM) at The University of Liverpool and is currently studying towards an MBA with The Open University.

As CEO of MI:RNA - a fully remote company with team members across the globe - Eve speaks extensively at innovation and pitching events, investor events, CPD events, Animal Health summits and conferences. She also is keen to encourage more women into STEM as entrepreneurs and hopes to act as a role model for other veterinary surgeons looking to diversify and use their skills in novel ways. Eve sits on the Board of an exciting AMR company and is a mentor to several female entrepreneurs.

Her nominator is Dr Robert Coultous, Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of MI:RNA who also works as an Affiliate Researcher at the University of Glasgow Veterinary School. He said: "Eve has created a platform technology that diagnoses pre-clinical disease, and predicts progression and response to treatment.

"She has harnessed the power of microRNAs, small non-coding molecules regulating gene expression in health and disease. Her new approach to precision medicine analyses microRNA fingerprints with artificial intelligence and mathematical modelling.

"She is paving the way to a new diagnostics era, offering a genuinely scalable solution to early disease. Her innovation is affordable and offers tangible benefits to veterinary surgeons. It will help pets live longer lives, preserve and improve horses' sportive potential and welfare; while, on farm, it will reduce the use of antimicrobials, increase productivity to feed a growing population, improve animal welfare, strongly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect consumer safety."







## Presentation of the Impact Award

### **Mark Morton** *BVSc DSAS(Orth) MRCVS*

Mark Morton is the initiator and clinical lead for the Canine Cruciate Registry (CCR), a database which aims to improve outcomes for dogs with cranial cruciate ligament ruptures, one of the most common causes of lameness in dogs. The registry is run by RCVS Knowledge, the charity partner of the RCVS, and is working to build an evidence base in order to better understand which surgical techniques and implants improve patient outcomes.

An RCVS Specialist in Small Animal Orthopaedic Surgery, Mark graduated from the University of Liverpool, initially working in general practice in North Wales. He spent the next nine years at Davies Veterinary Specialists, completing a rotating internship followed by a residency in small animal orthopaedic surgery. He remained there as an orthopaedic surgeon before joining ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists in August 2016, where he was Clinical Director. During this time, he also spent three years as Quality Improvement Lead for CVS Referrals.

Mark was Education Co-Chair of the British Veterinary Orthopaedic Association and is now a director and orthopaedic surgeon at Movement Referrals, an orthopaedic and neurology referral centre in the north west. His research interests include common calcaneal tendon (Achilles tendon) injuries. He has developed and published a new surgical technique for these injuries using a new implant developed from a similar technique in people.

His nominator is Professor John Innes FRCVS, Director of Movement Referrals, in Cheshire and former Chair of the RCVS Fellowship. He said: “Mark has been exemplary in the way he has brought together a multi-disciplinary team to guide and steer the CCR. He has worked tirelessly to promote engagement with the CCR amongst UK vets through multiple presentations at meetings and on webinars. I am sure the RCVS Knowledge team would agree that he has given generously of his time, always with good humour, and excellent leadership skills. It is important to note that Mark has been eager, industrious and inclusive in working to open the CCR to all veterinary surgeons: GPs, Advanced Practitioners and Specialists.

“Mark has been a driving force in delivering the first published report from the CCR data, which was both professional and informative. RCVS Knowledge has now asked Mark to take up a wider volunteering role as the 'RCVS Knowledge Clinical Lead for Registries', recognising his leadership skills and expertise in this area, as well as how the model of the CCR platform could be adapted to registries for other chronic conditions.”





## Presentation of the Impact Award

### **Dr Thomas Jenkins** *MA VetMB MRCVS*

Dr Jenkins is CEO and co-founder of PetsApp, a veterinary engagement and communication platform that assists veterinary practices and their clients with a variety of tasks including appointment booking, reminders, payments and chat functions.

He started his career in China, where he was Chief Operating Officer of a group of veterinary clinics and in 2015, Thom completed the Executive Program for Growing Companies at Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

Returning to the UK at the end of 2016, he served as Chief Operating Officer of Village Vet with 30 clinic locations across the South-East of England, Non-Executive Director at Recruit4vets and inaugural Chair of the VetForum UK, USA and APAC events. He also sits on the advisory board of a software engineering and design consultancy based in London.

Thom regularly speaks on business management and innovation at conferences around the world, including VMX, WVC, New York Vet Show, London Vet Show, Veterinary Innovation Summit, BVA Live, Wild West Vet, BSAVA, Pharmacy Forum, YLD Innovate, SPVS Congress, Fetch Kansas City and Web Summit. He is particularly passionate about how local veterinary clinics can maintain their position at the heart of the pet care journey and resist disruption by providing the best of online and offline touchpoints in advocating for pets.

