

WAR IN UKRAINE: ONE YEAR ON

To commemorate the one-year anniversary since Russia invaded the Ukraine, we held a vigil in our University Chapel which, alongside students and staff, was joined by members of the Ukrainian community living in the Canterbury area.

Over the past year, the University has been proud to support the humanitarian response to the invasion, led by our Ukraine Task Force, and we continue to work closely with Canterbury City Council, the University of Kent, and local schools and colleges to ensure a co-ordinated approach to providing support.

Since March 2022, we've provided English classes for just under 200 Ukrainian people in the area, typically six hours of classes a week, at five different languages levels. We have provided accommodation for Ukrainian families, and offered mental health support and CV and employability services. We've also welcomed people from Ukraine into our staff community.

Staff and students across the University have also supported the humanitarian response to donate essential items including blankets, clothing and nappies, and raise funds.

In May 2022, we hosted a major community event – Canterbury Stands with Ukraine - in Augustine House, which brought together VIPs, city dignitaries, the general public and a wide range of charities and volunteer organisations.

We have also worked with Universities UK and the Council for At Risk Academics to support Ukrainian academics and students directly, and in June 2022 our University twinned with Open International University of Human Development (OUHD) in Kyiv. The Universities UK twinning project aims



to offer support to academics, students and university leaders in Ukraine during the conflict, and to facilitate long-term collaboration between UK and Ukrainian institutions, support their recovery, and rebuild for a sustainable future.

This is part of our wider work to support displaced academics and students from other countries due to war and other humanitarian crises, in collaboration with national and international organisations including CARA (Council at Risk for Academics), Universities UK, and Million Plus.

Spring greens



We celebrated all things green and sustainable at our Spring Festival this year! Organised by second year Event Management students, we hosted stalls from local traders who use fairtrade and sustainable practices, including Monkey and Bear (handmade accessories and clothes brand), Ollogli vegan skincare, campus regular The Refillable Van, HatHats reusable coffee cups, Canterbury Wholefoods, and many more.

All of the event organisation was also sustainable, and the festival aimed to raise awareness of our sustainable campus, crafts and wellbeing, the effect of climate change and single-use plastic on our planet, and Fairtrade and food recycling.

INSPIRING THE HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS OF TOMORROW

Local children from across Kent enjoyed a day of messy but educational fun on our campus this spring, getting hands-on experience of what it's like to work as an allied health professional. The practical sessions gave Year 5 pupils the chance to delve their hands into jelly to find plastic organs, balance as part of physio exercise, and practice their suturing skills on vegan bacon.

The day was organised as part of the Kent Schools Project, a pilot project aimed at inspiring the next generation of allied health professionals. The project brings together NHS Kent and Medway Allied Health Professional Faculty, the Golden Thread Alliance, and Canterbury Christ Church University.

Karen Amber, NHS Kent and Medway's Allied Health Professional Faculty Lead, said: "The Kent Schools Project is designed to inspire primary school children to think of future careers in the allied health professions. We want to highlight these jobs to younger children, who often just think 'doctor' or 'nurse' when they think of jobs in healthcare."



Public Lectures



We were thrilled to be joined by comedian, writer and bibliophile Robin Ince for our latest Public Lecture. Robin's lecture was on Weapons of Empathy, where he explored how books can give us unique insights into people minds, helping us understand one another better and act with greater empathy. He also treated us to jokes, impressions and poetry.

Listen to Robin's lecture on our podcasts at canterbury.ac.uk/public-lectures

You can also sign up to our mailing list to be the first to find out about our upcoming speakers.

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Each university has a Community Liaison contact who can advise on a number of community projects, opportunities or issues.

Canterbury Christ Church University
e: community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk
or t: 01227 925367

University of Kent

e: communityliaison@kent.ac.uk
or t: 01227 816156

The universities take the concerns of our neighbours very seriously. If local residents experience anti-social behaviour and believe our students are involved, there are places you can go to complain and get help.

Police

Call 101 to report non-emergency incidents and 999 for emergencies.

Canterbury City Council's Refuse and Recycling Services

For all recycling enquiries and to report missed bin collections go to canterbury.gov.uk/waste

Canterbury City Council's Environmental Health Team

To report a problem with noise, neighbours or nuisance, e: envhealth@canterbury.gov.uk or t: 01227 862202

Parking Enforcement

To report a problem with parking, e: parking.enforcement@canterbury.gov.uk or t: 01227 862429

If you encounter an obstruction or other endorsable offences, please telephone the police on 101.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have any questions or comments about the University, or if there is something you would like us to feature in a future issue of Community Matters, please email community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk

For an electronic version of the newsletter and further information, visit canterbury.ac.uk/community

Moving Out

Working with Canterbury City Council, the universities are planning ahead to help our students prepare to leave their local homes. We appreciate that when moving out additional waste can be generated and we will be delivering messages to our students on how to leave Canterbury clean and ensure a smooth transition throughout the moving out period.

