



# CSCT 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

While 2020 wasn't exactly a "normal" year, we wanted to highlight the achievements of the CSCT and its amazing members in this infographic. Welcome to the bright side of 2020!

January  
February  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December

The year started off with a host of exciting changes and developments. The CSCT evolved from 'Centre for Sustainable and Chemical Technologies' to 'Centre for Sustainable and Circular Technologies', and the new name brought with it a breadth of new research and people, including [Marcelle McManus](#), LCA expert and new Centre Co-Director. Research within the Centre was pushing hugely important discussions to the forefront, like the [sustainability of palm oil](#) in the face of alternatives not yet being commercially viable.

## NEW BEGINNINGS



The University also established a collaboration with A\*STAR in Singapore in [sustainable food technologies](#). The collaboration is being led by CSCT academic Dr. Marianne Ellis.



In late March, the CSCT and its members quickly adapted their work to the online world. The Centre led a [multi-disciplinary sandpit](#) aimed at generating innovative research questions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

While we couldn't socialise as we normally would, we still found time to (virtually) see each other via regular pub quizzes. We also brought back the Centre's [Limerick and Haiku competition](#), which saw some very creative entries as well as one participant (or Poet Laureate) who couldn't stop entering submissions!

## ZOOMING ALONG...



Summer rolled along very quickly and brought many memorable events. We were key participants in the [Chemical Sciences and Society \(CS3\) report](#), which draws a masterplan for creating a circular economy for plastics. Our members excelled at the University's [3MT competition](#), having to explain their complex research projects quickly and clearly.

## SUMMER FUN!



As students began to return to their labs and work on their exciting projects, the CSCT welcomed Professor John Warner as [new Global Chair](#) for 2020/2021. Among other things, John would contribute to the CSCT's work by delivering a series of fascinating [monthly webinars](#) on green chemistry.

We also got to hear from our researchers about what they got up to during the lockdown period and their experiences during this unique year. With a variety of home-based activities from Japanese to juggling, it was great to hear from other CSCT members during this time.



## ROCKIN' AROUND THE CSCTREE...

2020 didn't stop us from having some fresh faces at the CSCT, and in September we welcomed a new cohort of 13 PhD students who embarked on some exciting sustainability projects.

The new members were given a truly 2020 welcome in the form of a virtual pub quiz!

After having received funding from UKRI and Ocean Sky Ventures in 2019, Naturbeads, a CSCT spin-out company, was awarded another grant by InnovateUK to continue developing their [cellulose-based biodegradable alternatives to plastic microbeads](#).

On the lead up to the Christmas break, also announced two exciting new collaborations: one with the University of Plymouth to [examine the environmental impacts of biodegradable plastics](#), and another one with industry to allow [mixtures of plastics to be recycled together](#).

The winter period also brought us our first-ever online Showcase, a student-led yearly conference with some fantastic speakers and posters.

We brought 2020 to a close asking our researchers to flex their creative muscles by redesigning the CSCT logo, adapting it to the festive season.

## 2020 IN NUMBERS



13 new PhD students

50+ papers published

including



breakthrough research in areas such as: making new bio-based polymers from sugars (1), new methods to understand polymerisation as it happens (2), sustainable processes to make bioplastic building blocks from plants (3) (4), and a study on the sustainability of palm oil replacements (5).



41 new collaborations with SMEs, startups and spinouts

through STBAH, our business acceleration hub



Too many online meetings



Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council



Centre for Sustainable & Circular Technologies



UNIVERSITY OF BATH