His nominator is Dr Jessica May MRCVS, Customer Success Team Lead at PetsApp. She said: “Thom is a visionary. He will continue to inspire the professions and many people beyond, too. Whether it is finding even more ways to galvanise clinic teams to serve pets more efficiently and effectively, or delighting owners with their customer experiences, or attracting talent from other industries. He strives for progress every day and is never content with ‘business as usual’.

“Thom has a true growth mindset, which is coupled with deep understanding and compassion. His energy and motivation are contagious. Thom uses highly scientific methodology in his business process; yesterday’s successes are fertile grounds for reflection and testing new hypotheses. This rigour is strongly appreciated by veterinary professionals.”





## Presentation of the Inspiration Award

### **Alexandra (Alex) Taylor** *RVN*

Alex is currently the Cat Wellbeing and Behaviour Advisor for International Cat Care, where she plays a global role in educating cat owners, veterinary teams and all those who work with cats about how to optimise the care and welfare of cats.

Alex qualified as a veterinary nurse in 1997, training in a busy hospital in East London. She has worked in first-opinion, mixed and referral small animal practice. In 2010, she completed the feline nursing certificate from the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM) and then later went on to complete the ISFM diploma and advanced certificate in feline behaviour. In 2023, she passed the advanced diploma in applied animal behaviour (feline) level 5 and is currently studying towards gaining the ABT (Animal Behaviour Technician) qualification.

In addition to her work at International Cat Care, Alex also works as a self-employed lecturer and writer on feline nursing, behaviour and wellbeing and travels throughout the UK to educate veterinary professionals about how to be more cat friendly. Alex is a member of the International Cat Care Feline Wellbeing Panel and has provided information about feline wellbeing to cat caregivers through her social media platforms under the name 'The Cat Nurse' since 2015.

Alex was a member of the BVNA Council from 2018-2023 and was the BVNA President from 2021-2022. During her time on BVNA Council Alex participated in several campaigns, including the chronic illness, menopause and protect the title campaigns.

Her nominator was Louise Northway RVN, Clinical Lead VN at Wendover Heights Veterinary Centre and Quality Improvement Lead at RCVS Knowledge, who said: "Alex has been invited to speak internationally, and her lectures are always very well received. She is probably the most 'well known' feline RVN in our industry and that is a result of years of hard work. She has written dozens of peer-reviewed articles and blogs, recorded podcasts and contributed to feline nursing textbooks.

"She delivers in-house team training as well as taking part in webinars, and really works to educate as far and wide as she can. Her influence is so positive because she is authentic, strong and kind. She is 'the nurse' you would want to work with. She guides and supports you with your knowledge, and I'm sure thousands of nurses are no longer scruffing cats as a result of her educational articles and lectures!"





## Presentation of the Compassion Award

### **Timothy (Tim) Sandys** *BVSc MRCVS*

Tim Sandys is the founder of the Gloucester branch of StreetVet, a charity in which vets and veterinary nurses offer free essential veterinary services to the pets of people experiencing homelessness and he continues to be the branch's team leader.

Tim started working in mixed practice in North Somerset, the day after graduating from Bristol Veterinary School in 2001. In 2003, he and his wife moved to Gloucestershire and he began working in small animal first-opinion practice. Over the following 20 years, Tim developed a keen interest in general medicine, soft tissue surgery and feisty cats.

Tim has been interested in voluntary work since a summer break in 1998 when he raised money to volunteer with a charity helping support street kids and build part of an orphanage in Bolivia. This experience opened his eyes to the desperate challenges many people experience. The seen and the unseen. The oppressed and the abandoned. Years of subsequent volunteering to help people in any way he could in the UK have included Saturdays as a vet student helping adults with learning disabilities, church-based youth work, primary school classroom reading support, a year as a full-time dad and helping out at the parent and toddler group he took his kids to and later vice-chairing his local school PTA.

When attending his first London Vet Show in 2018, he walked past a stand and heard about StreetVet, a charity of volunteer vets and vet nurses providing free, accessible vet care to the pets of people experiencing homelessness. He now dedicates his time to StreetVetting locally (volunteering as Gloucester team lead and vet) and nationally.

His nominator, and fellow StreetVet volunteer Clifford Alderman MRCVS, said: "Tim is a self-effacing non-judgmental human being who always goes that extra mile to help both people and their animals. He is a magnificent member and representative of the veterinary profession and is an effective leader, an inspiration to those who work with him, and a good friend to many of his charges. He has been the recipient of the Dean Lester Coleman StreetVet Vet Volunteer of the Year Award and has supported so many of the homeless community in Gloucester.