What we are doing to support moving out:

- Working with Canterbury City Council to ensure excess rubbish is reported and information on bin days, bulky waste and recycling is readily available.
- Our student leaders at the Students' Union are teaming up with the British Heart Foundation for departing students to donate items they don't plan to take with them.
- Taking a partnership approach to inform high-density student areas on moving out, donating to local foodbanks, and student litter picks.

If Canterbury Christ Church students have any concerns about moving out, going back home, worries about getting their deposit back, or need advice about tenancy agreements they can speak to our Student Support and Wellbeing Advisors on 01227 922675 or the Students' Union Advice Centre on 01227 922272.

For information on what goes in what bin, bin collection days, getting rid of bulky waste and reporting fly-tipping, visit canterbury.gov.uk/bins-and-waste

For local residents who would like to report any concerns, get in touch with the Community Liaison Manager on 01227 925367 or email community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk

Celebrating our Good Student Neighbours

If your departing students next door have been brilliant neighbours throughout the year, we would love for you to let us know! We want to hear about:

- Kind and respectful behaviour in the community
- Students who have been helpful and supportive neighbours
- Students who have made a positive impact on their local community

Tell us your Good Neighbour stories by emailing community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



At our January graduations we were thrilled to award local Lioness Alessia Russo with an Honorary Doctorate, recognising her amazing sporting achievements, as well as her role in raising awareness and creating a legacy for women's sports in the UK and around the world.



the same day. In this unique event, Samuel and Kyran Broadhurst both graduated with Master's degrees, while Catherine Broadhurst was awarded a BA Hons – congratulations to the Broadhursts!

Our next graduations will take place on Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 September, at Canterbury Cathedral. We can't wait to celebrate with our new set of graduates!

We were also honoured to have three members of the same family graduate on

Community matters

May / 2023

Canterbury Christ Church University

Verena Holmes STEM Building and Kent and Medway Medical School officially opened by The Duchess of Edinburgh

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh officially opened our new Verena Holmes Building at a special ceremony this spring.

Alongside Vice-Chancellor Professor Rama Thirunamachandran, dignitaries, and invited guests, The Duchess of Edinburgh was taken on a tour of the building, exploring our new industry-leading STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine) facilities and interdisciplinary spaces. One of the largest STEM education facilities in the south east, the Verena Holmes Building is named after one of the country's most pioneering female engineers, reflecting our ambition to increase diversity and widen opportunities in STEM education and careers.

It is also the home of the Kent and Medway Medical School, an exciting collaboration with the University of Kent and the first medical school in Kent and Medway, that builds on existing high-quality clinical teaching and research strengths of both institutions. As an innovative centre for patient-focused medical education and research, talented aspiring doctors are trained from local communities and beyond,



to transform the future of healthcare in the Kent and Medway region, in partnership with the NHS.

The Duchess of Edinburgh met staff and students in our new engineering labs, sports science facilities, and health simulation suites, before unveiling the ceremonial plaque to mark the official naming of the Verena Holmes Building. This was followed

by a blessing from The Rt Revd Rose Hudson Wilkin, Bishop of Dover. The Duchess of Edinburgh also visited our Tree of Trees sapling, a gift from the late Queen Elizabeth II as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, which is now planted on campus.

We were honoured to welcome The Duchess of Edinburgh to our campus and share our exciting ambitions for the future.

Giving back to our community

This year marks the 22nd year of Student Volunteering Week, a week where we celebrate students who are committed to making impactful and positive contributions to local communities. In 2022, our students logged more than 1,030 volunteer hours, giving their time to 78 charities and organisations in Kent and Medway.

Our students have committed their time and expertise across a diverse range of local causes, including FareShare, an organization fighting hunger in Ashford, SATEDA in

Sittingbourne which supports victims of domestic violence, English Heritage sites at Walmer Castle, Dover Castle, Deal Castle, and Richborough Roman Fort

and Amphitheatre, and an exciting new partnership with Canterbury Cathedral which will see students working with the Visits and Welcome team.

Volunteering is a key part of our values as a civic university, and we're proud to celebrate our students who are serving their communities and making a tangible

Cost of living

The current cost of living crisis is affecting us all, and students are among the most financially vulnerable. We're working in partnership with the Students' Union to support our community in weathering these difficult times. We've created a dedicated Cost of Living Hub, which provides access to support, advice and resources to help money go further, as well as introducing new initiatives to bring our community together and support one another, including new warm hubs, free soup and hot drinks, and much more.

