Space duo's work is shortlisted for 'Arthurs' awards

A passion for space has led to two university researchers being nominated for honours, Melanie Hall finds out more.

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The Sir Arthur Clarke Awards, or 'Arthurs', named after Arthur C. Clarke, the science fiction author and winner of 2001: A Space Odyssey, recognise achievements in space.

Chris is a PhD student at the university's Surrey Space Centre, has been nominated for the Space Student Achievement Award for promoting the study of space at universities. In his spare time Chris works with UK students for the Exploration and Development of Space (UKSEDS), a national society promoting space in schools and universities across the country.

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"The conference would not be possible without the hard work of the society and I got great satisfaction in being able to share my own personal enthusiasm for space with other students through organising this event," he said.

Dr Craig Underwood, deputy director of the Surrey Space Centre, said: "It's excellent that Lloyd and Chris have been nominated for the Sir Arthur Clarke awards, demonstrating the university's ongoing commitment to excellence in space systems and communications research, and the wider benefits of space education."

Previous winners of the Sir Arthur Clarke award from the University of Surrey include Sir Martin Sweeting, who pioneered the use of small satellites in space, Sir Martin founded and heads SSTL, which was spun out from the university and sold to EADS Astrium in 2009.

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The winners will be announced next month.

Chris Brundill and Dr Lloyd Wood have been shortlisted for the space industry equivalent of the Oscars. (Ref: SA113107a)

'Surrey's heat up mode: The heat is on!!'

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A jazz player who gave up her computer career to focus on her music has launched a series of sell-out concerts.

Marianne Windham gave up her job as the director of a software consultancy company to pursue her calling as a double bass player.

Her labour of love began almost by accident, when she fell into playing bass and jazz from a background of playing classical cello.

"Given the demand of everything else in life, I was to think about it, I was up with Andy Moore, owner of the Farmhouse Cavern, a music venue attached to the Freeholders pub. The success of the concerts has been staggering, she added but she was not getting complacent yet."

"I do a lot of work, and it becomes very consuming. I practise three or four hours a day by myself and then with others for three hours and then I do gigs in the evening."

"You can achieve a lot by being quite positive and energetic.

"The Cavern is a really nice venue and the audience is really nice too. I play all around the country and it's wonderful to do that."

The next season will be on July 13, featuring top trumpeter player Henry Lethbridge, who has been playing to wide acclaim on the British jazz scene for decades.

Marianne, who moved to Guildford to study physics at university and has lived in Otford Village ever since, said she was in the process of booking up artists for the next season, which begins on September 14.

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