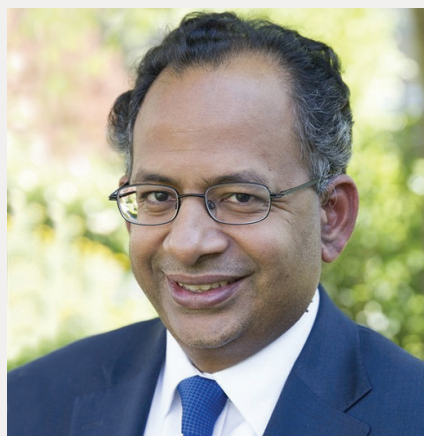


A message from the Vice-Chancellor: Welcoming a new academic year



We are really looking forward to the start of a new academic year and, along with the rest of society, are carefully opening up our campuses for our new and returning students.

In line with the government's relaxation of restrictions, our city campus in Canterbury

fully opened in September. We will continue to prioritise our University community's health and safety at all times, with a range of on-campus health and safety measures and encouraging our students to take up Covid-19 vaccinations. We also want to work closely with the local community to create a safe environment for our students, staff, neighbours and businesses, recognising we all have a role to play in protecting one another.

We are pleased to welcome the wider community onto our campus once again with arts and culture events planned over the next year. You can find out more about our Public Lectures and art exhibitions in this newsletter.

Our support for Canterbury's important cultural events continues this year, with our sponsorship of Pride Canterbury and Canterbury Festival. We are thrilled to play a role in helping these important community events thrive.

We are celebrating, too, with our Diamond Jubilee in 2022, marking 60 years of providing higher education for the community. It will be an opportunity to recognise the many thousands of graduates who are working in our communities, including healthcare professionals and teachers who have been on the frontline of many challenges over the last 18 months. It is also a chance to celebrate our connections across Kent and Medway and our contribution to life in the city.

As we open up once again, we look forward to building on our deep roots in the community and coming together again with our friends and neighbours.

I wish you all a healthy and happy autumn.

With best wishes,

Vice-Chancellor
Professor Rama Thirunamachandran

PUBLIC LECTURES 2021/22

We're excited to announce our new Public Lecture series for 2021/22, a thought-provoking, entertaining programme of free events that is open to all. This year, our speakers will include:

- Jo Brand: comedian, writer and actor
- Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM: UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE: Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge and previous Director of the National Trust
- Professor Dame Wendy Hall DBE FRS FRENG: one of the world's leading computer scientists and Chair of the Ada Lovelace Institute
- Dame Lynne Owens CBE QPM – Director General of the National Crime Agency.

Our 2021/22 series starts with Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM, on Tuesday 26 October 2021.

As the current UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton has a UK-wide remit to encourage good practice in the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of modern slavery offences and the identification of victims. She is a retired British police officer who was the first Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), the former Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and Vice President of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

For bookings and to find out more, go to canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture





Queen's Birthday Honours for our alumni and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Professor Helen James, our Deputy Vice-Chancellor, has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2021, for services to higher education. In particular, for championing women and diverse students into science and engineering, as well as helping those from disadvantaged backgrounds to access higher education.

As senior strategic and founding lead for the Kent and Medway Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise (EDGE) Hub, Professor James led the seven-year development of the recently opened £65 million Verena Holmes STEM building on the Canterbury Campus.

Professor Helen James said: "I am absolutely thrilled to receive this honour. Education genuinely transforms lives. It has been a dream come true to be able to lead the vision for the development of an inclusive STEM ecosystem for Kent and Medway. Thank you staff, students and communities."

Two of our alumni, Liam Preston and Casey Abbott, have also been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM).

Liam Preston, alumnus of BA (Hons) Film, Radio and Television Studies 2008 and

former Christ Church Students' Union President, receives his BEM for Services to Young People.

Currently YMCA's Head of Communications, Liam has made a huge voluntary contribution both to the British Youth Council, first as Trustee then Chair, and the UK Youth Parliament, campaigning for better policies for young people both in the UK and within Europe. Liam said: "Volunteering is hard work, involving hours of time often away from the family. But, having the Queen and country recognise you in this way is such an honour."