Find out about our full cost of living support at canterbury.ac.uk/cost-of-living

Transforming Futures

This spring we launched our new Futures initiative, connecting our community of students, alumni, local businesses and supporters to create opportunities, raise aspirations, and transform lives. Futures is designed to ensure that every student has the confidence and support they need to achieve their best and define their own futures – and we need your help.

Futures Scholarships: Right now, students are facing unprecedented financial pressures, and these soaring costs can be a real barrier to coming to university and completing their studies – could you help by supporting one of our Futures Scholarships?

Futures Partners: Are you interested in using your talent, experience, and knowledge to make a true difference to a student's future? Whatever your expertise or however much time you're able to offer, we'd love to hear from you. You could be one of our Futures Mentors, provide work experience, be a guest speaker, or simply share your story to inspire others.

Get involved at canterbury.ac.uk/futures



A GIFT FOR GENERATIONS



L-R: Judith Armit (Pro-Chancellor and Chair of the Governing Body), Professor Rama Thirunamachandran (Vice-Chancellor), His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, The Lady Colgrain, Dan Bichener (Students' Union President) and Inés Abella Romero (President Community, Diversity and Inclusion)

We were deeply honoured to have been gifted one of the special saplings that formed part of the Queen's Jubilee sculpture, the *Tree of Trees*.

Set in silver pots embossed with Her Majesty's cypher, the trees are being given to selected community groups and organisations in recognition of their positive impact within their communities, to celebrate their work, and inspire the next generation of tree planters across the nation.

The *Tree of Trees* stood outside Buckingham Palace in June 2022 to mark the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, and was the first in a chain of 1,500 beacons lit across the UK and Commonwealth countries.

The sculpture was also part of the Platinum Jubilee project *The Queen's Green Canopy* which invited people from across the UK to 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee', creating a legacy in honour of Her Majesty's leadership of the nation and benefiting future generations.

The tree has been planted on campus where it will now grow in pride of place.

CANTERBURY AWARDED THE PURPLE FLAG FOR 11TH YEAR

Canterbury has once again received the prestigious Purple Flag award for its evening and night-time economy.

The Purple Flag is awarded by the Association of City and Town Management (ACTM) to town and city centres that offer a high standard of safety, entertainment and variety of offers to people enjoying a night out. The Purple Flag recognises locations that meet or surpass standards of excellence in managing the evening and night-time economy.

The accreditation campaign in Canterbury is chaired by Canterbury BID. In collaboration with Canterbury BID and other community partners, we're actively supporting street safety through initiatives such as Street Marshals, Safe Taxis scheme, Connected Routes, regular Safety Hubs, and our SafeZone student app.

Find out more at canterbury.ac.uk/safety

CREATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY



We're working hard to build a truly inclusive community, encompassing all identities from race and ethnicity to gender and sexuality, and the intersections between.

As part of our ongoing work on anti-racism, we have been holding Anti-Racism Listen and Learn workshops, aiming to capture the voices of our community and create a collective vision for our University and what it means for us to be proactively anti-racist.

We also continue to celebrate Black voices and achievements with our year-round Black History 365 approach, recognising the vital contributions Black people make to society, engaging with Black history and stories, and working towards a better future. Find out more at canterbury.ac.uk/black-history-365

Our annual celebration of LGBT+ History Month was bigger and better than ever this year, beginning with raising the Intersex Inclusive flag. Multiple events took place across campuses, including a 'Behind the Lens' display at the Library, an LGBT+

History Month quiz, a pronoun badge making workshop, a film screening of 'God's Own Country', and the launch of Educate, Understand, Respect – a new student-led campaign about the importance of preferred pronouns.

The Educate, Understand, Respect campaign aims to increase the awareness and understanding of LGBTQA+ gender identities and the importance of respecting these through using someone's preferred pronouns. Making small changes in how we communicate with others can have a huge impact, and this campaign aims to create a non-judgemental community, where all individuals feel heard, included, respected and informed. To learn more about the community, or help support the campaign, please email hello@ccsu.co.uk

Using modern technology to uncover ancient history

One of our lecturers has used medical imaging equipment at our Verena Holmes Building to help to reveal the secrets of a 3000-year-old child's shoe.

The rare Bronze Age shoe, thought to belong to a two or three-year-old child, is potentially the oldest to be found in the UK, and at 15cm is also thought to be the smallest Bronze Age shoe found in the world.