"One outstanding success is convincing local hostels to accept dogs inside with their owners, especially during Covid 19 and lockdowns, because his guidance and efforts convinced the authorities that the pets were vaccinated, treated for parasites and generally well looked after. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this award for the constant effort and endeavour he shows and he is an outstanding credit to his profession."





# Presentation of RCVS Knowledge Awards

## Plowright Prize

**The Plowright Prize is awarded biennially by our charity partner, RCVS Knowledge. This £100,000 award is generously funded by the estate of Walter Plowright – the veterinary scientist whose development of a vaccine against rinderpest provided the key to eliminating the disease.**

**The Prize recognises an individual working in Europe or the Commonwealth who has made a significant impact on the control, management, and eradication of infectious diseases of animals.**

The 2024 Prize is awarded to **Professor Fiona Tomley** CBE, PhD, DVM (Honorary), microbiologist, poultry health specialist, and Professor of Experimental Parasitology at the Royal Veterinary College, for outstanding contribution to the reduction of infectious diseases in poultry.



In an impactful career spanning four decades, Fiona's research has involved basic science discovery, technological advances, industrial collaboration, international research leadership, and knowledge exchange.

Fiona has contributed substantially to the understanding and control of viral and parasitic pathogens of poultry and is renowned internationally for her work on *Eimeria* species that cause coccidiosis in chickens.

As Director of the One Health Poultry Hub Global Challenges Research Fund, Fiona has exhibited exemplary research leadership on a global scale. She has forged cross-sector collaboration to address the challenge of achieving sustainable intensification of chicken meat and egg production while reducing risks to human and animal health.

Fiona will use the Prize to set up a global mentoring network. This will assist veterinary infectious disease researchers who are at the beginning of their careers or who do not have access to support. She is particularly interested in supporting researchers from low- and middle-income countries, where many pathogens that pose a threat to animal and public health are endemic.



# RCVS Knowledge Awards for Quality Improvement



**The RCVS Knowledge Awards for Quality Improvement showcase the implementation of recognised Quality Improvement (QI) techniques that drive improvement within the profession and lead to better outcomes, better care, and better learning.**

## **Yorkshire Vets**

Around 95% of volatile agents such as isoflurane and sevoflurane are eliminated through exhalation into the environment, and these gases can have a detrimental greenhouse gas effect. Yorkshire Vets audited their fresh gas flow rates and used QI techniques to reduce their oxygen use by almost 10,000 litres. They also reduced their volatile anaesthetic use by 1 litre. This carbon footprint reduction is equivalent to driving from London to Rome and back.

## **White Lodge Veterinary Surgery**

White Lodge Veterinary Surgery used QI techniques for the welfare and comfort of their canine and feline patients. They used audit and pain scoring to identify areas to improve pain relief for their bitch spay patients. The team were able to improve their pain management protocols, reducing the number of dogs needing rescue analgesia to just 10%. This project has had a significant impact on the wellbeing of their patients and the morale and enthusiasm of their team.

## **Hub Clinical Leadership Team at CVS**

Hub Clinical Leadership Team at CVS used QI techniques to increase blood pressure monitoring for early diagnosis and treatment of hypertension in cats. By developing a supportive framework for teams, they increased blood pressure monitoring by 110%, resulting in 22% more patients receiving the treatment they needed. They were also able to build clinician confidence, empower their nursing team, improve their equipment levels, and improve their client communication.



## RCVS Knowledge Awards for Antimicrobial Stewardship

The RCVS Knowledge Awards for Antimicrobial Stewardship showcase practical examples where individuals and teams are improving responsible antimicrobial prescribing using recognised Quality Improvement methods.



**Antimicrobial resistance is one of the biggest threats that we face today. If antimicrobials are not used responsibly, common conditions will become life-threatening to both people and animals worldwide.**

### South 4 Region, CVS (UK) Ltd

The nine small animal first-opinion practices of the South 4 small animal division challenged their routine use of cefovecin, a third-generation Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotic, for treating bite wounds and superficial skin infections in cats. Using Quality Improvement techniques, and a combination of evidence-based veterinary medicine, group discussions, case reflections, testimonials and changing ordering processes, the South 4 region reduced cefovecin use by over 70%. They also reduced the overall systemic use of Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobials by more than 60%.

### About RCVS Knowledge

RCVS Knowledge is an independent charity sitting at the heart of the veterinary professions with a mission to advance the quality of care for the benefit of animals, the public and society. RCVS Knowledge is the charity partner of the RCVS.