Casey Abbott, who graduated with a BSc (Hons) Business Studies in 2005, has been awarded a BEM for Services to Retail. Casey is currently Store Manager for Food Warehouse, successfully managing an outlet that won a company award for the best retail store in the south. In the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, Casey came up with the idea of priority opening to support the elderly and people in need – an approach which was then imitated by so many other stores around the country.

A safer city

We work with key organisations across Canterbury to help ensure that our students and neighbours can socialise safely in the city.

The Canterbury night-time economy has a prestigious Purple Flag award for providing a vibrant mix of entertainment while promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and local residents. To support this, Canterbury Christ Church University works in collaboration with the University of Kent, Kent Union, Christ Church Students' Union, Canterbury City Council, Kent Police, Canterbury BID, and other partners, to provide our students with a range of support.

This includes Street Marshals, who help students get home safely and patrol busy spots around town, and the *Safe Taxi* scheme, which provides direct access to registered taxis in an emergency without the need to pay the fare immediately.

Many night-time premises have joined *Zero Tolerance*, an accreditation scheme that indicates these establishments have zero tolerance to sexual harassment. We also run Pop Up Safety Hubs, which are set up to welcome new students to the city, provide local information and give advice on how to stay safe on a night out.

PUT YOUR PAWS TOGETHER FOR OLIVER

Oliver, our justice facility dog, has been named Assistance Animal of the Year at this year's national Animal Star Awards.

Oliver is the first facility dog in the world to be placed at a university for research purposes, and currently the only facility dog of his kind within the UK.

In 2020, Oliver began working with Victim Support Europe as part of a facility dog programme to support victims and

witnesses during legal proceedings across a number of European countries. The research is being used to help inform the development of the first Facility Dog Programme in Europe.

Oliver has also been supporting local paramedics throughout the pandemic by visiting the South East Coast Ambulance Service, providing them with comfort and support.





EXTRA LOCAL GROWTH FUNDING FOR EDGE HUB

Our innovative Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise (EDGE Hub) initiative, has been awarded £901,128 of Local Growth Funding by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP).

EDGE Hub (Engineering, Design, Growth and Enterprise) will strengthen the retention of high-quality graduate skills across critical science, engineering and technology sectors in the region. The hub also aims to increase diversity in Kent and Medway's workforce, with a strong focus on helping more

women and those from disadvantaged backgrounds into STEM careers.

SELEP Chair Christian Brodie, said: "As the UK begins its recovery from the pandemic, we need to ensure that we are fostering the right skills for our future economy, paving the way for boosting skills in the south east and attracting future inward investment into Kent and Medway."

The hub also will support entrepreneurial activity and be a catalyst for digital

transformation in Kent and Medway. EDGE Hub is projected to deliver an additional £7.6m to £11.4m into the regional economy each year, injecting 1,250 highly skilled Engineering and Technology graduates into the local economy by 2024.

Find out about EDGE Hub's work at canterbury.ac.uk/business/edge-hub



Increasing access to education with the Global Banking School

In a major new partnership with the Global Banking School, we now offer a four-year Business and Tourism Management degree with Foundation Year across the country. The course is validated by Christ Church and leads to a Christ Church award but is delivered by the Global Banking School (GBS), which specialises in a range of industry-focused courses offered across four locations in London, Manchester, and Birmingham.

Our students will study across these campuses outside Kent, helping us in our goal to lower barriers to entry and increase access to higher education. In 2021, over 1,500 new Christ Church students started their Business and Tourism Management degree via this new programme.

Professor Mohamed Abdel-Maguid, Pro Vice-Chancellor (STEM) and Dean of Science, Engineering and Social Sciences, said: "Our

relationship with GBS will see us operating on multi-entry calendars where we have intake points throughout the year, giving us more opportunities to support additional harder-to-reach students and communities."



Come out to play

As part of Canterbury Festival, our Games Design academics and students are hosting a day of digital art and video games at Westgate Hall. Play/Date is a new entry into Canterbury Festival's events programme, and is dedicated to digital games as an ever-evolving and expressive cultural form. Not the typical gaming expo, Play/Date aims to showcase the weird and wonderful, with a selection of student prototypes and indie games available to play, alongside an afternoon of talks from academics and games industry representatives, and an evening of music.