It was discovered in a north Kent riverbed by archaeologist Steve Tomlinson as he was mudlarking last September with fellow archaeologist, Emily Brown, and has been carbon dated to 888-781BC, the Late Bronze

Age period. James Elliott, Senior Lecturer in Diagnostic Radiography at Canterbury Christ Church University, used an X-ray to discover that the underside of the sole is imprinted with a textile pattern, suggesting it had either been wrapped in or pressed against a piece of material for some time. Further examinations into the material, as well as DNA testing, could reveal more about the owner of the ancient shoe, as well as how it was made.



Steve Tomlinson with the Bronze Age shoe

Making Canterbury's streets safer



Along with key partners, we have been awarded a £589,042 boost towards making Canterbury safer for everyone.

The funding from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund has been received following a successful bid by the University and a range of partners, including Canterbury City Council, Kent Police, and Kent Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott.

The majority of the funding will be targeted towards preventing violence against women and girls, sexual harassment and misconduct, cracking down on anti-social behaviour, and preventing robberies, and will be used

to propose suitable sustainability plans for interventions and tackling perpetrators.

We will be leading on the research that will provide insights into the lived experiences of our community and how we can make our public spaces safer. This research will create a deeper understanding of the attitudes, beliefs, behaviours and practices of a range of communities, including students, residents and night-time economy professionals, which will inform the development of resources that raise awareness of such crimes, increase the level of support for victims and survivors, and work towards prevention and early intervention.

Join us on campus this summer for arts, theatre and more!

2023 BA EXHIBITION
Friday 26 May – Monday 12 June
Daphne Oram Building for Creative Arts

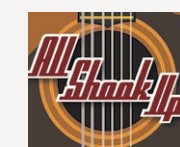
Students from across the University are showcasing their final degree show work in the Daphne Oram Building for Creative Arts, from Friday 26 May – Monday 12 June. The 2023 BA Exhibition will stretch across three floors and include projects from Photography and Graphic Design, interactive displays from Games Design, showreels and screenings from students in Film and Digital Media, and new works by Creative and Professional Writing students.

BA EXHIBITION COMMUNITY TEA PARTY
Thursday 8 June 15:00 – 17:30

We would like to invite you to a special reception of the exhibition on 8 June from 3-5:30pm. Enjoy an afternoon tea and join one of the tours of the building and all the exhibitions. Everyone is welcome! Book your free tickets at canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE ARTS AND INDUSTRIES ANNUAL SUMMER MUSICAL
Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 June
7.30pm daily + Saturday matinee at 2pm
Anselm Studio 1

All Shook Up



Inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley. It's 1955, and into a square little town in a square little state rides a guitar-playing roustabout who changes everything and everyone he meets. Taking inspiration from a selection of Shakespeare's comedies, this hip-swivelling, lip-curling musical will have you dancing in your blue suede shoes with such classics as 'Can't Help Falling in Love,' 'Heartbreak Hotel,' and 'Jailhouse Rock.'

Presented by
the Anselm Theatre Company

Directed by Lars Harald Maagero
Musical Direction by Phil Hornsey
Designed by James Frost

Performed and produced by
students from the School of Creative Arts and Industries.

Tickets are £8, with £5 concessions, and free for CCCU staff and students.

Get your tickets at canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture

MEDIEVAL PAGEANT AND TRAIL 2023
Saturday 1 July

We are proud to once again sponsor the Medieval Pageant and Trail, which is returning to Canterbury on Saturday 1 July. Our campus will be open as part of the Family Trail, and young people will be able to collect pilgrim stamps at the living history demonstration from Ost Centigas, who will recreate a living Medieval encampment, as well as making their own Medieval flags complete with animal heraldry.

To find out more, go to canterburybid.co.uk/canterbury-medieval-pageant



Photo: Canterbury Connected BID

A message from our new Community Liaison Manager

"My name is Josh Turner, the new Community Liaison Manager at Canterbury Christ Church University. I grew up between Canterbury and Whitstable, so I know what a brilliant and unique place this is – it's a privilege to be able to share my love of Canterbury with our student and staff community at Canterbury Christ Church. My focus is working collaboratively alongside our community to ensure that students are able to live, work and study in a safe and welcoming place. We're proud of our students' contributions in the local community, and the exciting opportunities, creativity and experience they bring to the area.

"We provide resources and run events throughout the year in line with our Good Neighbour Campaign, ensuring our students understand our expectations and their responsibilities when living in residential areas. We run campaigns at key points in the year alongside the Canterbury Safety Partnership, including Neighbourhood Days, our Moving Out Campaign, and a Housing Support Hub. We encourage our students to be kind and respectful neighbours, but in rare cases where there are issues, I am here to advise and support.

"We ask local residents to get in touch with any positive feedback or concerns to allow us to provide the best possible guidance and support to our students living in the city. We take all complaints seriously and work alongside our partners in the local council and police service for a joined-up response."

Contact Josh on community.liaison@canterbury.ac.uk

