

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

END OF YEAR REPORT

A selection of case studies from 2021-2022



Image from Canterbury Medieval Pageant

Working in partnership with our community

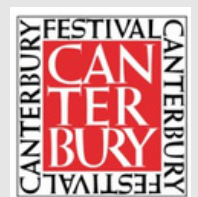
Transforming lives and enriching the communities around us is at the heart of what we do at Canterbury Christ Church University and this public service ethos underpins our teaching, research, and public and community engagement activity.

Key to this work is a culture of collaboration and partnership between our staff, students, and members of our communities. In this report, we have pulled together some examples of public and community engagement activity over the past year that illustrates the positive impact of this partnership work.

We hope you enjoy!

Support through sponsorship

The University is committed to supporting creativity, culture and community and has forged lasting partnerships with local organisations and festivals, including Canterbury Festival, Canterbury Pride and Kent Cricket Women.



Tackling 21st Century Education Challenges



Awarded the NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award for its success in engaging young people with Higher Education, [The Inspiring Minds Project](#) is an example of the transformative power of education and the importance of working collaboratively to raise aspirations and confidence in our young people and leaders of the future.

The project aims to address key gaps in representation and equality in STEM study and careers and in 2021-22 worked with 130 local secondary school students - many from disadvantaged backgrounds - with sustained and meaningful engagement. Funded by [Kent and Medway Progression Federation](#), it is a collaboration with the University's [LASAR Research Centre](#), University outreach professionals and local schools; it is built around informal science, and based on an Epistemic Insight approach, where the University's academics, student mentors and local teachers encourage curiosity about life's Big Questions and nurture critical thinking about the nature of knowledge. The project featured as evidence in the Transforming Access and Student Outcomes (TASO) Government report to show how outreach interventions raise aspirations and develop confidence in students.

The project provides further opportunity to work with the business community, to tackle the shortfall of skilled workers in STEM. By working with business to provide a pipeline into industry through Higher Education of the next generation of STEM leaders and engineers, the programme will further benefit the lives of those who live and work in our region. [Contact kamcop@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:kamcop@canterbury.ac.uk)

500

students reached since launch



92%

POLAR 3 Quintile 1 area of low participation in Higher Education (HE)

64%

agreed that the activities left them feeling motivated to study STEM post 16

68%

agreed that taking part encouraged them to explore HE

“

It is amazing to see how approaching STEM from inter-disciplinary perspectives has transformed students' understanding of the nature of STEM and its value for society.

”

Finley Lawson, Lead Research Fellow for Inspiring Minds at the LASAR Research Centre

Bringing to life the medieval world of Canterbury



Over the summer, the University partnered with Canterbury Business Improvement District (BID), providing sponsorship for a city-wide Medieval Pageant and facilitating public engagement workshops and activities on campus.



The work of the University's academic staff and students, and our Centre for Kent History and Heritage, is helping to provide a greater understanding of the city's wonderful past and the significant role it has played in our national history. 🗨️

Dr Lynnette Turner, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Education

With a record number of 10,000 visitors to the Pageant, the University was one of 17 venues around the city providing a medieval encampment, shield making classes and a dragon hunt on the North Holmes Road Campus, to give visitors a glimpse of what life was like for pilgrims in the medieval city as part of a trail throughout the city.

Over 500 visitors to the campus, experienced the realities of medieval life, through trades, textiles and food preparation, learning about crime and punishment and how to defend themselves in medieval times - both on the streets and on the battlefield - with knights' combat, armory, and weapon displays.

The University Arts and Culture team facilitate a range of public events, including performances, exhibitions and public workshops, contributing significantly to the local cultural economy and the student experience, as demonstrated in the table below.



5367 tickets were sold for public events, conferences, and exhibitions



7700 visitors attended in-venue and online events



9 exhibitions were held in Daphne Oram and Verena Holmes Galleries



Arts and Culture supported **11** Jubilee Events



£48452 was collected through Spektrix, a 140% increase from 2020-2021



10 high-quality and paid student roles were funded to support their employability


Creating connections through sport



This year the University hosted its inaugural [Vice-Chancellor's Business Games](#) with local organisations and businesses from across Kent and Medway, coming together to compete in a variety of sports-day inspired activities in celebration of Canterbury Christ Church University's Diamond Jubilee.

The [event](#) was an opportunity for the University to thank local organisations who have supported and partnered with the institution over the decades, and together have made a positive impact on the region's economy and its communities.

As part of the event, local charity The Young Lives Foundation were invited to share their story, with prizes donated by Sheppard Neame, Kent Cricket and the University's own [SportsLab](#) to raise funds to support the work of the charity.

80+ 

competitors from

11 local businesses



Business Games Event Sponsors:



“

It was a brilliant fun day and well organised. The relaxed environment gets you talking to other people which is key. It makes a big difference in terms of speaking to other organisations. Thank you to everyone at the University for putting on such a fantastic day.

”

Barry Pluck, Head of Charity at The Sports Trust

Christ Church Volunteers making a difference

The COVID19 pandemic has been a challenging time for the third sector in Kent and Medway and we continue to see the impact on our communities. Throughout it all, [Christ Church Volunteers](#) have stepped up and given their time to support local charities and community initiatives, to support those who need it the most whilst also developing their own employability skills and social awareness.