Play/Date is taking place on Sunday 24 October. Talks and games are from 3pm to 6pm, and music and games will run from 7:30pm to 11pm.

Open to all ages, but under 16s to be accompanied by an adult.

Book tickets at canterburyfestival.co.uk



THE STAGE IS SET!

We are delighted to be Canterbury Festival's Partner and Principal Sponsor for the 11th year.

Our staff and students will be involved in the Festival on stage, behind the scenes and online, with events taking place at Festival venues and on the University's Canterbury Campus. This year's programme explores music, history, visual arts and even games design – an exciting opportunity to explore our shared commitment to creativity, culture and community.

Back bigger and better than last year, Canterbury Festival 2021 promises a large programme that celebrates the joy of live performance, the heritage of our historic city and brings the people of east Kent together. Running from 16 – 30 October, the Festival will host an exciting array of artists, acts and activities – expect opera, folk, swing, classical, jazz, comedy, circus, theatre, science, cabaret, talks and fantastic family shows.

Book tickets at canterburyfestival.co.uk

A MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENTS UNION

Dan Bichener, our new Students' Union President, says:

"One of our main motivations as a team is creating strong, positive relationships between students and local residents. We are looking to continue the Good Neighbour Campaign, providing our students with information on what is considered good neighbourly behaviour. We would also like to create a housing accreditation scheme or a housing campaign, to help students look for the right housing in their community, offering advice on what to look for and where to go to find it.

"Sustainability will be another priority for us, from litter picking to looking after the gardens on the University's premises. Finally,

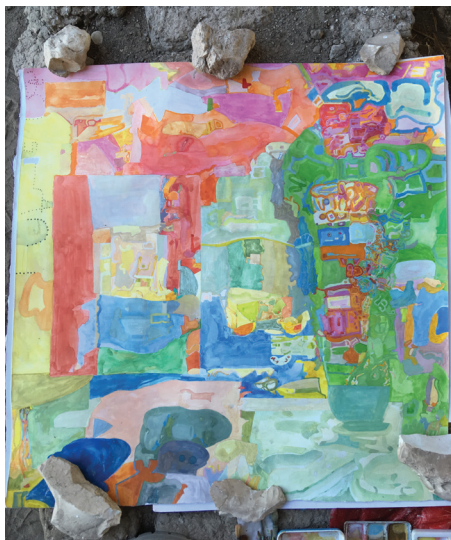
the big focus is the safety of our students and the way they are integrated back into the community after the difficult past year. We will continue to support safety initiatives in the city, helping to make sure students keep safe while out at night.

"This year, the Christ Church Students' Union sabbatical team consists of two returning and two new officers. Returning are Maddy Young, as President of Engagement and Sports and Beth Elwood, as President of Campaigns and Societies. Incoming are myself, Dan Bichener, as Union President, and Frankie McGregor, President of Community, Diversity and Inclusion.

"We are really looking forward to the year ahead!"



Art for the community



Euphemia MacTavish



Ji Sun Sjogren

This autumn, we're delighted to host two new exhibitions in our gallery spaces on campus. We know there is no substitute for experiencing the arts in real life, and we're thrilled to be able to offer in-person events safely again.

Our first exhibition, entitled *Things Not Meant To Be Seen*, was created by Euphemia MacTavish, and will run from 20 September to 30 October in the Daphne Oram Gallery on our city campus. In this new exhibition, MacTavish brings together works made in situ in Luxor, Egypt, over the past seven years.

Working in the major archaeological sites of the Ramesseum Temple, the Valley of the Kings, and Tombs of the Nobles, these highly detailed paintings and etchings both document and encode the spaces, capturing the collision of ancient

histories and the contemporary life that continues all around. Immersing herself in these locations, MacTavish brings careful attention and focus to things never meant to be seen.

Ji Sun Sjogren has created *The Procedure*, an exhibition which features a series of 25 pencil drawings demonstrating the steps that Ji Sun Sjogren takes as a scrub nurse over the course of a morning's operation. This exhibition will take place in the Verena Holmes Gallery from 20 September to 17 December.