## Guest Speaker

**Professor Susan Jebb** *OBE PhD FRCP (Hon) FMedSci*  
Chair of the Food Standards Agency

*'The Role of Vets in the Food System – a view from the Food Standards Agency'*



Professor Susan Jebb has been Chair of the Food Standards Agency since 2021. She is one of the UK's leading scientists, a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Her recent research has focused on the treatment of obesity and interventions to encourage healthy and sustainable diets.

Susan has a long-standing interest in the translation of scientific evidence into policy. She was the Science Advisor to the Government Office for Science Foresight report on obesity in 2007 and an advisor to Henry Dimbleby's National Food Strategy (2020-2021).

She has previously chaired the cross-government expert advisory group on obesity (2007–2011), the Department of Health responsibility deal food network (2011–2015) and public health advisory committees for the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2013-2018). She was awarded an OBE in 2008 for services to public health.

Susan continues to hold a part-time appointment at the University of Oxford as Professor of Diet and Population Health.





## Farewell to RCVS Registrar Eleanor Ferguson

This Royal College Day will also see us bidding a fond farewell to Eleanor Ferguson, our Registrar and Director of Legal Services and a stalwart of the RCVS, who retires after 20 years of service with the College.

Eleanor joined the RCVS in July 2004 when she was brought in to spearhead the development and launch of the pioneering Practice Standards Scheme (PSS). She subsequently took on the role of Disciplinary Solicitor and then Head of Professional Conduct, before becoming Registrar and Director of Legal Services in 2016.

In this role she has had a very wide range of responsibilities. As Registrar she is responsible, among other things, for keeping and publishing the Registers of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, acting as the Returning Officer for RCVS Council and VN Council elections, maintaining the various mechanisms by which veterinary professionals can join or leave the Register, and overseeing all registration appeals.

As Director of Legal Services, Eleanor has acted as our most senior legal counsel, which has involved guiding RCVS Council on legal matters, ensuring that RCVS processes reflect regulatory best practice, having responsibility for data protection and leading the Professional Conduct team.

She has served in this expansive and sometimes challenging role with aplomb, and is greatly respected within and outwith the organisation for her integrity, her probity, her kindness, her leadership, her in-depth knowledge and her perennially interesting turns of phrase.

In addition to the launch of PSS, Eleanor's achievements during her 20 years at the College include developing and implementing the Health and Performance Protocols, establishing the Veterinary Client Mediation Service with Nockolds Solicitors, and doing much to modernise the College's concerns investigation process.

Eleanor's retirement was announced by RCVS CEO Lizzie Lockett at RCVS Council on Thursday 14 March 2024, where she received a standing ovation from the Council members who were present for her contribution both to the profession and the organisation.

We wish Eleanor all the very best for her retirement and will miss her greatly.





## The Venue

The headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), at 66 Portland Place, London, was designed in the Art Deco style by the architect George Grey Wornum (1888-1957), after he won a competition to design the new building in the early 1930s. The building was officially opened by King George V and Queen Mary on 8 November 1934.

Successfully combining both Classical and Modernist elements, some of Wornum's inspiration for his design came from Ragnar Östberg's Stockholm Town Hall and Gunnar Asplund's Stockholm City Library. He also worked on the interiors of the Cunard ship HMS Queen Elizabeth and the redesign of Parliament Square, London.

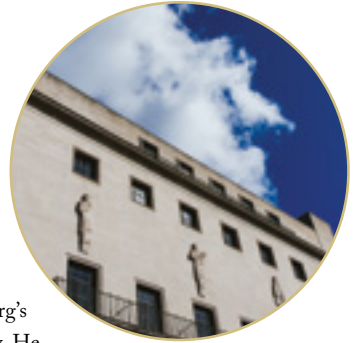
Built in two phases – the first completed in 1934 in time for RIBA's centenary, and the second in 1958 after Wornum's death, his wife Myriam adding a further two floors to Wornum's plans.

Wornum worked with a range of artists and craftsmen to create the decoration in the interiors and on the façade. Many of these details carry symbolic significance, for example, on the fourth floor are six glass panels representing the great periods of architecture, whilst the main entrance is flanked by two bronze doors depicting 'London's river and its buildings'.

The Jarvis Auditorium, where today's formal proceedings are taking place, has floor-to-ceiling wooden panelling and a 'disappearing wall' depicting the first International Architectural Forum, which took place around 100 years ago.

The Florence Hall, where you will be able to enjoy coffee and lunch, is one of the largest rooms and was designed for major events, such as banquets and examinations. It has floor-to-ceiling windows and etched glass doors, and is surrounded by carved limestone walls.

In 1970 the building was Grade II\* listed, one of the first 'modern' buildings to be listed, an event that seemed to surprise some architects and those in the RIBA itself, but which recognised its unique architectural qualities.







**#RoyalCollegeDay**