

GROWING A GREENER FUTURE

To celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, we've been busy digging, planting and growing on campus to enhance biodiversity and create a vibrant habitat for local wildlife and for our people.

In April, our international students planted an International Forest of young saplings, with work continuing in the coming years to grow a 'forest for the future'.



In the spring, we opened our new Jubilee Garden, a beautiful green space for our community to spend time in and enjoy nature.



We also created hedging around our Verena Holmes Building as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project, creating a vital environment to encourage more birds, insects and wildlife on to campus.



Bringing medieval Canterbury to life

We were thrilled to support Canterbury's Medieval Pageant and Trail as sponsor this year.

Our Centre for Kent History and Heritage, as well as many other staff and students, have been heavily involved in the Medieval Pageant over the years, but this is the first year that the University sponsored the event, which is created by Canterbury BID. We were also delighted to take part in the family trail for the first time, with living history exhibits and activities on our Canterbury campus.

The festivities began with a parade through the city centre with knights, musicians and giants commandeering the streets, followed by a host of family activities at over 15 locations across the city.

Over 500 visitors to our campus explored an immersive medieval encampment where

they could experience medieval food and trades, learn about crime, punishment and battle, make their own heraldic shields, and come face-to-face with a dragon!

Canterbury is a uniquely historic city, and we were proud to help provide a greater understanding of Canterbury's important and colourful medieval history.



SHOUT OUT TO STUDENT SHOPAHOLICS!

Love shopping in Canterbury? We've teamed up with Canterbury BID to offer students the chance to win a £50 gift card for you and a friend each to spend in participating Canterbury stores on Student Shopping Day on Thursday 6 October. For your chance to win, look out for our post on Instagram @canterburyccuni and tag a buddy you'd like to go shopping with.

Don't forget – all Canterbury locals can get great shopping discounts with a MyCanterbury card, and The Canterbury Gift Card is perfect for those hard-to-buy-for friends and family. To find out more, visit canterburybid.co.uk

Tackling loneliness in the local community

A talking therapies project started by one of our students to support local people during lockdown has grown into a full service with multiple volunteers, and will soon be an official charity.

Alex Richardson, now a Mental Health Nursing graduate, is the Chief Executive of Keep Talking Services. The service started as a 'check-in and chat' service to support elderly and vulnerable people, after Alex noticed the isolation of customers when working at his mum's gardening centre during the first Covid-19 lockdown. This proved to be a much-needed support for local people and has grown rapidly. He now successfully recruits students to

volunteer at the charity and is working with partner agencies across Kent to help local service users.

Keep Talking Services has received investor funding from Leigh's Foundation as well as the Lottery Fund, and has also submitted an application to receive official charity status. The Keep Talking Services team plan to expand the business on a national level and want to be at the forefront of helping to 'reduce loneliness in the UK'. Alex hopes the service will be recognised throughout universities in the UK, and aims to support and educate many more students around mental illness.

Learn more at keeptalkingservices.com

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: help@canen.co
t: 01227 947860
w: 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

WORK WITH US



We're proud to be one of the local community's biggest employers - many of our staff and students come from the area and we're always on the look-out for talented local people to join us.

People are key to everything we do - we support our staff to succeed and grow as individuals, and celebrate their unique

contributions to our work. We are at an exciting new stage of our journey as we embark on our Vision for 2030, and make fresh ambitions for the next 60 years as we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee.

Find your new future at canterbury.ac.uk/vacancies

Put your paws together for our award-winning Oliver

Our Justice Support Dog, Oliver, who offers comfort and emotional support to victims of crime throughout the criminal justice system - the first of his kind in Europe and first to be placed at a university - has been honoured with the PDSA Order of Merit.

The award celebrates extraordinary animals who demonstrate the unique bond between animals and humans – a bond that is PDSA's mission to protect. Oliver has been recognised for the unconditional comfort and intuitive bond he has with vulnerable victims of crime, many of them children. Oliver helps the most vulnerable members of society to find justice, by supporting them during crucial phases of giving evidence. He offers calm and quiet companionship to traumatised people during stressful legal procedures, helping children and adults to relax when giving evidence on harrowing situations.

The unique work that Oliver does within the criminal justice system has helped transform and radically improve support services available to vulnerable victims. Much of Oliver's work has been alongside Kent Police, helping to gain vital evidence from children and vulnerable adults.

Detective Constable Rachel Freeman, a specialist safeguarding officer based in the



Protecting Vulnerable People command at Kent Police, said: "I have seen first-hand how Oliver can help a child or young person who has been traumatised by something that has happened to them, or something they have seen. It is really important for an investigation that the police have as much evidence as possible, to make sure that those who commit crime are caught and put before the courts, so Oliver's work is invaluable in ensuring criminals are brought to justice."