Having originally trained and worked as an artist, Ji Sun Sjogren recently embarked on a new career as a nurse and now continues the ancient links between illustration and medical studies in her new works. Alongside this work are examples of sketchbooks from Sjogren's time as a nursing student at Canterbury Christ Church University and recent drawings of her experiences working through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Find out more at canterbury.ac.uk/arts-and-culture

OLYMPIC SUCCESS FOR OUR SPORTS GRADUATE

One of our alumni, Grace Balsdon, scored the winning goal to help Team GB Women's Hockey team secure the bronze medal and a podium position at the Olympic Games in Tokyo this summer.

Grace studied Physical Education and Sport and Exercise Science. She was also an Elite Sport Scholar at Christ Church, using the university facilities to train while supported

in pursuing her professional sporting ambitions. She competed as part of Team GB this year alongside Christ Church Honorary Doctor Dina Asher-Smith.

Just getting to the Olympics is an incredible achievement – the University is so proud of Grace and sends huge congratulations to Grace and the whole Women's Hockey team on their win.



Follow us on TikTok!

We're now live on TikTok and so excited to share our videos with you – from student hacks and challenges, to behind-the-scenes clips and exclusive academic tutorials, there's so much coming up on our new channel!

Follow us on [@canterburycuni](https://www.tiktok.com/@canterburycuni)

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 922836

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,
e: environmentalhelpdesk@canterbury.serco.com
or t: 0800 031 9091

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

CELEBRATING OUR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Our students make a vital difference to the local community through volunteering with charities and non-profit organisations all over Kent and Medway. Over the summer, we celebrated our incredible student volunteers at the Students' Union Awards 2021. Here are just a few of the nominees for Student Community Volunteer of the Year.

Georgia Madden

Georgia has been involved in numerous volunteering roles during the first year of her Mechanical Engineering course, from Social Secretary of the University's Engineering, Design and Technology Society, to STEM Ambassador, Imago phone befriender, and Duke of Edinburgh ambassador.



Georgia Madden
Mechanical Engineering, BEng (Hons)
"Georgia is a good listener and has taken the time to understand her client's situation, which has already made a big difference to their wellbeing."

Nominated for
Student Volunteer of the Year

Jack Hathaway

Jack has played a leading role in the CLOCK in Kent volunteering scheme, the local community justice project based at the Canterbury Law Courts, which provides legal help and assistance to those who cannot afford legal representation.



Jack Hathaway
Bachelor of Law, LLB (Hons)
"Without Jack's volunteering commitment, initiative and organisational abilities, the CLOCK project would not have run as smoothly as it did."

Nominated for
Student Volunteer of the Year

Molly Sanderson

Molly Sanderson has been volunteering with The Folkestone Haven, run by the charity Hestia, which offers an evening and weekend support service for anyone from Folkestone and the district over the age of 18 experiencing challenges with their mental health.



Molly Sanderson
Psychology, BSc (Hons)
"I feel that she has been a tremendous addition to the team and has added value to our Folkestone Haven centre."

Nominated for
Student Volunteer of the Year

STUDENT-RUN TALKING THERAPY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

In our June 2020 issue of *Community Matters*, we featured a group of our Mental Health Nursing and Midwifery students who created their own volunteer scheme to support the vulnerable during the pandemic, offering a free check-in and chat service for local people.

One of these students, Alex Richardson, has now received investor backing to expand this into a talking therapy service called Keep Talking, which aims to help support people who are struggling with mental health issues and placed in residential care. He also plans to work towards turning

the service into a registered charity and diversifying its offer, collaborating with local businesses to capture more groups in need, such as children who have been affected by bullying.

Alex said: "The reason Keep Talking Services was started was because I couldn't sit back and watch loneliness cripple our community. I want this to be a national scheme and I believe with the people I have around me invested in my project, one day we will achieve that."

Find out more on Twitter: [@kentkeptalking](https://twitter.com/kentkeptalking) and Facebook: [Keep Talking Services](https://www.facebook.com/KeepTalkingServices)