Community Volunteer of the Year 2022 Emily Hawkins (Forensic Investigation and Biology student) became an NHS Volunteer to support nurses and other medical staff on the wards at QEQM Hospital in Margate and to help improve patient experiences. Through volunteering, Emily gained confidence and new insights to support her application to the Kent and Medway Medical School.

8500



volunteering hours
in 2021-22

“ In the short time I have been a ward helper, I have learnt many skills and gained knowledge, which I will carry over into future job roles and in daily life. ”

Emily Hawkins, Community Volunteer of the Year 2022

Proud to support the community



Students at Pride Canterbury

Together with the Christ Church Students' Union, the University is proud to support the local community and have been sponsors of Pride Canterbury since its conception in 2016.

With a thriving LGBT+ staff network and LGBT+ student society, we have developed a strong partnership with Pride Canterbury, including offering a student internship to look at ways to improve the sustainability of the event.



£3600

fundraised for local charities in 2021-22 by Students' Union sports clubs and societies

Gothic Games for the Being Human Festival



Since 2016, Canterbury Christ Church has successfully bid for grants from the [Being Human Festival](#). Led by University of London, in partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council and the British Academy, the festival aims to demonstrate the 'human' in humanities and bring it to life for the public. Academics and students at the University have informed and inspired over 100 visitors with their creative events.

Each November, the festival celebrates humanities research through public engagement, bringing together universities, museums, research organisations, and community and commercial partners. It intends to make research more accessible to the public and demonstrate its relevance in our everyday lives.

Colleagues from the School of Creative Arts and Industries and the International Centre for Victorian Women Writers designed a range of games inspired by Dracula, Frankenstein and other Gothic Literature to immerse guests in the world of gothic literature in a playful, accessible way.

Sharing knowledge through public lectures

We believe expertise should be available to everyone. In our Diamond Jubilee year, the University has been celebrating the pursuit of knowledge and exploring its 60 years of learning, teaching and research excellence.

Our Public Lectures are a series of talks from experts and prominent figures, designed to educate, inspire and provoke thought. Free to attend and open to anyone, Public Lectures provide the community with the opportunity to explore their curiosity and engage with notable speakers across a diverse range of fields.

We hosted three prominent female figures in 2021-22, including an Audience with Dame Lynne Owens as part of our Showcase of Alumni and Honorary graduates, who shared her insights and experience as the former Director General of the National Crime Agency.

“The aim of the event is to get people to engage with gothic literature through play. Gothic Games Night encourages a creative irreverence that we hope will be both educational and fun.”

Dr Susan Civale, Senior Lecturer and CCCU Being Human project lead



Public Lectures since 2019

800



total attendees

Graduate's charity reducing loneliness in the community

Keep Talking Services, a talking therapies project started by a Christ Church Mental Health Nursing student during lockdown, received registered charity status in 2022. Alex Richardson, now a graduate and Chief Executive of the charity, was also nominated for a prestigious Nursing Times Award in 2021.

The charity started as a 'check-in and chat' service to support elderly and vulnerable people, after Alex noticed the isolation of customers whilst working at his mother's gardening centre during the first Covid-19 lockdown. The service provided a lifeline to local people and grew rapidly, recruiting Christ Church volunteers from across healthcare courses and working with partner agencies across Kent to help service users.

With support from the University's Enterprise and Engagement department, Alex was able to secure investor funding from Leigh's Foundation as well as the Lottery Fund and has plans to expand the service across universities nationwide.



More than
30

students making
over **3000**
calls

Student Internships supporting knowledge exchange



A 2022 project supported the 'Wilder Blean' project in partnership with Kent Wildlife Trust



projects funded
between 2020-2022

Canterbury Christ Church University has been funding student Research and Knowledge Exchange internships since 2012. Staff work with students on a new, stand-alone piece of research or knowledge exchange, and many of the projects have supported external partnerships with industry, the voluntary and community sector, health services and heritage sites.

The funding awards cover 200 hours of student time per project and helps develop research, grow capacity and support a trajectory towards future external funding, as well as providing student applicants with experience of applying and interviewing for a job, and successful applicants with transferable research skills and paid work.

School Governors partnership to support young people's education

inspiring
governance

Education
and
Employers

20 

hours paid leave
entitlement (Public
Duties Guidance 2022)

School Governors play a vital role in the UK, holding senior school leaders to account and ensuring public money is spent effectively to make sure young people are receiving the best possible educational experience.

In 2021 the University partnered with the charity Education and Employers to help reduce the shortfall of school governors in Kent, signing up to the School Governors Champion Charter to pledge our support, champion the role of school governor and support staff members and students to become governors in local schools

Since then, 16 staff members have taken up new roles in local schools, offering their professional expertise and unique perspectives to make a difference to the education of young people across Kent.

If you have any public and community engagement activities that you would like to let us know about, we would love to hear from you.

Get in touch

lucy.woodward@canterbury.ac.uk

Public and Community Engagement Manager
Department of Enterprise and Engagement