Community matters

September / 2022

Canterbury Christ Church University



The start of a new year

Autumn marks the start of a new academic year, and we're delighted to welcome our staff and students, new and returning, to our campuses across Kent and Medway. University life has been disrupted over recent years, and we're looking forward to rebuilding our strong sense of community through more on-campus teaching and events, with health and wellbeing at the forefront of our minds.

We will keep on working closely with the Students' Union, as well as key organisations in the local community, to ensure a safe environment for our students and neighbours, with a range of nightlife safety initiatives and community engagement work.

We're excited to continue our celebrations of our Diamond Jubilee, which marks 60 years of providing vital skills and talent for local industry and helping to strengthen the region's economy. We're celebrating the connections and partnerships we've made across the South East over the years,

which have allowed us to pursue work and research that has a real impact on people's lives, both locally and beyond. Join us for the autumn stage of festivities in our Jubilee year, which will include photography shows, archaeological exhibitions, creative workshops, heritage tours, concerts, and much more!

Find out more at canterbury.ac.uk/diamond-jubilee

Canterbury Christ Church University

Standing with Ukraine



We are continuing to support Ukraine and the Ukrainian people however we can. Since late March, the University has been providing free English language classes to Ukrainians, aged 18 to 74, who have recently arrived in Canterbury and East Kent.

We also hosted an event run by Canterbury for Ukraine which was attended by over 200 community members, including VIPs, city dignitaries, the general public and a wide range of charities and volunteer organisations that have begun to welcome the increasing number of Ukrainians coming to the area to escape the war. The event provided an opportunity to find out more about the support available and help bring the community together.

We have housed a number of Ukrainian families in temporary accommodation and found employment for some through Unitemps. We're also offering a range of support, from CV writing and advice on how to apply for work in the UK for Ukrainians, to psychotherapy and support for host families.

This summer, we twinned with Open International University of Human Development (OUHD) in Kyiv, joining over 70 UK universities in partnership with Ukrainian universities, facilitating the sharing of resources and support in a collective gesture of solidarity and reciprocity to help Ukrainian institutions, staff and students.

This is part of our wider work to support displaced academics and students from other countries due to war and other humanitarian crises. We are a member of CARA (Council at Risk for Academics), and through this mechanism, work to host and fund academics whose lives are in danger, including those in Syria. We also work with other universities at a national level, through Universities UK and MillionPlus, to lobby and work with the government to provide support for academics and students.

For more information on support and how to access it, visit canterbury.ac.uk/support-for-ukraine

VOICES UNITE

Voices were once again united in celebration at the Cathedrals Group Choir Festival this summer.

Hosted in Canterbury as part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations, it was the first time since the pandemic that universities from the Cathedrals Group were able to come together in person for its annual festival. Over 200 staff and students from ten member universities gathered at Canterbury Cathedral to celebrate their church foundation through music with invited guests and the local community.

The festival draws on the rich history of

choral singing at the Cathedral Group institutions - universities founded by the church for the purpose of training teachers and based on the principles of widening access and breaking down barriers in education.

The festival included individual performances by the choirs and musicians of member universities, representing a variety of musical styles. The ten choirs also combined their talents to produce an astonishing final display of talent and technique, making full use of the wonderful spaces and acoustics of Canterbury Cathedral's Nave.



World-leading research, real world impact

Recent results from the Research Excellence Framework (REF) show that Canterbury Christ Church University has more than doubled the proportion of world-leading research we have produced since the last REF in 2014. We have also more than quadrupled the world-leading impacts and benefits that our research provides for people's lives.

The results demonstrate that we are delivering tangible changes through our research, finding solutions to real problems that are relevant to our communities in Kent and Medway, as well as across the UK and around the world.

Examples of our pioneering research include the use of Justice Support Dogs to support victims of crime and secure convictions, the development of the first UK national physical activity guidance for pregnant and postpartum women, and a new assessment framework for registered firearms dealers and gun owners which has been adopted by all police forces across the UK, leading to the closure of multiple criminal enterprises.

Find out more at canterbury.ac.uk/research

CELEBRATING THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY



More than 80 people from 11 organisations and businesses across Kent and Medway came together for The Vice-Chancellor's Business Games, to compete in a variety of sports-day inspired activities to celebrate the local business community as part of our Diamond Jubilee.

Sponsored by KIMS Hospital and Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the event brought together local organisations across a variety of sectors, giving them the opportunity to network and make new connections. It was also a chance to learn more about how the University can support local businesses through knowledge

exchange activities, research projects, and continued professional development.

Throughout the day, teams competed in a variety of activities including, an obstacle course race, ultimate frisbee, and kin-ball. The University's chosen

charity for our Diamond Jubilee year, The Young Lives Foundation (YLF), shared their story and how they support the local community, with fundraising opportunities and prizes generously donated by Shepheard Neame, Kent Cricket, and the University's own SportsLab – who were also on hand throughout the day providing some well-earned massages.

The games concluded with an awards ceremony where the winners of the day, The Sports Trust, were presented with The Vice-Chancellor's Business Games cup.



Could you be a Homestay Host?

Can you offer our international students a home? International students often choose to stay with a local host family to enhance their experience of living and studying in the UK, and we're looking for Homestay Hosts to provide accommodation.

Welcoming international students into your home is a great way to learn more about other countries, cultures and languages, and you can help students get a deeper understanding of local life, as well as develop their English language skills. Students stay for varying lengths of time throughout the year, and you'll be paid for your hospitality.

If you live within walking distance of Canterbury city centre (or within a short bus journey of our University) and would like to open your home to an international student, we'd love to hear from you.

For full details go to canterbury.ac.uk/homestay

STAY CURIOUS

We believe you never stop learning. In our Diamond Jubilee year, we're celebrating the pursuit of knowledge and exploring our 60 years of learning, teaching and research excellence.

Our Public Lectures are a series of free talks from experts and prominent figures, designed to educate and provoke thought. We delighted to announce that our next speakers are:

Dame Wendy Hall, one of the world's leading computer scientists and Chair of the Ada Lovelace Institute
Thursday 22 September

Jo Brand, comedian, writer and actor, and Honorary Doctor of Canterbury Christ Church University
Tuesday 1 November

With more to be announced...

Go to canterbury.ac.uk/public-lectures to book your tickets.



A message from the Students' Union

This new academic year, the Christ Church Students' Union sabbatical team consists of two returning and two new officers. Returning is Dan Bichener, Union President, and Frankie McGregor, President (Campaigns and Societies). The two new officers are Max Elvin, President (Engagement and Sport), and Inés Abella Romero, President (Community, Diversity and Inclusion). We are all so excited for the year ahead!

A main focus this year is night-time safety, making sure our students have a safe night out and find a safe way home. We're looking to put on more pop-up safety hubs, with connected routes and

refreshments, and we will be working closely with Canterbury City Council, all three universities, and the police.

We're continuing to focus on creating strong, positive relationships between our students and local residents. We'll be providing our students with information on what is considered good neighbourly behaviour, such as how to dispose of their rubbish correctly, as well as encouraging them to do community work such as litter picks.

Lastly, we're very concerned about the rising cost of living and the impact on our community, and we'll be working closely with the council and the University to support our students.



CANTERBURY FESTIVAL: A FEAST FOR EYES AND EARS



This is our twelfth year of sponsoring Canterbury Festival, and we could not be prouder of our partnership as the Principal Sponsor. The Festival brings together some of the UK's best and most innovative talent with artists from across the globe, in an exciting and eclectic programme spanning arts, music, theatre and so much more. Our collaboration with Canterbury Festival provides a wonderful opportunity to explore our shared passion for the arts and support creativity – a vital source of inspiration, enjoyment and discovery for the community.

Our campus will play host to exhibitions and events throughout the Festival, with many of our staff and students involved in work across the Festival programme. This year, highlights include The London Gospel Choir, Caravan, and Shine: Let There Be Light by Luxmuralis, a giant sound and light installation in the historic Canterbury Cathedral.

Book your tickets at canterburyfestival.co.uk

Inspiring young minds

Inspiring Minds, the University's pioneering engagement and outreach programme designed to encourage and support local students to study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, has won a prestigious NEON (National Education Opportunities Network) Award.

These nationwide awards celebrate the transformative power that higher education can have and recognises key achievements in the widening access sector and enabling social mobility.

Inspiring Minds was named the winner of the NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award in recognition of its success in engaging local young people with higher education, raising aspirations, boosting confidence, and helping to increase GCSE subject attainment of the students engaged in the programme.

Inspiring Minds is based around informal science, where our academics, student mentors and local teachers encourage pupils' curiosity about life's Big Questions and nurture critical thinking about the

nature of knowledge. It helps students to understand how science interacts with other subjects, and how they can move on to further STEM study and pursue a STEM career. Inspiring Minds aims to reach the most deserving young people in Kent and Medway, sparking an interest, developing a passion and raising aspirations and attainment in GCSE subjects and beyond.

Explore Inspiring Minds at canterbury.ac.uk/inspiring-minds

Learn more about our STEM work at canterbury.ac.uk/engineering